

Alumnae return home to campus

Once again, the alumni showed up in numbers for the annual alumni game at Homecoming 2008.

What a great turnout. The ladies played hard for almost two hours, by which time they all looked like they were alums! They all still have skill and hops.

Lisa (Lippincott '93) Campion was the oldest returning player and we had three from the Class of '94. Missie Kline '94 has never missed an alumni game.



Returning to campus for the Alumni Game at Homecoming were, Row 1 from left: Heather (Hayden '03) Golden, Cara Denniston '03, Brooke Mincey '08, Kate Skinner '08, Jen Plyler '08, Lisa (Lippincott '93) Campion and Dawn (Conser '94) Arthurs. Row 2: Sue (Gillan '97) Dreves, Carly (Denniston '06) Smith, Liz (Sparks '99) Timmons, Katie (Summers '03) Crews, Casey (Englebert '02) Ferry, Missie Kline '94 and Naomi (Feltenberger '94) Grove.

Side Out

Grove City College
Volleyball Alumni News

Spring 2009
Vol. 3 No. 1

Liberati closes historic career

Natalie Liberati became Grove City College's most prolific scorer in 2008.

She finished her career with 1,420 kills, surpassing Liz Sparks, who held the record since 1999. During the past two seasons, Liberati has turned in 430 and 431 kills, respectively.

Only Sparks '99 (484), Sarah Hamsher '97 (440) and Julie Porter '02 (454) had more kills in a season. Liberati also set the record for kills in a four-game match with 26 against Ohio Wesleyan in 2007. She is fifth in scoring in a five-game match with 23, behind record holder Porter with 31 kills against Mt. Union in 1999.

Liberati finished third all-time with a 3.80 kills per game average for 2007.

A two-time All PAC First Team award winner, Liberati also earned Honorable Mention her freshman year and Second Team her sophomore year. She was captain in 2008 and the team MVP in 2008 as well.

Her contributions go far beyond the stat book and she will long be remembered as a team player who inspired others to raise their



Natalie Liberati '09 goes up for the record-setting kill Oct. 8 against Geneva.

game and to compete in every situation. A leader by example, Liberati has left a legacy of excellence for future players to follow.

2009 squad builds on young starters

Five young starters from last year's squad will be the blocks on which we build the 2009 season. Three juniors and four sophomores will be next year's base.

After a very successful and exciting performance at the spring game, the season ahead has an enormous amount of potential for success. Next year's team will be led by juniors Jodi Barry and Inge Rasmussen,

who bring several years of experience with them to the floor (see related story, page 2). Kim Budd, junior, will hold down the defense with two years of experience in that position. Starter Annie Barry, setter, and Anna McCurdy, who played late in the season in 2008 due to injury, will be heading the sophomore class. Mary Masincup and Liz Jones played extremely well in our spring game and show

great promise for next fall.

With the addition of new arrivals in August and several sophomores who are going to try out for next year's squad, the season looks to be promising and exciting.

The 2009 season holds many challenges that we will meet head on with excitement and enthusiasm. All of us are looking forward to a fun and fulfilling season ahead.



Inside ...

1983 standout inducted	2
Barry, Rasmussen to lead	2
Team battles through 2008	3
Roberts all-time wins leader	3
Looking back to the past	4-5
Alumni game a success	6

Quick Click ...

- **Sports**
www.gcc.edu/sports
- **Alumni & Friends**
www.gcc.edu/alumni

Side Out

Editorial Staff
Susan K. Roberts
Head Coach
Natalie Liberati '09
Student Secretary

Design
Rebecca Miller '04
Communications Associate

Printer
Sharon Commercial Printing & Mailing
Sharon, Pa.



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

100 Campus Drive
Grove City, PA 16127
WOLVERINES
GROVE CITY COLLEGE





President Richard G. Jewell '67 was on hand to congratulate Natalie (Sutyak '83) Watkins on her induction in the Athletic Hall of Fame.

'83 standout inducted

Natalie (Sutyak '83) Watkins was one of eight standouts inducted in the College's Athletic Hall of Fame on Feb. 7.

In 1982, Sutyak became the first Grove City College female athlete to earn All-American honors. A 5-foot-10 senior, she was one of only eight women selected from NCAA Division III for national honors by the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

A two-sport star from Burton, Ohio, Sutyak earned four letters in both volleyball and basketball under coach Terry Ellis from 1979 to 1983. In both her junior and senior years, the volleyball team finished 37-8 and advanced to the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament.

Please see **STANDOUT**, page 5

Veterans Barry, Rasmussen to serve as 2009 captains

Juniors Jodi Barry and Inge Rasmussen will serve as the 2009 volleyball captains.

