In the first quarterfinal match of the day between the top seeded Nazareth Golden Flyers and eighth seeded Geneseo, the former won 3-0. Junior outside hitter Christa Downey (Geneseo, NY/Livonia) led Nazareth with 21 kills while sophomore setter Ashley Mokan (Corning, NY/Corning East) had 39 assists. The Blue Knights were led by McKenzie who had 30 assists and 12 digs.

RIT pulled off the only upset in today’s play in the second quarterfinal match when they swept fourth seeded Brockport to advance to the semifinals. The Tigers were again lead by Verbridge who registered 15 kills. Junior Katie Sander (Scotia, NY/Burnt Hills) contributed six blocks and 11 digs to the winning effort.

The most exciting match of the day took place in the third quarterfinal between #6 Cortland and #2 Elmira. The two teams battled back-and-forth for five games with Elmira securing the victory 17-15 in the deciding game. The Soaring Eagles trailed the entire fifth game including being down 12-8 before closing out with a tremendous 9-3 run. Smith led Cortland with 17 kills and 30 digs in the loss.

In the final quarterfinal match of the evening, Vassar nearly forced a fifth game against #2 Ithaca before the Bombers came from behind to close out the match and take the 3-1 victory. Junior Jessica Raymond (Bishop, NY/Ludden) led the attack with 14 kills while also collecting eight blocks. Loui and Rodriquez who tallied 22 assists.

In consolation play, Fredonia defeated Hunter 3-0 behind 10 kills and four blocks from senior Emily Verbridge (Williamson, NY/Williamson) in defeating Hunter college 3-1. Hunter was led by senior middle hitter Nora Wnuk (New York, NY/Beacon) who had 20 kills, four blocks and 23 digs. Junior Jazel Rodriguez (Bronx, NY/DeWitt-Clinton) contributed 36 assists in the losing effort by the Hawks.

In match #3 it was Cortland sweeping Union 3-0 behind 10 kills and 25 digs from senior outside hitter Allison Clark (Lakeview, NY/Frontier Central). Sophomore Andrea Smith (Hamburg, NY/Frontier Central) played a solid all-around match as well with 10 kills and 16 digs. Union was led by sophomore Sarah Pontius (Oneonta, NY/Oneonta) who had 33 assists and senior Melinda Colon (Passaic, NJ/Rutherford) who had 10 kills and 21 digs.

In the final preliminary match, Vassar dropped the first two games only to come back and win the next three to defeat Oneonta State 3-2. The Brewers dug themselves a hole before winning game 3 and 4 decisively to force the fifth and deciding game. Vassar jumped out to a 5-1 lead before the Red Dragons came back with nine of the next 12 points to take a 10-8 lead. Vassar then scored seven of the next eight points to put themselves at match point. After two points by Oneonta, the Brewers were able to end the match to advance into the championship quarterfinals.

Senior Jennifer Denman (Clyde, NC/Tuscola) led the Brewers with 15 kills in the win. Sophomore Ashley Manlove (Garrettsville, OH/James Garfield) had 46 assists while freshman Nani Loui (Honolulu, HI/Panahou) had 12 kills and 16 digs. Oneonta was led by senior Jayme Stewart (Ballston Spa, NY/Ballston Spa) who had 13 kills and 11 digs. Sophomore setter Lacey Musso (Wading River, NY/Shoreham-Wading River) had 22 assists and 14 digs.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL
NYSWCAA Tournament
At Oneonta State College
Oneonta, N.Y.

ONEONTA, N.Y.-The first day of action is complete in the 2001 New York State Women’s Collegiate Athletic Association (NYSWCAA) tournament with only one lower seed advancing in the championship bracket. Three of the top four seeds advanced into tomorrow’s semifinal matches that begin at 11:00 a.m. while four teams went home after bowing out for a ninth place finish overall.

In one of the 11:00 a.m. matches, Geneseo defeated conference rival Fredonia 3-0 behind 11 kills from freshman Beth Hurley (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford Sutherland). Junior setter Amanda McKenzie (Pavilion, NY/Pavilion) recorded 42 assists while classmate Nicole Marconi (East Meadow, NY/East Meadow) had 14 digs. Leading Fredonia in the defeat was senior Sarah Muccigrosso (Macedon, NY/Canandaigua) who had 20 assists.

In the other opening match of the day, Rochester Institute of Technology got 23 kills, four blocks and 13 digs from senior Emily Verbridge (Williamson, NY/Williamson) in defeating Hunter college 3-1. Hunter was led by senior middle hitter Nora Wnuk (New York, NY/Beacon) who had 20 kills, four blocks and 23 digs. Junior Jazel Rodriguez (Bronx, NY/DeWitt-Clinton) contributed 36 assists in the losing effort by the Hawks.

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In the final quarterfinal match of the evening, Vassar nearly forced a fifth game against #2 Ithaca before the Bombers came from behind to close out the match and take the 3-1 victory. Junior Jessica Raymond (Bishop, NY/Ludden) led the attack with 14 kills while also collecting eight blocks. Loui and Manlove led the Brewers again with nine kills and 17 digs and 34 assists respectively.

In consolation play, Fredonia defeated Hunter 3-0 behind 10 kills and four blocks from senior outside hitter Allison Clark (Lakeview, NY/Frontier Central). Sophomore Andrea Smith (Hamburg, NY/Frontier Central) played a solid all-around match as well with 10 kills and 16 digs. Union was led by sophomore Sarah Pontius (Oneonta, NY/Oneonta) who had 33 assists and senior Melinda Colon (Passaic, NJ/Rutherford) who had 10 kills and 21 digs.

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