

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(SPECIAL TO THE OAK PARK LEAVES)

December 20, 1984

FRESHMAN RYAN SHINES ON GOPHER VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Freshman Patty Ryan of Oak Park, Ill., made a smooth transition from high school to college volleyball this season, establishing herself as a formidable blocker and helping Minnesota to a 16-16 record in the recently completed 1984 season. The 5-9 Ryan, a 1984 graduate of Oak Park-Forest High School, logged more playing time than any of the Gophers' four freshman and finished among team leaders in block solos (3rd with 15) and kills (5th with 120).

"It's unusual that a freshman could come in and do the job that Patty did," said Minnesota coach Stephanie Schleuder. "She is very composed under pressure -- that's the reason she played so much for us."

Schleuder attributes much of Ryan's savvy to playing with the "2nd City" club team of Chicago during the high school off-season. Ryan also competed in the Junior Olympics for three years (1982-84) and was a member of the Gophers' squad that placed fifth at the Junior Olympics during the summer. "Patty gained a great deal of national experience playing with the competitive 2nd City team," Schleuder said. "It helped her coming into our program having that experience under her belt."

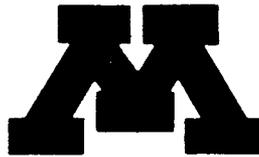
Ryan wasted no time in making her presence felt in a Minnesota uniform. She had eight kills in her first game with the Gophers against Butler, and three days later recorded a .455 kill percentage and six total blocks in a win over Loyola. Two days after that, Ryan had a season-high nine kills against Illinois-Chicago.

That Ryan adjusted to college ball so quickly was a pleasant surprise, but that she accomplished it despite a playing a new position this season was even more remarkable. Schleuder switched Ryan from middle blocker to right outside hitter shortly after the start of the season, a move which enhanced her blocking prowess. Beside her 15 block solos, Ryan was third on the team with 63 block assists.

With the 1984 Minnesota squad losing only one senior to graduation, Schleuder feels that Ryan will play a key role in the Gophers' future. "Patty has a very positive attitude and is very much of a team player," Schleuder said. "She is a real stable person on the team."

Ryan lettered three years in volleyball at Oak Park-River Forest High and was an all-conference pick twice. She was named an all-state honorable mention as a senior as well as a Chicago Tribune prep athlete-of-the-week. She will play with the Gophers during the USVBA volleyball season this spring.

Ryan is the daughter of John and Joan Ryan of 949 Fair Oaks in Oak Park 60302.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(SPECIAL TO THE STATE JOURNAL REGISTER)

November 29, 1984

COLLINGS SUCCESSFULLY FILLS GOPHER'S SETTER VACANCY

Minneapolis, Minn. -- It wasn't easy, but 5-9 sophomore Jennie Collings of Rochester, Ill., made a successful transition to setter this season on the Gopher volleyball team. Used mostly as a blocker as a freshman, Collings moved to the new position after the graduation claimed Minnesota's number one setter. She emerged as Minnesota's top setter after an early season battle with teammate Missy Larson. Collings led the Gophers with 883 assists, almost three-quarters of the team's total assists.

"It was doubly hard for Jennie to step in as a setter because she replaces an experienced setter, and she is as young as the rest of the team," says Coach Stephanie Schleuder. "We expected a lot out of her this year. As the season progressed she grew much more confident in that position."

Collings got off to an auspicious start this season, winning MVP honors at the Northern Illinois "Huskie" Invitational after averaging 6.2 assists per game. During the Big Ten schedule, she broke a school record with 66 assists during a match against Wisconsin. Collings finished eighth in the Big Ten with 7.24 assists per game.

Besides setting for the first time in collegiate ball this year, Collings missed out on her senior season at Rochester High when she tore a ligament in her right thumb during the third game of the year. "I was setting and the ball was passed into the net," recalls Collings, who graduated in 1983. "I tried to dig it out, but I hit the floor with my hand and after surgery I was out the rest of the year." (Collings was the only junior on the all-conference squad in 1981 and was a member of the AAU Junior Olympic Volleyball Team prior to her senior year.)

