

Duck netters bearing for undefeated Bruins

By Jack Millikin
Emerald Sports Reporter

Broadway, Boyer, Tomkus, Shaver, Youngs and Crocker. By themselves they are considered very good volleyball players.

Together, however, they comprise the starting lineup for the UCLA women's volleyball team and may very well be the six most intimidating words that the nation's volleyball teams will hear this year.

This weekend, the top-ranked Bruins, 16-0 overall and 9-0 in the Pacific-10 Conference, along with 16th-ranked USC (14-5, 6-3), will bring their act to McArthur Court in hopes of keeping their undefeated season intact.

Although both teams have already beaten the Webfoots this year in Los Angeles, this weekend's matches will be a chance for both teams to avenge last year's losses to the Ducks at Mac Court.

This is anything but an unrealistic objective. UCLA has defeated both defending national champion Hawaii and Illinois — two teams that were ranked number one before falling to the Bruins. Third-ranked Stanford, which lost to Hawaii in the 1987 NCAA title match, has been handed only one loss so far this season. The handee? None other than UCLA.

If the Bruins can continue their dominant play, the All-Pac 10 team for 1988 may as well be UCLA's starting six. All-American middle blocker Daiva Tomkus leads the conference in hitting percentage (.417) and service aces (.55), and two-time All-Pac 10 setter

Ann Boyer is second in assists (12.7).

Outside hitter Samantha Shaver, voted to the Pac-10 All-Freshman team last season, ranks third in digs, and fellow hitters Elaine Youngs and Jenny Crocker rank among the conference leaders in hitting percentage with .334 and .292, respectively.

Duck setter Eva Windlin, who played an integral role in last year's upset, will be counted on heavily to run the Webfoot offensive attack.

"We're not going to be intimidated by them," she said. "We have to worry about our side first. We need to count on all of our players and run a balanced offense."

For the slumping Ducks, who have lost four straight and seven of their last eight, there will be no place to go but up.

"I think we can surprise them a little, but they may be a little hesitant because of what happened last year," Duck outside hitter Michele Krebsbach said in reference to last year's upset.

"UCLA has six very consistent players on the court," Oregon coach Gerry Gregory said. "I don't see any particular weaknesses."

"We need to have a relatively error-free match from everybody to win," Gregory added. "So far, no one player has been a rock for us. (Melissa) Terzian, (Dawnn) Charroin, and Krebsbach have been about as consistent as we've had. Molly (McGrath) and Eva have done a nice job at setter keeping the offense going."

