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2004 IOWA CONFERENCE VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA . . . Defending Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) Tournament Champion Wartburg College received three of eight first-place votes and accumulated 58 points to narrowly edge Simpson College atop the 2004 IIAC Volleyball Coaches' Poll. Simpson also received three first-place votes but fell one point behind the Knights with 57 points. Central College, who has won or shared the last eight Conference titles, received the other two first-place votes, a total of 56 points, and is third in the preseason poll. The complete 2004 IIAC Volleyball Coaches' Poll follows.

Rank	School (1st place votes)	Points	2003 Record
1	Wartburg (3)	58	30-11, 5-3 IIAC
2	Simpson (3)	57	23-10, 6-2 IIAC
3	Central (2)	56	26-10, 8-0 IIAC
4-T	Buena Vista	40	14-20, 3-5 IIAC
4-T	Dubuque	40	19-15, 5-3 IIAC
6	Loras	34	21-14, 4-4 IIAC
7	Cornell	27	17-16, 2-6 IIAC
8	Luther	21	11-19, 2-6 IIAC
9	Coe	19	10-24, 1-7 IIAC

Three Iowa Conference schools were ranked in the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) preseason national poll released on Wednesday. Central is ranked 13th, Wartburg is 15th and Simpson is 19th.

The 2004 volleyball season begins on September 1, as Central plays at Grinnell and Luther plays at St. Mary's (Minn.). All nine IIAC teams will see their first action of the year by Saturday, September 4. Conference-play begins with three matches on September 7 and concludes with the nine-team Conference Tournament on November 5-6, at the University of Dubuque.

Complete Iowa Conference volleyball information, including schedules, results, statistics and past season information can be found at http://www.iowaconference.com/02_03/Women/volleyball/index.htm.

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Buena Vista University Beavers (14-20 overall, 3-5 IIAC – 6th)

Starters Returning/Lost: 6/1

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 9/6

About the Team: Buena Vista looks to ride the confidence it gained in the 2003 Conference Tournament, where as the sixth-seed the team advanced to the Championship match. Six starters return from that team and they are joined by nine freshmen who will be looked upon for depth as the Beavers look to improve on their sixth-place regular season finish and repeat their Tournament performance.

Quote from the Coach: Sixth-year coach **Amy Sander** says “We have a good core of returning players who have gained valuable experience the last couple of seasons and we hope that experience will translate into more wins and a better finish in the Conference standings. Our challenge this season is to be ready to play every night and hopefully, be competitive every night.”

Key Returnees	
Alison Olberding, Sr., MH	27 MP/103 GP - 2.99 kills/game (7th in IIAC); 0.30 aces/game (t-13th in IIAC)
Jess Griggs, Sr., OH	28 MP/95 GP - 4.07 digs/game (5th in IIAC); 2.82 kills/game (10th in IIAC)
Jennifer Schnoes, Sr., RS/MH	32 MP/118 GP - 0.76 blocks/game (t-13th in IIAC)
Laura Reuter, Jr., S	2003 Second Team All-Conference 32 MP/124 GP - 11.01 assists/game (2nd in IIAC); 3.32 digs/game (15th in IIAC)
Lindsey Langel, Jr., MH	16 MP/39 GP - 58 kills, 15 aces, 42 digs, 16 blocks
Brooke Bousum, Jr., OH	8 MP/11 GP - 13 kills, 16 digs, 6 blocks
Kim Holmes, So., L	33 MP/126 GP - 2.41 digs/game (4th on team)
Ashley Wilde, So., OH	27 MP/92 GP - 3.07 kills/game (5th in IIAC)

Newcomers To Watch	
Sindy McClain, Fr., S	
Bailey Volz, Fr., MH	
Susan Smydra, Fr., MH	
Sarah Wyatt, Fr., OH	
Jodi Peschon, Fr., OH	
Kelly Phipps, Fr., S	
Malori Price, Fr., L	
Ashley McCool, Fr., L	
Mindy Williams, Fr., L	

Tough Losses	
Jess Grigg, MH	1.08 blocks/game (5th in IIAC)
Jodi Lukoski, OH	1.93 kills/game, 3.41 digs/game, 16 blocks
Becky Spangler, DS	25 aces, 2.22 digs/game
Sara Mraz, DS	16 aces, 2.28 digs/game
Sam Taggart, DS	.250 hitting pct.