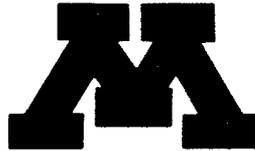
As a freshman at Minnesota, Collings was called upon to block in the front row, and against Indiana last year she set a new school record with 11 block assists in a match. This year, Collings was second on the Gophers with 21 block solos and 65 block assists.

"I've always been strong in blocking, but last year I went in just to block," says Collings. "Now I have to set, play defense, block and serve." Serving is another strongpoint for Collings. She was second on the team with 47 service aces and has what Schleuder terms a "hard devastating service float."

Despite being on the hotspot, Collings says she enjoys setting. "I like to set. It makes you feel like you are in control." But she admits that she has had a lot to learn. "In high school, I'd put the ball up and hope someone would hit it. Now I have to think about the other team's defense and who is the hitter that can put it in the court."

"Realistically, I'd like to make the all-Big Ten team before I graduate, but my goal would be to play hard and not have any regrets," she adds.

Jennie is the daughter Carolyn Collings of Rochester.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(SPECIAL TO THE ST. CLOUD TIMES)

November 27, 1984

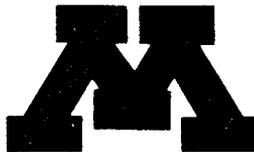
BELL COMPLETES FROSH SEASON WITH GOPHER VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Former St. Cloud Technical High School athlete Anne Bell recently completed her first season with the University of Minnesota volleyball team. The 5-11 freshman faced a big adjustment from high school to college-level competition as well as a shift in positions -- from middle to outside hitter -- after the start of the season.

"I'm very optimistic about Anne's future even though she didn't see a lot of court time this year," said Minnesota volleyball coach Stephanie Schleuder. "She showed a lot of improvement in practice."

Bell was one of the top volleyball players in the state as a senior at Tech last year, a two-time letterwinner and team MVP. She also lettered in basketball three years and was an all-state nominee in that sport.

Anne is the daughter of Lowell and Joyce Bell of St. Cloud.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(SPECIAL TO THE GLEN ELLYN TIMES PRESS)

November 27, 1984

FRESHMAN LARSON SHINES DEFENSIVELY FOR GOPHERS

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Former Glenbard West High School star Missy Larson proved a defensive sparkplug off the bench in her first season on the University of Minnesota women's volleyball team, helping the Gophers to a 16-16 record. The 5-4 freshman was second on the Gophers in assists during the recently completed season with 230.

"Missy's biggest contribution was her defensive play and her ability to come in as a backup setter," said Minnesota volleyball coach Stephanie Schleuder. "She adds a tremendous amount of spark and intensity to the team."

Larson recorded a season-high 25 assists in just three games in a win over Western Kentucky in September, and a high of 15 assists during the Big Ten conference schedule against Michigan State.

As a senior in high school, Larson led Glenbard West to the 1983 Illinois state AA volleyball title. She was a two-time all-conference pick and a all-state selection as a senior. Larson has also competed internationally with the Sports Performance Club Volleyball Team.

Missy is the daughter of Norman and Barbara Larson of 343 Phillips in Glen Ellen 60137.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(SPECIAL TO THE KENYON LEADER)

November 27, 1984

HINER A KEY STARTER FOR GOPHER VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Former Kenyon High athlete Beth Hiner carved out a starting role on the University of Minnesota volleyball team this season due to her versatility and defense. The 5-9 junior was among the Gophers' leaders in kills and digs in helping Minnesota to a 16-16 record during the recently completed 1984 season.

"Beth continued to play multiple positions," said Minnesota volleyball coach Stephanie Schleuder. "She started the season as a right-side hitter, but because of her versatility we moved her to middle blocker. Beth continued to be one of our best back row players."

