

## 2008 Schedule

Aug.	29-30	Marietta Tourney	
Sept.	5-6	OWU Tourney	
	9	<b>Penn State Behrend</b>	<b>Home</b>
	12-13	Westminster Tourney	
	16	<b>St. Vincent</b>	<b>Home</b>
	20	<b>Waynesburg/W&amp;J</b>	<b>Home</b>
	23	Thiel	Away
	27	Chatham/Bethany	Away
	30	Geneva	Away
Oct.	2	Waynesburg	Away
	4	Thiel/Westminster	Away
	8	<b>Geneva</b>	<b>Home</b>
	14	St. Vincent	Away
	16	<b>Penn State Beaver/Chatham</b>	<b>Home</b>
	18	<b>Homecoming Alumni Game</b>	
	23	W&J	Away
	25	<b>Thomas More</b>	<b>Home</b>
	28	<b>Bethany</b>	<b>Home</b>
	30	<b>Westminster</b>	<b>Home</b>
Nov.	1	Thomas More	Away

## Donations always accepted

Please consider giving to the volleyball fund. This money is used to pay for T-shirts, flowers, travel to the spring tournament, the Alumni Game and other expenses. Any assistance you feel you can give to the fund will be greatly appreciated!

Make checks payable to Grove City College with Special Volleyball on the memo line. Mail them to Advancement Office, Grove City College, 100 Campus Dr., Grove City, PA 16127. A receipt will be mailed to you for tax purposes.

Thank you so much for giving!

**This is your newsletter.  
Questions, feedback or story ideas?**

**Contact Susan Roberts  
at [skroberts@gcc.edu](mailto:skroberts@gcc.edu)  
or (724) 458-2129**

Grove City College Volleyball Team  
100 Campus Dr.  
Grove City, PA 16127



## Squad builds off success in 2007

With five seniors graduating from this year's 20-12 squad, the Grove City College volleyball team in 2008 will be a predominantly young team led with some dominating experience.

Senior Natalie Liberati will lead the Lady Wolverines as one of the top hitters and blockers in the conference. As captain, she will be called upon to lead a group of mostly sophomores and freshmen into a strong and competitive schedule.

Joining the leadership will be sophomore co-captain Jodi Barry, outside hitter and All-State player from Pittsburgh, Pa.



Natalie Liberati '09 (center) and the 2008 squad will face a strong, competitive schedule.

**Please see SEASON, page 2**

**To see the 2008  
schedule, turn  
to page 6.**

## A heart for the Gulf Coast

Coach, team members help Katrina victims

Susan Roberts saw the devastation on television, but nothing prepared her for what it looked like in person.

Not long after Hurricane Katrina slammed into the north-central Gulf Coast in August 2005, Roberts felt compelled to help and went to Biloxi, Miss., to help victims rebuild.

"It was a real eye-opener," said Roberts, who has coached the girls volleyball team at Grove City College for 23 seasons and is also the associate athletic director at the school. "You don't know what to say or what to do. There were homes just flattened. There was wood and

trash just everywhere. It was a tough experience."

Roberts has returned to Biloxi through groups such as Habitat for Humanity and the Salvation Army twice since then and made another trip in January.

She said the work is nowhere near close to being done.

"There were 60,000-plus homes destroyed, and, on average, you can only build 2,500 max a year."

Roberts said she developed a bond with the Katrina victims she was aiding.

"We kind of adopted the people down there," she said.

**Please see GULF, page 3**



Volleyball team members and students like Liz Weaver '08, above, traveled to Biloxi for the first time in 2005 to help with the clean-up.

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## Quick Click...

Bookmark these links on the Grove City College Web site, located at [www.gcc.edu](http://www.gcc.edu).

