



2005 Year In Review

Inconsistent Tigers Battle Through Rollercoaster Season, Finish 16-16

Tigers finish .500 or better for fifth-straight season

With the loss of one of the program's most decorated players at the setter position in Heather Watts, and one of the most prolific hitter in Tiara Gilkey, head coach Carrie Yerty and the Tigers knew the 2005 season would be a challenging one.

With an inexperienced first-year setter at the controls and relatively young and unproven talent throughout the starting lineup, Memphis set out for what would eventually prove to be an up-and-down season that provided growing pains, but also thrilling wins.

Memphis opened the year in fine fashion, claiming a hard-fought five-game win over in-state foe Belmont in the opening match of the Arkansas Invitational. Senior outside hitter Nancy Nellans downed 16 kills and added 16 digs in the season opener to become just the 10th Tiger ever to reach the 1,000 kills, 1,000 digs milestone. Day two saw Memphis take a 3-1 win over North Texas before dropping its first match of the year to the home team Arkansas Razorbacks, 3-0.

The following weekend Memphis hosted the annual O'Charley's Tiger Invitational Tournament. The Tigers posted consecutive sweeps over Arkansas-Pine Bluff, SWAC champion and NCAA Tournament participants Alabama A&M, UT-Martin and Arkansas-Little Rock en route to winning their third-straight home tournament title and improving to 6-1. Led by tournament MVP freshman setter Laura Côté, who tied a program record with nine service aces against UAPB, and all-tournament performers Shelby Burton and Ashley Liford, Memphis put together a four-match win streak that would be the longest of the year.

However, after winning 12-straight games in a four-match win streak, the Tigers struggled over the next eight contests, coming away victorious just twice. Yerty's crew split four matches to finish third at the Mercer Bear Brawl. The road would only get tougher as Memphis traveled to West Virginia University to participate in the WVU Classic. The Tigers looked poised to get off to a strong start in the tournament, taking a 2-0 lead against Duquesne. However,



O'Charley's Tiger Invitational All-Tournament members

Left to right: Ashley Liford, Shelby Burton, head coach Carrie Yerty and tournament MVP Laura Côté.

the crew was unable to finish the Dukes off as Duquesne reeled off three-straight wins to send the Tigers to their second-consecutive defeat. A lackluster performance in its next outing resulted in a 3-1 loss to Buffalo and the home-standing Mountaineers swept Memphis in the final match of the tournament to send the Tigers home empty-handed. Nellans was the lone Tiger to earn WVU Classic All-Tournament recognition.

The Tigers returned home with their sights set on snapping the four-match losing skid and getting the Conference USA schedule off to a strong start. However, Mother Nature had other plans. Memphis was scheduled to travel to Houston for the conference opener, followed by a home match against league newcomer Rice. Weather threats from Hurricane Rita prevented the both matches from taking place as

the C-USA official's cancelled the contests, extending Memphis' road swing to 10 games.

The Tigers then made the short trip to Jonesboro, Ark. to take on the Indians. Despite 15 kills from Nellans, the Tigers hit just .139 as a team as the Tribe raced to a 3-0 sweep in Memphis' fifth-consecutive loss.

The Tigers headed to Southern Miss and UCF to open the Conference USA season. The Memphis defense held the Golden Eagles to just .140 hitting en route to a 3-0 win—its third consecutive C-USA opening win. Liford slammed a career-high 23 kills, and Côté dished out a 66 assists to lead the U of M past the Golden Knights, 3-1.

After 34 days (10 games) away from home, Yerty and the Tigers were finally set to return to action at the Elma Roane Fieldhouse for its home-opening C-USA contest against UAB. Behind a match-high 13 kills from Nellans, the





Tigers did not disappoint the home crowd, taking the Blazers down in three-straight sets to move to 3-0 in league play. The win also extended Memphis' home win streak to six contests, dating back to a sweep of Houston on Nov. 13, 2004.

