

JENNIES TO PLAY THREE STRAIGHT AT HOME

WARRENSBURG, MO (October 25, 2001) -- Hoping for a strong finish that could preserve their streak of consecutive MIAA volleyball titles, the Central Missouri State Jennies close out the home portion of the regular season with three straight MIAA contests. The Jennies face Missouri Southern Friday night at 6:30 p.m. and Pittsburg State Saturday at 12 noon at the CMSU Multipurpose Building, then play their final home match of the season next Thursday night at 7 p.m. against Washburn.

A road win at Emporia State Wednesday night improved the Jennies' record to 21-5 overall, 11-1 in the MIAA. The Jennies are ranked 16th in this week's AVCA Division II poll and are ranked third in the South Central Region. First-place Truman State, ranked #2 in Division II and first in the South Central Region, also won on the road Wednesday night at Northwest Missouri to maintain its MIAA lead. The Bulldogs are 28-1 overall, 10-0 in the MIAA.

The Jennies' weekend opponents, Missouri Southern and Pittsburg State, are the two most improved teams in the MIAA. Missouri Southern was 9-20 (3-13 MIAA) last year, but this season the Lady Lions are 20-6 (8-4 MIAA) and took the Jennies to five games in their Sept. 14 match at Joplin. Pittsburg State was 7-30 (2-14 MIAA) last year, but the Gorillas have improved to 14-7 (7-4 MIAA) this season, although the Jennies won in three games Sept. 15 at Pittsburg.

Truman State plays at Emporia State and at Washburn this weekend, then has home matches with Pittsburg State and Missouri Southern next weekend before the season finale Nov. 7 at home with the Jennies. Winners of six straight matches, all in three games, since their Oct. 5 loss to Truman, and barring an upset of Truman State by someone else in the league, the Jennies will have to win all of their remaining matches, including the season finale at Truman State, to gain a tie and earn a share of the title for the 20th straight year.