

VS [7] **OHIO STATE**

12-2, 2-2 BIG

FRIDAY OCTOBER 8 | 7 PM



VS [8] **MINNESOTA**

8-4, 3-1 BIG

SATURDAY OCTOBER 9 | 6:30 PM

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPARTAN VOLLEYBALL THIS WEEKEND

*In line with indoor mask mandates campus-wide, all fans, media, and individuals working at Michigan State volleyball matches will be required to correctly wear a mask.*

• MSU gets its first two home matches in Big Ten play, welcoming Ohio State and Minnesota to Jenison Field House.

• MSU split last weekend's matches, winning 3-0 at Iowa before falling at No. 12 Nebraska, 3-0. The Spartans stand at 8-5 overall and 1-3 in Conference action.

• Ohio State is 12-2 overall on the season, and is coming off a pair of sweeps against Indiana and Maryland. The Buckeyes stand at 2-2 in conference play, with the losses coming at Purdue (3-2) and Penn State (3-0).

**Jen Flynn Oldenburg** is in her second season as the head coach at her alma mater. She was a four-year letterwinner who graduated in 2001.

MSU is 22-49 all-time against the Buckeyes, and dropped both games against Ohio State in the 2020-21 season (0-3, 2-3).

• Minnesota is 8-4 overall and 3-1 in the Big Ten on the year, with all four losses coming to top 10 teams (Baylor, Texas, Florida, and Wisconsin). Saturday's match wraps a four-game road swing for the Gophers.

**Hugh McCutcheon** is in his 10th season at the helm of the Gopher program in 2021. He has guided his program to three Final Four appearances in the last six seasons.

MSU trails the all-time series against Minnesota by a 19-58 margin. Minnesota has won five straight in the series, including a pair of 3-0 straight-set victories last year in Minneapolis to kick off the spring 2021 campaign.

• MSU's average of 1.70 service aces per set on the season ranks third in the Big Ten and 54th among Division I institutions. The Spartans are averaging 1.85 service aces per set in Conference games.

• MSU is averaging 2.34 blocks per set, which ranks 10th in the BIG and 52nd nationally. Opponents are averaging just 1.55 blocks against MSU, an average of a +0.79 differential.

• MSU has led in kills in 10 of its 13 matches, and has been tied or led in blocks in 10 as well. The Spartans are a perfect 8-0 when leading in hitting percentage, and had just one opponent in non-conference play to hit .200 or better.

• Head coach **Cathy George** picked up her 299th victory as the coach of the Spartans with the 3-0 win at Iowa on Oct. 1. She is 299-219 in her 17th season at Michigan State and 664-443 overall in her 35th season.

• **Naya Gros** ranks third in the Big Ten and eighth nationally with 1.62 blocks per set on the season, and her 63 total blocks is third in the BIG and 59th among Division I players. She is hitting .320 and averaging 1.49 kills per frame.

• **Rebecka Poljan** ranks third in the Big Ten in hitting percentage (.421), which ranks 13th nationally. She is second on the team in blocks (0.76) and points (3.26) per set, and is also contributing 2.49 kills per frame (third) on the year.

• **Sarah Franklin** delivered her second consecutive 20+ kill effort and third in her last four matches with 20 terminations, six digs, and three blocks on Friday at Iowa. She is ranked third in the BIG in both kills per set (3.94), and points per frame (4.49)

• In 13 starts, **Cecilee Max-Brown** is averaging 2.79 kills, 2.28 digs, and 0.37 blocks. She has been the top target in MSU's serve receive (302 chances).

• **Celia Cullen** ranks third in the Big Ten with 10.69 assists per frame (24th nationally), and is averaging 0.34 aces, 2.43 digs, and 0.54 blocks as well. She had a season-best 14 digs along with 24 assists at Nebraska.

• **Cullen, Franklin** and **Max-Brown** each have three double-doubles this season, and **Cullen has two. Kabengele** also has recorded one.

• Redshirt junior and captain **Talia Edmonds** earned the libero jersey this season, and has responded with a team-best 3.88 digs per set, which is good for eighth in the Big Ten. She is adding 0.88 assists per set.

