The AVCA History Commission was formed as a subgroup to the AVCA Diversity Development Team on December 1, 2020. The History Commission’s purpose is to recognize, amplify, and celebrate the rich and diverse history of the sport of volleyball. The first phase of the Commission’s work will explore the contributions of Black Americans to the sport of volleyball. Phase 1 is timed to coincide with the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the American Volleyball Coaches Association.

PHASE 1 | VOL. 1.23

MEGAN HODGE-EASY
Megan Hodge-Easy
Penn State University
Outside Hitter
2006-2009
Four-Time AVCA All-American

Megan Hodge was born in Saint Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. As a toddler, her family moved to Durham, North Carolina. With her mother and father playing volleyball collegiately and for the U.S. Virgin Islands National Volleyball Teams, it was not a huge surprise to see Megan take up volleyball as a youth. Even though her parents did not push Megan to take up volleyball, by the age of 12 she started competing with the middle school team and ‘once she started, she could not stop’. Early on teachers, coaches, and school staff predicted future success for Megan because of how “grounded she was” despite her well rounded abilities in the classroom and on the volleyball court.

At Riverside High School in Durham, Megan would absolutely live up to those lofty expectations as a four-year starter for the Pirates volleyball team and coach Blaine Tendler. With 1,596 kills, 319 blocks, 647 service aces, and 130 assists, it is ‘easy’ to see why Megan is the best girls’ volleyball student-athlete in North Carolina high school volleyball history. She was a four-time Pac-6 all-conference selection as well as Pac-6 Player of the Year two times. As a junior and a senior, she was named the North Carolina Volleyball Gatorade Player of the Year topping it off with being the named the 2006 Gatorade National Player of the Year for volleyball and the 2006 National High School Senior Athlete of the Year by the National High School Coaches Association. In addition to her prowess with Riverside within the borders of North Carolina, Megan was a highly accomplished club volleyball athlete with Triangle Volleyball Club and was selected as an All-American for the 2004, 2005, and 2006 AAU Junior National Volleyball Championships in Orlando, Florida. Add to that her time with competing internationally with the U.S. Girls’ Youth National Team and the U.S. Women’s Junior National Team from 2004-2006 including MVP and “Best Attacker” at the 2004 NORCECA Championships. At 6’3” and a jump touch of almost 11 feet, there was no ceiling for Megan both athletically and academically. No wonder she was the consensus #1 ranked girls’ high school volleyball recruit in the class of 2006.

As the top recruit, Megan would graduate from Riverside with a 4.5 GPA and had over 150 scholarship offers from various universities all over the country, including offers from volleyball powerhouses Stanford, USC, Long Beach State, and Washington. When visiting Penn State University during the recruiting process, Megan came away convinced that it was the right place for her in terms of campus, community, and ‘Coach’. That coach being AVCA Hall of Famer and Penn St. head women’s volleyball coach, Russ Rose. Signing with Penn State as the top recruit along with fellow recruits that included Alisha Glass, Blair Brown, gave the Nittany Lions the #1 overall recruiting class for 2006 and the rest is history.

Freshman year. Team goes 32-3. Megan is named Big Ten Player of the Year and unanimous first-team All-Big Ten. Megan is named AVCA National Freshman of the Year and AVCA first-team All-American. Talk about wasting no time establishing a collegiate career for the record books. For many that would constitute a successful career, but Megan’s ‘passion and drive to compete’ was undeniable. Losing three matches in 2006, over the next three years, the Nittany Lions women’s volleyball program would lose a total of two matches and would win three consecutive D-I women’s volleyball national championships, 2007, 2008, and 2009; including undefeated identical 38-0 seasons in 2008 and 2009 and a 102-match win streak. Megan would build on an amazing freshmen year and become transcendent, adding another Big Ten Player of the Year award in 2008, three more unanimous selections to the first-team All-Big Ten team, AND three more first-team AVCA All-America awards making her one of six women to receive AVCA first-team All-America four times and the only Penn State volleyball student-athlete to accomplish that feat. Two NCAA Championship Most Outstanding Player awards (2007, ‘08), 2009 Academic All-American of the Year, winner of the 2010 Honda Sports Award for volleyball and co-winner (with UConn women’s basketball player Maya Moore) of the 2010 Honda-Broderick Cup as the overall top female collegiate athlete in the country served as a fitting end to an illustrious collegiate career for Megan, but it wouldn’t stop there.

Hodge would graduate from Penn State with a degree in Business Management and join the U.S. senior women’s national team in 2010 along with playing professionally in Puerto Rico, Italy, Poland, Azerbaijani, China, and as of 2020 with Minas Tenis Cube volleyball club in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. With the national team, Megan competed has competed in multiple FIVB events including the FIVB World Championships, FIVB World Cup, and the FIVB World Grand Prix, winning MVP honors for the gold medal-winning squad in 2012. Also in 2012, she was selected to play in the London Olympic Games helping the U.S. women’s team win its third silver medal in Olympic competition.

On August 6, 2021, Megan was back at “home” in North Carolina to be inducted into the North Carolina Volleyball Hall of Fame looking to continue reaching higher...
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DIVERSITY AWARDS
40 ANNIVERSARY