Hiner played a vital role in two Big Ten victories over Wisconsin in late October, leading the Gophers with a .448 hitting percentage and 13 digs over the two games. She recorded a season-high 12 kills against North Dakota State in September.

Hiner lettered three years in basketball and volleyball before graduating from Kenyon High in 1982. She was a captain and team MVP in both sports as a senior and led the volleyball team to a regional championship.

Beth is the daughter of James and Jean Hiner of 624 7th St., Kenyon, MN 55946.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(SPECIAL TO THE MINNEAPOLIS STAR AND TRIBUNE)

November 27, 1984

FORMER SOUTHWEST STARS SHINE DEFENSIVELY ON GOPHER VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Former Minneapolis Southwest athlete Karyn Daline suffered through the dreaded "sophomore jinx" during the early stages of the 1984 volleyball season before returning to the form that won her praises as a freshman. But Daline finished the year strong, leading the Gophers with a single-season team record 293 digs and placing third on the team in kills and kill percentage.

"Karen had a slow start ... but she was still our most consistent player and our best passer," said Minnesota volleyball coach Stephanie Schleuder.

Daline's defense was her biggest asset to the Gophers. She set a school record with 28 digs in a match against North Dakota State in September. And Daline's offense picked up by the end of the year: She was in double figures in kills in seven of the Gophers' final nine games, including a high of 18 in a victory over Wisconsin in October.

Daline was an all-city selection twice in volleyball and once in basketball before graduating from Southwest in 1983. She was a team MVP and captain in both sports, and the MVP of the Junior National Volleyball Team in 1983.

Another Southwest High graduate, senior hitter Gretchen Kauth, completed her final season on the Gopher volleyball team, ending up in the Minnesota top ten for games played in a career. Like Daline, Kauth was a starter and a defensive specialist, placing third among the Gophers in digs this season with 168.

"Gretchen should be very pleased with her career here at Minnesota," Schleuder said. "She gave us some good stability on the court."

Kauth was an all-state and all-city volleyball player while a senior at Southwest. She is the daughter of Donald and Joyce Kauth of Minneapolis. Karyn Daline is the daughter of Wayne and Barbara Daline of Minneapolis.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(SPECIAL TO THE WACONIA PATRIOT)

November 26, 1984

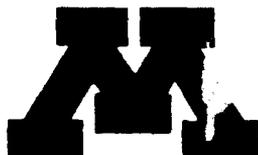
GOETZ RECEIVES COACH'S PRAISE AFTER FIRST SEASON

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Freshman Rochele Goetz proved a valuable spark off the bench for the University of Minnesota's volleyball team during the recently completed season. The former Waconia High School athlete helped the Gophers to a 16-16 record this season.

"Rochele did a fine job coming off the bench," said Minnesota coach Stephanie Schleuder. "Her athletic ability allows her to be versatile and to play almost any position on the court. I know she'll be an important part of our program in years to come."

Goetz, the 1984 valedictorian at Waconia High, was one of the top prep volleyball players in the state, leading Waconia to four consecutive conference titles. She was an all-conference pick twice in basketball and five times in golf. Goetz placed fifth at the 1984 state high school golf meet.

Rochele is the daughter of Gary and Donna Moonen of Waconia.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(SPECIAL TO THE ARLINGTON HEIGHTS DAILY HERALD)

November 26, 1984

BINDER RECOVERING FROM KNEE SURGERY

Minneapolis, Minn. -- The volleyball season just recently ended for the University of Minnesota, but for 5-7 sophomore Julie Binder of Hanover Park, Ill., the season came to an abrupt end six weeks early. Binder tore ligaments in her left knee during an attack attempt in a mid-season contest against Indiana. She missed the rest of the schedule after the knee had to be reconstructed in surgery.

