

New net season awaits Ducks at regionals

By TERRY RHOADS
Of the Emerald

A brand new volleyball season starts this weekend when the women's volleyball team travels to the seven-team Region 9 championships in Missoula, Mont., says Oregon coach Chris Voelz.

"It's like Chris (Voelz) has been telling us," says 5-7 senior Kim Jessup. "The season has started over and we're at ground zero again."

Oregon opens tournament play against the University of Montana at 10 a.m. today. The winner then meets the University of Washington which has a

first-round bye later today.

The Ducks, 39-14-1 overall and 7-5 in the Northwest Women's Volleyball League, will go into the regional tourney with one goal, says Voelz — to reach the finals and win a berth in the AIAW nationals.

Oregon goes into the tourney seeded fourth behind Washington, Portland State University and Montana State.

The Huskies, ranked ninth nationally and undefeated in Region 9 play this year, are the clear favorite, says Voelz. But second place isn't so clear cut. "It'll probably boil down to us and Portland State."

"Second is realistic," says 5-7

senior Christie McFarlane. "I really think we're ready to play the most intense ball we've played all year."

"People are keying into this (regionals), and being real mature."

Oregon will have one advantage missing this season — they'll finally be at full player strength.

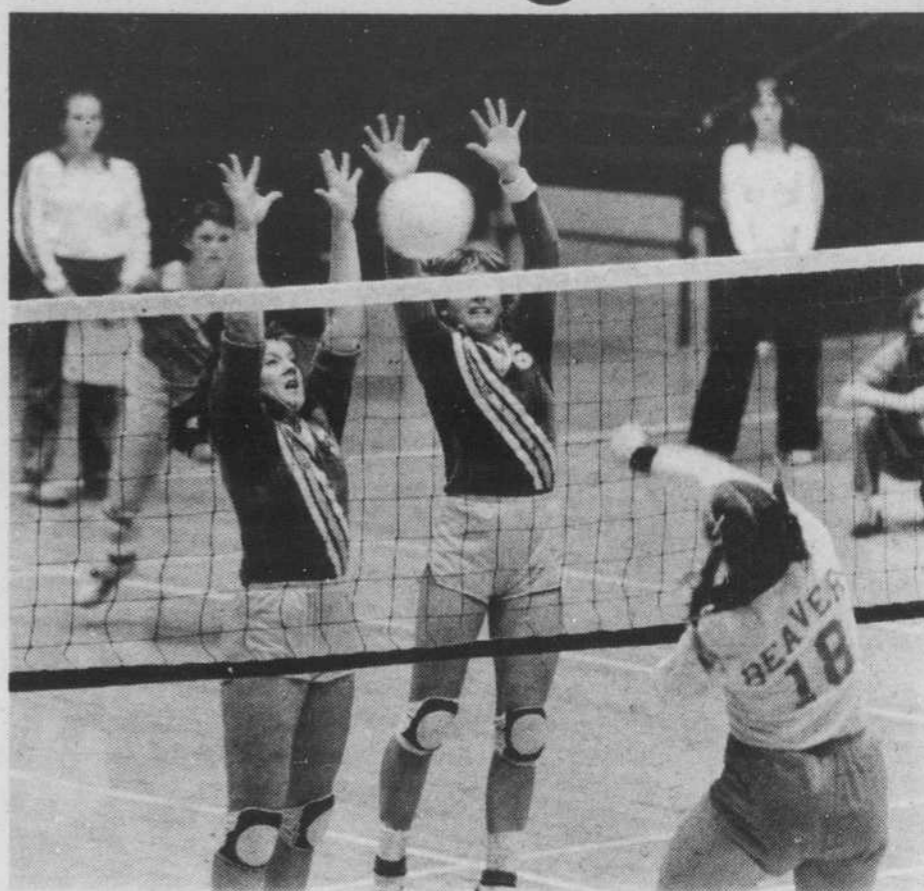
"This will be the first time all season that we've had all 12 players healthy," says Voelz. "We've been tapering our practices and should be at our strongest for regionals."

Oregon's defensive leader, sophomore Cathy Hill, will return to key the Ducks' blocking attack after missing two weeks with a sprained ankle.

The Ducks' net game remains Oregon's "biggest asset," and the serving game has improved immensely, says Voelz.

But the Ducks are aware of problems, Voelz says. "Our passing game has been up and down and our hitting efficiency will have to improve."

"We'll have to be consistent all-around," Jessup says. "It'll take a team effort."



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Christie McFarlane (3) and Cathy Hill (6) will be up front for Oregon at the Region 9 tournament.

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Clark and Williams lead Yellows to 92-78 victory

Power forwards Mike Clark and Jerome Williams combined for 47 points and 20 rebounds to lead the Yellow team to a 92-78 win over the smaller Green team in the second men's intrasquad basketball scrimmage.

The Yellow team fought back from a 62-55 deficit with 11 minutes remaining in the second half Thursday night in McArthur Court to post their second intrasquad win. Clark scored 23 points and collected 11 rebounds while Williams tallied 24 points and nine rebounds.

"I'm proud of our Green team," said Oregon coach Jim Haney. "The Yellow team had stronger personnel on the front line and they just kind of wore the other team out. But I'm pleased with our unselfishness. We tried to create plays for our teammates."

Williams scored 13 of his team's first 23 points to push the Yellow squad to a 25-20 lead midway through the first half. But then Brantley poured in 11 points to direct the Green team to a 58-55 margin with 12 minutes left in the game.

The Yellow team finally regained the lead permanently, at 69-68, on a pair of free throws by Clark, who was seven-of-11 from the charity line.

"I liked Mike Clark's performance, particularly in the second half," said Haney, who watched from the stands as assistant coaches Jim O'Brien and Jim Krause directed the two teams. "He showed better discretion in his shooting."

Haney liked the offensive performance of the Ducks, especially his players' shot selection. "The offense made big strides over last week — we definitely showed better offense than defense. I thought we got better shots, although we didn't always take the first shot available."

Freshman David Brantley led the Green team in scoring for the second consecutive game, tallying 24 points. Teammate Ray Whiting pulled down 11 rebounds and handed out nine assists, a game high, but only shot three-of-11 from the field.

Oregon's home and season opener will be Nov. 29 against Chico State University.

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