

## Taking on The Freshman Year

By Dax Larson

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Mankato, Minn. - Leaving home? No problem. Coming to a brand new place? No problem. Meeting people? No problem. These are all situations freshmen Danielle Zimmermann and Carley Heckmann dealt with when they came to MSU. How did they handle it? No problem. Danielle and Carley are two freshmen that are not afraid of a challenge. Both came to MSU without knowing what to expect, but getting to the campus three weeks early for volleyball was key for their transition.



"By the time actual college came around I had made 15 friends in those three weeks and they've become 15 sisters," Danielle said. "For me the best way to adapt was to keep myself busy."

Coming to college after being involved in many activities in high school can be hard when there is additional free time at college. Volleyball takes up a lot of time, but there are a lot of nights free. Danielle and Carley's ambitious attitudes carried over to college as they both got involved with Campus Crusade for Christ and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Danielle is also highly active in the Campus Lutheran Chapel. Both are highly active in intramural sports. Danielle is involved in soccer, basketball and softball. Carley is in soccer and softball.

"Volleyball has taken up a lot of my time," Danielle said. "But, I have taken the initiative to still be active. I really have enjoyed (my intramural) teams and our competitive games."

School work is also different in college, but, again, the two succeeded by doing well in their classes. They may have done reading and homework on the bus to a game, but they were able to continue their balance of being a student athlete. Freedom is also an issue for incoming freshman. Now students don't have to ask their parents to do anything or tell them where there are going. Head volleyball coach Dennis "Aame" Amundson said these two have their head on straight and he is exactly right.

"I remain my own person, and don't let others coax me into things," Carley said. "My parents did a great job raising me. Although, I do have a lot of fun and I like that I don't have to check with them on every decision that I make."

These two are model student athletes that will be successful both on and off the court for their entire collegiate careers.