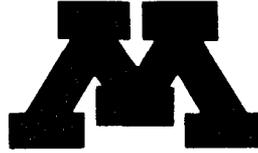
"Julie is in the midst of a heavy rehabilitation period now," said Minnesota volleyball coach Stephanie Schleuder. "But she is progressing well and I have every confidence that she'll return to us in good shape."

The Gophers sorely missed Binder's spark as the first player off the bench: With Binder in the lineup Minnesota was 11-4; after her injury the Gophers were 5-12. She had 50 kills in 37 games this season after seeing limited action as a freshman.

"Julie's front row play had just started to develop, and she was an outstanding passer," Schleuder added. "It was a tremendous loss for us."

At Hoffman Estates High School, Binder earned two varsity letters and was named all-conference in volleyball before graduating in 1983. She is the daughter of Edwin and Mary Ann Binder of 7881 Berkshire Drive in Hanover Park.

Julie Binder
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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(for use as desired)

November 26, 1984

MILLER TOPS KEY VOLLEYBALL STATISTICAL CATEGORIES

Minneapolis, Minn. -- On a volleyball team loaded with youthful potential, sophomore middle hitter Pam Miller of Worth, Ill., has produced early dividends for the University of Minnesota. The former Alan B. Shepard High School athlete led the Gophers in kills (377), kill percentage (.267), block solos (31) and block assists (122, a Minnesota single-season record). After only two seasons, she has moved into the top ten among Minnesota career leaders in kills and total blocks.

"Pam came into her own as one of the stronger middle blockers in the conference," said Minnesota volleyball coach Stephanie Schleuder. "We are extremely pleased with her development. I see Pam just continuing to get better and better."

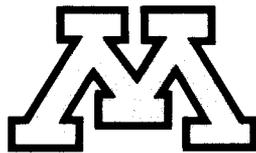
Miller recorded a career high 21 kills in a victory against Big Ten foe Wisconsin, but perhaps her finest conference game was the final match of the season against Ohio State. Miller had 15 kills in that game for a .375 kill percentage to go along with four block solos, the most by any Gopher in a single game this year. She was in double figures in kills in 10 of 13 Big Ten games.

Miller, a 1983 graduate of Shepard High, was an honorable mention All-American in basketball in high school, setting school rebounding and scoring records. She was a two-time all-conference pick in volleyball and an all-state nominee as a senior.

Pam is the daughter of Robert and Helen Miller of 10821 Natchez in Worth 60482.

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Oak Park Leaves
Orland Park Star Herald
Palos Star Herald
Southtown Economist



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(for use as desired)

October 25, 1984

(THIER COMES ON IN BIG TEN VOLLEYBALL SEASON)

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Sophomore outside hitter Candy Thier of Palos Park, Ill. has been the most improved performer for the Gophers in the Big Ten volleyball season. She is leading the team with 102 kills, a .227 kill percentage, and also has the most service aces (22) and digs (76) (through eight matches).

In the last two matches, Thier led the Gophers with 18 kills against Michigan and 15 kills against Michigan State. Prior to that, she hit a career high 20 kills in a home match against Illinois, and had eight service aces. Thier improved with each game against the Illini, hitting five kills and four service aces in the decisive fifth game.

"I think I've always been a slow starter," explains Thier. "It has to do with building my confidence in my skills." Coach Stephanie Schleuder says she would like to reset Thier's start button. "We're going to work on her being a faster starter. Candy's intensity in recent matches has been a very positive aspect of her play."

Thier possesses the most explosive spike on the team, but Schleuder says she also has the tools to be one of the best players in the country. "Candy is definitely an intimidating person at the net. Her passing has improved tremendously. Last year serve receive was a weakness for her, but now she is one of our strongest passers. If she improves in the coming year as much as she did from her freshman to sophomore year she will be an all-conference player."

When Thier's hitting is on, she's nearly unstoppable. She set a new school kill percentage record against East Tennessee this year (.692) with nine kills in thirteen errorless attempts. The same day she had ten kills with no errors in 16 attempts against Western Kentucky (.625).

