



University of Illinois Volleyball

Weekly Release for Aug. 25-31, 2008

Volleyball SID: Mike Koon 217/244-1256; Assistant: Kassie Barry 217/265-0170

ILLINI AT A GLANCE

ILLINOIS AT AT GLANCE

'Stuff Huff' returns

For the third straight season, Illinois is promoting its season opener as 'Stuff Huff' as the Illini strive to pack the historic arena on 4th & Gregory.

Two years ago, Illinois had its biggest home crowd in 13 years with an attendance of 3,129 as the Illini defeated Illinois State in the first game of the State Farm Illini Classic. The Illini drew 3,161 vs. Minnesota on Nov. 6, 1993.

- Although no records were kept, the crowd likely was the largest student crowd in the history of Huff Hall. A total of 1,682 students used their student IDs to see the Illini take on ISU.
- Bruce Weber, an avid volleyball supporter, and the men's basketball team will be serving hot dogs to the first 1,000 students in the parking lot of Huff from 5:30-6:45 pm and will address the crowd between sets two and three.

Illinois All-Time 3,000+ Home Crowds

	Opponent	Date
4,316	Stanford\$	12/11/1992
4,211	Ohio State#	12/3/1992
4,123	Nebraska\$	12/10/1992
4,050	Ohio State	10/18/1991
4,050	Penn State	11/27/1992
3,513	Michigan State	10/24/1992
3,497	Penn State	10/15/1993
3,419	Purdue	11/13/1992
3,386	Michigan	10/23/1992
3,269	Indiana	11/14/1992
3,172	Nebraska	9/11/1992
3,161	Minnesota	11/6/1993
3,144	Ohio State	11/28/1992
3,129	Illinois State	8/25/2006
3,086	Minnesota	10/3/1992
3,039	Wisconsin	9/21/1991
3,099	Penn State	9/23/1995
3,083	Penn State	11/6/1999
3,052	Minnesota	10/5/1996
3,011	Ohio State	10/16/1993

#NCAA First Round

\$NCAA Midwest Regional Final

Illini hosts State Farm Illini Classic

Illinois is hosting the 25th Annual State Farm Illini Classic this weekend [History](#)

- Illinois has won 17 of the previous 24 Tournaments, including 10 of the 12 tournaments under Don Hardin.
- There is no doubt that the most memorable Illini Classic moment came in 2004. Top-ranked USC came into the tournament with an NCAA record 52-match winning streak, having won the previous two national titles. Illinois defeated the top-ranked Women of Troy, rallying from a 2-1 deficit to win in five games.

Ranked Teams

- Two ranked teams highlight this year's tournament as Oregon and New Mexico State are ranked 11th and 23rd, respectively, in the pre-season rankings.

Ranked teams at the Illini Classic --

1986 -- No. 10 Illinois
 1987 -- No. 3 BYU, No. 6 Illinois, No. 18 Arizona State
 1988 -- No. 4 Illinois, No. 6 Nebraska
 1989 -- No. 5 Illinois,
 1990 -- No. 6 Stanford, No. 7 Illinois
 1991 -- No. 16 Illinois
 1992 -- No. 5 Nebraska, No. 12 Illinois, No. 14 Ohio State, No. 16 Colorado
 1993 -- No. 19 Illinois
 1994 -- No. 18 New Mexico, No. 21 Illinois
 1999 -- No. 22 Illinois
 2001 -- No. 11 Florida
 2004 -- No. 1 USC, No. 16 Illinois
2008 -- No. 11 Oregon, No. 23 NMSU

Schedule

Friday, 4:30 pm Oregon vs. NMSU
 Friday, 7 p.m. Illinois vs. North Carolina
 Saturday, 10 a.m. Illinois vs. NMSU
 Saturday, Noon North Carolina vs. Oregon
 Saturday, 5 pm Illinois vs. Oregon
 Saturday, 7 pm North Carolina vs. NMSU

Tickets:

\$5 for adults, \$2 for students, free for U of I students with student ID for each of three sessions. Doors open one hour prior to each session.

2008 SCHEDULE AND RESULTS

AUGUST

23 Alumni Match W, 3-0 25-7, 25-16, 25-18

STATE FARM ILLINI CLASSIC

29 North Carolina 7:00 p.m.
 30 New Mexico St. 10:00 a.m.
 Oregon 5:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

BILLIKIN INVITATIONAL @St. Louis

5 vs. Saint Louis 12:00 p.m.
 6 vs. Stanford 1:00 p.m.
 vs. William & Mary 5:00 p.m.

TENNESSEE COMCAST CLASSIC @Knoxville, Tenn.

12 vs. Dayton 12:00 p.m.
 vs. Tennessee 7:00 p.m.
 14 vs. Gardner-Webb 10:00 a.m.