## 2021 SCHEDULE

8-5, 1-3 Big Ten

### AUGUST

Fri. 27	WESTERN MICHIGAN + .....	W, 3-0
Sat. 28	CANISIUS + .....	W, 3-0
	[RV] WRIGHT STATE + .....	L, 2-3

### SEPTEMBER

Fri. 3	v. Dixie State # .....	W, 3-0
	v. Weber State # .....	W, 3-0
Sat. 4	at Brigham Young # .....	L, 0-3
Fri. 10	NORTH CAROLINA .....	canceled
Sat. 11	DUKE .....	canceled
Fri. 17	OAKLAND @ .....	W, 3-0
Sat. 18	IUPUI @ .....	W, 3-0
	CENTRAL MICHIGAN @ .....	W, 3-1
Fri. 24	at Indiana * .....	L, 0-3
Sun. 26	at [RV] Michigan * .....	L, 1-3

### OCTOBER

Fri. 1	at Iowa * .....	W, 3-0
Sun. 3	at [12] Nebraska * .....	L, 0-3
Fri. 8	[7] OHIO STATE * .....	7 pm
Sat. 9	[8] MINNESOTA * .....	6:30 pm
Fri. 15	WISCONSIN * .....	6 pm
Sat. 16	MARYLAND * .....	6:30 pm
Wed. 20	at Purdue * .....	8 pm
Sat. 23	at Maryland * .....	TBA
Fri. 29	IOWA * .....	7 pm
Sun. 31	at Ohio State * .....	TBA

### NOVEMBER

Fri. 5	at Rutgers * .....	TBA
Sat. 6	at Penn State * .....	TBA
Fri. 13	RUTGERS * .....	7 pm
Sat. 14	PENN STATE * .....	TBA
Fri. 19	at Wisconsin * .....	TBA
Sun. 21	MICHIGAN * .....	2 pm
Fri. 26	ILLINOIS * .....	7 pm
Sat. 27	NORTHWESTERN * .....	TBA

### DECEMBER

Fri. 2	NCAA First Round (Campus sites)
Sat. 3	NCAA Second Round (Campus sites)
Fri. 10	NCAA Regional Semis (Campus sites)
Sat. 11	NCAA Regional Final (Campus sites)
Thurs. 16	NCAA National Semifinals %
Sat. 18	NCAA National Championship %

\* - Big Ten Conference Game  
+ - Auto-Owners Insurance Spartan Invitational  
# - BYU Invitational  
@ - Green & White Classic  
% - NCAA Tournament (Columbus, Ohio)

# MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Last School
1	Talia Edmonds	DS / L	5-7	R-Jr	Kalamazoo, Mich. / Kalamazoo Central
2	Celia Cullen	S	6-1	So.	Southfield, Mich. / Brighton
3	Grace Danziger	DS / L	5-7	Fr.	East Lansing, Mich. / East Lansing
5	Lia Moore	OH	6-0	So.	Chicago, Ill. / Chicago Christian
6	Biamba Kabengele	OH	6-0	Jr.	Burlington, Ontario / Corpus Christi Catholic
8	Aubrey O'Gorman	MB	6-3	Fr.	Lake Odessa, Mich. / Lakewood
9	Emma Monks	MB	6-4	Jr.	Louisville, Ky. / Assumption
10	Laurny Gibbs	DS/L	5-4	Sr.	Mt. Morris, Mich. / EA Johnson
13	Sarah Franklin	OH	6-4	So.	Lake Worth, Fla. / Lake Worth Christian
15	Abby Olin	MB	6-3	Fr.	Coopersville, Mich. / Coopersville
17	Naya Gros	MB	6-3	Sr.	New Orleans, La. / Louise S. McGehee
18	Molly Johnson	OH	6-4	Sr.	Ann Arbor, Mich. / Community
20	Cecilee Max-Brown	OH	6-1	Jr.	Surrey, British Columbia / Oregon State
21	Rebecka Poljan	MB	6-2	Sr.	Bath, Mich. / Lansing Catholic Central
24	Eleanor Stothoff	OH	6-2	Fr.	Pittstown, NJ / North Hunterdon
25	Julia Bishop	S	5-11	Fr.	Dearborn, Mich. / Mercy

