



KARLA FAIRBANKS

5-11 ♦ Freshman ♦ Middle/Outside Hitter
Rogers City, Mich.



Coach Brandel on Fairbanks: "Karla is a very dynamic and strong player. She has worked hard on her conditioning to be ready to play at the college pace. She will compete for significant playing time and brings a competitive spirit to the team."

High School: A 2001 graduate of Rogers City High School . . . Was a two-time first-team all-state pick . . . Earned Most Valuable Player honors three times at Rogers City . . . Earned first-team all-state accolades in softball . . . Was a prep all-state honorable mention basketball selection . . . Received all-conference honors in softball, basketball and volleyball . . . Led Rogers City to its second-straight district title, the Straits Area Conference championship and a state semifinal appearance during the 1999-2000 campaign . . . Coached by Kristy Smolinski . . . **Club Team:** Played for the Team Angle club volleyball team.

Personal: Daughter of Russell and Mary Fairbanks of Rogers City . . . Born 2/14/83 in Davenport, Iowa . . . Has two brothers and three sisters . . . Member of the school choir at Rogers City . . . Was named Rogers City Female Athlete of the Year.

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ANNIE FOSTER

5-10 ♦ Freshman ♦ Outside Hitter
Flint, Mich./Carman-Ainsworth



Coach Brandel on Foster: "Annie made big improvements during her redshirt year. She has worked on adding strength and quickness and will provide ample depth for us at outside hitter and in the backrow."

College: 2000: Redshirted.

High School: A 2000 graduate of Carman-Ainsworth High School in Flint, Mich. . . Prepped by Barb Hurand . . . A two-time third-team all-state selection . . . Compiled a .405 attack percentage in senior year . . . CAHS won three Big Nine Conference titles, three district championships and were state quarterfinalists in 1999 during her prep career . . . Three-time first-team all-region and all-conference honoree . . . Honored as the 1999 and 2000 Player-of-the-Year for Flint Area Newspapers . . . Named three times to the *Flint Advance's* First Team . . . Attained league all-academic kudos twice (1998-99) . . . **Club Team:** Played for Blue Water Elite under coach Terry Gamble.

Personal: Daughter of Scott and Marcia Foster of Flint, Mich. . . Born 4/15/82 in Flint, Mich. . . Math education major.

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ASHLEY GREEN

5-9 ♦ Freshman ♦ Setter
Pittsburgh, Pa./Baldwin



Coach Brandel on Green: "Ashley is an exciting athlete. She brings a winning attitude and a fun-loving, determined approach to our squad. She should compete for time at the setter position."

High School: A 2000 graduate of Baldwin High School . . . Was a first-team 2000 Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) Class AAA All-Star honoree . . . Attained second-team 2000 Pennsylvania Volleyball Coaches Association (PVCA) Class AAA All-State recognition . . . Led Baldwin to a third-place finish at the state championships, a runner-up WPIAL finish and a sectional title during the 2000 campaign . . . Qualified for the regional track championships (javelin) . . . Also played basketball, softball and track as a prep athlete . . . **Club Team:** Played for the Pittsburgh Elite 18's Club Volleyball squad.

Personal: Daughter of Richard and Stephanie Green of Pittsburgh, Pa. . . Born 9/7/83 in Pittsburgh, Pa. . . Was active in student council and served as class vice-president . . . Plans to major in elementary education at Ferris State.

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BRITTANY HENSON

5-11 ♦ Freshman ♦ Outside/Right-Side Hitter
Brighton, Mich.



Coach Brandel on Henson: "Brittany is a strong athlete and is extremely dedicated to the sport. She has worked hard over the summer in preparation for college volleyball. She is an exciting player who will immediately add depth and determination."

High School: A 2001 graduate of Brighton High School . . . Received Class A all-state honorable mention honors as a senior (2000-01) . . . Was a three-time All-Kensington Valley Conference honoree . . . Earned all-region laurels twice . . . Led Brighton to four-district championships and a 47-1 conference mark . . . Claimed two regional championships at Brighton . . . Reached the Class A state quarterfinals two consecutive seasons . . . **Club Team:** Played for the Motor City Volleyball Club.

Personal: Daughter of Dan and Carol Henson of Brighton, Mich. . . Born 1/9/83 in San Diego, Calif. . . Sister of former University of Michigan quarterback and current professional baseball player Drew Henson (New York Yankees system) . . . Sang the national anthem before several high school games . . . Was a four-year basketball starter and member of the track team at Brighton . . . Active in the school choir and theater group . . . Won first-place prize in school talent show.

