

2009 EMPORIA STATE VOLLEYBALL GAME NOTES



2009 SCHEDULE

Aug. 28-29 UNO Tournament

Aug. 28 vs. North Alabama 12:15 a.m.

Aug. 28 vs. Dallas Baptist 4:45 p.m.

Aug. 29 vs. East. New Mexico 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 29 vs. MSU-Mankato 2:00 p.m.

Sept. 4-5 Midwestern St. Invite

Sept. 4 vs. Tarleton 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 4 at Midwestern State 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 5 vs. Northwood (Fla.) 9:00 a.m.

Sept. 5 vs. Central Oklahoma 2:00 p.m.

Sept. 9 at Newman 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 12 vs. Edinboro (at UCM) 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 16 *at #9 Truman 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 18 *Missouri Western 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 19 *Northwest Missouri 4:00 p.m.

Sept. 23 *at #12 Central Mo. 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 26 *Nebraska-Omaha 4:00 p.m.

Oct. 2 Lady Blues Crossover

Oct. 2 vs. #5 West Texas A&M 11:30 a.m.

Oct. 2 vs. Angelo State 4:30 p.m.

Oct. 3 vs. Southwestern Okla. 9:00 a.m.

Oct. 3 vs. Southeastern Okla. 1:00 P.M.

Oct. 9 *at # 17 Pittsburg State 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 10 *at Missouri Southern 2:00 p.m.

Oct. 13 *at Southwest Baptist 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 16 *#11 Washburn 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 17 *Fort Hays State 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 21 *#9 Truman 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 23 *at Missouri Western 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 24 *at Northwest Missouri 6:00 p.m.

Oct. 28 *# 12 Central Missouri 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 31 *at Nebraska-Omaha 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 6 *#17 Pittsburg State 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 7 *Missouri Southern 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 10 *Southwest Baptist 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 13 *at #11 Washburn 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 14 *at Fort Hays State 4:00 p.m.

Nov. 19-21 South Central Regional

Dec. 3-5 NCAA Elite Eight

*MIAA Match Home Games in Bold

All home games played at White Auditorium.

Match #1-4

#3 Emporia State (0-0, 0-0 MIAA) vs.

North Alabama (0-0), Dallas Baptist (0-0)

Eastern New Mexico (0-0), Minnesota State-Mankato (0-0)

Friday, August 28 • 12:15 p.m./4:45 p.m. • Sapp Fieldhouse • Omaha, Neb.

Saturday, August 29 • 9:30 a.m./2:00 p.m. • Sapp Fieldhouse • Omaha, Neb.

Up Next: at Midwestern St. Inv. • Sept. 4-5 • D.G. Ligon Coliseum • Wichita Falls, Texas

OPEN SEASON

The Hornets will open season as the defending MIAA Champions with their highest ever ranking as they set at third in the pre-season AVCA poll. This will also mark the first time ESU enters the season as the preseason MIAA favorite finishing just ahead of Washburn in the coaches poll.

OPENING NOTES

After winning their first MIAA Championship in 2008 the Hornets return five of seven starters including All-Americans Ting Liu and Arica Shepard. ESU is 4-1 over their last five season openers with their only loss coming to Minnesota-Duluth in 2007.

THE COACHES

Bing Xu is 100-37 in his fourth year as head coach at Emporia State. Xu has led the Hornets to the NCAA Division II Regional Tournament in three of the last four seasons. In 2008 he led ESU to their first MIAA Championship as they hosted the South Central Regional for the first time.

Stephanie Radecki is 139-42 in her sixth season with North Alabama.

Cathy Ray is 81-117 in her sixth season with Dallas Baptist.

Kimberly Falkenhagen is 10-53 in her third season with Eastern New Mexico

Dennis Amundson is 68-49 in his fifth season with Minnesota State-Mankato.

SCOUTING THE FIELD

The **North Alabama Lion's** went 24-11 last season and finished second in the Gulf South Conference. Their top returner is middle hitter Sarah Roberts who led the squad with 256 kills and 100 blocks.