"Nothing is better than to watch the ball hit straight to the floor," says Thier. "I enjoy hitting and I think it shows. I don't have a lot of dinks. I like to beat the blockers."

As for her passing game, the 5-11 Thier figures stereotypes work to her advantage. "My size is deceiving. When you think of a good digger its usually a thin fast player. I'm learning to anticipate better and read my blockers," she says. "I feel confident in my defense."

But it is consistency that Thier admits is her biggest nemesis. "The main thing I need to improve on is my consistency--it goes with every aspect of my game." Take serving for example. Thier leads in service aces, but also has the most service errors. One reason is a change in service style to a "floater".

"When I was in high school I just slammed the ball over the net for power," says Thier. "Now I still have power, but the ball floats over the net. My serve is good, when its on."

pic & release sent to: Orlando Star & Southtown Econ.

action shot " " : Palos Star Herald

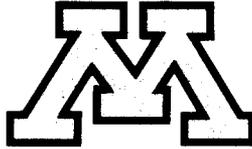
Thier knows she has improvements to make in volleyball. In fact, that's why she decided to pursue the sport, rather than basketball in college. "In high school I had an opportunity to choose either basketball or volleyball," she says. "I chose volleyball because I felt I had more to work on. I like volleyball because there is a lot of room for improvement."

She has already begun that improvement, not just in her passing, but in kills where she has 271 this year (second highest to Pam Miller of Worth, Ill. 292) while last year she was fourth on the team with 140. Thier also leads in service aces overall (25 matches) with 50 and is second in digs (173).

At Carl Sandburg High School in Chicago, Thier was a two-time all-conference player and all-state volleyball pick as a senior. She was selected to the USVBA and AAU Junior Olympic All-Tournament teams and was also named all-conference in basketball twice.

Thier would like to continue her improved play the next two years. "I'd like to be an All-American," she says. "I'd like to try and reach the best that I can be...I don't think I can settle for less than that."

She is positive about the Gophers this season. "We have a talented team with a lot of potential," says Thier. "Next year and the years to follow we will be a strong team. Right now our trouble is not skills but our intensity level and we are working on changing that." You can be sure that Thier will play a role in improving Minnesota's fortunes, as the Gophers are 14-11 overall and 2-6 in the Big Ten.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

(for use as desired)

October 8, 1984

(BINDER INJURED FOR YEAR WITH U VOLLEYBALL)

Minneapolis, Minn. -- Minnesota 5-7 sophomore outside hitter Julie Binder of Hanover Park, Ill. injured her knee in the Gophers home match against Indiana September 24 and after surgery will be out of the line-up for the remainder of the season.

Binder had played in 37 of the Gophers games and had 50 kills, but her real value to the team was as the "seventh player". "Julie is one of our best passers and was versatile enough to come in at different positions," says Coach Stephanie Schleuder. "Her injury is doubly disappointing because she has improved so much since last year and is our hardest worker."

In the fourth game against Indiana, Binder came down from an attack attempt out of alignment and landed with all her weight on her left knee. She completely tore her anterior cruciate ligament and partially tore her medial collateral ligament according to Gopher Head athletic trainer Leah Wollenburg. Presently, she is in a cast following reconstructive surgery.

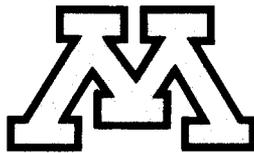
After seeing limited action as a freshman, Binder had come into her own this year with marked improvement in her game. At Hoffman Estates High School, she earned two varsity letters and was named all-conference in volleyball as a senior. Binder is planning to major in business education and is the daughter of Edwin and Mary Ann Binder of 7881 Berkshire Drive in Hanover Park.