Head Coach: **Cathy George** (Illinois State '85) 17th season at MSU

Associate Head Coach: **Paul Koncir**

Assistant Coach: **Dominique Tomlin**

Volunteer Assistant Coach: **Katie Olson**

Athletic Performance: **Casey Akenberger**

Athletic Trainer: **Kelly Moriarty**

# OHIO STATE BUCKEYES

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Last School
1	Sarah Sue Morbitzer	DS	5-6	So.	Groveport, Ohio / Hamilton Township
2	Camryn Moeller	DS	5-8	Sr.	Troy, Ohio / Troy
3	Mia Grunze	OH	6-3	Sr.	Waterford, Wis. / Waterford Union
4	Josie Vondran	S	6-0	Sr.	Columbus, Ohio / Dayton
5	Sarah White	S	6-0	Fr.	Cranberry Township, Pa. / Seneca Valley
6	Kylie Murr	DS	5-6	Jr.	Yorktown, Ind. / Yorktown
7	Hannah Gruensfelder	DS	5-6	Sr.	Weldon Spring, Mo. / St. Joseph Academy
8	Gabby Gonzales	OH	6-3	Jr.	Marietta, Ga. / Walton
9	Reilly MacNeill	MB	6-2	Jr.	Marietta, Ga. / Walton
10	Mac Podraza	S	6-2	Jr.	Sunbury, Ohio / Big Walnut
11	Sydney Taylor	DS	5-9	Fr.	Clintonville, Ohio / Bishop Watterson
12	Meghan McCann	DS	5-9	Fr.	Wayne, Pa. / Arch Bishop Carroll
13	Vanja Bukilić	OPP	6-6	Sr.	Belgrade, Serbia / Belgrade Gymnasium
14	Arica Davis	MB	5-11	Fr.	Hillsborough, N.C. / North Raleigh Christian Academy
16	Adria Powell	OH	6-2	Sr.	Hubbard, Ohio / Hubbard
18	Jenaisya Moore	OH	6-0	Jr.	Germantown, Md. / Northwest
20	Rylee Rader	MB	6-2	So.	Louisville, Ky. / Assumption
22	Emily Londot	OPP	6-3	So.	Utica, Ohio / Utica

Head Coach: **Jen Flynn Oldenburg** (Ohio State '01)

Associate Head Coach: **Jill Wilson**

Assistant Coach: **Brian Wright**

Volunteer Assistant Coach: **Nicole Fawcett**

# MINNESOTA GOLDEN GOPHERS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	Hometown/Last School
2	Jenna Wenaas	OH	6-1	So.	Frisco, Texas/Liberty
4	Lauren Crawl	RS	6-4	Fr.	Eagan, Minn./Eastview
5	Melani Shaffmaster	S	6-3	So.	New Castle, Ind./New Castle
6	Rachel Kilkelly	DS	5-9	Jr.	Shakopee, Minn./Shakopee
7	CC McGraw	L/DS	5-9	Sr.	Prior Lake, Minn./Prior Lake
8	Airi Miyabe	OH	6-0	R-Sr.	Osaka, Japan/Kinrankai/Southern Idaho
9	Shea Rubright	MB	6-5	Jr.	Yakima, Wash./West Valley
10	Stephanie Samedy	RS	6-2	R-Sr.	Clermont, Fla./East Ridge
12	Taylor Landfair	OH	6-5	So.	Plainfield, Ill./Plainfield Central
13	Bayley McMenimen	S	5-9	Sr.	Niceville, Fla./Niceville
15	Skylar Gray	DS	5-10	Fr.	Maple Grove, Minn./Maple Grove
16	Ellie Husemann	MB	6-3	Jr.	Eagan, Minn./Eagan
17	Anna Wolf	MB	6-4	Fr.	River Falls, Wis./River Falls
23	Katie Myers	MB	6-2	R-Sr.	Westerville, Ohio/Westerville Central/Maryland
83	Natalie Glenn	OH	5-10	Fr.	Southlake, Texas/Carroll

Head Coach: **Hugh McCutcheon** (Brigham Young '83)