The **Dallas Baptist Patriot's** finished last season with a record of 24-8. They are led by top returner middle hitter Kristen Secord who led the team with 471 kills and 164 blocks last season.

The **Eastern New Mexico Zia's** went 6-28 last season. They are led by outside hitter Veronica Valdez-Kent who had 260 kills and 56 total blocks in 2008.

The **Minnesota State-Mankato Maverick's** went 20-11 in the 2008 campaign. They are led by outside hitter Amanda Beekman who had 298 kills and 61 blocks last year.

THE SERIES

This will be ESU's ninth meeting with North Alabama with the Lions leading 8-1 overall. This will be ESU's second meeting with Dallas Baptist with the Hornets leading 1-0. This is ESU's third meeting against ENMU with the Zia's leading 2-0.

This will mark the second meeting against Minnesota State after ESU took the only other meeting in 2006.

UP NEXT

The Hornets will travel to Wichita Falls, Texas on Sept. 4-5 to face Tarleton St., Midwestern St., Northwood and Central Oklahoma.

Probable Lineup (2008 STATS)

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	K	K/G	Pct.	A	D	BS	BA	Hometown
Starters											
5	Arica Shepard	OH	Sr.	473	3.75	.251	33	460	7	45	Rossville, Kan.
14	Megan Lueger	OH	So.	18	1.00	.204	0	5	0	0	St. Mary's, Kan.
15	Brittney Miller	OH	Jr.	341	2.71	.289	36	82	1	69	Paola, Kan.
6	Brianne Boner	MH	Jr.	209	1.73	.177	8	39	20	107	Omaha, Neb.
9	Katelyn Kaiser	MH	Jr.	11	0.92	.167	0	3	1	8	Valley Center, Kan.
3	Amy Byfield	L	Sr.	2	0.02	-.053	28	529	0	0	Mission, Kan.
16	Ting Liu	S	Jr.	96	0.76	.198	1534	290	6	58	Beijing, China

Head Coach: Bing Xu (100-37, 4th year) **Assistant:** Ping Wang

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Postgame policy: Coach Xu and selected players will be available following each home game. Please give all requests to an ESU Media Relations representative



2009 EMPORIA STATE VOLLEYBALL GAME NOTES

AND NOW FOR THE NATIONAL NEWS

The Hornets will begin the season ranked #3 in the AVCA National Poll. They join four other MIAA squads who are in the polls with Truman at #9, Washburn at #11, Central Missouri at #12 and Pittsburg State at #17 entering the season. The ranking is the highest the Hornets have ever achieved since joining the NCAA.

ALL-COMERS

The Hornets went 8-3 against nationally ranked opponents last season including pushing their streak to six straight wins over ranked opponents at home during the regular season. They have won seven of their last eight over ranked opponents in White Auditorium overall. The Hornets will play ten matches against teams either ranked or receiving votes in the AVCA poll.

QUICK HITTERS

- ESU is 15-5 in season opening tournaments dating back to 2004.
- ESU is 5-2 when playing in Sapp Fieldhouse over the last six seasons.
- ESU is 73-38 in regular season tournament play since 2001, over the last four seasons ESU is 42-11.
- ESU returns four of six starters from last years squad and the team leaders in digs, kills and assists.
- Two Hornet seniors enter the season chasing career records. Arica Shepard needs only 94 kills to become the new career leader and Amy Byfield needs only 461 digs to become ESU's career best.

QUICK STARTS

ESU opened the 2008 season by winning 21 of their first 22 matches and at one point winning 18 matches in a row. ESU is 7-1 in season opening tournaments over the last two season's, both of which they started as ranked teams. ESU opened 2007 by winning six of their first eight and going 13-4 over their first 17 match-ups.

SHEPARD'S BOOK

Arica Shepard (Sr. • Rossville, Kan.) was named an AVCA All-American for the second season in 2008...was named all-region and first team All-MIAA...led the Hornets in kills with 473 on the year and led the team in kills per set averaging 3.75...hit .251 and had a team second best 460 digs averaging 3.65 per set...had 23 double-doubles for the Hornets...is third all-time in career kills at ESU and needs 94 kills to become the Hornets all-time career leader.