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Sent to

Arlington Heights

Daily Herald



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Hometown News

pic + release sent to:

*Palos Star Herald, Island Park Star Herald, Southtown Econ.
& Oak Park Leaves*

(for use as desired)

October 8, 1984

(MILLER SHOWS POTENTIAL AS MINNESOTA VOLLEYBALL LEADER)

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- Sophomore middle hitter Pam Miller has stepped out of the shadow of past Gopher great Martie Larsen this year, and surprised everyone with her improved performance, including herself. "I couldn't believe my stats when I saw them," says Miller. "I didn't expect to be doing this well."

Miller and coach Stephanie Schleuder got together last spring and set some goals for this year. Last season, Miller was third on the team in kills (180), third in kill percentage (.216) and second in block solos and block assists. For this year, Schleuder expected Miller to take more of a leadership role.

But, Schleuder may have to reset some of those performance goals. Take a look at the figures through 20 matches this year, with 13 remaining. Goal - 270 kills, Miller has 239; Goal - kill pct. of .280, Miller has .309; Goal - 90 block assists, Miller has 85. She leads the team in all of the above categories and is ranked in the Big Ten and national statistics.

Her improvement couldn't have come at a better time for the Gophers. This year's team is young and is missing last year's setter Chris Donnell, and automatic point producer Martie Larsen, who was voted the Big Ten's Most Valuable Player. Last year Miller was merely the Gophers "other" middle hitter.

"This year I have a lot more confidence in myself," says Miller. "I always looked up to Martie. In practice when we did drills she'd go up and kill it and then I'd have to show what I could do."

Minnesota has a tradition of producing great middle hitters - before Larsen there was All-American Jill Halsted - and Schleuder thinks Miller could join their ranks. "Pam is well on her way to fulfilling the expectations we had when we recruited her. Sometimes I forget how young she is. I think we've asked her to take a heavy role as sophomore - to lead our offense and show leadership on the court."

Surprisingly, Miller was not heavily recruited, but it was hard for her to choose a collegiate sport. "I used to literally stay up nights trying to decide whether to play volleyball or basketball. I had more basketball offers, but the Big Ten coaches said I was too small to play forward," she says. "I've always wanted to play in the Big Ten, and now I think I made the right decision."

Miller had athletic encouragement from her family. Her father, Robert, coached high school baseball for fifteen years and her younger sister, Lori, is a high school junior who competes in volleyball, basketball and badminton. Miller started volleyball in the seventh grade and picked up basketball a year later.

At Alan B. Shepard High School in Worth, Illinois, she was co-captain and MVP of her volleyball team her senior year, and was named an honorable mention All-American in basketball. Miller also led her softball team in RBI's. An elementary education major, she plans to teach and coach at the high school level.

The biggest difference between high school and collegiate volleyball is the speed of the game, according to Miller. "Volleyball is a lot faster in college - there are faster sets, and more complicated offenses. You have to do things a lot quicker and high school defense is nothing compared to college," she says.

But Miller is making the adjustment, and Schleuder says the biggest reason is her desire. "Pam is powerful and strong and she's got great determination," says Schleuder. "But her desire was the most influential factor in her improvement."

Miller has had ten or more kills and hit .250 or better in 14 of the Gopher's 20 matches. She set a new school kill percentage match record (breaking Halsted's) against Butler University by hitting 15 kills with just two errors in 19 attempts (.684). The next day, she hit .455 against Northern Illinois and was named to the Huskie Invitational All-Tournament team.

Her career high kill performance came in a loss to Florida State when she hit 18 kills with just three errors in 29 attempts (.517). Miller is already ranked third in career block assists (147) and sixth in block solos (32) and should challenge for both records during her career.

She does have some volleyball goals in mind. "I'd love to make the All-Big Ten team and I'd love to be an All-American someday. That's what I'd like to strive for," she says.

But for the present, Miller is still looking for her best match performance. "I don't think I've reached what I should in a game. I've had good blocking games and good hitting games, but I want a game where everything is good and we win. It's a matter of doing it when you have to."

For Golden Gopher fans, the best is yet to come.