Central College Dutch
(26-10 overall, 8-0 IIAC – 1st)

Starters Returning/Lost: 5/1

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 12/4

About the Team: At the end of last season, Central found itself where it typically does – at the top of the Conference standings and playing in the NCAA Tournament. However, the Dutch lost in the semifinals of both the Conference and NCAA Regional Tournament. With five starters back, Central is ready to compete for its ninth straight Conference title, its ninth NCAA Tournament appearance and its fourth national title.

Quote from the Coach: Second-year coach **Kent Clayberg** says, “We have great team chemistry and able leaders who are fully committed to this program and its goals. The team is full of players who are willing and able to step into the gaps and get things done. With Central volleyball, there’s always the expectation that the team is going to do well. But this is a team that has an appreciation for the kind of commitment it takes to be successful at the national level. We won the Conference title and that’s an awesome thing but we didn’t play well in the national tournament. This team has goals of bigger and better things.”

Key Returnees	
Steph Bearden, Sr., S	2003 Second Team All-Conference 36 MP/128 GP - 7.56 assists/game (6th in IIAC); .278 hitting pct. (3rd on team); 31 aces (3rd on team); 2.09 digs/game
Jodi Taute, Sr., S	31 MP/112 GP - 4.62 assists/game (2nd on team); .217 hitting pct.; 1.71 digs/game
Katie Pederson, Jr., MH	25 MP/81 GP - 1.06 blocks/game (led team); 2.31 kills/game (3rd on team); .259 hitting pct. (4th on team)
Jamie Stark, Sr., MH/OH	2003 AVCA All-Central Region honorable mention, 2003 Second Team All-Conference 32 MP/101 GP - 0.53 aces/game (2nd in IIAC); .304 hitting pct. (t-5th in IIAC); 0.98 blocks/game (t-7th in IIAC)
Teresa Reineke, So., MH	11 MP/15 GP - .212 hitting pct.
Kristin Hancock, Jr., OH	Two-time All-Conference; hampered by injuries much of 2003 season 26 MP/86 GP – 3.49 kills/game (led team); 3.80 digs/game (2nd on team)
Alex Costigan, Jr., OH	36 MP/120 GP - 4.20 digs/game (4th in IIAC); 29 aces (4th on team); 2.08 kills/game
Tracy Marlow, So., OH	22MP/40 GP - 2.60 digs/game; 1.45 kills/game
Alicia Whisner, So., OH	14 MP/19 GP – 2.00 digs/game; 1.16 kills/game; 0.68 aces/game (led team)
Jessica Schultz, Sr., RS	32 MP/98 GP - 1.18 kills/game; 0.84 digs/game
Tessa Prati, So., RS	19 MP/30 GP - 0.97 kills/game; 0.93 digs/game
Callie Collins, So., L	36 MP/127 GP - 5.50 digs/game (led IIAC)

Newcomers To Watch	
Laura Nanninga, So., S/RS	
Nicole Baier, Jr., S	
Terri Berger, Fr., S	
Whitney Taylor, Fr., S	
Katherine Pugh, So., DS	

Tough Losses	
Catie Brand, RS	AVCA All-American honorable mention, AVCA All-Central Region, two-time All-Conference 36 MP/126 GP - .317 hitting pct. (2nd in IIAC), 2.96 kills/game (8th in IIAC); 0.94 blocks/game (9th in IIAC), 40 aces (2nd on team)
Raegan Schultz, OH	30 MP/70 GP - .219 hitting pct. (5th on team); 1.51 kills/game; 0.94 blocks/game (t-4th on team); 0.91 digs/game
Lindsay Schultz, OH	32 MP/76 GP - 2.11 kills/game; 2.55 digs/game; 0.55 blocks/game

Coe College Kohawks
(10-24 overall, 1-7 IIAC – 9th)

Starters Returning/Lost: 6/0

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 12/0

About the Team: Despite returning all six starters and all 12 letterwinners from last season, Coe remains one of the youngest teams in the Conference. Five of the starters and eight of the letterwinners are just sophomores. The experience the team received last year will help the Kohawks improve on its 10-24 record.