IN THE LIUP

Ting Liu (Jr. • Beijing, China) was a first team AVCA All-American during the 2008 season...was named all-region and the MIAA Player of the Year...led the MIAA in assists with 1,534 and in assists per set with 12.17...had 290 digs on the year averaging 2.30 per set...was triple threat with 96 kills as she racked up 11 double-doubles for ESU...she enters 2009 second all-time in career assists at ESU...she needs 2,538 assists over her final two season to become the all-time leader.

CHASING AMY

Amy Byfield (Sr. • Mission, Kan.) was named honorable mention All-MIAA for the second straight season...led the team with 529 digs averaging 4.20 digs per set on the year...she added 20 service aces for the Hornets...she only needs 461 digs in her senior season to become the Emporia State career record holder in that category.

2008 FINAL HORNET TEAM NUMBERS

Match Record -----	34-4
MIAA Record -----	18-2
Streak -----	lost 1 match
Games Won -----	103
Games Lost -----	44
Kills Per Game -----	14.5
Opponent Kills Per Game -----	11.6
Attack Percentage -----	.249
Opponent Attack Percentage -----	.140

2009 HORNET RETURNING TEAM LEADERS

Kills -----	Arica Shepard	473
Kills Per Game -----	Arica Shepard	3.75
Attack Pct -----	Brittney Miller	.289
Assists -----	Ting Liu	1534
Assists Per Game -----	Ting Liu	12.17
Service Aces -----	Ting Liu	24
SA Per Game -----	Ting Liu	0.19
Digs -----	Amy Byfield	529
Digs Per Game -----	Amy Byfield	4.20
Solo Blocks -----	Brianne Boner	20
Block Assists -----	Brianne Boner	107
Total Blocks -----	Brianne Boner	127

Must have played in 66.7% of games

2008 MIAA VOLLEYBALL STANDINGS

	MIAA					Overall		
(Final)	W	L	GW	GL	Pct.	W	L	Pct.
x- ESU (5)	18	2	54	15	0.900	34	4	0.895
TSU (4)	16	4	52	20	0.800	33	8	0.805
WU (13)	15	5	50	17	0.750	30	6	0.833
UCM (11)	15	5	48	20	0.750	29	10	0.744
PSU (16)	14	6	48	25	0.700	28	8	0.778
UNO	12	8	41	28	0.600	16	16	0.500
NWMSU	7	13	24	46	0.350	10	23	0.303
SBU	5	15	21	52	0.250	13	20	0.394
MSSU	5	15	21	50	0.250	10	22	0.313
FHSU	2	18	17	54	0.100	9	25	0.265
MWSU	1	19	10	59	0.050	4	32	0.111

x= MIAA Champion

2008 Final AVCA/CSTV D-II Top 25 ranking in parenthesis

2008 NCAA Division II South Central Regional Ranking

Final Seeds

- 1. Emporia State (Host)**
- 2. Truman**
- 3. Washburn**
- 4. Pittsburg State**
5. West Texas A & M
- 6. Central Missouri**
- 7. Nebraska-Omaha**
8. UT-Permian Basin



2009 EMPORIA STATE VOLLEYBALL GAME NOTES

MILLER TIME

Brittney Miller (Jr. • Paola, Kan.) was named third team All-MIAA and was a member of the South Central Regional All-Tournament team... started all 38 games for ESU and is their second leading returning hitter averaging 2.71 kills per set and recording 70 total blocks on the season...had a career high 341 kills on the season while hitting a team second best .289 from her right side position.

BRIANNE CAN

Brianne Boner (Jr. • Omaha, Neb.) is the Hornets leading returning blocker after finishing with 127 blocks last season averaging 1.05 per set...had 209 kills and is the third highest returning point scorer averaging 2.35 points per set...now has 291 assists over her two year career.