16 @ Illinois State 7:00 pm
 19 SIU-Edwardsville 7:00 pm
 26 @ Indiana 6:00 pm
 27 @ Penn State 2:00 pm

OCTOBER

3 Minnesota 7:00 pm
 4 Iowa 7:00 pm
 10 @ Ohio State 6:00 pm
 11 @ Michigan 5:00 pm
 17 Northwestern 7:00 pm
 18 Wisconsin 7:00 pm
 22 Purdue (BTN) 7:00 pm
 24 @ Michigan State 6:00 pm
 31 Michigan 7:00 pm

NOVEMBER

1 Ohio State 7:00 pm
 7 @ Iowa 7:00 pm
 8 @ Minnesota 7:00 pm
 14 Penn State 7:00 pm
 15 Indiana 7:00 pm
 19 @ Purdue (BTN) 7:00 pm
 22 Michigan State 7:00 pm
 28 @ Wisconsin 7:00 pm
 29 @ Northwestern 7:00 pm

DECEMBER

5-6 NCAA First & Second Rounds
 12-13 NCAA Regionals
 18 NCAA Final Four @ Omaha, Neb.
 20 NCAA Championship @ Omaha, Neb.

Matches in **BOLD** are Home Competitions held in Huff Hall
 All times are **CENTRAL**



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2007 FINAL BIG TEN STANDINGS

	Big Ten	Overall
Penn State	20-0	33-2
Wisconsin	17-3	26-5
Minnesota	11-9	18-13
Purdue	11-9	19-14
Michigan	10-10	24-11
Michigan State	10-10	21-14
Northwestern	9-11	18-13
ILLINOIS	8-12	16-14
Ohio State	7-13	13-16
Indiana	6-14	15-17
Iowa	1-19	9-22

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

AUGUST 29

North Carolina at ILLINOIS (rv) [1] 7 p.m.
 INDIANA at #24 Long Beach State [2] 7 p.m.
 IOWA vs. Nicholls State [3] 4:30 p.m.
 MICHIGAN (rv) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette [4] 12:30 p.m.
 MICHIGAN STATE (rv) at Oklahoma (rv) [5] 10 a.m.
 MICHIGAN STATE (rv) vs. #10 Cal Poly [5] 6 p.m.
 #16 MINNESOTA at Creighton [6] 6 p.m.
 NORTHWESTERN vs. Illinois-Chicago [7] 4:30 p.m.
 Toledo at OHIO STATE [8] 11 a.m.
 Xavier at OHIO STATE [8] 7:30 p.m.
 #1 PENN STATE at #12 Hawai'i [9] 7 p.m.
 Duke (rv) at #25 PURDUE [10] 7 p.m.
 #13 WISCONSIN vs. Western Carolina [11] 5 p.m.

AUGUST 30

#23 New Mexico State at ILLINOIS (rv) [1] 10 a.m.
 #11 Oregon at ILLINOIS (rv) [1] 5 p.m.
 INDIANA vs. Missouri State [2] 11 a.m.
 INDIANA vs. San Francisco [2] 5 p.m.
 IOWA vs. Western Kentucky (rv) [3] 11 a.m.
 IOWA at Alabama [3] 7 p.m.
 MICHIGAN (rv) vs. UTSA [4] 11 a.m.
 MICHIGAN (rv) at Rice [4] 7 p.m.
 MICHIGAN STATE (rv) vs. Wichita State (rv) [5] 10 a.m.
 #16 MINNESOTA vs. Texas A&M (rv) [6] Noon
 #16 MINNESOTA vs. #21 LSU [6] 5:30 p.m.
 NORTHWESTERN vs. TBA [7] TBA
 Youngstown State at OHIO STATE [8] 6 p.m.
 #1 PENN STATE vs. #6 UCLA [9] 5 p.m.
 Tennessee State at #25 PURDUE [10] 10 a.m.
 #14 Kansas State at #25 PURDUE [10] 7:30 p.m.
 #13 WISCONSIN vs. Pittsburgh [11] 12:30 p.m.
 #13 WISCONSIN vs. Kentucky (rv) [11] 7 p.m.

AUGUST 31

#1 PENN STATE vs. Ohio (rv) [9] 3 p.m.

- [1] - Illini Classic (Champaign, Ill.)
 - [2] - Long Beach State Tournament
 - [3] - Hampton Inn/Bama Bash (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)
 - [4] - Rice University Invitational (Houston, Texas)
 - [5] - Sooner Invitational (Norman, Okla.)
 - [6] - Bluejays Invitational (Omaha, Neb.)
 - [7] - Chicago Challenge (Chicago, Ill.)
 - [8] - Sports Imports Classic (Columbus, Ohio)
 - [9] - Hawaiian Airlines Classic (Honolulu, Hawai'i)
 - [10] - Mortar Board Premier (West Lafayette, Ind.)
 - [11] - Kentucky Classic (Lexington, Ky.)
- All times local to site of competition

A LOOK BACK

Freshman Michelle Bartsch was impressive in the annual Alumni Match. Bartsch had 11 kills and hit .562 as the Illini downed the Alumni 25-7, 25-16, 25-18 in front of a crowd of 587 at Huff Hall.

DeBruler followed with nine kills while hitting .318 as Illinois out-hit the Alumni, .322-.023. Illinois used a 6-2 system using both sophomore Hillary Haen (14 assists) and senior Lizzie Bazzetta (11 assists). The two were instrumental in getting the middles involved as sophomores Abby Nelson and Johannah Bangert added five kills apiece.

