

# Netters switch from pre- to contenders

By Steve Turcotte  
Of the Emerald

Last season, Oregon volleyball was on the verge of being a contender but wound up being a pretender.

This year, the Ducks hope to shed their pretender image and pose a threat to win the NorPac Conference volleyball crown.

A year ago, Duck coach Chris Voelz boasted a strong contingent and figured on challenging for a top-four spot in the NorPac Conference. That would have qualified Oregon for the league playoffs.

But injuries whittled away at the roster, and the Ducks fell to a 3-9 record in league play, finishing seventh.

Voelz' troops this season, already 13-9, will be legitimate challengers for a top-four spot and a berth in the league's post-season tournament, barring unforeseen injuries.

"We hope to show Eugene the best team ever at Oregon," said Voelz with optimism. "That's what we are shooting for."

And with the roster they have this season, the Ducks may reach Voelz' goal. Oregon sports a number of quality players, including a potential All-American, and several others with All-Conference abilities.

Sue Harbour, a sophomore who red-shirted two years ago, appears to be in All-America shape following preseason tournament performances.

Statistically, she is about as dominant as they come. She has 267 kills this season and is well on her way to the school record of 415 set by Tamra Chambers in 1980.

"It's nice to have a player you can count on game after game and go to her," said Voelz of Harbour. "If we can get her the ball, she can really do a lot with it."

"She is really an All-American. Sue can dominate a game."

The person responsible for getting the

ball to Harbour this season is setter Lisa Gemoya, a transfer from San Joaquin Delta College in Berkeley, Calif. Gemoya has done an excellent job thus far setting Harbour up for the kill.

Gemoya, possibly the smallest player in the conference at 5-3, enjoys her role with the Ducks.

"I think Sue and I complement each other," Gemoya said. "Everyone says we make a good combination and I really think we do."

But life on the Oregon volleyball team does not revolve around Harbour and Gemoya alone. The rest of the cast is just as talented.

Cathy Hill, an all-region player two years ago and a redshirt last season following double knee surgery, is back on a limited basis this season. She has practiced this season, although not with the regularity she or Voelz would like.

"I'm not practicing every day because of the pain," said Hill. "It depends on how I feel. I would like to be out there but my knees really can't handle it."