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2001 NEWCOMERS



MARISSA LEUSBY

5-10 ♦ Freshman ♦ Outside/Right-Side Hitter
Reed City, Mich.



Coach Brandel on Leusby: "Marissa is recovering from a high school basketball ACL injury. She is a powerful athlete with excellent fundamental skills. I expect her to make strong contributions as she regains her strength."

High School: A 2001 graduate of Reed City High School . . . Won three conference championships, two district titles and a regional championship as a high school player . . . Was a two-time all-region selection . . . Received second-team Class B all-state accolades as a junior after leading the Coyotes to a state runner-up finish . . . Earned all-state honorable mention recognition as a sophomore . . . Claimed three conference basketball championships . . . Was a two-time all-conference basketball selection . . . Named to the *Big Rapids Pioneer* "Dream Team" in volleyball, basketball and track . . . Earned 12 varsity letters . . . Played under head coach Dale Wilhelm at Reed City . . . **Club Team:** Played for the R.C. Smash volleyball club.

Personal: Daughter of Larry and Linda Leusby of Reed City, Mich. . . . Born 11/17/82 in Reed City.

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SARAH MILLER

6-3 ♦ Freshman ♦ Middle/Right-Side Hitter
Bay City, Mich./John Glenn



Coach Brandel on Miller: "I expect Sarah to learn a great deal this season. Her height and determination are great assets for her. We look for her to work hard to develop her skills and improve her overall athletic ability."

High School: A 2001 graduate of John Glenn High School . . . Two-time member of the Bay City Times "Dream Team" . . . Was a two-time first-team all-region selection . . . Tallied 138 kills, 78 service aces and 73 solo blocks for the Bobcats as a junior . . . Served as the Bobcat Captain . . . Named to the All-Northeast Michigan Conference Team three times . . . Played the middle blocker position at John Glenn under coach Dan Pembroke . . . **Club Team:** Played for the Valley Volleyball Club under coaches Jean LaClaire and Marion LaFave.

Personal: Daughter of Terry and Susan Miller of Bay City . . . Born 4/21/83 in Bay City, Mich. . . . Displayed work in the school art show . . . Member of Students Against Drinking and Drugs (SADD) . . . Named to the National Honor Society . . . Has a younger brother, Scott.

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BECKY THURAU

6-4 ♦ Freshman ♦ Middle Hitter
Troy, Mich./Birmingham Groves



Coach Brandel on Thurau: "Becky is a strong addition to the program. She will help provide depth at the middle and right-side hitter positions. I expect her to develop significantly and quickly at Ferris State."

High School: A 2001 graduate of Birmingham Groves High School . . . Attained first-team *Detroit News* All-Metro honors as a senior . . . Named Most Valuable Player for the Falcons (2000-01) . . . Compiled 300 kills, 72 service aces and 45 block assists during 2000-01 campaign . . . Was a first-team all-region pick . . . Selected to all-state honorable mention squad . . . Served as a senior co-captain at Birmingham Groves . . . Received second-team all-area accolades (2000-01) . . . Played for head coach Mandy Battaglia . . . **Club Team:** Played for the Motor City Volleyball Club under head coach Ed Ruhl.

Personal: Daughter of Cheryl Raveschot of Troy, Mich. . . . Born 11/11/82 in Detroit, Mich. . . . Plans to major in criminal justice at Ferris State . . . Was active in Students Against Drinking and Drugs (SADD) and her church youth group.

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NICHOLE VALUCH

6-0 ♦ Freshman ♦ Outside Hitter
Milwaukee, Wis./St. Francis Thomas More



Coach Brandel on Valuch: "Nichole improved during her redshirt season. She has a very quick arm swing and worked hard during the spring. I expect her to provide valuable depth for us at the outside hitter position."

College: 2000: Redshirted.

High School: A 2000 St. Francis Thomas More High School graduate . . . Prepped by Rob McLaughlin . . . Helped lead Cavaliers to the 1999 Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WISAA) Division I State Championship title . . . A first-team all-state selection in her senior year after earning second-team accolades as a junior . . . A two-time (1998-99) first-team All-Woodland Conference pick and a 1997 second-team all-league honoree . . . Two-time West Bend (Wis.) Sprawl All-Tournament Team member . . . **Club Team:** Played for Milwaukee Sky High 18 Black . . . Coached by Kerri Lapointe . . . Team claimed Badger League and national championship titles in her senior season.

Personal: Daughter of Mike and Jill Valuch of Milwaukee, Wis. . . . Born 3/4/82 in Milwaukee, Wis. . . . Hobbies include painting, watching football and playing cards . . . Her father is a homicide detective . . . Career exploration major.

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