Haen served the first five points of the first set and assisted on kills by DeBruler and Bartsch in the run. The lead reached 16-4 before the end of the first rotation. Nelson served the final five points for an easy victory.

Paced by three blocks from Shelly O'Bryan and eight kills from Rachel VanMeter, the Alumni were more competitive in sets two and three. In fact the Alumni bolted to a 4-0 advantage in the third set on kills from VanMeter and Lydia Gard and an ace from Melissa Vandrey. The Illini came back to take the lead for good, however, at 8-7 on an ace from Haen and never looked back.

Defensively, junior Ashley Edinger and DeBruler paced Illinois with eight digs while Haen had two of the Illini's four aces.

NATIONAL POLL

CBS Sports Network /AVCA Coaches Poll (Pre-Season)

	School	Points	Rec.	Pvs
1	<u>Penn State (59)</u>	<u>1498</u>	<u>34-2</u>	<u>1</u>
2	<u>Stanford</u>	<u>1431</u>	<u>32-3</u>	<u>2</u>
3	Texas	1360	27-4	6
4	Southern California	1229	29-5	3
5	California	1214	26-8	4
6	UCLA	1188	23-11	7
7	Nebraska (1)	1161	30-2	5
8	Florida	1025	29-3	8
9	Washington	944	27-4	10
10	Cal Poly	849	23-8	11
11	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>797</u>	<u>22-11</u>	<u>9</u>
12	Hawai'i	781	27-6	18
13	<u>Wisconsin</u>	<u>765</u>	<u>26-5</u>	<u>14</u>
14	Kansas State	665	23-9	16
15	Middle Tennessee	479	35-3	15
16	<u>Minnesota</u>	<u>446</u>	<u>18-13</u>	<u>NR</u>
17	Colorado State	363	23-8	NR
18	Iowa State	328	19-14	17
19	Clemson	303	29-4	22
20	BYU	292	24-8	17
21	LSU	276	25-8	NR
22	San Diego	271	21-8	25
23	<u>New Mexico State</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>26-6</u>	<u>21</u>
24	Long Beach State	220	26-7	23
25	<u>Purdue</u>	<u>190</u>	<u>19-14</u>	<u>NR</u>

Others Receiving Votes and appearing on two or more ballots: St. John's 180; Michigan 177; Pepperdine 113; Dayton 98; Michigan State 80; Louisville 66; Santa Clara 65; Ohio 62; Texas A&M 55; Utah 45; Illinois 44; Missouri 42; Tulane 38; Arizona 31; Duke 18; Kentucky 16; Oklahoma 15; Wichita State 14; Georgia Tech 8; Western Kentucky 6.

Illinois opponents are underlined.

ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI

NO.	NAME	HT.	YR.	POS.	HOMETOWN (HIGH SCHOOL/LAST SCHOOL)
1	Laura DeBruler	5-10	So.	OH	Downers Grove, Ill. (Downers Grove North)
2	Rachel Feldman	5-4	Fr.	DS	Normal, Ill. (Normal Community)
3	Catherine Culligan	5-7	Fr.	DS/L	Glen Ellyn, Ill. (St. Francis)
4	Abby Nelson	6-3	So.	MB	Chicago, Ill. (Marist)
5	Ashley Edinger	5-9	Jr.	L/DS	Michigan City, Ind. (Michigan City)
6	Michelle Bartsch	6-3	Fr.	OH/MB	Maryville, Ill. (Collinsville)
7	Nicole Kump	6-1	So.	OH/MB	Joliet, Ill. (Joliet Catholic)
8	Hillary Haen	5-10	So.	S	Crystal Lake, Ill. (Prairie Ridge)
10	Kristine Anderson	5-4	Sr.	DS	Clinton, Ill. (Clinton/Parkland College)
11	Kayani Turner	6-2	Sr.	OH	Bel Air, Md. (John Carroll)
12	Lizzie Bazzetta	5-10	Sr.	S	Naperville, Ill. (Naperville North)
13	Johannah Bangert	6-1	So.	MB	Washington, Mo. (Washington)
14	Keelin Bourne	6-3	Fr.	RS	Omaha, Neb. (Millard North H.S.)
15	Kylie McCulley	5-11	Jr.	OH	Clinton, Ill. (Clinton)

Head Coach: Don Hardin (13th year at Illinois, 21st year overall)

Assistant Coaches: Kevin Hamby (fifth year), Jen Oldenburg (fifth year) **Volunteer Assistant:** Melissa David



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Illini receive votes in first poll

Illinois received votes in the pre-season CBS College Sports Network/AVCA Coaches poll. The Illini earned 45 votes from the 60 member panel.

A total of seven Illinois opponents are in the Pre-season Top 25 and another three are receiving votes. Defending national champion Penn State received 59 of a possible 60 first-place votes to earn the top spot. Illinois meets the Nittany Lions on Sept. 27 in State College and hosts PSU Nov. 14 at Huff Hall. National runner-up Stanford garnered the no. 2 spot. The Illini and the Cardinal square off Sept. 6 at the Billikin Invitational in St. Louis.