Despite taking a 2-0 lead, the Tigers would fall to the Blazers in five games in the next contest for the first league loss of the year. Just two days later, Memphis would take a 2-0 lead on Belmont, only to see the Bruins rally to clinch a 3-2 come-from-behind victory. The match was highlighted by Nellans' second 31-dig performance of the year, making her the only Tiger to ever record two 30-plus dig outings in a career.

Memphis bounced back from its two tough losses and took a five-gamer from East Carolina. The Tigers then welcomed Marshall into town. The Thundering Herd came into the Elma Roane Fieldhouse with a spotless C-USA record and the league's top player in Kelly-Anne Billings. Billings, who would eventually earn C-USA Player of the Year honors, was close to unstoppable and slammed down 38 kills, but it was the Tiger defense that made the difference when it counted. Memphis overcame three match-point serves by Marshall to claim a 3-2 come-from-behind win. The Tigers got a team-high 21 kills from Liford, while libero Christen Clayton led all performers with 21 digs to hand Marshall its first and only league loss of the season as the Thundering Herd won the C-USA title with a 15-1 record.

Riding the momentum of the biggest win of the year, Memphis traveled to Tulsa and SMU. The Golden Hurricanes handed the Tigers a 3-



Laura Côté

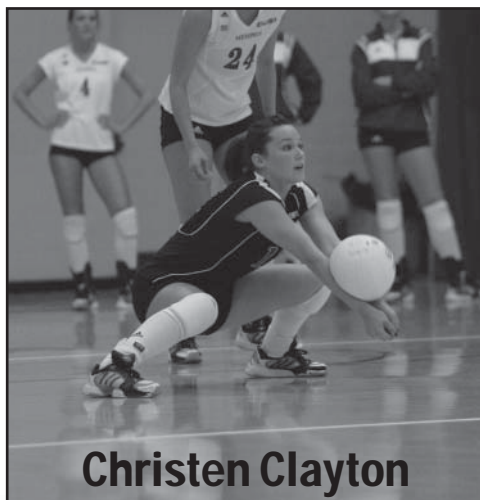
2 defeat in the fifth-straight, five-game match, while a lethargic Memphis club was swept by the Mustangs.

Memphis extended its home winning streak to 10 matches with wins over Ole Miss and Southern Miss. The streak came to an end in a 3-2 loss to UCF and a sweep at the hands of UTEP followed.

Memphis got back on the winning track on "Senior Day" against Tulane. Liford ripped down 20 kills and hit .487, while Burton added 18 kills, a .533 attack percentage and eight blocks, as the duo led Memphis to a 3-1 win in the home finale. The Tigers finished the season 10-2 at home.

The U of M wrapped up its regular season on the road at ECU and Marshall. Unable to snap a four-match road losing streak, Memphis fell to ECU 3-1. Marshall then held the Tigers to a .121 attack percentage, while hitting .370 to avenge its earlier loss to Memphis.

At 16-15, 7-7 in C-USA action, Memphis drew the No. 8 seed in the league tournament. The club was paired with No. 9 UCF—a team it had split the season series with. The Tigers took game one, but UCF then pulled off three-consecutive sets en route to upsetting eighth-seeded Memphis 3-1 in the first match of the tournament. Liford hammered a match-high 17 kills as the Tigers ended the season with a 16-16 mark.



Christen Clayton

2005 Highlights & Honors

All-Tournament Selections

Arkansas Invitational
Shelby Burton
Christen Clayton
O'Charley's Tiger Invitational
MVP – Laura Côté
Shelby Burton
Ashley Liford
Mercer Bear Brawl
Melissa Nance
WVU Classic
Nancy Nellans

- Memphis raced to four-straight sweeps to claim the O'Charley's Tiger Invitational crown. The Tigers have won their home tournament each of the last three years.

- Laura Côté tied a freshman and program record with nine service aces in Memphis' 3-0 win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

- The Tigers outlasted Marshall 3-2 to give the Herd its lone C-USA loss of the year. Memphis used that win to extend its home win streak to 10 matches.

