



Michigan State sponsors 'free' coaches clinic for MWLCA

By Reiker Canfield

EAST LANSING - The 2014 spring womens' lacrosse season will get underway in early January with practice, but the official start to the upcoming competitive spring campaign is set for Thursday, February 6, 2014 at The Legacy Center in Brighton when the Spartans tangle with MIAA rival Albion in a pre-season scrimmage at 8:30 pm. The event will follow a **free Michigan Womens' Lacrosse Coaches Association (MWLCA) high school coaching clinic sponsored by Michigan State Womens' Lacrosse**. The 'free' clinic will feature a roster of college coaches and will be conducted from 6:15-8:15 pm at Hawkins Elementary School in Brighton, which is just down the street from the Legacy facility. The school is located at 8900 Lee Road in Brighton.

The clinic speakers will be Olivet head coach **Mary Ann Metzler**, Kalamazoo College head coach **Emilia Ward**, Albion College head coach **Shanta Loecker** and Hartland High School head coach and former NCAA Division I player **Deanna Radcliffe**. Metzler will discuss the inside of modern defense, Ward will cover transitions and rides, while Loecker will talk about offensive strategy. Radcliffe will lecture on intercollegiate recruiting in today's landscape.

"We are conducting our second annual MWLCA coaches clinic this year in February because we think it will be more beneficial to coaches with the spring season only a month away from this clinic," said **Greg Normand**, Michigan State's head coach. "We sponsored a clinic last year in December and attendance was good, we had about 30 coaches or so, but this year with the clinic and the scrimmage, we hope for a bigger turnout. We are trying to provide new information with this year's clinic including some info on recruiting. There are some really good club coaches, but we just thought this would be another approach."

Clinic organizers said the presentation will run directly into the Albion-Michigan State game and the hope is to attract a large crowd. The newly opened Legacy Center in Brighton will play home to the scrimmage. The coaches clinic will be conducted at Hawkins Elementary School in Brighton, which is located at 8900 Lee Road.

"If you have not taken the time to check out The Legacy Center, please do because I think you'll be quite impressed," said Normand. "There are few venues in the Midwest with the quality these guys are developing."

The highlight of the Thursday night spectacle should be a competitive contest between NCAA-based Albion and WCLA-sponsored Michigan State. The Spartans, who went 8-2-1 this fall playing mostly NCAA scholarship squads this fall, have toughened up their schedule in hopes of surprising a few teams this spring.

The high school coaching clinic is free and gate admission to the Albion-MSU matchup is \$5. The cost of the game for high school players who attend with their coaches is \$2. The clinic organizers are asking that participants pre-register before January 25, 2014 at gnormand7@att.net. The organizers are hoping to know how many participants will be attending and how much space will be needed for the event. Normand said you can call **248-425-2849** for more information.

Mary Ann Metzler Bio - Mary Ann Meltzer will be in her second season as the head coach of the women's lacrosse team at Olivet College in 2013-14. Meltzer started at Olivet in October 2012 after serving as the director/coach of the Detroit Lacrosse Club since 2011. She also served as the head varsity women's lacrosse coach at University of Detroit Mercy for three years and the club program at University of Michigan (U of M) for five seasons. Meltzer is the winningest women's lacrosse coach in U of M history with a 93-22 record. While there, she coached 10 All-Americans and led the Wolverines to the Intercollegiate Associates National Tournament in each of her five seasons, including advancing to the semifinals in 2003 and 2004 and the national championship game in 2006. Prior to her time at U of M, Meltzer was the head girls' lacrosse coach at Birmingham Seaholm High School for five years. She led the Maples to three Michigan High School Athletic Association championships and a 78-23 record. A native of Columbus, Ohio, Meltzer earned a bachelor's degree in speech communication from University of Maryland in 1990. At Maryland, she was a two-time All-American and named the 1990 NCAA Division I National Offensive Player of the Year. Meltzer was also a member of the United States Lacrosse squad from 1988-93.

