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Teammates Melissa Terzian (left) and Kate Harper are athletes involved in weekly Bible studies, and as roommates support and encourage each other.

Webfoot hitters Terzian, Harper get boost off court from faith

By Jack Millikin
 Emerald Sports Reporter

Trying times and tribulations have been manifold for the Duck women's volleyball team in 1988. Losses (eight straight) and lineup changes have become a weekly occurrence.

The Ducks' latest performances against Arizona and Arizona State sent reporters scurrying for their thesauruses to find yet another way to describe inconsistency.

For many athletes, this type of situation could breed frustration and panic. For Duck outside hitters Melissa Terzian and Kate Harper, however, it may just be a blessing.

Although Terzian and Harper follow the lead of other such athletes as Curt Warner, Florence Griffith-Joyner, Orel Hershiser, Mike Singletary, A.C. Green, and Rodney Peete, all have one thing in common.

They follow God.

"I was raised in a Christian family, but I always went

through the motions of being Christian," Terzian said. "Before I decided commit myself to God, I was at a low point in my life. There was no place to go but up."

Terzian, a junior from Altadena, Calif., attributes her turnaround to the influence of USC quarterback Peete and recent World Series hero Hershiser.

"I heard them speak at a banquet in California," she said. "It was then that I decided I needed God. God can forgive anyone, no matter what they have done. He just wipes the slate clean, and you become a new person."

Though the Ducks' current misfortunes cannot be simply disregarded by either, Harper and Terzian are able to keep the losses in perspective.

"Things definitely have not gone well for the team lately," Harper, a sophomore from Santa Monica, Calif., said. "It is easy to get down on yourself. Volleyball takes up a lot of time, and if it is not going well, it can affect other aspects of your life as well."

Though both Terzian and Harper are somewhat limited in their activities due to the commitments of school and volleyball, they still find time for other activities. Both are involved in weekly Bible studies, and, as roommates, both are able to aid each other with support and encouragement while also finding time for others.

"I think Melissa has been a great example to the team," Harper said. "Her kindness stands out and she is always there for others."

"Kate gives me a lot of support," Terzian said. "Her positive attitude helps to keep me going."

One of their latest activities is taking part in a Bible study with fellow Christian athletes.

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