Quote from the Coach: Third-year coach **Heather Schmidt** says, “Coe volleyball is building. Each year we are bringing in great athletes to make this program one of the best in the Conference. It might not happen this year or next, but over time Coe volleyball will be something to talk about. With just three seniors, 12 sophomores and 11 newcomers, it will be another year of learning and adjusting but I feel the ladies have put in their time this summer, and are more confident and ready for the competition.”

Key Returnees	
Kristen Stock, So., OH	34 MP/124 GP – 1.93 kills/game (1st on team); 2.71 digs/game (3rd on team)
Rachel Schmidt, So., MH	32 MP/115 GP - 0.35 aces/game (9th in IIAC); .197 hitting pct. (led team); 0.64 blocks/game (led team); 1.83 kills/game (3rd on team)
Ashley Starks, So., MH	32 MP/108 GP – 1.85 kills/game (2nd on team); 0.40 blocks/game (3rd on team); .168 hitting pct. (4th on team)
Samantha Edwards, So., MH	31 MP/102 GP – 0.59 blocks/game (2nd on team); 1.59 kills/game (5th on team); .167 hitting pct. (5th on team); 25 aces (t-3rd on team)
Cassidy Brandt, So., S	33 MP/109 GP - 0.31 aces/game (12th in IIAC); 4.70 assists/game (led team); 1.44 digs/game
Lindsay Ramaekers, Sr., DS	33 MP/115 GP – 2.84 digs/game (2nd on team)
Tracey Freiberg, So., S	34 MP/116 GP – 4.42 assists/game (2nd on team); .182 hitting pct. (2nd on team); 25 aces (t-3rd on team); 1.39 digs/game
Courtney Pilch, So., DS	34 MP/115 GP – 3.25 digs/game (led team); 13 aces (5th on team)
Tonya Keefer, Sr., RS	30 MP/88 GP – 1.05 kills/game; 1.02 digs/game
Leatha James, So., OH	32 MP/78 GP – 1.81 kills/game (4th on team); 0.31 blocks/game (5th on team)

Newcomers To Watch	
Maggie Vickers, MH	
Emily Ita, MH	

Tough Losses	
None	

Cornell College Rams (17-16 overall, 2-6 IIAC – t-7th)

Starters Returning/Lost: 5/1

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 13/4

About the Team: Cornell pulled off an upset in the Conference Tournament, defeating #2-Simpson and returns five starters from that squad including record setting middle hitter **Kori Sims**, who received a medical hardship waiver to compete again this season. The Rams have a veteran line-up with four seniors and two experienced sophomores

Quote from the Coach: Third-year coach **Jeff Meeker** says, “We are excited about our chances this season. We believe we are ready to take another step forward in terms of our competitiveness and place in the standings. We return five of six starters plus our libero and have a great group of newcomers who have the ability to make an immediate impact.”

Key Returnees	
Kori Sims , Sr., MH	2003 First Team All-Conference (first Cornell player to earn First Team honors) 31 MP/100 GP - Set school record with 360 kills (2nd in IIAC with 3.60 kills/game); led IIAC with a .349 hitting pct.; 0.91 blocks/game (10th in IIAC)
Jamie Wallace , Sr., OH	33 MP/114 GP - 0.36 aces/game (t-6th in IIAC); 3.56 digs/game (13th in IIAC)
Dana Serafini , Sr., L	27 MP/93 GP - 4.84 digs/game (2nd in IIAC)
Melanie Manz , Sr., RS	30 MP/99 GP - .252 hitting pct. (9th in IIAC); 2.65 kills/game (13th in IIAC)
Jill Hopper , So., OH	23 MP/74 GP - 2.35 kills/game (3rd on team); .177 hitting pct. (5th on team); 2.03 digs/game
Michelle Ditch , So., MH	33 MP/111 GP - .210 hitting pct. (3rd on team); 2.05 kills/game; 27 aces; 0.65 blocks/game (2nd on team)