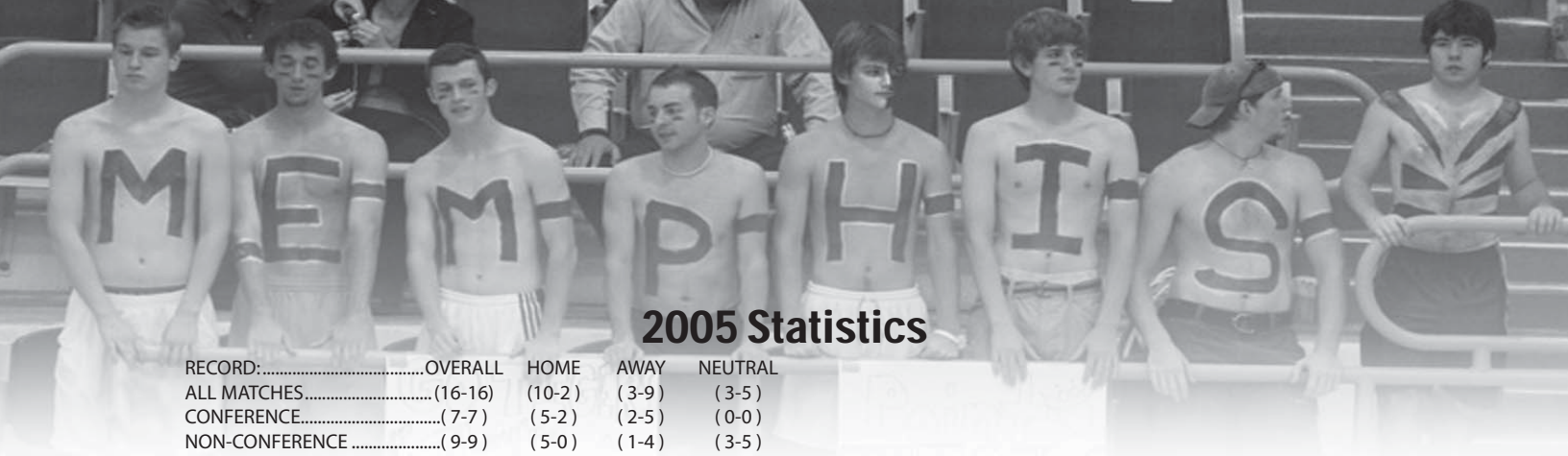
- Shelby Burton led Memphis in hitting and blocking in 2005. The San Antonio native hit .295 to become the second Tiger to ever hit .295 or higher in consecutive seasons. Burton is currently ranked second all-time with a .309 career attack percentage.

- Christen Clayton etched her name in the Tiger volleyball record books with a single-season record 466 digs in 2005. The libero made 20 or more digs in seven matches.

- Côté set the freshman record for both assists in a single match with 71 against UCF in the Conference USA tournament. She ended her freshman year with a rookie record 1,451 assists—good for eighth on the Tigers career assists list.

- Nancy Nellans became just the third Tiger to crack the 30-dig plateau when she posted 31 digs versus Louisiana Tech. She later notched 31 digs against Belmont to become the first Memphis player ever to record two 30-plus dig performances in both a season and career.





2005 Statistics

RECORD:.....	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL MATCHES.....	(16-16)	(10-2)	(3-9)	(3-5)
CONFERENCE.....	(7-7)	(5-2)	(2-5)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(9-9)	(5-0)	(1-4)	(3-5)