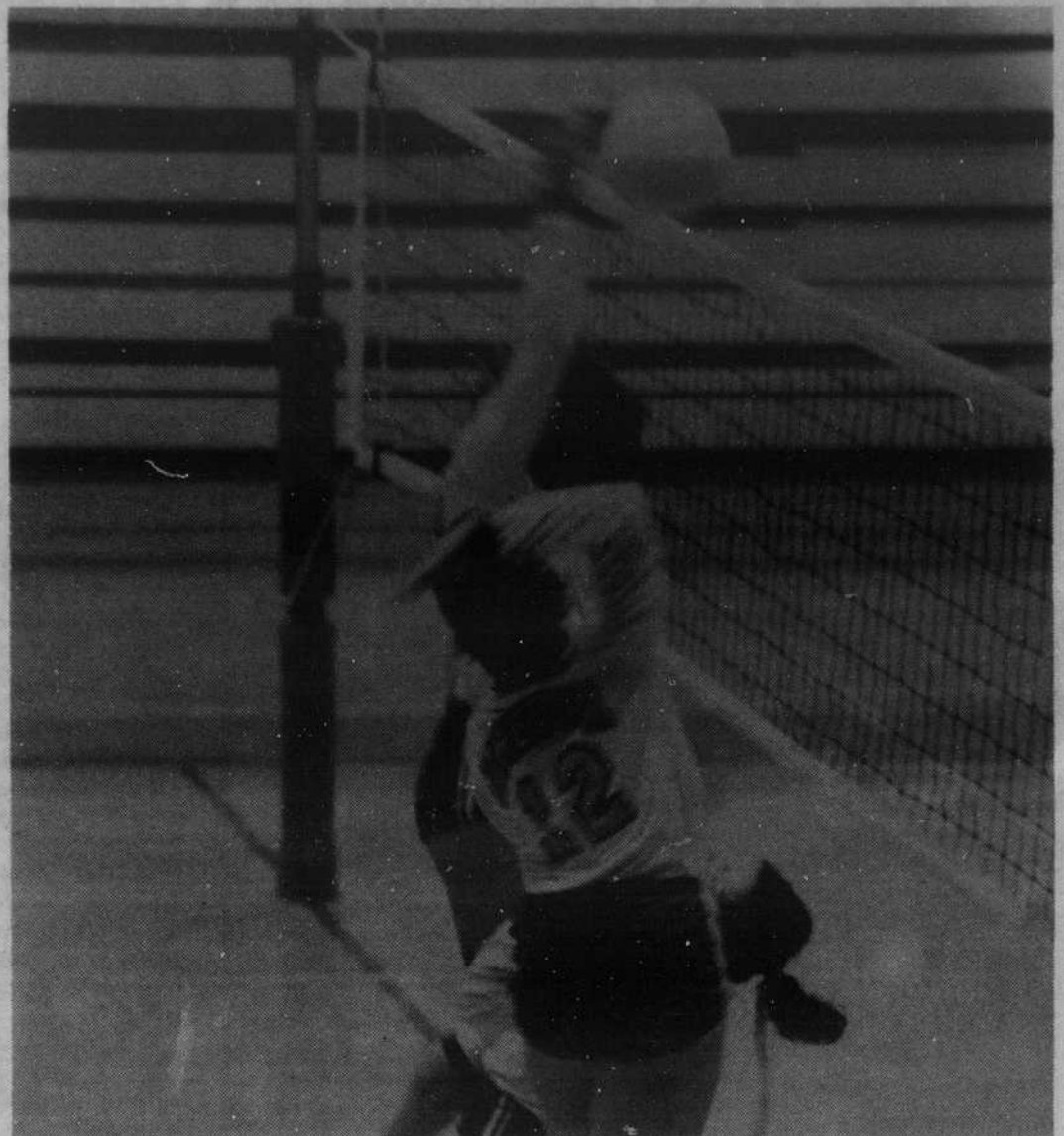
Cynthia Shepherd, a junior transfer from Southern Oregon State College, was literally a find for Voelz.

"We saw Cynthia walking on campus one day with a volleyball in her arm and asked her if she'd like to play," explained Voelz. "Well, she tried out and earned a scholarship. She has been a pleasant addition to the team."

Despite some pleasant surprises, injuries already are taking their toll on the Ducks.

Shaunna Koenig, Oregon's sparkplug defender, has been idled with a hamstring injury. She is expected to return to action in two or three weeks.

"Without Shaunna in the lineup, our defense really suffers," said Voelz. "We are definitely not as quick without her in there and it hurts us."



*Emerald photo*

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Another victim of the injury bug is sophomore outside hitter Connie Riel. Riel injured a foot in pre-season and will have it operated on Oct. 6. The 6-0 outside hitter is gone for the season.

Even before the season began, four players from last year's squad packed up their bags and bid Eugene adios.

Stephanie Tambe and Jill Koscinski, both freshmen in 1982, lasted only a season before leaving for Southern California. According to Voelz, the two left for different reasons.

"I guess Jill just decided she wanted to be a Southern California girl," Voelz said. "She was here to play volleyball and really not to go to school."

"I think Stephanie will be happier someplace else," Voelz continued. "I think she just needed to go someplace else and pick up a different philosophy."

A 5-5 all-rounder with superb jumping ability, Tambe was a double threat, equally adept at setting up the kill or putting the ball away herself.

Koenig, a Southern Californian herself and good friends with both, echoed Voelz' thoughts on the two defectors.

"I don't think Stephanie was real happy here and just wanted to go home," said Koenig. "And with Jill, her having to red-shirt got her down and it seemed as though everything that could go wrong for her did."