Illinois opens the season Aug. 29-30 by hosting the State Farm Illini Classic. Two of the three other teams in the event are ranked - Oregon at no. 11 and New Mexico State at no. 23. Besides Penn State, three other Big Ten teams are in the top 25 - Wisconsin at no. 13, Minnesota at no. 16 and Purdue no. 25. Michigan, Michigan State and another non-conference Illinois opponent, Dayton, join the Illini in receiving votes. Illinois was picked fifth in the Big Ten by conference coaches last week.

2007 State Farm Illini Classic Recap

For the second straight year, the Illinois volleyball team hoisted the State Farm Illini Classic trophy, defeating Creighton 3-1 by game scores of 30-22, 17-30, 30-25, 30-22. The Illini were led by the offensive explosiveness of the tournament's Most Valuable Player senior middle blocker Vicki Brown, who finished the afternoon with 16 kills and four blocks.

Freshman outside hitter Laura DeBruler paced all hitters with 18 kills and 10 digs to garner all-tournament honors, while junior Lizzie Bazzetta rounded out the Orange

and Blue in the all-tournament spotlight, collecting 45 assists and 13 digs in her double-double performance.

2007 Results

Creighton def. Tennessee 30-25, 30-24, 30-22
 Illinois def. Marquette 30-24, 30-22, 30-24
 Tennessee def. Marquette (3rd pl.) 30-26, 30-25, 19-30, 30-22
 Illinois def. Creighton (champ.) 30-22, 17-30, 30-25, 30-22

2007 State Farm Illini Classic All-Tournament Team

MVP - Vicki Brown - Illinois
Lizzie Bazzetta - Illinois
Laura DeBruler - Illinois
 Jessica Houts - Creighton
 Bianca Rivera - Creighton
 Kimberly Todd - Marquette
 Leah Hinkey - Tennessee

The 2008 field at a glance

• New Mexico State made its fourth NCAA appearance in the past five years and enters the season ranked no. 23 after ending last year at no. 21. The Aggies are coming off a 26-6 season and a 14-2 conference mark. They are picked second in the WAC behind no. 12 Hawaii and are led by All-American middle blocker Amber Simpson

• North Carolina brings a veteran team to the tournament after losing just one starter to graduation from a 15-16 team. They are paced by three-year starter Stephanie Hansma at setter and libero, and Brianna Eskola, who is approaching the ACC career digs record

• Oregon hails from the talent-rich Pac-10, who has six teams in the pre-season top 25. The Ducks, no. 11 in the pre-season poll, advanced to the NCAA Sweet 16 in 2007, after posting a 22-11 record. They return six starters, including AVCA Second Team All-American Gorana Maricic. Their roster includes three players from Serbia and one from Australia.



Head Coach Don Hardin

- Big Ten Coach of the Year 2001, 2003
- Has been associated with Illinois volleyball for 15 of the past 23 seasons, serving as an assistant to Mike Hebert from 1983-87 and as the head coach since 1996.
- Has thus been a part of eight of Illinois' 16 NCAA appearances, including the 1987 Final Four
- Has taken teams to the NCAA Tournament in five of the past nine years, including Sweet 16 appearances in 1998 and 2003.

- Posted seven 20-win seasons and won six conference championships at Louisville.
- Won his 400th match on Nov. 24, 2007 vs. Iowa.

Coaching Experience

- Head Coach, Illinois, 1996-present
- Head Coach, Louisville, 1988-95
- Assistant Coach, University of Illinois, 1983-87
- Recreation & Intramural Program Coordinator, Ohio State, 1980-82
- Assistant Coach, University of Pittsburgh, 1979-80
- United States Air Force, March AFB, Spangdahelm, Germany, 1972-78

Hardin Coaching Record

Year	Team	Record	Highlights
2007	Illinois	16-14	State Farm Illini Classic Champions
2006	Illinois	15-15	
2005	Illinois	16-15	
2004	Illinois	19-11	Defeated No. 1 USC; NCAA First Round
2003	Illinois	26-7	NCAA Sweet 16; Big Ten Coach of the Year
2002	Illinois	13-16	
2001	Illinois	21-9	NCAA 2nd Round; Big Ten Coach of the Year
2000	Illinois	13-18	
1999	Illinois	17-11	NCAA 2nd Round
1998	Illinois	22-11	NCAA Sweet 16
1997	Illinois	17-13	
1996	Illinois	13-15	
At Illinois		208-155 (.573)	
1995	Louisville	29-6	Conference USA Champs; NCAA 2nd Round Conference USA Coach of the Year
1994	Louisville	29-5	Metro Conference Champs; NCAA Tournament
1993	Louisville	23-13	NCAA Tournament
1992	Louisville	24-9	Metro Conference Champs; NCAA Tournament
1991	Louisville	28-8	Metro Conference Champs; NCAA Tournament Metro Conference Coach of the Year
1990	Louisville	22-8	Metro Conference Champs; NCAA Tournament
1989	Louisville	21-12	Metro Conference Champs
1988	Louisville	16-15	
At Louisville		192-76 (.716)	
TOTAL		400-231 (.634)	



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Edinger approaches career digs record

Ashley Edinger holds two of the top three digs seasons in Illinois history, including 564 last year. Edinger also topped 1,000 digs in just her 57th match of her career. Tracey Marshall, who is Illinois' all-time digs leader with 1,426, recorded her 1,000th career dig in her 80th match.