Emilia Ward - Kalamazoo College officials announced today that Emilia Ward has been appointed head coach of the first women's varsity lacrosse team in the College's history. Women's lacrosse will continue to compete as a club sport in 2012-13 before taking the field as a varsity sport in the spring of the 2013-14 academic year. Women's lacrosse will be the first new varsity sport at Kalamazoo College since 1991 when women's golf was added. A men's varsity lacrosse program is scheduled to take the field in spring 2015. Both teams will play on K's newly renovated athletics fields due to open this fall. Ward helped start a women's lacrosse program at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, S.C. She also served as assistant coach at Adrian (Mich.) College from 2008 to 2011, helping the Bulldogs to a 40-12 record over three seasons and Midwest Lacrosse Conference regular season and tournament championships in 2011. Ward assisted the high school and middle school programs at Brighton (Mich.) High School this past season while continuing in her role as coach of the Midwestern Force/Southern Storm Lacrosse club team. A native of Farmington Hills, Mich., Ward is a 2008 graduate of Manhattan College in Bronx, New York. She earned four varsity letters for the Jaspers and earned Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference All-Academic honors three times.

Shanta Loecker - Shanta Loecker guided Albion College to its finest women's lacrosse season in school history in 2013. Loecker coached the Britons to a five-win season and a berth in the first-ever Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association Tournament. Loecker coached Ashley Glenn, a midfielder, to finish 11th among Division III players in goals per game, and Kadie Koolwick who easily was the league's statistical leader in draw controls. Additionally, Albion placed three athletes on the all-MIAA squad - Ashley Glenn and Ellen Redner were picked for first team recognition, while Kadie Koolwick was a second team pick. Recently, Loecker was appointed Offensive Coordinator of Scotland's National Team as they prepare for the Home Internationals Competition in March of 2014. She will continue to serve as coach of Briton Women's Lacrosse in addition to the new position. Loecker led one of the nation's premier club programs at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) before receiving her appointment at Albion on July 19, 2012. In her three seasons as head coach, the Bruins amassed an overall record of 37-23 and eight student-athletes were WCLA All-Americans and 12 were all-WVLL selections. A mass communication studies major at UCLA, Loecker started at attack for the Bruins' "A" Team from 2003-2006. The captain and team president, she was awarded first team all-league status her senior year. Loecker began her lacrosse career in the Midwest, where she played four years at Evanston (Ill.) Township High School. A four-year varsity starter, she was placed on the All-State second team her junior year, and the All-State first team while serving as captain her senior year.

Deanna Radcliffe - Deanna Radcliffe is the head coach of the Cyclones Lacrosse travel program and also the Hartland Varsity HS Lacrosse coach. She spent the last 7 seasons as the varsity head coach at South Lyon High School. Radcliffe also spent some time coaching for Champion Lacrosse. Before relocating to Michigan in 2006, Radcliffe coached at Great Valley HS in PA. Radcliffe was also a camp counselor and an administrative assistant at United Sports Training Center. Radcliffe was named All League Coach of the Year in 2008, as well as the Ann Arbor News Coach of the Year in 2008 and 2009. Radcliffe possesses both Level I and Level II US Lacrosse Certifications and is a member of the Positive Coaching Alliance. Radcliffe's CPR & First Aid Certifications are all current. During her playing career she played for Division I Temple University. As a player, Radcliffe was named the Atlantic 10 Offensive Player of the Year in 2003. She was also named to the All-Championship Team, Academic All-Conference Team, Atlantic 10 All-Conference Team, Player of the Week 3 times and named Regional All-American as a senior. Radcliffe continues to play competitively throughout the year with the Lakeshore Adult Team out of Chicago, IL and the Friends of Jaclyn Women's Elite National Team.

MWLCA Clinic Address:

<http://www.bing.com/local/details.aspx?lid=YN426x7618304&q=Hawkins+Elementary+School+Brighton+MI>

The Legacy Game Address: <http://www.legacycentermichigan.com/index>



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