

SPORTS

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McCutcheon shines in NCAA D-1

University of Central Florida sophomore named to academic all-district 2nd team

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

When Tory McCutcheon sails above the net, there's bound to be trouble for the opposition.

Whether her team has the ball or not.

In fact, it's the latter scenario in which the 19-year-old Miltonian — now a sophomore at the University of Central Florida (UCF) — is often at her most effective.

"Tory's attacking numbers have been among the best in the conference this season, but probably the biggest thing has been her blocking. It's improved dramatically, and that's been critical to our ability to score points," Knights' head coach Todd Dagenais said of his six-foot-two middle, who was named to ESPN's Academic All-District III Second Team last Thursday. "She's really developed in terms of getting into position, reading the play and then getting back into position again. That's something most high school and club players don't get exposed to a lot, having to block a multi-pronged attack and defend four or five strong players on one team. But Tory's adjusted very well to the collegiate game."

"My timing and technique are better now, and that's made the difference," added McCutcheon, who sits top-three on the Knights in both solo and combined blocks. "There's definitely more to it (blocking) than just getting in front of ball."

Ranked among the C-USAs top-10 players in terms of overall attack

percentage — following a promising rookie campaign — McCutcheon has pretty much picked up where she left off at E.C. Drury.

That doesn't come as much of a surprise to Dagenais, although he did expect more of an interval between her high school dominance and a permanent spot in his starting lineup.

Flash back to last fall, and the UCF bench boss had originally expected to 'red shirt' (sit out first year) McCutcheon. But a rash of injuries to his starting middles nixed that plan — and thrust the former high school and club stand-out into the thick of things.

A few minor growing pains aside, McCutcheon hardly looked out of place in the D-1 ranks.

"She was more game ready than I would have thought," admitted Dagenais, who with roughly a third of the regular season left sports two more conference wins — sitting at 6-8 — than last season. Overall, UCF is 13-13. "She's a fearless competitor and didn't get intimidated the way some freshmen would."

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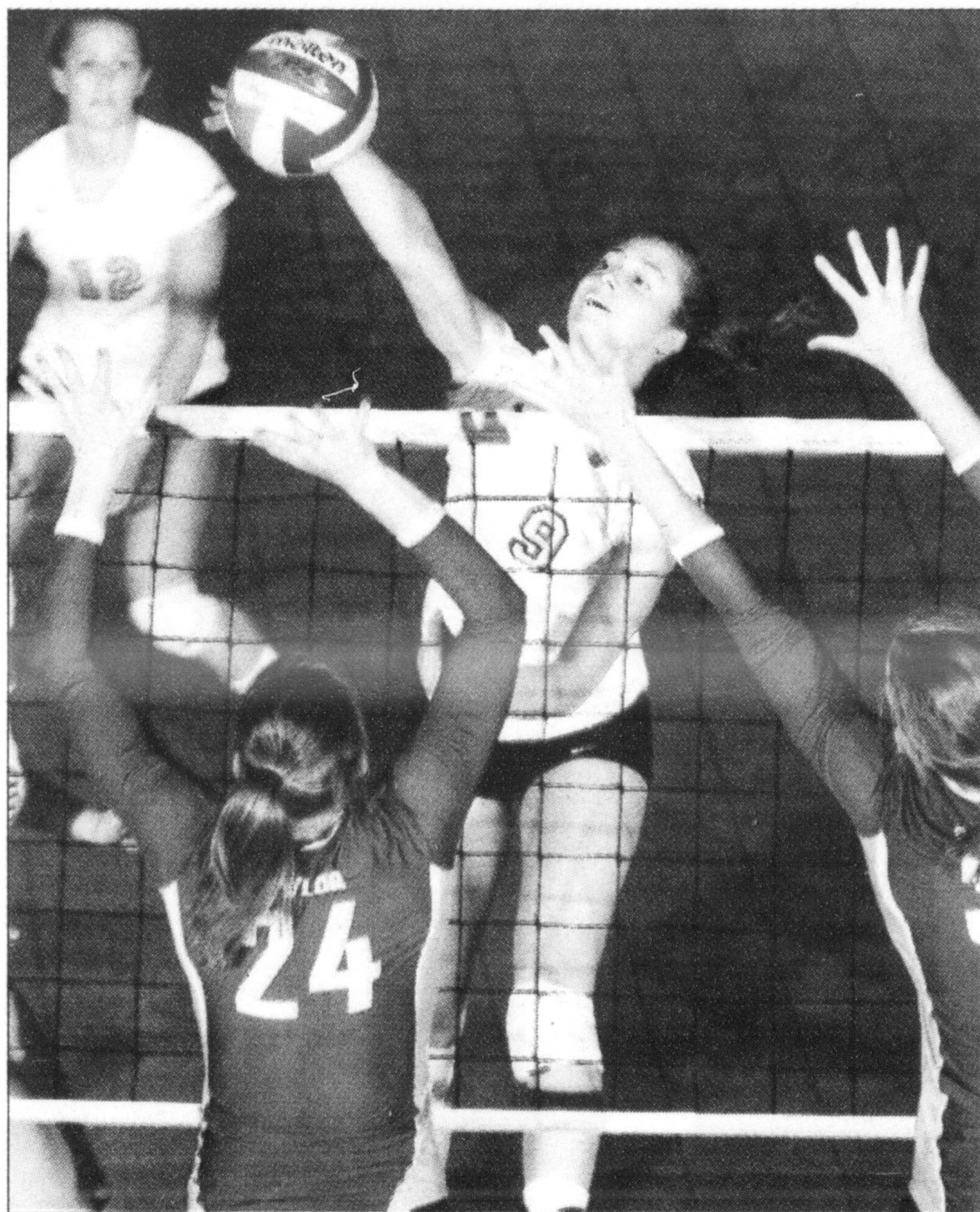