Newcomers To Watch	
Jessica Allison , Fr., S	
Kylie Bauman , Fr., OH	
Jenna Bouton , Fr., OH/MH	
Hope Coffin , Fr., S	
Amber Hein , Fr., DS	
Jessica Preiss , Fr., MH	
Christina Suh , Fr., DS	

Tough Losses	
Jenny Chamberlain , S	0.68 aces/game (led IIAC); 8.36 assists/game (5th in IIAC)
Sarah Wille , RS	1.63 kills/game; 0.32 blocks/game
Jennifer Martin , S	2.68 assists/game (2nd on team); 1.18 digs/game

University of Dubuque Spartans (19-15 overall, 5-3 IIAC – t-3rd)

Starters Returning/Lost: 3/4

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 6/7

About the Team: Although there will be a new face leading the Spartans, the team looks to maintain its presence in the top of the Conference standings, having finished in the top-half of the Conference standings in seven of the last eight years. To keep that streak alive, Dubuque will rely on a young line-up that includes just one senior, three juniors and four sophomores.

Quote from the Coach: First-year coach **David Jackson** says, “People can expect a quick tempo offense and an energetic style of defense from a team with a good mix of veteran leadership and youth.”

Key Returnees	
Jodi Thomas, Jr., MB	Two-time All-Conference 32 MP/118 GP - 3.55 kills/game (3rd in IIAC); .307 hitting pct. (4th in IIAC); 1.09 blocks/game (4th in IIAC)
Taylor Foltz, Jr., MB	34 MP/125 GP - 0.99 blocks/game (6th in IIAC); .216 hitting pct. (5th on team); 27 aces (3rd on team)
Michele Barkley, Sr., DS/L	34 MP/121 GP - 4.46 digs/game (3rd in IIAC)
Jody Klepinger, So., OH	32 MP/116 GP - 2.58 kills/game (15th in IIAC); .221 hitting pct. (3rd on team); 25 aces (4th on team); 2.20 digs/game (4th on team)
Natalie Howard, So., DS/L	24 MP/66 GP – 1.52 digs/game; 16 aces

Newcomers To Watch	
Wynlyn Brunson, Jr., DS/L	
Abbie Hillard, So., S	Transfer from Bradley Univ.
Jamie Litts, So., OH/MB	
Jena Goedken, Fr., MB/OPP	
Amber Rippentrop, Fr., S	
Breanne Russell, Fr., OH	

Tough Losses	
J Browning, S	2003 Second Team All-Conference 10.37 assists/game (4th in IIAC); 0.36 aces/game (t-6th in IIAC); .218 hitting pct. (4th on team)
Sarah Driscoll, OH	.244 hitting pct. (11th in IIAC); 2.59 kills/game (14th in IIAC); 1.56 digs/game (5th on team)
Kylie Mostaert, OPP	1.76 kills/game (5th on team); 1.07 digs/game

Loras College Duhawks
(21-14 overall, 4-4 IIAC – 5th)

Starters Returning/Lost: 2/4

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/4

About the Team: Loras' biggest question mark heading into the season is who will replace two-time All-Conference setter **Kristen Anderson**, the school's all-time leader in career assists. The Duhawks are experienced elsewhere on the floor and successfully replacing Anderson should lead to a successful campaign.

Quote from the Coach: Second-year coach **Brian Meeter** says, "You can expect a very balanced team with a little more fire power offensively than last year. Team hustle and scrappiness are going to be a continued strength of our team. Defensively, our team will make an improvement with added size at the net and more experience in our backcourt."

