

Seven unlucky for Ducks

Oregon spikers seek to end PSU win streak

By **MIKE RIPLINGER**
Of the Emerald

Seven may be a lucky number, but if Portland State hits it, then Oregon volleyball coach Chris Voelz will probably scream.

PSU has not lost to the Ducks in the last six years, but Voelz hopes to stop that string tonight, when her squad plays host to the Vikings at 8 p.m. in McArthur Court.

"We've lost to them (PSU) for the last six years, and for the last ten, we've been finishing one-two to them in the region," said Voelz. "We want to beat them badly."

Unfortunately for Oregon, that streak may continue as the Ducks may have lost two frontliners in Karen Beamer and Ronda Dalthrop, who were hurt in the recent Nike-California Invitational.

Beamer is listed as questionable after she inflamed an old knee injury and will undergo an orthogram to check on the swelling. Dalthrop has a possible bone chip in her ankle and will probably not play.

"We want in the worst way to do something about that streak," said Voelz. "At the beginning of the season, we thought we could do something about it, but now we are going to have to wait and see."

Oregon lost to the Vikings in the Nike tournament, by identical 6-15 scores. The Ducks would still have problems even with Beamer and Dalthrop

healthy, but without them, they are in big trouble.

"Before the injuries, I would say this would be a real big game in turning our season around," says Voelz, whose team has a disappointing 7-18-2 record. "But now I can't put any pressure on the kids to beat them, because we just don't have the personnel."

"All that we are looking for is to show progress. We want to play better each time out and be a little more consistent. We've had the good games, but then we come back with a bad outing. We are trying to get away from that yo-yo effect," Voelz says.

To do that, the Oregon coach plans some changes. The Ducks will go away from its power offense, and go with more soft dinks and tips inside. Oregon has better blocks against PSU, but the Vikings

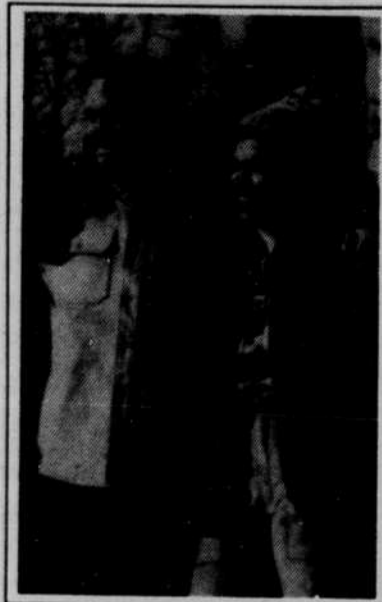
end up taking advantage of Oregon's strength.

"We stop their shots, but they use our blocks against us and end up beating us with our own game," Voelz says.

"We learned quite a bit from them when we played them down in Cal. We started out wanting to play anybody but Portland State since we had them coming up so soon. But I think it ended up to our advantage, because we filmed the game and have been studying it ever since."

"I believe we've become more students of the game," continues Voelz. "We are now studying the other teams intently, trying to discover their weaknesses."

Oregon appears to be playing more relaxed and thinking more, according to Voelz. They are more aggressive and seem to be "rolling with the punches."



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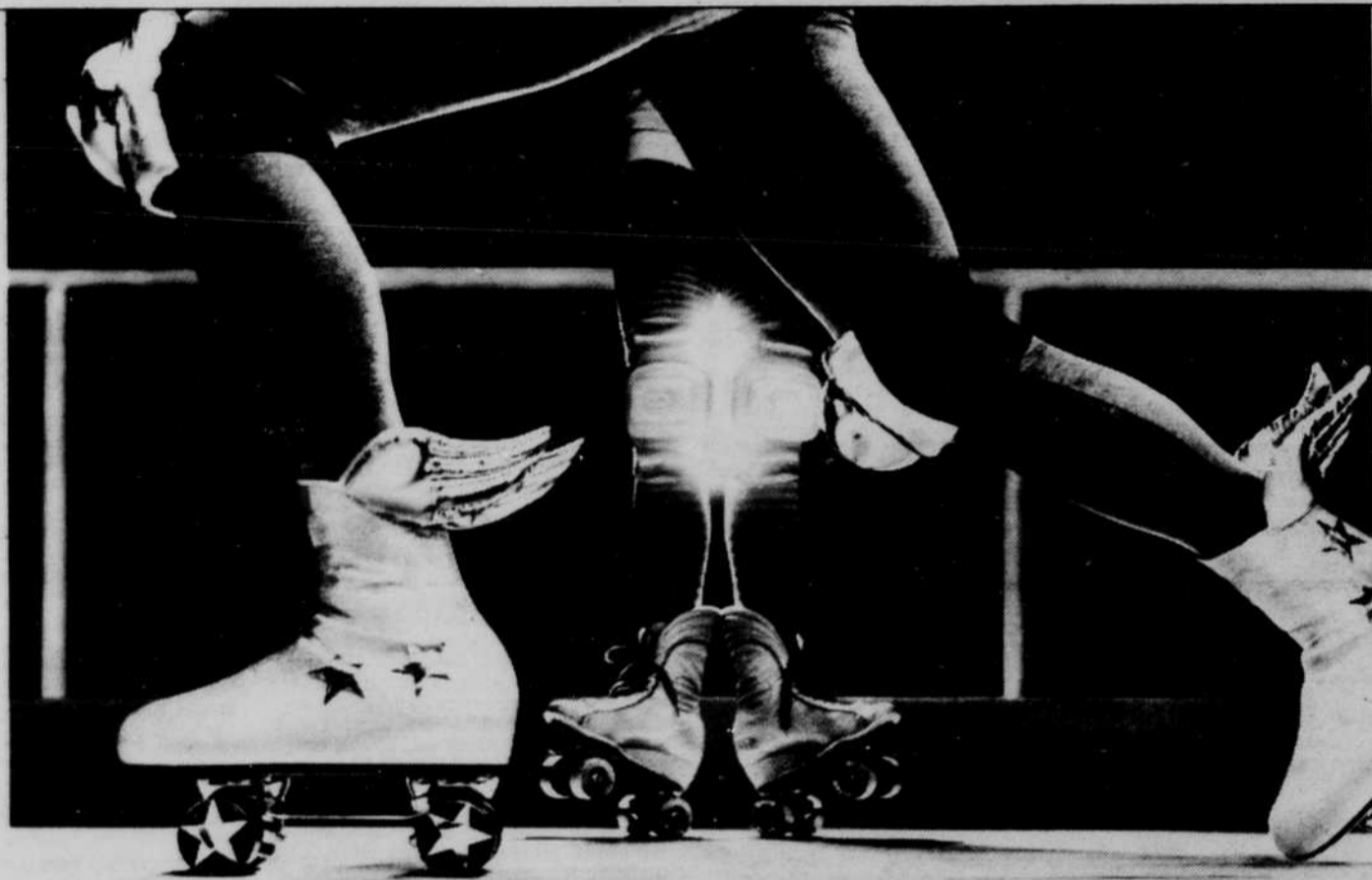
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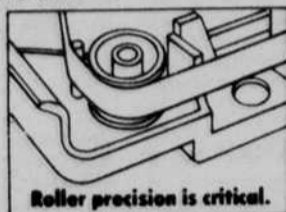


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