

Freshman Returns Home After D-I Experience

By Dax Larson

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Mankato, Minn. – Normally, transferring in the middle of a freshman year is hard, but for Cathy Turner it was easy. Cathy transferred from



Division I University of Wisconsin-Green Bay to Division II Mankato State. A move that was not hard for the New Prague, Minn. native.

“(Playing for UW-Green Bay) was an experience,” Cathy said. “I had a chance to grow up a lot while I was there.”

Cathy made her Maverick debut Saturday in St. Cloud. In her first weekend she hit .300. Head coach Dennis “Aame” Amundson isn’t sure where to put the six foot freshman as she played all three front row positions in her first four matches as a Maverick.

“She looked most comfortable in the middle, but we are just going to let the spring and preseason unfold and see what position she grows into,” Aame said. “We think Cathy has a chance to make us better. She has improved her arm speed and is hitting the ball with more pace.”

In her first collegiate season with UW-Green Bay Cathy had 43 kills in 40 games, she also had 15 blocks while playing middle blocker and outside hitter. In high school, Cathy played for the Northern Lights, a club team in Burnsville, Minn. In high school, Cathy was a two-time all-conference selection in volleyball and also a two-time state qualifier in the high jump.

“She is an easy jumper and already has one of the highest vertical jumps on the team,” Aame said. “Cathy has a high upside at the net. What position she ends up in will depend on how much her ball control improves.”

Cathy is not only ambitious on the court, but off the court as well. She plans on double majoring in Art Education and Graphic Design and is also interested in coaching. Cathy now has a lot of support because she is so close to home, something she missed at UW-Green Bay.

"I wanted to be closer to my family and friends," Cathy said. "I'm really excited for my family to see me play."

Cathy will get along with her teammates, but there might be a major difference in musical taste. Cathy is a fan of hard rock groups like HIM and System of a Down, whereas most of her teammates are into country music. Something like that shouldn't get in the way of her on court presence, expect maybe a hard rock song will be playing in her head as she finishes another kill on her opponents.