With 1,052 career digs, Edinger begins the year seventh on the all-time Illinois digs list and within striking distance of the record this year.

Illinois single-season digs list

1. Ashley Edinger (2007)	564
2. Beth Vrdsky (2005)	520
3. Ashley Edinger (2006)	488
4. Tracey Marshall (1998)	465
5. Erin Borske (1995)	396
7. Lauren Harks (2003)	393
7. Mary Coleman (1998)	391
8. Shadia Haddad (2000)	371
9. Shadia Haddad (2001)	368
10. Mary Coleman (1995)	367

Illinois career digs list

1. Tracey Marshall	1,426
2. Mary Coleman	1,393
3. Lauren Harks	1,346
4. Beth Vrdsky	1,166
5. Sandy Scholtens	1,133
6. Mary Eggers	1,092
7. Ashley Edinger	1,052
8. Petra Laverman	1,003
9. Kathleen Bazzetta	974
10. Shadia Haddad	962

Illinois single-match list

1. Petra Laverman (9/30/89)	38
2. Ashley Edinger (11/2/07)	37
3. Beth Vrdsky (9/16/05)	36
4. Ashley Edinger (10/21/07)	34
5. Ashley Edinger (8/31/07)	32
Rita Schwartz (9/5/84)	32
7. Ashley Edinger (9/3/06)	31
Beth Vrdsky (11/16/05)	31
9. Ashley Edinger (9/28/88)	30
Sandy Scholtens (9/28/88)	

Bazzetta moves up Illinois assists charts

Lizzie Bazzetta begins the season with 3,206 career assists -- 824 as a freshman, 1,241 as a sophomore, and 1,141 as a junior. She needs 372 assists to move past Betsy Eiserman for fifth on the Illini career list and could become just the fourth Illinois player to top 4,000 for her career.

Illinois begins the year using 6-2 system:

The Fighting Illini will begin the season using two setters, senior Lizzie Bazzetta and sophomore Hillary Haen. In the three-game sweep of the Alumni, Haen collected 14 assists and Bazzetta 11.

Illinois completes successful European Trip

Illinois traveled to Italy, Slovenia and Croatia during the last two weekends in May. The Illini went 9-1, including the Big Ten Conference's first victory over the Italian Junior National Team.

- The last two times Illinois has taken a foreign trip -- 1998 to Holland and 2003 to Brazil, the Illini reached the NCAA Sweet 16
- Several Illinois players collected hardware during the trip. Sophomore Laura DeBruler won Tournament MVP in Belluno, Italy, where the Illini swept Team Belluno, 25-18, 26-24, 25-16 and Team Sbico 25-23, 25-17, 12-15. Junior Ashley Edinger earned the award for Best Defensive Player of the Tournament while senior Lizzie Bazzetta was named Best Setter. Illinois won all three matches at a tournament in Rogla, Slovenia, with Johannah Bangert earning Tournament MVP.
- Illinois fared better than any Big Ten team in recent years against the Italian Junior National Team. Illinois won the first match on May 26 25-21, 23-25, 25-19, 27-29, 15-12, in Ravenna, then lost a hard-fought five-gamer the next night 25-21, 12-25, 18-25, 25-19, 15-10.

Bartsch starts for U.S. Junior National Team

Illinois freshman Michelle Bartsch not only made the 12-member U.S. Junior National Team this year, but started every match at middle blocker in the NORCECA Championships in Mexico, leading the United States to the gold medal. She was also named the Most Outstanding Server of the Championships.

Bartsch had nine kills, two blocks and an ace while hitting .818 in the gold medal match and was also selected as the best server for the tournament.

The native of Maryville, Ill., and graduate of Collinsville High School started at middle blocker in all six matches for the United States team. The Americans placed second to the Dominican Republic in pool A, but stormed back through medal round to win three straight and claim the gold, defeating Dominica in the final, 25-21, 25-20, 25-18.

In the gold medal match, Bartsch served six straight points in the first set, including an ace to turn a three-point deficit into a three-point advantage for the U.S. She also key two rallies with a pair of kills as the American's pulled out the game two victory.

The road to the championship match included a three-set victory over Mexico (25-18, 25-17, 25-21) and a four-set win over Cuba (23-25, 25-17, 25-21, 25-19). Bartsch led the Americans in points against both Mexico and Cuba with 12 and 10, respectively.

DeBruler named Pre-Season All-Big Ten

Illinois sophomore outside hitter Laura DeBruler was named Pre-Season All-Big Ten by the conference coaches.

DeBruler led all freshmen in Division I in kills while ranking first in the Big Ten and 22nd overall nationally with 4.89 kills per game in 2007. The graduate of Downers Grove (Ill.) North High School had 28 kills in her Illinois debut vs. Bowling Green, the only player even to reach double figures in her first match as an Illini. DeBruler finished the season with 577 kills, the third most by any player in Illinois history. She tallied 15 matches with at least 20 kills, tied for second most in a season in school history. DeBruler ranked second on the Illinois team with 285 digs while being named to three All-Tournament teams in 2007.

