

## Cathy D'Apice Memorial Volleyball Tournament

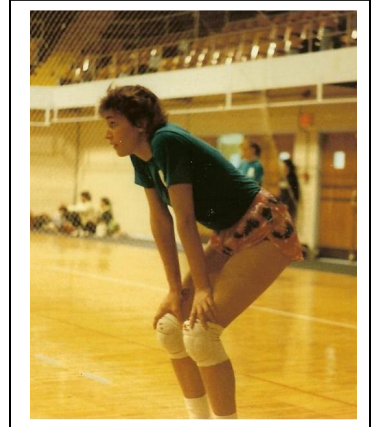
The Annual Cathy D'Apice Memorial Volleyball Tournament is held in April each year at Conard High School in West Hartford, Connecticut since 1995. This is a fifteen team women's tournament with all proceeds going to the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative, Inc. The tournament is held in memory of Cathy D'Apice, a New England volleyball player who lost her battle with breast cancer the week of her thirtieth birthday in 1992. We remember Cathy each year by holding this event in her honor.



Sand doubles in Norfolk, VA



D'Apice family at USVBA tourney (Windsor, CT)



Cathy at URI tournament

Cathy was a three-sport athlete at Conard H.S. and she played volleyball at Ithaca College (Ithaca, NY) where she was a team captain in 1982. At Ithaca, there is now an annual award in her memory given to "the senior who is an outstanding student, a team leader, and a positive role model on and off the court." After graduation, Cathy continued to compete in area USVBA tournaments and was a member of the 1988 New England Women's Open Division Regional Champion New London Volleyball Club. Cathy was the Athlete of the Year for all sports at the Nutmeg State Games (CT) in 1990. Cathy also played sand and grass doubles throughout the East Coast and she was a familiar face at indoor and outdoor events for several years. She was well-liked and respected by teammates and opponents wherever she played and she was a fierce competitor who never lost sight of the importance of sportsmanship and camaraderie in our sport. We lost a special teammate and a wonderful friend and we hope that the money raised at this tournament every year can help make a difference in the lives of others.

New London VBC at URI (Cathy is # 4)



Cathy beating the block



Cathy (#18) and teammates



A highlight of the tournament each year is a break in the day set aside to pay tribute to Cathy and honor her memory, celebrate her life, and to educate all in attendance on the progress being made in the fight against breast cancer. For more information about the Connecticut Breast Health Initiative, go to: [www.ctrace.org](http://www.ctrace.org)



The Cathy D'Apice Memorial Tournament is a combination of collegiate teams from Div. I, II, and III and New England Region women's adult teams. The event has proven to be a healthy mix of competition, camaraderie and awareness of a shared cause. In ten years, \$36,000 has been raised with college teams leading the way by requesting donations from friends, families, and area businesses. In 2005, Clark players and coaches put in a little extra time and effort and they collected \$1794! Other notable fund-raising totals include: Swarthmore (2003) \$1386, Bentley (2004) \$801, Smith (2002) \$728, and New Haven (2000, 2001, 2003) \$1472. Year in and year out, teams have walked away with the feeling of contributing to a worthwhile cause while competing at a high level.

All entry fees, tee shirt sales, and donations go to CT BHI. If your team is interested, please contact me as soon as possible. If you cannot attend the tournament, but you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to CT BHI and send to: Fran Vandermeer, 78 Meacham Street, Williamstown, MA 01267. If you have any questions, you can contact me at: [fvander@williams.edu](mailto:fvander@williams.edu) If you can't make it but you know someone who might be interested, please pass on the details. Let's have a great day of volleyball and also come together in the battle against breast cancer. I hope to see you there!

2004 "Break for Cathy": In 2004, 15 teams raised \$7700

2005 Tournament Champion- Smith College

