

# Tiff Graham Looks Back

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**Mankato, Minn.** – November 12, 2005 was a defining day for Tiff Graham. It marked her last match as a Minnesota State Maverick. After collecting 932 kills and 375 total blocks, the Woodbury, MN native and MSU's lone senior takes a look back at her four years.



Tiff came to MSU not only for the volleyball opportunity but because it was close to home and she could see herself playing there for four years.

Her four years as a Maverick were filled with highlights and lowlights. As a freshman, she recalls that it wasn't easy being the only freshman on the team but she also recalls the sense of pride she felt the following spring when the upperclassmen commented about her new found blocking skills. Tiff sprained her ankle the week before her senior season started but she claims that competing with Duluth with no regrets was a match she will never forget. Head Coach, Dennis "Aame" Amundson said, "Tiff is one of the few athletes I have encountered in my several decades of coaching who has been able to play an entire season without performance regrets."

Tiff was awarded the Georgene Brock Award at this year's banquet for her no excuses, no regrets attitude. "I was surprised and honored to receive an award named for such a classy lady and pioneer of women's sports" said Graham.

Tiff also enjoyed competing against the best. At MSU, she competed against two Players of the Year in Erin Deffenbaugh and Brianna Harris. She also fondly remembers her teammates. Graham said. "Jen Jacobs was an incredibly gifted athlete. Although Melanie Jude was a walk-on but she had an incredible drive and work ethic. And, Nicole Rose was the ultimate competitor."

When asked what she will do after she graduates, Tiff says, "I plan to go to chiropractic school. Competing in volleyball at MSU taught me that hard work and perseverance can make a difference. I also learned the value of responsibility, honesty, and working with people with different opinions."

As a youngster, Tiff remembers watching Nicole Branagh play. Nicole eventually had try-outs with the U.S. National Team and played overseas. Tiff is currently seeking overseas playing opportunities just like her former role model.

To the teammates she leaves behind Tiff encourages them "to never lose the reason why you play."

Tiff Graham, number 8, will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.