Key Returnees	
Allison Nady, Sr., OH	25 MP/81 GP – 3.42 kills/game (led team); 2.90 digs/game (4th on team); .202 hitting pct. (5th on team)
Ashley Zimmerman, Jr., OH	28 MP/65 GP – 2.15 kills/game (4th on team)
Kate Sievers, So., OH/MH	27 MP/58 GP – 0.41 blocks/game (3rd on team); 1.97 kills/game (5th on team)
Jamie Bahr, Sr., RS	13 MP/21 GP – 1.14 kills/game; 1.67 digs/game
Abbey Dunsworth, Sr., MH	33 MP/96 GP - 0.76 blocks/game (t-13th in IIAC); .234 hitting pct. (14th in IIAC);
Sara Langel, Sr., MH	35 MP/119 GP – 0.67 blocks/game (2nd on team); .217 hitting pct. (4th on team); 25 aces (4th on team); 1.89 kills/game
Linda Huemann, Sr., DS/L	29 MP/84 GP – 22 aces (5th on team); 2.33 digs/game
Stephanie Gerbode, So., DS/L	32 MP/86 GP – 2.86 digs/game (5th on team)
Shannon Carolan, So., S	8 MP/9 GP – 2.67 assists. One of four potential replacements for Kristen Anderson

Newcomers To Watch	
Lindsey Steffeck, So., OH	
Erica Richman, Fr., S	
Liz Paunicka, Fr., S	
Tara Kaltefleiter, Fr., S	
Laura Dunlap, Fr., OH	
Jamie Mayer, Fr., OH	
Jenna Kollasch, Fr., OH	
Jessica Hinrichs, Fr., RS	
Jenna Fuhrman, Fr., MH	
Jody Bahr, Fr., MH	

Tough Losses	
Kristen Anderson, S	2003 AVCA All-Central Region honorable mention, two-time All-Conference school record holder with 3320 assists
Stephanie Price, OH	3.64 digs/game (11th in IIAC)
Jen Wernimont, OH	2003 Second Team All-Conference 0.49 aces/game (3rd in IIAC); 3.85 digs/game (9th in IIAC); 2.68 kills/game (12th in IIAC); .228 hitting pct. (3rd on team)
Dana Dinello, DS	2.72 digs/game; 27 aces

Luther College Norse
(11-19 overall, 2-6 IIAC – t-7th)

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/2

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 8/3

About the Team: A new era begins in Luther volleyball as former Norse player **Gwen Van Gerpen** takes over the reigns as only the second coach in the programs history. Van Gerpen will look to take an experienced team back to above the .500 mark, a position it has been at or above in 17 of the program's 25 years.

Key Returnees	
Amanda Stratton, Sr., OH	Ranks fifth on Luther's all-time kills list with 701 30 MP/106 GP - 3.01 kills/game (6th in IIAC); .232 hitting pct. (15th in IIAC); 0.29 aces/game (15th in IIAC)
Molly Ness, Sr., L	30 MP/102 GP - 3.96 digs/game (8 th in IIAC)
Megan Santjer, Jr., MH	2003 Second Team All-Conference 30 MP/106 GP - 0.41 aces/game (4th in IIAC); .258 hitting pct. (8th in IIAC); 2.76 kills/game (11th in IIAC); 0.76 blocks/game (t-13th in IIAC)
Katie Hopp, Jr., MH	30 MP/102 GP - 2.74 digs/game (2nd on team); 0.57 blocks/game (2nd on team); 2.09 kills/game (4th on team); .210 hitting pct. (4th on team)
Katie Ostrem, Jr., S	22 MP/70 GP - 7.34 assists/game; 2.46 digs/game
Autumn Fanning, Jr., H	26 MP/71 GP - 1.03 digs/game, 0.87 kills/game; 0.49 blocks/game
Bethel Erickson, So., H	23 MP/66 GP - 1.59 kills/game; 0.80 digs/game; 0.48 blocks/game

Tough Losses	
Katie Kuhlman, S	School's career leader with 3609 assists 6.81 assists/game (8th in IIAC)

Simpson College Storm (23-10 overall, 6-2 IIAC – 2nd)

Starters Returning/Lost: 4/2

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 10/2

About the Team: As has become the custom with Simpson volleyball, the Storm's schedule features several schools regularly ranked among the nations best including their opening night opponent – defending National Champion Washington (Mo.) University. Last season Simpson won nearly 70 percent of their matches with a schedule that featured 10 nationally ranked schools.

Quote from the Coach: Sixth-year coach **Lana Smith** says, "We will be a fairly young team this season, but return experienced performers. We hope to improve our team play each match as we build momentum into the Iowa Conference Championship. Our competitive schedule will test our experience and make us better. I have high expectations for the season as we battle for the Iowa Conference title."