Illinois career 20-kill matches

1. Rachel VanMeter ('01-'05)	29
2. Erin Borske ('94-'95)	28
3. Tracey Marshall ('96-'99)	19
4. Mary Coleman ('95-'98)	18
5. Shadia Haddad ('98-'01)	16
6. Laura DeBruler (2007)	15
7. Bridget Boyle ('86-'89)	13
Nancy Brookhart ('86-'89)	13
9. Betsy Spicer ('97-2000)	11
Petra Laverman ('88-'90)	11

2007 NCAA Freshman Kills leaders

(Listed by NCAA Overall Ranking)

22. Laura DeBruler, Illinois	4.89
23. Jovanna Blazeski, FAMU	4.87
46. Megan York, St. Mary's	4.52
56. Juliann Faucette, Texas	4.49
63. Krista Kelley, Santa Clara	4.46

STATE FARM ILLINI CLASSIC

The 25th annual State Farm Illini Classic takes place Sept. 5-6 at Huff Hall on the campus of the University of Illinois. This year's Classic will continue the great tradition that has made the Classic one of the top collegiate volleyball tournaments in the nation. Host and 17-time Classic champion Illinois welcomes North Carolina, New Mexico State and Oregon.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ILLINI CLASSIC

The four-team Illini Classic began in 1984, featuring Missouri, Northern Illinois, Notre Dame and the host Fighting Illini. Missouri won the inaugural round-robin tournament with a perfect 6-0 record.

In 1985, Illinois defeated New Mexico State, 3-0, to win its first Classic title. In 1986, No. 4 San Jose State ended a 15-match home winning streak for the Illini, winning 3-1.

In 1987, No. 4 Brigham Young defeated No. 6 Illinois, 3-1, in the title match featuring two of the nation's top returning teams.

The Fighting Illini captured the 1988 and 1989 Classic titles, defeating Nebraska and Pittsburgh. In 1990, No. 6 Stanford pulled off a stunning comeback to defeat the Illini in the title match. In 1991, Illinois scored the last six points in the decisive fifth game, stunning No. 19 Georgia to win the championship.

In 1992, the Classic featured the "Big Eight-Big Ten Challenge" pitting No. 12 Illinois and No. 14 Ohio State against No. 5 Nebraska and No. 16 Colorado. Illinois captured the 1995 title by defeating current Illinois coach Don Hardin's Louisville Cardinals in the championship match. That began a winning streak of consecutive tournament titles for the Illini, which stood at six until Florida ended the streak by claiming the 2001 title.

In one of the biggest regular season victories in school history, the Illini defeated #1 USC, ending the Women of Troy's record 52-game winning streak in the 2004 finals. The Illini rallied from 2-1 down to claim the victory in front of more than 3,000 fans at Huff Hall. The "Stuff Huff" promotion produced 3,219 fans for the tournament and season opener between Illinois and Illinois State.

The Illini claimed their 17th championship with a victory over Creighton last year.

ILLINOIS' ILLINI CLASSIC ALL-TOURNAMENT SELECTIONS

Lori Anderson ('85)	Lydia Gard ('01)
Lisa Argabright ('01, '03 MVP)	Kristen Gleis ('92 MVP)
Lizzie Bazzetta (2007)	Shadia Haddad ('99, 2000)
Melissa Beitz ('97, '99)	Lorna Henderson ('89, '90, '91 MVP)
Jessica Belter ('02)	Kristen Henriksen ('93)
Erin Borske ('94, '95 MVP)	Disa Johnson ('84, '85, '86)
Bridget Boyle ('87, '88, '89)	Amy Jones ('90)
Nancy Brookhart ('87, '88)	Petra Laverman ('90)
Vicki Brown ('05, '06 MVP, '07 MVP)	Tracey Marshall ('96, '97 MVP, '98 MVP)
Laura Bush ('89 MVP, '90)	Meghan Macdonald (2005)
Cristy Chapman ('97, '98)	Merrill Mullis ('92)
Mary Coleman ('95, '96 MVP)	Sue Nucci ('93)
Anne Conway ('91)	Tina Rogers ('91, '92, '93)
Laura DeBruler (2007)	Kelly Scherr ('95, '96)
Carolien Dikhoff ('95)	Rita Schwarz ('84)
Ashley Edinger ('07)	Kathleen Shannon ('93 MVP)
Mary Eggers ('85 MVP, '86, '87)	Sara Sorrell ('98)
Betsy Eiserman ('02 MVP)	Betsy Spicer ('99 MVP, 2000 MVP)
Denise Fracaro ('84)	Kayani Turner ('07)