Barry, a two-time letterwinner and starter this past season, will be in her second year as a leader for the program. An All-State player from South Fayette High School, Barry produced some outstanding performances this past season. As an outside hitter, she was third on the team with 217 kills, and third on the team in blocks with 51. As a passer, she contributed greatly to the success of the defense with 350 digs. Her experience last year helped her to establish a



Jodi Barry '11

strong leadership base for the upcoming season.

NOTABLE: Barry is



Inge Rasmussen '11

from Bridgeville, Pa., ... an elementary education major.

Inge Rasmussen is a junior

who transferred to Grove City after her freshman season at the University of Maryland. As a starter this season, she brought a sound game both offensively and defensively. Rasmussen finished second on the team in kills with 251 behind Natalie Liberati with 431. She led the team with blocks at 72 as well as aces with 31. She brings a steady presence and confidence to the program and will add a great deal to the leadership of the team in 2009.

NOTABLE: Rasmussen is from Darnestown, Md. ... an engineering major.

Coach's Corner

Life never ceases to amaze me at how fast the years come and go. I feel like I did this just last month, not last year.

I have had the chance to see or hear from many of you about new additions to your families or getting married and moving on with your lives. The adventures that you are taking seem to be exciting, challenging and very rewarding. Please continue to stay in touch with e-mail, phone calls and photos. It is always so great to hear from you.

I continue to coach as the years get higher in number... Tee hee ... after 32 years of coaching, each year brings new and exciting challenges. When you think you've seen it all ... you get a new adventure. It is never dull around here.

I trust each of you is continuing to follow your dreams and enjoy what life has to offer. Stay in touch and let me know how life is treating you.



Susan K. Roberts

With much love,
Susan K. Roberts
Head Volleyball Coach



Row 1, from left: Jeannie Annan '96, Meg (Roberts '97) Ryan and Sarah Hamsher '97. Row 2: Coach Susan Roberts, Alysia (Hortert '00) McCandless, Jessi Burns (attended '95-'96), Becky (Nelson '98) Roberts and Kelly Shields '97. Row 3: Dana Davison '97, Liz (Sparks '99) Timmons, Ali (Young '97) Fritz, Amy (Lippincott '97) Swan and Sue (Gillan '97) Dreves. Row 4: Drew Gustus '96, Emily Bintz '99, Renee (Kalp '98) Lego and Brett Hinkey '96.

1995: 34-10

The 1995 team was led by senior setter Jeannie Annan, two-time ECAC MVP as well as the PAC MVP. The return to the ECACs that year was a reward for being passed over by the NCAA selection committee. The team stepped up to the challenge and played outstanding ball against Vassar (3-0) and in the finals against Rutgers-Newark (3-2).

Sarah Hamsher and Jeannie Annan both were ranked in the top 10 nationally in kills, digs and assists, respectively.

The squad finished undefeated in the PAC. Nationally, they finished first in defense in Division III.

2001: 22-11

The 2001 team was led by senior co-captains Julie Porter and Sarah Gardner. The other senior that year was Casey Englebert. With back-to-back PAC Championships, the team went to ECACs as the sixth seed and upset the third, second and first-seeded (Moravian) teams to capture its third ECAC title.

Porter was voted the ECAC MVP. Gardner was voted the PAC's most valuable player.

Outstanding play by the entire squad in the final three matches led to an exciting finish. The opportunity to watch their hard work and efforts pay off was priceless.



Row 1, from left: Casey (Engelbert '02) Ferry, Cara Denniston '03, Julie (Porter '02) McHale, Sarah Gardner '02, Katie (Summers '03) Crews and Kirsten (Pedersen '03) Meyers. Row 2: Melissa (Lawton '05) Fletcher, Katie Kuhl '02, Kate (DiMarco '05) McKenzie, Lisa (Bodi '04) Schreiber, Rachel (Peterson '05) Remington, Renee (Allen '04) Laird and Coach Susan Roberts.

STANDOUT from page 2

Grove City compiled a 125-41-1 record during her volleyball career, including three Women's Keystone Conference titles. Her honors include all-tournament teams, All-EAIAW and three All-WKC citations.

In the college newspaper, Coach Terry Ellis praised, "Natalie is by far the top middle blocker/middle hitter in the East."

Sutyak's All-American selection displays even more luster when learning the selection process. Twenty-six players came from NCAA Division I or II schools. Among the eight from Division III, six came from the final four championship teams.

Sutyak also helped the basketball team capture four WKC titles. She earned Second Team All-WKC as a freshman

and was the third-leading scorer as a sophomore. During her four years, the team went 75-16.

An Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honor society inductee, Sutyak also served as Varsity G Club president and earned Academic All-America.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in accounting, Sutyak added her J.D. from the John Marshall Law School in 1996.

In retrospect

Remembering volleyball past

In this and future newsletters, we will be highlighting one team from each decade to honor its efforts and commitment to the Grove City College volleyball program.

We would like to highlight the first-ever intercollegiate women's team at Grove City but we have been unable to locate the 1973 team picture or the names of the team

members. If you know of any information on the team and its players or have access to that first team picture, please contact Coach Susan Roberts.



1974: 16-4

We were unable to locate information on the 1974 team. If anyone has any statistical or commentary information, please contact Coach Susan Roberts.

Row 1, from left: Julie Potts (attended '72-'75), Debbie (Schmunk '75) Soles, Suellen (Fox '76) Grubaugh, Jenifer Young '76, Pam (Randall '76) Roche, Diane Sampson '76 and Cindy (Yuhas '78) Corbett. Row 2: Coach Terry Ellis, Karen Roy '78, Leslie (Moffett '78) Adkins, Cindy (Tanner '77) Goldbach, Betsy Young '77, Carolyn (MacHose '76) Steiner, Janis (Fahnert '78) Ritter and Nancy (McDermott '75) King.

1982: 37-8

The team was led by co-captains Jill Nixon and All-American Natalie Sutyak. The '82 team won their third WKC Championship with a 14-0 mark. They ended their regular season 35-7. Hosting the NCAA playoffs for the first time, the women started with a 3-1 victory over Mount Holyoke and a 3-0 win over Macalester. After a two-hour battle against Juniata, Grove City lost a 3-2 decision.

Grove City finished in the top eight out of a field of 242 Division III schools.



Row 1, from left: Cathy Ellison '85, Judy Panko (attended '82-'83), Jill (Nixon '84) Cooper, Barb Beck '86 and Karen (Flick '84) Lewis. Row 2: Nancy Ferguson Notaro '83, Karen (Smith '86) Gerndt, Chelle Sutyak '86, Ann (Schultz '83) Huffer, Natalie (Sutyak '83) Watkins, Merrilynn Giles '86, June (Hart '83) Brody, Holly (Over '84) Kann and Coach Terry Ellis.

Young team battles through tough 2008 season

Natalie Liberati, the lone senior, led the 2008 team in a challenging yet promising season. As the all-time leader in kills in Grove City College history, Liberati once again found herself carrying a lot of the scoring for this year's squad.

With five new starters, the 2008 team began the season began in promising fashion with a second-place finish at the Marietta Tournament. The next weekend at the Ohio Wesleyan Tournament, we finished 2-2 and felt we were moving forward. At the Westminster Tourna-



Natalie Liberati '09, center, led the team through a challenging 2008 season.

ment, the team struggled but finished well on Saturday with wins over Penn State Behrend and a tough 13-15 loss to Capital in the

fifth. Things were looking promising.

During the next several weeks, the team struggled, going 2-10. Although

disheartened, the players continued to work hard and find success in small yet important places.

Then the season turned around. We went 6-2 during the final two weeks of the season, upsetting Washington & Jefferson and Thomas More, and gaining a bid to the Presidents' Athletic Conference Championships.

Even though we lost in the playoffs, the team felt good about making some great strides down the stretch and that gives the ladies a great deal of confidence about the future.



Roberts becomes winningest coach

Grove City volleyball coach Susan Roberts became the College's all-time leader in coaching wins Oct. 28, 2008, as the Wolverines downed visiting Bethany, 3-0.

Roberts earned her 688th career win at Grove City that night, surpassing the previous record of 687 wins, held by retired coach Jim Longnecker. Roberts finished the season with 689 total wins, including 522 as Grove City's head volleyball coach.

She also recorded 101 wins as head basketball coach from 1985 to 1993 and 66 wins as softball coach from 1994 through the 1998 season.

Roberts is the only active coach in the Presidents' Athletic Conference to win a PAC title in three different sports.

Longnecker amassed a 687-177-1 overall record as swimming, track and field, and cross country coach from 1957 to 1997.

By the numbers

- Grove City record – **689 wins** out of 1,146
- Overall record – **829 wins** out of 1,419
- Ninth** in wins by active D-III coaches
- PAC Championships – **11**
- ECAC Appearances – **5**
- ECAC Championships – **3**
- NCAA Appearances – **2**
- WKC Championships – **1**

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!

Interested in seeing the 2009 team play?

Log on to www.gcc.edu/sports to see the upcoming schedule.

We look forward to seeing you!