

On the Ball:

Student-Athlete Margaret Donoghue Excels in Class and on the Court

BY STACIA MOMBURG

Margaret Donoghue pursues her goals with passion, whether she's racking up kills on the volleyball court or making the Dean's List as a history senior in the College of Liberal Arts.

Her love for volleyball blossomed in junior high. Margaret was already 6-foot, 1-inch tall, and a coach convinced her to give the sport a try. Later she excelled on her high school team, and college recruiters filled her mailbox with scholarship offers. The University of Arizona, Oregon State University and others wanted her to play for them.

At one point, she put the names of the schools on 3-by-5 cards and tacked them on her wall. As her mind changed daily, so did the location of the various cards. When recruiters got wind of the "wall," they began sending their own 3-by-5 cards.

Margaret remembers the day she heard from Cal Poly with an offer of a four-year scholarship. "My dad was standing behind me as I read it. I turned to him and said 'I did it!' The look on my dad's face – nothing will beat that."

She was team captain last year. Volleyball coach Steve Schlick praises her "strength of character and phenomenal work ethic." Athletic Director Alison Cone agrees: "Margaret is a great representative for Cal Poly. During her four years here, she has consistently and successfully pursued excellence in both the gym and the classroom. She is well-

VOLLEYBALL COACH STEVE SCHLICK PRAISES HER 'STRENGTH OF CHARACTER AND PHENOMENAL WORK ETHIC.'

balanced and goal-oriented, and she also cares a lot about others."

Off the court, Margaret's passion veers



toward the liberal arts, specifically cross-cultural learning and communications

(her minor is French), as well as fair trade issues. She wants to intern next year at a fair trade organization in Oakland,

and after she graduates, plans to apply for Rotary and Fulbright scholarships to continue her studies overseas.

"I want to bridge cultures, whether it's by working to promote local farmers in Africa, Asia or South America, or by doing research," Margaret says. "It doesn't matter; I just want to throw myself into the wondrous mess of it all." ■