SNOOKERED

Jenna Snook (Sr. • Topeka, Kan.) played in all 38 games for ESU last season...is one of three seniors for the Hornets this year...had 21 service aces and 260 digs averaging 2.06 digs per set...could see time at both outside hitter and defensive specialist this season.

KAISER ROLLS

Katelyn Kaiser (Jr. • Valley Center, Kan.) will move into a starting roll after two season as a reserve for the Hornets...saw time in eight matches last year and had 11 kills and nine blocks...set a career high with six kills and five blocks against Missouri Western on Sept. 18, 2008.

MAJOR LUEGER

Megan Lueger (So. • St. Mary's, Kan.) will move into a starting roll with the Hornets this season...saw time in 15 matches in 2008 as she recorded 18 kills to average 1.00 kills per set.

READY, WILLING AND ABELS

Kelsey Abels (So. • Lee's Summit, Mo.) appeared in 30 games for the Hornets as primarily a service specialist...had five service aces to go along with five digs.

THE NEWCOMERS

ESU adds five incoming freshman to their roster for the 2008 campaign...**Jacelyn DeMotte** is a 5'5" defensive specialist from Topeka Hayden High School...she was named first team All-Class 4A last season...**Meg Schwartz** is a 5'7" defensive specialist from Salina Central High School...she earned first team honors in class 5A during both her junior and senior seasons...**Katelyn Schmidtberger** is a 5'9" setter and rightside hitter from Salina Sacred Heart High School...she earned first team All-State honors during three of her four high school seasons...**Nicole Gingery** is a 5'11" outside hitter from Lincoln East High School...she was named to Nebraska's All-State team during her junior and senior seasons...**Caitlyn Murray** is a 6'1" middle hitter from Great Bend High School...earned honorable mention All-State honors as a senior.

ON THE COURT AND IN THE CLASSROOM

The Hornet volleyball team is the defending MIAA Champions and finished last season with a 34-4 record and ranked #5 in the nation... in the classroom ESU has been named an AVCA All-Academic team in six of the last seven seasons.

CSTV/AVCA Top 25

Pre-season

No.	Team	Pts.	Rec.	LW
1.	Concordia-St. Paul (32)	800	37-1	1
2.	Cal State San Bernardino	760	30-4	2
3.	Emporia State	710	34-4	5
4.	Grand Valley State	692	33-4	3
5.	<i>West Texas A&M</i>	671	34-5	7
6.	Nebraska-Kearney	655	32-4	6
7.	Minnesota-Duluth	572	26-9	9
8.	Southwest Minnesota State	549	27-6	8
9.	Truman	530	33-8	4
10.	Tampa	511	27-5	10
11.	Washburn	468	30-6	13
12.	Central Missouri	442	29-10	11
13.	UC San Diego	411	21-7	17
14.	California (Pa.)	394	41-2	12
15.	West Florida	346	25-7	15
16.	Florida Southern	293	25-9	19
17.	Pittsburg State	269	28-8	16
18.	Cal Poly Pomona	247	20-8	14
19.	Nova Southeastern	213	24-12	20
20.	Cal State L.A.	187	21-8	18
21.	Lewis	150	31-8	NR
22.	Augustana (S.D.)	126	23-11	22
23.	Western Washington	106	21-3	21
24.	Western Oregon	73	22-3	23
25.	Wayne State (Neb.)	56	23-10	25

Others Receiving Votes: *Minnesota State 39;* *Saginaw Valley State 25;* *Northern Kentucky 13;* *Dowling 11;* *Indianapolis 11;* *Sonoma State 10;* *Chico State 9;* *Wingate 9;* *Armstrong Atlantic State 6;* *Northern Michigan 2*

Dropped Out:

Next Poll: August 31

MIAA Teams in bold ESU Opponents in italics

ESU Attendance Since 2002

Year	Matches	Total	Avg.
2008	13	12,116	936
2007	8	2,964	415
2006	8	1,867	233
2005	9	3,338	371
2004	10	2,162	216
2003	15	2,252	150
2002	11	2,084	189

ESU was #2 nationally in attendance in 2008.