



# STAY CONNECTED

*Excellence in training junior athletes since 1974*

## 'AN IVY LEAGUE EDUCATION OF COACHING'

### *A CONVERSATION WITH KELLY SHEFFIELD*

For this issue, I was tasked with 'highlighting Munciana Alumni College Coaches'. I reached out to one our alums that literally was born into the sport in Muncie, Indiana. Kelly Sheffield, the current Head Coach at the University of Wisconsin was 'pumped' to share his insight on being inducted into 'An Ivy League Education of Coaching' in Muncie and as his time as a Munciana coach.

"I was around 'teachers' not just coaches in my days in Muncie. A group of 'elite' teachers who focused on the fundamentals of learning and progression. It was a time of 'energy that was through the roof'. I recall the days when Wes Lyon would hold coaches meetings at his house, hauling out the 'overhead projector' and we geeked out on the finer points of passing for hours. I can still see myself with a yellow legal pad feverishly trying to capture all of the wisdom he was imbibing."

Kelly shared "he felt like a surfer who started to catch a huge wave and was really lucky he did." His first year of coaching was in 1989, as an Assistant JV coach at Burriss and in his 2nd year of coaching JV, Craig Skinner (UK Head Coach) joined him. Steve Shondell was his Varsity Head Coach and his volleyball education began to soar. 1989 was also his first year of coaching at Munciana as the head coach of the 14-3's which Kelly coached for two years, then on to the 16-2's & 3's.

"Sheffield shared, "at that time the high level of club coaches was led by a phenomenal group of teachers - Wes Lyon, at 18-1's with Assistant Coach, Craig Skinner, John Shondell at 18-2's, Dave Shondell at 16-1's and Steve Shondell at 14-1's, what I call the 'potpourri of coaching'. I was very fortunate of who I was around - passion for the game was very high."

Kelly's take..."Wes Lyon is a master (if not the best) on 'inspiring and communicating one-on-one with athletes. Steve Shondell, phenomenal at building fundamentals and Dave Shondell followed suit with his ability to 'fire up' and motivate young athletes."



**Kelly Sheffield, Head Coach  
University of Wisconsin  
Munciana Alumni Coach**

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In addition, Kelly recalls the gym was full of young coaches that took their 'IVY League Education of Coaching' seriously. To include, ironically, Kevin Laseau (currently Yale Associate Head Coach), Jeff Nelson, Craig Skinner, and Chris Beerman, just to name a few.

Sheffield coached club volleyball at Munciana for 9 years, began his college coaching career in 1997 in Houston, onto the University of Albany for 7 years, University of Dayton for 5 years and currently at the University of Wisconsin for 8 years.

Kelly's passion for learning and his 'teacher inspired mindset' has propelled him to lead the number one women's volleyball team in the country. He credits his success to the mentors who welcomed a young 'surfer boy' who was lucky enough to 'catch the wave' of both love for the sport and coaching. Sheffield embodies the Muncie and Munciana work ethic and commitment to excellence that propelled a young 'volleyball geek' into a successful coach and mentor.

We are extremely proud of all of our Alumni Coaches and how far and wide their impact has been across the country (and the world).

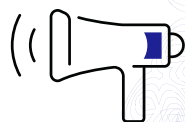
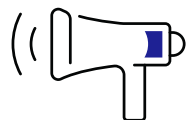
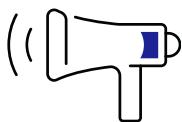
*Patty Costlow - Director of Recruiting/Marketing*

## FEBRUARY SHOUT-OUT

**TEAM HIGHLIGHT - 100 KUNOICHIS**

"This special group of 8, 9 and 10 year olds started as a training group but within a few weeks the potential for them to form a team and play was clearly visible. They've learned to transfer skills from practices into games and have been very successful. The Kunoichis won their first two tournaments with a 7-0 record. It's been a joy seeing the passion and love of the game developing with these little Kunoichis."

*Thanh Harnish - Head Coach  
Assistant Coach, Courtney Harnish  
Former Munciana Athlete  
Indiana University Volleyball Alumni*



**SKILLS & TEAM CAMPS**

*REGISTRATION OPEN*



**SAVE THE DATE**

**MARCH 22-7PM ET**

*14U-18U ATHLETES & PARENTS*

**'An Athlete's Struggle'**

*FOCUS - NUTRITION AND  
THE FEMALE ATHLETE*



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