##	STATS SUMMARY	ATTACK					SET		SERVE			DIG		BLOCKING			BE	BHE	Points			
		G	K	K/G	E	TA	Pct	A	A/G	SA	SE	SA/G	RE	DIG	D/G	BS				BA	Total	B/G
9	Nellans, Nancy	123	421	3.42	226	1166	.167	27	0.22	40	40	0.33	74	447	3.63	2	32	34	0.28	9	2	479.0
4	Liford, Ashley	119	366	3.08	163	918	.221	1	0.01	4	17	0.03	1	79	0.66	1	27	28	0.24	8	2	384.5
8	Burton, Shelby	100	273	2.73	94	607	.295	4	0.04	1	5	0.01	1	36	0.36	18	90	108	1.08	16	3	337.0
10	Nance, Melissa	115	255	2.22	98	628	.250	28	0.24	46	67	0.40	2	142	1.23	15	81	96	0.83	2	8	356.5
7	Tuivai, Fehi	95	213	2.24	94	511	.233	8	0.08	6	26	0.06	1	44	0.46	17	66	83	0.87	18	0	269.0
20	Ramirez, Colette	94	182	1.94	72	465	.237	20	0.21	23	14	0.24	1	74	0.79	5	47	52	0.55	13	4	233.5
5	Côté, Laura	123	82	0.67	30	230	.226	1451	11.80	44	52	0.36	2	306	2.49	4	60	64	0.52	7	36	160.0
18	Bury, Sarah	31	22	0.71	12	72	.139	0	0.00	0	3	0.00	0	7	0.23	0	7	7	0.23	1	0	25.5
24	Hardee, Kristen	116	11	0.09	18	58	-.121	7	0.06	13	29	0.11	29	190	1.64	0	1	1	0.01	0	0	24.5
3	Slancheva, Hristina	9	8	0.89	1	15	.467	76	8.44	1	2	0.11	0	12	1.33	0	3	3	0.33	0	9	10.5
12	Smith, Kori	61	3	0.05	3	8	.000	11	0.18	3	5	0.05	8	58	0.95	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	6.0
11	Clayton, Christen	123	2	0.02	4	11	-.182	29	0.24	50	73	0.41	42	466	3.79	0	0	0	0.00	2	1	52.0
TEAM																						
MEMPHIS		123	1838	14.94	816	4690	.218	1662	13.51	231	333	1.88	186	1861	15.13	62	414	269.0	2.19	82	65	2338.0
Opponents		123	1673	13.60	745	4643	.200	1512	12.29	186	280	1.51	230	1740	14.15	58	450	283.0	2.30	67	56	2142.0