- **Sports**  
[www2.gcc.edu/sports](http://www2.gcc.edu/sports)
- **Women's volleyball**  
[www2.gcc.edu/sports/Volleyball/vb.htm](http://www2.gcc.edu/sports/Volleyball/vb.htm)
- **Alumni & Friends**  
[www.gcc.edu/alumni](http://www.gcc.edu/alumni)

## Side Out

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*Side Out is the official newsletter  
of the Grove City College  
Women's Volleyball Team.*



# Team prepares for new season

From page 1

Assisting the senior leadership will be Sara Quillen. A junior in her second year on the team, Quillen started last year on the off side. Outstanding sophomores who will be making immediate contributions are Erika Doane, an outside hitter from Cleveland; Kim Budd, a 5'1" libero from Hubbard, Ohio; Becky Chapa, an outside hitter from Massachusetts; and 6'0" offside hitter Jenna Liberati from Pittsburgh, along with 5'6" Brittany Young, a defensive specialist from Wellsboro, Pa. We also have two freshman transfers who will be joining the freshman six: Inge Rassmussen, a 5'11" outside hitter from Maryland, and a 5'8" outside hitter from Akron, Ohio.

It will be an exciting and challenging season filled with new adventures for the 2008 team. We are all looking forward to the season ahead.

## Coach's Corner

Wow... 31 years later and I'm still at it. Who would have thought? The past 23 years have been a great ride with Grove City College women's sports... basketball, volleyball and softball. What great memories I have of all the wonderful teams and outstanding people who were a part of those teams. I am so proud to have been a part of your lives during those four short years at the Grove. I have been blessed to have known so many of you and continue to maintain contact over the years.

I continue to coach volleyball and have been fortunate to have some outstanding individuals on the team these past few years... and the future of the program seems bright with all the newcomers who have decided to make Grove City volleyball their home.

I trust all is well with each of you as we conclude another year at Grove City College. I enjoy hearing about your life, so when you have a free moment, I would love to know how life is treating you and your family.



Susan K. Roberts

Sincerely,  
Susan K. Roberts  
Head Volleyball Coach

# Liberati, Barry to serve as 2008 team captains

**Natalie Liberati** is a three-year letterwinner and returning starter at middle hitter. This season, she will be a captain and be called upon for strong leadership from her middle hitter position.

A three-time All-PAC award winner along with being a candidate for Academic All-America, Liberati continues to excel in all areas of her college life. During the past two seasons, she has led the team in kills, hitting percentage and total blocks. She earned Second Team All-Presidents' Athletic Conference in 2006 and was selected to the First Team All-PAC in 2007.

As a freshman, she moved into regular rotation early in



Natalie Liberati '09

the conference season and was elected to the honorable mention team.

NOTABLE: PAC Academic Honor Roll ... Dean's List student ... elementary educa-



Jodi Barry '11

tion/early childhood major.

After three years, Liberati has a career total of 986 kills and needs just 318 kills during her senior season to break 1999 alumna Liz (Sparks)

Timmons' record for career kills - 1303.

**Jodi Barry** will share captain duties for the 2008 season.

Barry received her first varsity letter as a freshman and will be asked to step into a leadership role in only her second season.

This is the first time since 1988 that a sophomore has been chosen as co-captain. An All-State player from South Fayette High School, Barry had several outstanding games at Grove City with a high of eight and 10 kills in two separate matches and led all freshman hitters.

NOTABLE: Barry is from Bridgeville, Pa. ... elementary education major.

# Senior leaders look to future after team

Five seniors spent their last season on the Grove City volleyball team this past fall. Each girl has unique talents and contributed a lot to the team, both on the court and off. They will surely be missed by their teammates as they move on to their careers in various fields.



Kate Skinner '08

**No. 1 Kate Skinner**

Captain and outside hitter Kate Skinner completed her fourth season on the Grove City College volleyball team. This year, she was second on the team in kills per game, averaging 3.19. For her career, she finished with a total of 705 kills. She was a great leader both on and off the court.

Graduating from Grove City College as a business/marketing major, she wants to attend a fashion institute either in New York City or Los Angeles to pursue a career in fashion marketing.

**No. 2 Kim Walsh**

Kim Walsh broke every assist record this year. Walsh had an excellent career at Grove City College. A four year starting setter, she led her team in many important matches. As a senior co-captain, Walsh was a leader on and off the court. In her final season as a Wolverine, she led the PAC in assists per game, averaging 11.99. She set new Grove



Kim Walsh '08

City College records for single-match assists (69), single-season assists (1,403) and career assists (4,409).

