

New attitude, stats giving Snyder strong year

Setter putting knee injuries behind her

By Cam Sivesind
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team is having an exceptional season in 1989, and that is especially gratifying to Stephanie Snyder.

The senior setter believed she would not even play this year after knee injuries cut her season in half last year.

That never-say-die attitude that is found in so many great athletes is definitely evident in Snyder.

Snyder leads the team in assists with a 10.26 game average helping the Ducks to a sixgame winning streak, four of those against Pacific 10 Conference foes.

"I think she's playing better volleyball than I've ever seen

her play," said head volleyball coach Gerry Gregory. "She's come back very courageously from her knee injuries."

Knee problems have plagued Snyder since she was in grade school. Last year her knee problems resulted in serious knee injuries, and Snyder began to experience more troubles with her knees midway through the season.

"My right knee was really bothering me and I was trying to compensate for it," Snyder said. "Then I decided to go ahead and have it scoped because we could feel things moving around in there."

That is when things began to go downhill for Snyder. She returned home to Fountain Valley, Calif., leaving school and

the volleyball team behind.

After seeing a doctor, the decision was made to have both knees operated on. Lateral releases were performed on both knees.

"They cut the cartilage on the outside of my knees so that my knee cap would move back into the middle more," Snyder explained. "We thought everything went fine and I only stayed one night in the hospital."

But Snyder's problems continued. Five days after her surgery, stitches in her right knee had given way. Three days after having those stitches redone, Snyder's knee swelled up and the pain was nearly un-

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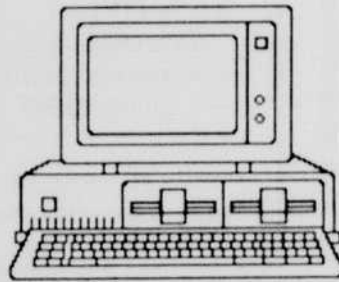
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After a year plagued by knee problems, senior setter Stephanie Snyder has returned to lead the Ducks in assists.

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