Associate Head Coaches: **Matt Houk, Laura Kasey**

Volunteer Assistant Coach: **Zachary Bush**

## 2021 B1G VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS *as of Thursday, Oct. 7*

	B1G	Pct.	H	A	Overall	Pct.	H	A	N	Streak
Penn State	4-0	1.000	1-0	3-0	11-3	0.786	4-0	5-1	2-2	W6
Nebraska	4-0	1.000	3-0	1-0	10-3	0.769	8-2	2-1	0-0	W4
Wisconsin	4-1	0.800	2-0	2-1	12-1	0.923	7-0	4-1	1-0	W4
Purdue	4-1	0.800	2-1	2-0	12-2	0.857	7-1	3-0	2-1	W2
Minnesota	3-1	0.750	2-0	1-1	8-4	0.667	4-1	2-2	2-1	W1
Illinois	3-2	0.600	1-2	2-0	11-5	0.688	1-4	4-1	6-0	L2
Ohio State	2-2	0.500	2-0	0-2	12-2	0.857	5-0	3-2	4-0	W2
Michigan	2-2	0.500	1-0	1-2	9-4	0.692	5-1	3-2	1-1	W1
Maryland	1-3	0.250	1-1	0-2	13-3	0.813	7-1	2-2	4-0	L3
Michigan State	1-3	0.250	0-0	1-3	8-5	0.615	5-1	1-4	2-0	L1
Indiana	1-3	0.250	1-2	0-1	7-9	0.438	2-4	1-3	4-2	L3
Northwestern	1-3	0.250	1-2	0-1	6-9	0.400	3-3	2-3	1-3	L1
Rutgers	0-4	0.000	0-2	0-2	8-7	0.533	3-3	1-4	4-0	L5
Iowa	0-5	0.000	0-3	0-2	2-13	0.133	1-5	0-4	1-4	L7

## THIS WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8

Ohio State at Michigan State  
Indiana at Rutgers  
Northwestern at Maryland  
Nebraska at Penn State  
Minnesota at Michigan

### SATURDAY OCTOBER 9

Minnesota at Michigan State  
Indiana at Maryland  
Northwestern at Penn State  
Purdue at Iowa  
Illinois at Wisconsin

### SUNDAY OCTOBER 10

Nebraska at Rutgers  
Michigan at Ohio State

## IN MEMORIAM - MARTA TIMMONS '76

Tonight we are honored to recognize and remember Marta Timmons for her generosity and philanthropy to Michigan State Athletics.

Timmons, a 1976 graduate of MSU's College of Social Science, was a proficient multi-engine pilot who started several aviation companies, including Neptune Aviation Services - an aerial firefighting industry. She was also an archaeologist, a detective, and a track and field coach before passing on October 10, 2020.

A long-time contributor to MSU Athletics, Marta's impactful donations supported Volleyball, Track and Field, the Clara Bell Smith Center, and renovations of the Duffy Daugherty building.

Thank you, Marta, the Timmons family, and all Spartan Fund donors who provide opportunities for more than 700 student-athletes to pursue excellence in the classroom, in competition and in the community.







**1 TALIA EDMONDS**  
(tah-LEE-ah)  
R-Jr. • DS/L • 5-7  
Kalamazoo, Mich.



**2 CELIA CULLEN**  
(SEEL-yah KULL-en)  
So. • S • 6-1  
Brighton, Mich.



**3 GRACE DANZIGER**  
(DAN-zih-grr)  
Fr. • DS/L • 5-7  
East Lansing, Mich.



**5 LIA MOORE**  
(LEE-ah)  
So. • OH • 6-0  
Chicago, Ill.



**6 BIAMBA KABENGELE**  
(bee-AHM-ba kab-en-GELL-ee)  
Jr. • OH • 6-0  
Burlington, Ont.



**8 AUBREY O'GORMAN**  
(AW-bree)  
Fr. • MB • 6-3  
Lake Odessa, Mich.



**9 EMMA MONKS**  
Jr. • MB • 6-4  
Louisville, Ky.



**10 LAURYN GIBBS**  
(lauren)  
Sr. • DS/L • 5-5  
Mt. Morris, Mich.



**13 SARAH FRANKLIN**  
So. • OH • 6-4  
Lake Worth, Fla.



**15 ABBY OLIN**  
Fr. • MB • 6-3  
Coopersville, Mich.



**17 NAYA GROS**  
(Like 'cry', like 'cross')  
Sr. • MB • 6-3  
New Orleans, La.



**18 MOLLY JOHNSON**  
Sr. • OH • 6-4  
Ann Arbor, Mich.



**20 CECILEE MAX-BROWN**  
(SESS-ah-lee)  
Jr. • OH • 6-1  
Surrey, BC



**21 REBECCA POLJAN**  
(POLL-jan)  
Sr. • MB • 6-2  
Bath, Mich.



**24 ELEANOR STOTHOFF**  
(STOW-toff)  
Fr. • OH/RS • 6-2  
Pittstown, NJ.



**25 JULIA BISHOP**  
Fr. • S • 5-11  
Dearborn, Mich.



# MICHIGAN STATE

## 2021 VOLLEYBALL ROSTER



**CATHY GEORGE**  
17th season at MSU  
35th season overall



**PAUL KONCIR**  
CON-sir  
Associate Head Coach  
Second Season



**DOMINIQUE TOMLIN**  
Assistant Coach  
Second Season