Walsh is going to be a teacher in an inner city New Orleans elementary school in the Teach for America program this coming fall.

**No. 3 Brittany Anderson**

Brittany Anderson spent four years playing middle hitter/blocker for the Grove City volleyball team. Her enthusiasm and intensity on the court will be missed. She is also a part of the basketball and track teams at the College and is an all-around great athlete.

Overall, Anderson had 505 total career kills and 216 career blocks.

After graduating from Grove City College, Anderson is going to pursue her career as a teacher of high school biology.

**No. 5 Brooke Mincey**

After joining the team at the beginning of her sophomore year, Mincey developed as a defensive specialist and earned the spot of libero this season.

Mincey is a three-time letterwinner



Brittany Anderson '08



Brooke Mincey '08

and is 13th all-time for a career in digs. She is fourth all-time for a season of 5.28 digs per game.

She will be graduating from Grove City College as a communications major with a religion minor and is unsure about her future plans.

**No.10 Jen Plyler**

Jen Plyler had three successful volleyball seasons at Grove City College. After missing last season while studying abroad in France for a semester, she returned for a killer senior year as an outside hitter. She was second on the team in total kills this season with 328.

Overall, she has a career total of 497 kills in three seasons. She was also second on the team in total digs and digs per game this season with 543 digs averaging 4.98 digs per game.

Plyler is a mechanical engineering major. After working for General Electric part time for the past year, she has secured a full-time job with them after she graduates in May.



Jen Plyler '08

# Coach looks back at the 2007 highlights

Starting out 8-0, winning our first two tournaments ... the prospects were awesome in the search for our 10th PAC championship.

We continued our winning ways through the beginning of October. We stood at 16-5 but ran into a brick wall that we could not seem to find our way over. We managed only four wins from that point on and

### By the Numbers

- 20-12 record
- Began season 8-0: Best start since 1985
- Two tournament titles: Ohio Wesleyan Bishop, Penn State Behrend

finished 20-12. To many, that was a successful season, but to us, we know we fell short of our goals and fell short in what we knew we were capable of achieving.

Outside of the record, it was a wonderful and exciting season - full of great matches, coming back to win being down 5-11 in the fifth, two tournament champions,

bus trips, hotel stays, parents and their food vans, and hours of laughter along the way. Also, our final time of being instructed in bus safety from Kim and Kate, long hours of Grey's Anatomy ... who picked that?, Wendy's, Arby's and our trip to the Gettysburg Cemetery.

What great memories we all share of another successful year on and off the court.



## Annual alumni game a success

We so enjoyed seeing many alumni at the game in 2007! Nine alumni showed up to play, with several choosing to watch. Dr. Valeri Roth was our senior alumna, Missie Kline, who has never missed an event, was in attendance along with loyal attendees Casey and Dawn. We had several first-time players, along with those who make every effort to attend each year.

Afterward, there was time to visit as we ate lunch together alongside the current players.



Several former players returned at Homecoming. Row 1, from left to right: Valeri Roth '88, Sarah Gardner '02, Erin (Laurel '99) Mayne, Casey (Engelbert '02) Ferry, Cara Denniston '03 and Heather (Hayden '03) Golden. Row 2: Susan K. Roberts, Hannah and Meg (Roberts '97) Ryan, Kelly Shields '97, Liz (Sparks '99) Timmons, Dawn (Conser '94) Arthurs, Naomi (Feltenberger '94) Grove, Missie Kline '94 and Sarah Hamsher '97. Missing from photo: Sue (Gillan '97) Dreves and Becky (Blair '95) Hetzer.

### 2008 Alumni Game

Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008  
11 a.m. Physical Learning Center

Please consider joining us next fall! Mark it on your calendar today and come out and spend some time with your volleyball family. It will be a great time of fun and fellowship! We will play a game at 11 a.m. and then follow-up with a lunch for all players and their families.

We look forward to seeing you in 2008!

## Core group of young players look to step up in 2008

Jodi Barry, outside hitter from South Fayette Pa., will be a strong leader as a sophomore filling some of the shoes left by the departing seniors.

