

Anxious Krebsbach ready to play

Team's 'quiet' leader speaks up

By Gary Henley
Emerald Associate Editor

Senior outside hitter Michele Krebsbach of the Oregon volleyball team enters her last season with high hopes and expectations, hoping for an NCAA tournament appearance and expecting a trouble-free, injury-free season.

Krebsbach will have to forget about the injury-free part, as the southern California native broke a bone in her left hand on the second day of practice, forcing her to the sidelines for a month.

Krebsbach recently talked with the Oregon Daily Emerald about the past, present and future of her career and Oregon volleyball.

Oregon Daily Emerald: What's the strongest part of your game right now?

Michele Krebsbach: Probably that I'm really looking forward to playing. I always look forward to playing, but I'm more anxious this year because I'm a senior. There's points I have to work at with everything, so I wouldn't say I have one specific thing.

I have a lot of things in my mind, hitting-wise — what I'm going to do differently, what I'm going to use more, not always swinging away and using more shots — stuff like that.

ODE: Do fans get disappointed when the players don't swing away and spike the ball?

MK: I think so. A lot of people expect that. I get frustrated sometimes, and I'll just say "come on, hit the ball, just hit it. Stop being a wimp!" That's what you're thinking to them, but that won't always get you points. You gotta use what you gotta use.

ODE: Have these last three years gone by fast?

MK: Now that I look back on it, yes. I think it's gotten faster every year. I cannot believe I have only four months left. I think this year's going to go real fast.

ODE: Who's been your biggest influence in volleyball?

MK: When I was in high school, there was this newspaper reporter. He didn't influence me, but he made me mad. I told him I was going to Oregon, and he just ripped on me. He said, "you're not going to make it there, you're not going to graduate, you'll never make

four years of volleyball." That made me more mad than anything, and I just wanted to prove to him that I would make it. He really irritates me.

ODE: Have you heard from him since?

MK: No. He writes for the *Volleyball Monthly*, so he's a pretty big-deal guy, but he's just a jerk. And I'm sure that he knows I'm here. I think the team (at Oregon) influenced me the most. Everybody's been so good. Everyone's been real helpful and always wanting to do things for you.

ODE: Did you change a lot from your sophomore to junior seasons, after (former Oregon player) Teri Kramer graduated?

MK: I would say no. Teri and I always got along. No, I shouldn't say that — we didn't always get along. I kind of felt



Michele Krebsbach

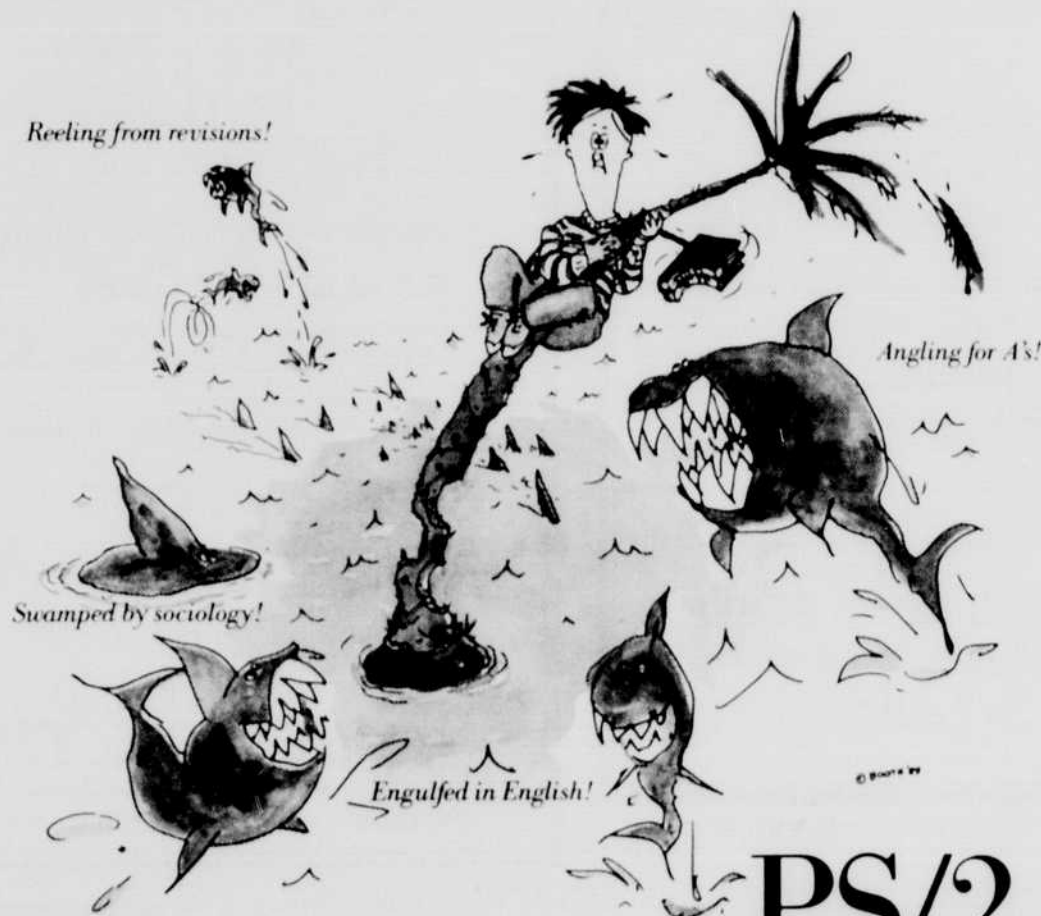
more relieved. I don't know if that's going to sound good. It's just that I always felt she was ... not criticizing me, but thinking something. And when she

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