TEAM STATISTICS	MEM	OPP	DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	SCORE-BY-GAME	ATTEND
ATTACK			! Aug. 26	vs. Belmont	W	3-2	24-30,30-21,30-26,20-30,15-8	58
Kills.....	1838	1673	! Aug. 27	vs. North Texas	W	3-1	26-30,32-30,30-23,30-16	52
Errors.....	816	745	! Aug. 27	at Arkansas	L	0-3	24-30,23-30,24-30	671
Total Attacks.....	4690	4643	\$ Sep. 02	UAPB	W	3-0	30-20,30-12,30-9	122
Attack Pct.....	.218	.200	\$ Sep. 02	ALABAMA A&M	W	3-0	30-15,30-21,30-20	133
Kills/Game.....	14.9	13.6	\$ Sep. 03	UT-MARTIN	W	3-0	30-20,30-22,30-23	176
SET			\$ Sep. 03	UALR	W	3-0	30-28,36-34,30-28	173
Assists.....	1662	1512	# Sep. 09	vs. UNC-Asheville	L	1-3	30-23,28-30,26-30,25-30	24
Assists/Game.....	13.5	12.3	# Sep. 09	vs. Florida Int.	W	3-0	30-23,30-18,30-28	53
SERVE			# Sep. 10	at Mercer	W	3-0	30-22,30-27,34-32	84
Aces.....	231	186	# Sep. 10	vs. Louisiana Tech	L	2-3	26-30,30-28,23-30,34-32,16-18	63
Errors.....	333	280	% Sep. 16	vs. Duquesne	L	2-3	30-26,30-22,29-31,34-36,13-15	100
Aces/Game.....	1.9	1.5	% Sep. 17	vs. Buffalo	L	1-3	28-30,15-30,30-21,23-30	100
SERVE RECEPTIONS			% Sep. 17	at West Virginia	L	0-3	21-30,22-30,27-30	125
Errors.....	186	230	Sep. 27	at Arkansas State	L	0-3	26-30,22-30,23-30	303
Errors/Game.....	1.5	1.9	* Sep. 30	at Southern Miss	W	3-0	30-25,30-23,30-25	210
DEFENSE			* Oct. 2	at UCF	W	3-1	30-26,16-30,30-27,30-28	142
Digs.....	1861	1740	* Oct. 07	UAB	W	3-0	30-22,30-22,30-24	424
Digs/Game.....	15.1	14.1	* Oct. 09	at UAB	L	2-3	26-30,30-27,30-27,24-30,11-15	250
BLOCKING			Oct. 11	at Belmont	L	2-3	27-30,30-19,30-24,33-35,10-15	269
Block Solo.....	62	58	* Oct. 14	ECU	W	3-2	27-30,30-25,30-23,27-30,15-6	157
Block Assist.....	414	450	* Oct. 16	MARSHALL	W	3-2	30-18,27-30,27-30,27-19-17	237
Total Blocks.....	269.0	283.0	* Oct. 21	at Tulsa	L	2-3	23-30,30-25,14-30,30-25,9-15	165
Blocks Per Game.....	2.2	2.3	* Oct. 23	at SMU	L	0-3	24-30,19-30,19-30	275
Block Errors.....	82	67	Oct. 26	OLE MISS	W	3-0	30-28,30-27,30-21	548
BALL HANDLING ERRORS.....	65	56	* Oct. 28	SOUTHERN MISS	W	3-2	23-30,25-30,32-30,30-15,15-8	423
ATTENDANCE			* Oct. 30	UCF	L	2-3	30-19,25-30,30-23,28-30,17-19	184
Total.....	3497	3702	* Nov. 04	UTEP	L	0-3	27-30,23-30,24-30	651
Dates/Avg Per Date.....	12/291	12/308	* Nov. 06	TULANE	W	3-1	30-32,30-23,30-19,30-21	269
Neutral site #/Avg.....	8/56	-	* Nov. 11	at ECU	L	1-3	26-30,31-29,25-30,17-30	381
Current win streak.....	0	-	* Nov. 13	at Marshall	L	0-3	17-30,22-30,25-30	827
Home win streak.....	1	-	Nov. 17	vs. #9 UCF	L	1-3	30-22,24-30,24-30,24-30	-

!-Arkansas Invitational (Fayetteville, Ark.)
 \$-O'Charley's Tiger Invitational (Memphis, Tenn.)
 #-Mercer University Bear Brawl (Macon, Ga.)
 % West Virginia Classic (Morgantown, W.V.)

MEMPHIS TIGERS VOLLEYBALL CAMPS

2006 CAMPS


- Individual TigerPaw Camp
- Tiger Volleyball Team Camp
- Elite Positional Clinic at local high schools in Memphis
- TigerPaw Satellite Camps at Germantown, Southaven (Miss.) and Wynne (Ark.) High Schools.

UPCOMING 2006 CAMPS

- 2006 "Christmas Clinic" - December 2007

SUMMER 2007 CAMPS

- Individual Camp - June
- Team Camp - July
- TigerPaw Satellite Camps/Elite Clinics



L to R: Shelby Burton, Sarah Bury, former Tiger great Sandy Garner, Melissa Nance, Rebekah Strickland and Sarah Chambers.

& SAND VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT



• Tiger Volleyball hosts its annual "Tiger Summer Slams" sand volleyball tournament series at the U of M sand courts. With the help of the Tiger Volleyball Booster Club and Richard Archibald, the tournaments are hosted and run by the Tiger volleyball coaching staff and student-athletes. A sand tournament is held in April, May, June and July. The program hosts the largest of the four tournaments, the Annual Tiger Summer Slam Tournament, in July.

• For more information regarding volleyball camps or the "Tiger Summer Slams" sand volleyball tournament series, contact Travis Filar, Assistant Coach and Camp Coordinator at (901) 678.2312.