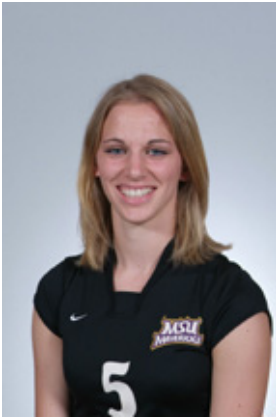


## I Double Dog Dare You

By Dax Larson

4/10/06

Mankato, Minn. – Spring volleyball is about learning, growing and improving as a volleyball player. Freshmen Carley Heckmann is doing all the above. Carley has made a position change this spring, but she is taking every opportunity to learn and she is doing it with a positive attitude



“She has an incredibly optimistic attitude,” head coach Dennis “Aame” Amundson said. “She never takes the game personal and good things happen when she is around. All teams need a person with a winning attitude like that.”

Carley’s great attitude is shown through her nickname, “Double Dawg”. Carley got this nickname from the phrase, “I double dog dare you”. The story behind this name stems from when Carley was in high school. She played the Marshall Tigers in a high school tournament and lost by a close margin. When the Marshall coaches visited came to MSU last season Carley was quick to remind him her team had almost won. So Aame came up with the nickname “Double Dawg” because she isn’t afraid to dare someone to go against her. This attribute is something she can bring to the team to help have a good time with the game.

“The girls feel comfortable playing with me because I enjoy playing and always consider it fun,” Carley said. “I also bring a lot of hard work and I am a definite team player.”

She is showing her willingness to do anything for the team by switching positions often. Carley came to MSU as a middle and outside hitter, which is a position that scores a lot more than a position on the back row. By working on her back row game, Carley is improving her defense and passing.

“It’s fun to watch good defense in volleyball,” Aame said. “It’s much like a great save by a goalie in hockey. Carley has that knack for making things happen in a good way.”

Carley is also learning a new arm swing. A process that is not an easy one because she has to unlearn her old ways. Learning is something that doesn't bother Carley because she will be doing a lot of it while at MSU. She is majoring in human biology to be a dentist and will have a rigorous class load to go along with her time commitment need for volleyball.

"I am very excited," Carley said. "It can be hard being a student athlete with managing time and scheduling, but I love every minute of it! It's great to be able to continue playing volleyball when most girls don't get the chance."

Carley comes from Mayer Lutheran H.S. in Norwood, Minn. Carley was named all-conference her senior year as a part of the Minnesota Tri-Valley Conference champions.