PHOTO COURTESY OF UCFPHOTOS.COM

NET GAINS: UCF's Tory McCutcheon delivers a spike in NCAA Division 1 play.

Volleyball Mustangs stamp ticket to finals

Getting stronger as each game progressed, Milton District's senior boys volleyball team downed Georgetown 25-15, 25-19 in yesterday's Division 1 semifinals.

Led by co-captain Jordan MacIntyre — who delivered some huge hitting and big passing — the Mustangs avoided the inconsistencies they suffered in quarterfinal play and pulled away from the Rebels

midway through each set.

They'll take on either Christ the King or Assumption in Monday evening's championship at Sheridan College in Oakville.

Meanwhile, Bishop Reding's junior volleyball team will host Robert Bateman in today's D-2 semis after beating Burlington Central 25-20, 25-18 in Tuesday's quarterfinals.

For Openers

Vince jumps to 2nd at Royal

Just back from eye surgery, native Miltonian Ainsley Vince

kicked off her Royal Winter Fair campaign with a second-place performance in the first round of the Canadian Championships Friday night.



Ainsley Vince

The 34-year-old show jumper and nine-year-old partner Frieda went sixth in the starting order of the 21-horse field and finished in 66.57 seconds — behind only France's Yann Candele and Pitareusa.

"I haven't been riding much and she (Frieda) hasn't been ridden much, so I'm happy things went as well as they did," said the two-time national champion.

Sewell named all-star

Can anyone say déjà vu?

For the second time in as many years, towering offensive lineman Matt Sewell has been named an OUA second-team all-star.



Matt Sewell

The honour officially came Tuesday.

This came on the heels of the six-foot-eight-inch, 345-pound Miltonian and his McMaster Marauders being toppled 34-28 by the No. 2 ranked Western Mustangs in the OUA semis.

The Mauraders held an early 10-0 lead, but just couldn't keep Western from making its fourth straight trip to the Yates Cup.

McMaster had beat Queen's 40-19 in the quarterfinals.



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