STATE FARM ILLINI CLASSIC CHAMPIONS

1984 Missouri (def. Illinois, 3-0)	1996 ILLINOIS (def. Connecticut, 3-1)
1985 ILLINOIS (def. New Mexico St. 3-0)	1997 ILLINOIS (def. Ball State, 3-0)
1986 San Jose State (def. Illinois, 3-1)	1998 ILLINOIS (def. Oral Roberts, 3-2)
1987 Brigham Young (def. Illinois, 3-1)	1999 ILLINOIS (def. Georgia, 3-0)
1988 ILLINOIS (def. Nebraska, 3-1)	2000 ILLINOIS (def. Ball State, 3-2)
1989 ILLINOIS (def. Pittsburgh, 3-0)	2001 Florida (def. Illinois 3-0)
1990 Stanford (def. Illinois, 3-2)	2002 ILLINOIS (def. Connecticut, 3-0)
1991 ILLINOIS (def. Georgia, 3-2)	2003 ILLINOIS (def. Wake Forest, 3-0)
1992 ILLINOIS (def. Colorado, 3-1)	2004 ILLINOIS (def. USC, 3-2)
1993 ILLINOIS (def. Maryland, 3-0)	2005 Rice (def. Illinois, 3-0)
1994 Stanford (def. New Mexico, 3-0)	2006 ILLINOIS (full round robin)
1995 ILLINOIS (def. Louisville, 3-1)	2007 ILLINOIS (def. Creighton, 3-1)

STATE FARM ILLINI CLASSIC RECORDS

Individual single match (top) / Team (bottom)

MOST KILLS

33	Mary Coleman (Illinois) vs. Connecticut, 9/21/96
92	Illinois, vs. Ball State, 9/16/00

MOST ERRORS

15	Sue Webber (Illinois) vs. Ball State, 9/16/00
35	Louisiana State, vs. Ball State, 9/5/97

MOST TOTAL ATTACKS

68	Laura DeBruler (Illinois) vs. Creighton, 9/8/07
198	Illinois, vs. Ball State, 9/16/00

BEST ATTACK PERCENTAGE

.900 (9-0-10)	Marli Summa (Bradley) vs. Southern Miss., 9/21/96
.515 (40-6-66)	Illinois, vs. Texas A&M, 9/5/87

MOST ASSISTS

73	Carolien Dikhoff (Illinois) vs. Louisville, 9/16/95
81	Illinois, vs. Ball State, 9/16/00

MOST SERVICE ACES

7	Tina Rogers (Illinois) vs. Nebraska, 9/11/92
17	Pittsburgh, vs. Memphis State, 9/8/89

MOST DIGS

27	Chloe Goldman (Tennessee) vs. Marquette, 9/8/07
83	Stanford, vs. Illinois, 9/8/90

MOST SOLO BLOCKS

5	Bev Oden (Stanford) vs. Illinois, 9/8/90
9	Illinois, vs. Connecticut, 9/21/96

MOST BLOCK ASSISTS

13	Kellie Hebeisen (Illinois) vs. Georgia, 9/14/91
38	Illinois, vs. Georgia, 9/14/91

MOST TOTAL BLOCKS

15	Kellie Hebeisen (Illinois) vs. Georgia, 9/14/91
24	Illinois, vs. Georgia, 9/14/91
	Brigham Young, vs. Illinois, 9/5/87

Melissa Vandrey ('03)
Rachel VanMeter ('04 MVP)
Rasa Virsilaitė ('04)
Erin Virtue ('03, '04)

Sue Webber ('02)
Barb Winsett ('89)



University of Illinois Volleyball

Weekly Release for Aug. 25-31, 2008

Volleyball SID: Mike Koon 217/244-1256; Assistant: Kassie Barry 217/265-0170

Illinois in the AVCA rankings:

9/17/85	17			9/12/89	5	Pre-1991	11	Pre-1993	6	9/23/97	25	10/29/01	25	11/1/04	25
9/24/85	15	Pre-1987	6	9/19/89	6	9/10/91	16	9/7/93	9	10/7/97	25	11/05/01	24	11/8/04	25
10/1/85	14	9/15/87	5	9/26/89	7	9/17/91	14	9/14/93	19			11/12/01	21		
10/8/85	13	9/22/87	8	10/3/89	8	9/24/91	15	9/21/93	22	9/15/98	22	11/19/01	21		
10/15/85	9	9/29/87	8	10/10/89	7	10/1/91	15	9/28/93	23	9/22/98	23	11/26/01	21		
10/22/85	8	10/6/87	8	10/17/89	7	10/8/91	15	10/5/93	22	9/29/98	20	12/3/01	20		
10/29/85	9	10/13/87	8	10/24/89	6	10/15/91	15	10/12/93	21	10/6/98	19	Final	20		
11/5/85	9	10/20/87	8	10/31/89	8	10/22/91	16	10/19/93	24	10/13/98	18				
11/12/85	11	11/3/87	8	11/7/89	8	10/29/91	18	10/26/93	24	10/20/98	18	10/27/03	25		
11/19/85	10	11/10/87	6	11/14/89	8	11/5/91	20	11/9/93	25	10/27/98	17	11/10/03	25		
Final	11	11/17/87	7	Final	7			Final	23	11/3/98	15	11/17/03	20		
		Final	8			Pre-1992	16			11/10/98	20	11/24/03	18		
Pre-1986	9			Pre-1990	7	9/8/92	12	9/6/84	21	11/17/98	20	12/1/03	18		
9/9/86	10	9/6/88	2	9/11/90	7	9/15/92	5			11/24/98	21	12/8/03	15		
9/16/86	11	9/13/88	4	9/18/90	7	9/22/92	5	9/19/95	21	12/1/98	20	Final	15		
9/23/86	12	9/20/88	4	9/25/90	9	9/29/92	5	9/25/95	21	Final	14				
9/30/86	12	9/27/88	4	10/2/90	9	10/6/92	7	10/2/95	21			Pre-04	19		
10/7/86	13	10/4/88	6	10/9/90	9	10/13/92	8	10/9/95	23	Pre-1999	14	9/6/04	16		
10/14/86	13	10/11/88	5	10/16/90	14	10/20/92	8	10/16/95	24	9/6/99	22	9/13/04	9		
10/21/86	13	10/18/88	5	10/23/90	13	10/27/92	7	10/23/95	24	9/13/99	23	9/20/04	13		
10/28/86	13	10/25/88	5	10/30/90	16	11/3/92	7	10/30/95	20	9/20/99	25	9/27/04	19		
11/4/86	12	11/1/88	4	11/6/90	19	11/10/92	7	11/6/95	16	9/27/99	NR	10/4/04	24		
11/11/86	12	11/8/88	4			11/17/92	6	11/13/95	16	10/11/99	23	10/11/04	23		
11/18/86	12	11/15/88	4			Final	6	Final	16	10/18/99	20	10/18/04	24		
Final	9	Final	4							10/25/99	23	10/25/04	21		

KILLS-ASSISTS-DIGS-BLOCKS MATCH-BY-MATCH

Match	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#10	#11	#12	#13	#14	#15
	<u>DeBruler</u>	<u>Feldman</u>	<u>Culligan</u>	<u>Nelson</u>	<u>Edinger</u>	<u>Bartsch</u>	<u>Kump</u>	<u>Haen</u>	<u>Anderson</u>	<u>Turner</u>	<u>Bazzetta</u>	<u>Bangert</u>	<u>Bourne</u>	<u>McCulley</u>
Alumni	9-0-8-3	0-0-1-0	0-0-0-0	5-1-1-3	0-3-8-0	11-0-0-2	1-0-1-0	0-14-2-0	0-0-0-0	2-0-0-1	0-11-6-0	5-0-2-4	DNP	4-1-5-2
North Carolina														
Oregon														
New Mexico St.														
@ Saint Louis														
Stanford														
William & Mary														
Dayton														
@ Tennessee														
Gardner-Webb														
@ Illinois State														
SIU-Edwardsville														
@ Indiana														
@ Penn State														
Minnesota														
Iowa														
@ Ohio State														
@ Michigan														
Northwestern														
Wisconsin														
Purdue														
@ Michigan State														
Michigan														
Ohio State														
@ Iowa														
@ Minnesota														
Penn State														
Indiana														
@ Purdue														
Michigan State														
@ Wisconsin														
@ Northwestern														

MATCH-BY-MATCH LEADERS

<u>Match</u>	<u>Kills</u>	<u>Attacks</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>Digs</u>	<u>Aces</u>	<u>Blocks</u>
Alumni	Bartsch (11)	DeBruler (22)	Haen (14)	DeBruler, Edinger (8)	Haen (2)	Bangert (4)
North Carolina						
Oregon						
New Mexico St.						
@ Saint Louis						
Stanford						
William & Mary						
Dayton						
@ Tennessee						
Gardner-Webb						
@ Illinois State						
SIU-Edwardsville						
@ Indiana						
@ Penn State						
Minnesota						
Iowa						
@ Ohio State						
@ Michigan						
Northwestern						
Wisconsin						
Purdue						
@ Michigan State						
Michigan						
Ohio State						
@ Iowa						
@ Minnesota						
Penn State						
Indiana						
@ Purdue						
Michigan State						
@ Wisconsin						
@ Northwestern						

TEAM STATS/OPPONENT STATS GAME BY GAME

<u>Match</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Kills</u>	<u>Errors</u>	<u>Attacks</u>	<u>Pct</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>SA</u>	<u>SE</u>	<u>RE</u>	<u>DIG</u>	<u>BS-BA-TB</u>	<u>BHE</u>
Alumni	W, 3-0	37/24	9/22	87/88	.322/.023	29/21	4/1	5/8	1/4	34/36	2-13-8.5/3-4-5.0	3/2
North Carolina												
Oregon												
New Mexico St.												
@ Saint Louis												
Stanford												
William & Mary												
Dayton												
@ Tennessee												
Gardner-Webb												
@ Illinois State												
SIU-Edwardsville												
@ Indiana												
@ Penn State												
Minnesota												
Iowa												
@ Ohio State												
@ Michigan												
Northwestern												
Wisconsin												
Purdue												
@ Michigan State												
Michigan												
Ohio State												
@ Iowa												
@ Minnesota												
Penn State												
Indiana												
@ Purdue												
Michigan State												
@ Wisconsin												
@ Northwestern												