In addition, Rhonda Dalthorp and Liz Eakin, two others from last year, are not with the squad this season, Dalthorp for

academic and personal reasons, Eakin to concentrate on academics at Oregon. And Cherie Elliott, a two-year veteran of Voelz' program, decided she'd had enough Duck volleyball.

The situation with people leaving and injuries has prompted Voelz to revamp her philosophy on recruiting. In the past, Voelz has had a tendency to recruit a minimum amount of players because she thought "the smaller the squad, the happier the squad."

"I have been caught too many times the last couple years on shortages of players and I don't want it to happen again," Voelz said. "This is the third year we have been a bit shorthanded."

This weekend kicks off league play for the Ducks. Washington State invades McArthur Court on Friday night while Washington visits Saturday night. Both matches start at 7:30 p.m.

Second-ranked Pacific looms as the league's top team, with top-20 squads California, San Jose State and Oregon State (20th) right on the Tigers' heels. Add the Ducks, who were just one vote short of top-20 status earlier in the season, and it becomes clear that making a post-season appearance is a chore for NorPac teams.

"Our goal is to finish in the top four and make the playoffs," said Voelz. "We think we can do it."

If they do, it will be the first time in many years an Oregon volleyball team has done so.



*Emerald photo*

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## As the season winds down

# Rain, extra innings prolong NL West race

Major league baseball fans were left hanging about whether the Los Angeles Dodger's would clinch the National League West when the Dodgers game against the San Diego Padres was called because of rain with the score tied 4-4 in the top of the 14th inning.

The Atlanta Braves, who started the day for games behind the Dodgers in the battle for the NL West flag, split a doubleheader with Houston Wednesday night, opening the door for the Dodgers to clinch the title with a win over the Padres.

Pascual Perez fired a four-hitter and Glenn Hubbard drove in the winning run with a fifth-inning sacrifice fly as the Atlanta Braves edged the Houston Astros 3-1 in the first game, but the Astros came back to win the second game 5-1 with four runs in the eighth inning.

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In other Wednesday games:

**Mets 4, Pirates 2**

Darryl Strawberry drove in three runs, two with a first-inning home run, and Ron Darling won his first major-league game as the New York Mets defeated the Pittsburgh Pirates 4-2.

**Reds 5, Giants 4**

Mario Soto tossed a five-hitter and survived a four-run San Francisco eighth inning to record his career high 17th victory as the Cincinnati Reds beat the San Francisco Giants 5-4.

**Tigers 9, Orioles 5**

Larry Herndon hit a two-run homer to key an eight-run second inning as the Detroit Tigers beat the Baltimore Orioles 9-5.

**Boston 3, Yanks 2**

Bob Ojeda, with relief help from Bob Stanley, won his sixth straight game in

September as the Boston Red Sox edged the New York Yankees 3-2.

**Twins 3, Texas 0**

Minnesota left-hander Pete Filson celebrated his 25th birthday by teaming with Ron Davis on an eight-hitter as the Twins downed the Texas Rangers 3-0.

**Expos 3, Cards 0**

Bryn Smith tossed a four-hitter for his second shutout victory in three games while pitching the Montreal Expos to a 3-0 triumph over the St. Louis Cardinals.

**Brewers 6, Indians 4**

Robin Yount and Ben Oglivie each hit two-run homers in the bottom of the ninth inning to rally the Milwaukee Brewers to a 6-4 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

## Paper to run sports trivia quiz contest

Beginning next Thursday, the *Emerald* will run a weekly sports quiz featuring trivia questions about Oregon teams and athletes of the past.

The quiz will consist of five questions, covering Oregon inter-collegiate sports programs (including baseball).

Winner of the quiz contest will be eligible for a gift certificate from an area merchant.

Check next week's *Emerald* for details on how to enter quizzes, where to submit answers, and where to get gift certificates.