

## ◀ VOLLEYBALL PROFILE ▶

# Adams, Charroin equal intensity

By Cam Sivesind  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Oregon volleyball coach Gerry Gregory should get the digital coaching move of the year for moving sophomore Mindee Adams to the middle blocking position.

Adams coupled with sophomore middle blocker Dawnn Charroin equals a lethal middle attack for Oregon and the Ducks are reaping the rewards of this combination with an impressive 20-7 record and a sure NCAA playoff bid.

Adams was a little tentative to move to the middle position, but is now glad the change was made.

"I was a right side player and it wasn't the best thing for me because it didn't utilize my abilities to the fullest," said the 6-foot Adams from Irvine, Calif. "And now, we're doing better. Gerry made the decision to put me in the middle which is a good decision."

Gregory is very impressed with Adam's play in the middle even though he knew she was tentative at the beginning of the season.

"At the beginning of the year, I think she was skeptical as to her abilities to block middle," Gregory said. "She really didn't think of herself as a middle blocker in college, but she's more than holding her own."

Charroin, on the other hand, has always been a middle blocker for Oregon and with good reason.

The 6-foot-1 powerhouse from Huntington Beach, Calif. has led the team in kills 10 times this year and had a career and team season high of 28 kills against California last month.

Besides earning all-tournament honors earlier this season at the Lady Ute Classic in Salt Lake City and the Oregon Invitational in Eugene, Charroin is second in blocks for the Ducks with .91 per game and third in digs with a 2.56 mark.

"She was strictly a middle attacker and now she not only hits middle but also hits outside," Gregory said. "So her responsibilities have broadened. Also her responsibilities from a defensive and a passing standpoint have increased."

"We would sub her out from time to time last year and this year we just haven't had to do it."

Charroin admits doing some things better this year, but feels she is lacking a little offensively.

"Last year I blocked better. I'm doing some things better this year than last year - things that aren't as noticeable like passing," Charroin said. "I'm passing a lot better and playing defense a lot better, but I'm not hitting as well as I could and should."

From talking with Adams and Charroin, one would think they were related. Both middle attackers are so similar as far as attitude and ability are concerned.

"I think Mindee and I are both exactly the same. We want to win and we show it more than other people and we're both very aggressive," Charroin said. "On the court it gives off a different impression than here we are off the court, because off the court we're goons."

Adams and Charroin both agree that their aggressive nature has sometimes given off the wrong impression.



Photo by Martin Thiel

**Mindee Adams and Dawnn Charroin are combining for an intense front line punch this season.**

"People used to think I was just the meanest person and then they got me off the court," Adams said while Charroin nodded in agreement. "Because when I'm on the court I'm just intense. Nobody can make me smile barely."

Intense is a good word to describe both Adams and Charroin. Anyone who has ever watched an Oregon volleyball game knows that Adams and Charroin get into their roles on the court.

"We work on it, though - celebrating loud," Charroin said.

"It helps a lot and gets everyone pumped up and stuff," Adams added. "I think our intensity is probably the best part of our game."

"I do too. We're both intense," Charroin

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