Key Returnees	
Shannon Stewart, Sr., OH	2003 IIAC Most Valuable Player, AVCA Third Team All-American. 33 MP/123 GP - 3.95 kills/game (led IIAC); .317 hitting pct. (t-2nd in IIAC); 1.24 blocks/game (2nd in IIAC); 0.37 aces/game (5th in IIAC)
Jamie Cusick, Sr., MH	33 MP/117 GP - 0.87 blocks/game (12th in IIAC); 2.13 kills/game
Tiffany Everding, So., OH	33 MP/118 GP - 33 aces (t-2nd on team); 2.99 digs/game (2nd on team); .184 hitting pct. (3rd on team)
Kelsey Hagerty, So., MH	33 MP/119 GP - 1.34 blocks/game (led IIAC); 2.18 kills/game
Ashley McGraw, Jr., L	33 MP/121 GP - 4.05 digs/game (6th in IIAC)
Sarah Pearson, Jr., OH	32 MP/114 GP - 0.89 blocks/game (11th in IIAC); 1.21 kills/game
Jessica Martin, So., OH	27 MP/46 GP - 45 kills, 17 digs, 9 blocks in 46 games
Marci McQuinn, So., S	33 MP/124 GP - 5.92 assists/game (9th in IIAC, 2nd on team); 1.60 digs/game

Newcomers To Watch	
Shelly Hagerty, Fr., S	
Ashley Katch, Fr., MH/OH	
Rachel Vander Schel, Fr., MH/OH	

Tough Losses	
Liz Whims, S	6.99 assists/game (7th in IIAC)
Rachael Spree, OH	2003 First Team All-Conference; 3.65 digs/game (10th in IIAC)

Wartburg College Knights (30-11 overall, 5-3 IIAC – t-3rd)

Starters Returning/Lost: 5/2

Letterwinners Returning/Lost: 7/3

About the Team: Wartburg enters the 2004 season looking to extend its streak of 30-win seasons and its three-year run at qualifying for the NCAA Tournament. To continue those streaks, the Knights must replace the first All-American in the program's history (**Dia Dohlman**) and a three-time All-Conference performer (**Amy Kueker**). A strong senior class that has an 88-28 overall record through its first three years will lead Wartburg through a schedule that features seven schools ranked in the AVCA final top-25 in 2003.

Quote from the Coach: Seventh-year coach **Jennifer Walker** says, "We will have a very young squad this season with only three seniors and two juniors on the team. It will be interesting to see how the team comes together and develops throughout the season. I believe that our three seniors (**Ranae Grafft**, **Sarah Olson** and **Erica Slack**) will do an excellent job of guiding this team. We're looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that await us in the coming months."

Key Returnees	
Sarah Olsen , Sr., S	41 MP/143 GP - 11.41 assists/game (led IIAC, school record 1631 assists); 34 aces; 2.40 digs/game
Ranae Grafft , Sr., MH	41 MP/147 GP - 0.98 blocks/game (t-7th in IIAC); .240 hitting pct. (12th in IIAC); 3.09 digs/game
Megan Niemann , Jr., OH	40 MP/132 GP - 2.14 kills/game; 36 aces (3rd on team); 2.31 digs/game
Shelby Schneider , Jr., RS	33 MP/69 GP - .206 hitting pct. (6th on team); 1.59 kills/game
Sheena Treanor , So., OH	2003 Second Team All-Conference 38 MP/120 GP - 1.14 blocks/game (3rd in IIAC); .251 hitting pct. (10th in IIAC); 2.20 kills/game
Tracy Bjoin , So., L	41 MP/142 GP - 2.79 digs/game (4th on team)

Newcomers To Watch	
Ashley Rodgers , Fr., MH	
Malinda Groth , Fr., S	
Ashley Steines , Fr., OH	
Jessica Bates , Fr., OH	

Tough Losses	
Dia Dohlman , OH	2003 AVCA Second Team All-American (first All-American in school history); four-time All-Conference performer
Amy Kueker , OH	2003 AVCA honorable mention All-American; three-time All-Conference performer