Erika Doane is a 5'10" outside hitter from Sheffield, Ohio. She played in several matches this past season as a freshman and we are expecting a lot from her next year as a sophomore.

Kim Budd is a freshman from Hubbard, Ohio. Budd started this year as a defensive specialist and contributed greatly to the team's success. She will be looked upon to be a strong leader from the back row.

Sara Quillen from Staunton, Va., our lone junior, is a returning starter on the offside and will be called upon to be a strong force from that position or from the middle.

Jenna Liberati, a 6'1" middle/right side

freshman hitter from Bethel Park, Pa., saw action on the court in a few matches this past season. Liberati will add a great deal of depth on the offside as a dominant blocker.

Becky Chapa, an outside hitter from Westford, Mass., will be another addition to the strong sophomore class this season.

Brittany Young, from Wellsboro, Pa., also a freshman this year, added to the strength of our back row defense.

Inge Rasmussen is a freshman transfer student from the University of Maryland. She has played many positions throughout high school and club volleyball; currently she is focusing her skills as an outside hitter.

Claire Smith, a freshman transfer from Messiah College, is an outside hitter who will add depth and strength to that position.



Becky Chapa '11 joins a strong group of sophomore players preparing for the 2008 season.

## Coach, team help Gulf Coast hurricane victims

From page 1

In the process, she met Biloxi native Ken Wetzel, who has devoted his life to volunteerism since the Katrina natural disaster. Wetzel was awarded the 2006 Volunteer Service Award by President George W. Bush in August. "He's pretty inspirational," Roberts said.



Roberts and eight Grove City College students stayed with Wetzel in January when they returned to Biloxi for a week to help build homes again.

Roberts has been an inspiration to her team and students.

Senior volleyball player Kim Walsh was to make her third trip with Roberts in January. Like Roberts, Walsh was unprepared for the scope of devastation before getting to see it first-hand.

"All I kept thinking was, 'This isn't even New Orleans, yet,'" Walsh said. "There is so much devastation. We put roofs on three houses while we were down there, and everyone was saying how great we did, it was only three



Emily Rossol '07, left, Carlie Roberts '07, above right, and Jen Plyler '08 and Kim Walsh '08, right, have all pitched in to help the Gulf Coast region rebuild following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.



houses, there were so many more to do. There are so many people in need."

Walsh said she got to see a different side of her coach on the trips. She said she got the opportunity to work alongside Roberts and got to peer into more of what makes her tick, like her sense of humor, her work ethic and her empathy. "As a coach, you see her concern for her players and her students," Walsh said, "then you see her

have that compassion toward strangers. I'm constantly amazed by how big her heart is."

"Coach Roberts has definitely inspired us," Walsh said.

- Mike Kilroy

Butler (Pa.) Eagle staff writer  
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(Reprinted with permission)

## 2007 team competes in first ever 'Volley for Cure'

On Oct. 20, 2007, Grove City College held its first ever Volley for the Cure volleyball match.

The Lady Wolverines decided that their game against local rival Westminster College would be a great game to get both students and people in the community involved in raising money for breast cancer awareness. Both teams wore pink uniforms and pink hair ribbons. The gym was decked out in pink decorations and even some of the fans wore pink.

Although unsuccessful on the court that day with a loss

to Westminster, the Grove City College volleyball team was successful in another way. It raised \$1,110 to benefit the Susan G. Komen Foundation! Prior to the event, the volleyball team split into groups to handle various tasks such as T-shirts, publicity and gaining support. Some of the girls went to local businesses and collected donations, mostly in the form of gift certificates and other prizes. These items were given away in a raffle between games that day. Fans also paid for chances to hit the targets in a serving game and many won



The Grove City College and Westminster volleyball squads teamed up for the Volley for the Cure Oct. 20. The fundraiser collected more than \$1,100 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

free pizzas, McDonald's and Chinese food. The team is grateful for the support of the local community and fans in raising breast cancer awareness during Breast Cancer

Awareness Month.

All in all, Volley for the Cure was a great way to serve others as well as give the players something different to work toward as a team.