2016 Volleyball Pioneers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent/Meet</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>BUENA VISTA</td>
<td>7 p.m.</td>
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| Sept. 9–10 | North Central University Tournament  

9: Faith Baptist  Noon  
9: Providence Univ. Coll.  6 p.m.  
10: Trinity Bible  11 a.m.  
10: North Central  5 p.m.  |
| Sept. 13   | IOWA WESLEYAN              | 7 p.m.|
| Sept. 16–17| Augustana Viking Classic   |       |

16: Marian  3:30 p.m.  
16: Wisconsin Lutheran  5:30 p.m.  
17: Augustana  noon  
17: Wisconsin-Platteville  4 p.m.  |
| Sept. 23–24| Alverno Tournament         |       |

23: Mount Mary  6 p.m.  
24: Alverno  10 a.m.  |
| Sept. 28    | Cornell #                  | 7 p.m.|
| Oct. 1      | RIPON #                    | noon  |

North Central University  4 p.m.  |
| Oct. 7      | Beloit #                  | 7:30 p.m.|
| Oct. 8      | Lake Forest #             | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 11     | SIMPSON                    | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 15     | ILLINOIS COLLEGE #        | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 21     | LAWRENCE #                | 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 22     | ST. NORBERT #             | 1 p.m. |
| Oct. 28     | Knox #                    | 7:30 p.m.|
| Oct. 29     | MONMOUTH #                | 1 p.m. |
| Nov. 4–6    | Midwest Conference Tournament  | TBA |

# Midwest Conference matches  
Home matches in CAPS

Sparked by a strong senior class, the Grinnell College volleyball team is looking for a big season in 2016.

“I think the key to this team will be our seniors,” said Grinnell coach Jackie Hutchison. “We have a lot of talent in that group and plenty of experience. I’m looking for big things from them in their respective roles . . . each is a leader in what she does.”

That group includes outside hitter Olivia Fromm ‘17, middle hitters Evelyn Weidman ‘17 and Ashleigh Bull ‘17, right side hitter Ariel Lepito ‘17, and defensive specialist Christine Hood ‘17.

Key junior returnees are setter Margaret Giles ‘18 and setter/defensive specialist Sydney Vrecean ‘18. “Margaret has grown so much as an athlete and has gotten stronger since she’s been at Grinnell,” said Hutchison. “She is easily one of the best setters in this conference. Sydney is a captain (along with Giles and Bull) and a great floor leader. We play better when she’s on the court, no matter where it is. She’s the epitome of a true utility player.”

Giles ranked fourth in the Midwest Conference in assists last season with 7.46 per set, while Vrecean was eighth in digs with 3.72.

Hutchison also noted experience gained by two key sophomores — outside hitter Emily Friedman ‘19 and middle hitter Emma Willhardt ‘19. The latter was fourth in the league in blocks per set with 0.90.

“Emily is a fierce competitor and actually grew nearly an inch since last year,” said the coach. “Her hope is to play all around this year. Emma, as a middle, is talented and puts up a big block.”

Of the newcomers, Hutchison pointed out setter Madison Smith ‘20. “She has been an addition that has challenged the entire team to get better,” said the coach. “She has sweet hands and will be a big asset for us.”

All of that has Hutchison expecting improvement on last season’s 2-19 record. “I think our biggest strength is experience,” she said. “Some of these women have been playing together for four years and came into the preseason ready to compete. They’re training hard and ready to put together our strength, flexibility and talent.

“Another strength is our defensive specialist pool,” she added. “We have some great passers but only so many spots for them, which is actually not a bad problem to have. We also have a favorable schedule with a lot of home matches late in the season, which is a lot of fun.

“As for a team goal, our key to success will be taking care of the ball on our side of the net,” she continued. “It’s all about minimizing unforced errors, which we struggled with last year and resulted in us losing some close matches. We want to turn that around this year.”

The conference will be strong again, said Hutchison. “There are many good teams,” she noted. “St. Norbert always has a nice program, and Cornell has a good group. I also see Ripon coming on while developing its program.”

GC PRIDE

The term “GC Pride” was coined in recent years to express the honor and privilege involved in being a part of Grinnell College athletics.

The Grinnell student-athlete takes pride in committing to academic excellence, having a strong and healthy mind and body, being a passionate and accountable leader, exhibiting integrity in competition and in daily life, and embracing diversity and self-governance.

This is GC PRIDE!
Head Coach Jackie Hutchison

Jackie Hutchison joined the Grinnell College volleyball coaching staff as an assistant in the fall of 2008. She served as the team’s interim head coach in 2009 and received the conference’s Coach of the Year award that season; the “interim” tag was removed in 2010, and she has coached the Pioneers since.

Grinnell’s volleyball team has been very successful in her years as coach. The Pioneers twice qualified for the conference’s postseason tournament, the first time Grinnell qualified since a qualifying system was implemented in 2004. In only five years at the helm, Hutchison is second on the volleyball career wins list. In addition to coaching at Grinnell, Hutchison is active with both the American Volleyball Coaches Association and with USA Volleyball as a coach with Iowa High-Performance.

Hutchison is also an accomplished yoga instructor. Her teaching at the College includes yoga courses, and she uses yoga in the volleyball team’s training program.

Hutchison played NCAA Division I volleyball at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she was an outside hitter. Between playing in college and coaching at Grinnell, she has spent more than a decade practicing physical therapy.

She moved to Grinnell in 2007 when her partner Paul Hutchison joined the faculty in the education department, where he is associate professor. They have a son, Henry, and a cat named Maxine, which they rescued from Poweshiek Animal League Shelter, where they volunteer.

Assistant Coach Scott Chaney

Scott Chaney joined the Grinnell College volleyball program as assistant coach in the summer of 2016.

Prior to joining the coaching staff, Chaney served as a high school coach for the Collins-Maxwell Baxter school district.

A graduate of Liberty High School in Liberty, Mo., Chaney attended William Penn University, graduating with a degree in physical education. During college, he coached a variety of amateur and semi-pro football teams throughout the state.

He and his wife Jayn live in Newton with their dog Cooper and cat Kip.