If facing the top-ranked team in the nation were not enough,

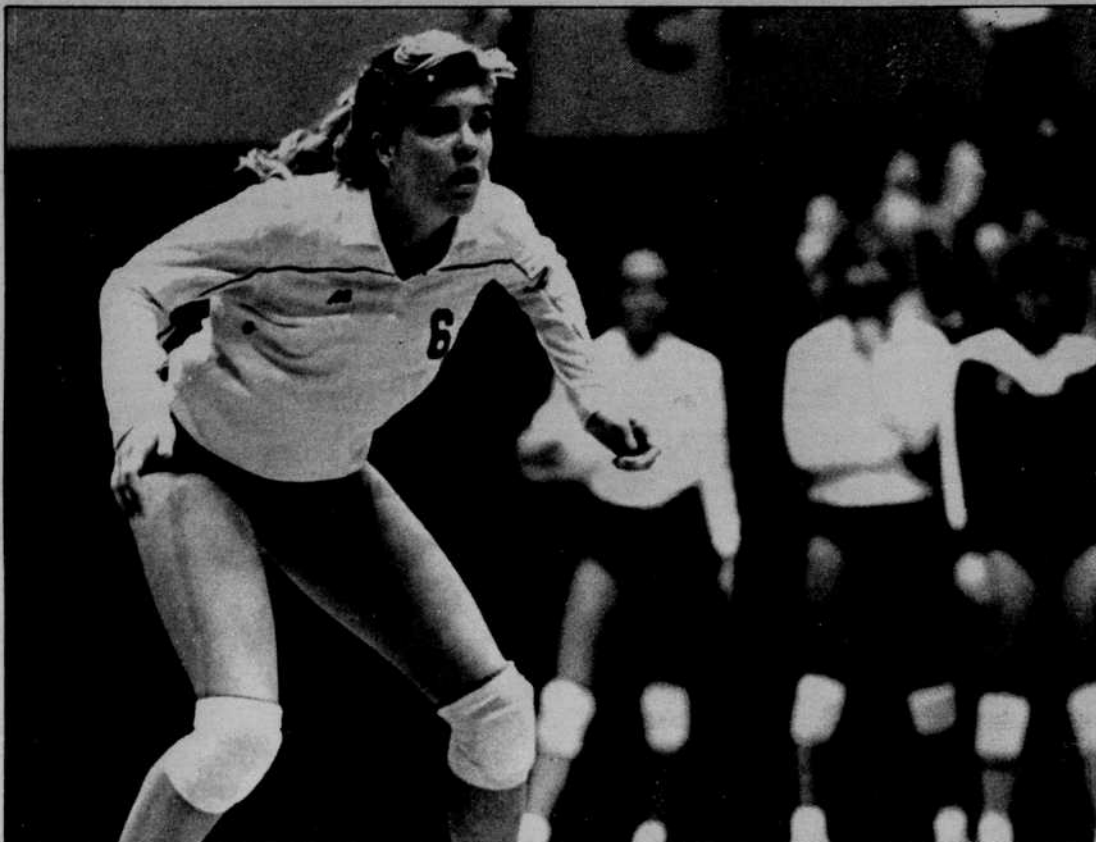


Photo by John Stoops

Dawnn Charroin, once recruited by the top-ranked Bruins, said the Ducks will need to play from the heart to end their current four-match loss streak.

the Ducks will play host to USC the following night. The Trojans, considered by Gregory to run "the fastest offense in the Pac-10," will feature three of the foremost outside hitters in the conference: Nancy Hillman, Lonise Norfleet, and Yleana Carrasco.

In the Ducks' earlier meeting with the women of Troy, Carrasco took matters into her own hands by hammering 30 kills to help defeat the Webfoot team in four games. In addition, four other Trojans recorded double figures in

kills as USC compiled a .308 hitting percentage for the match.

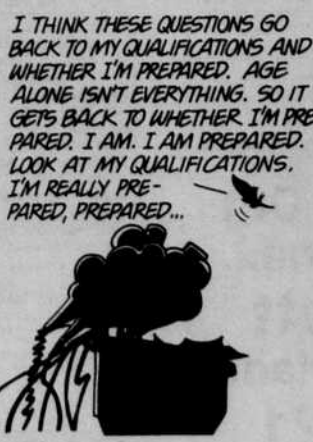
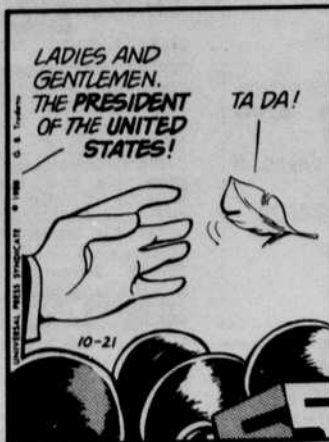
"The keys for USC will be Hillman and Norfleet," Gregory said. "(Middle blocker) Megan McCallister will also be a factor, and (setter) Christine Brigman has been effective against us in the past."

Brigman has done a more than adequate job as setter for the Trojans, leading the Pac-10 in assists with 14.4 per game. Middle blocker Jaime Hatchett (.324 hitting percentage, 1.4

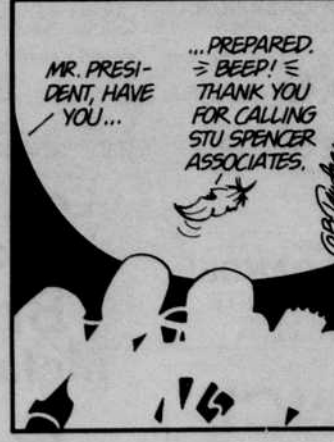
blocks), Carrasco (.298 hitting), Hillman (3.6 digs, .42 aces), and Norfleet (3.96 kills) all rank among the conference top 10 in various categories.

"We didn't run our middle attack well," Duck middle blocker Charroin said, reverting back to the Webfoots' last encounter with the California powerhouses. "Hopefully, this time we can be a bit more deceptive. We will just have to play from the heart. The best team isn't always the most physically talented team."

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