

# Adams Continued from Page 5

said.

Intensity is a good leadership quality and Gregory notices that in both the middle attackers.

"Dawnn's a good leader. She's very competitive and she wants to win," Gregory said. "She's a very supportive person. She's got a lot of good leadership qualities.

"I think there are a lot of things I just said about Dawnn that are virtually the same with Mindee," Gregory said. "They are extremely aggressive in a positive light from an athletic standpoint."

The move of Adams to the middle has eased the pressure a bit on Charroin this year and has complimented her game.

"It takes a little pressure off trying to force the middle only the rotations when I was there," Charroin said. "I just like the way she plays. The hits she hits mirror what I hit and it's harder for them to defend it."

Both players give credit to seniors Stephanie Drier and Denise Kuhn for their jobs well done this year.

"I think Stephanie Drier and Denise Kuhn are awesome middle blockers," Charroin said. "I think Mindee and I are more mobile, but then (Gregory) brings in Drier. I think that was the smartest thing he did coaching wise was bring her into the lineup."

"It takes a little pressure off as middles and it gives her an opportunity to play," Adams said. "(Drier) comes in and puts the ball away. I think she's one of the most consistent players on the team."

Adams and Charroin also give credit to the Ducks' senior setter Stephanie Snyder.

"We love her. She's the best," Charroin said.

"She's a leader. She's the one that will kick you in the butt if you're not doing what you need to be doing," Adams said.

"And you respect it," Charroin added.

Neither player is worried about Snyder's replacement for next year in their classmate Molly McGrath.

"This year the middle is secondary to the outside game and next year it's going to be primary with McGrath," Adams said. "Molly loves to set the middle. She'll push it no matter where she is."

Injuries are a part of any athlete's career and both Adams and Charroin have dealt with them.

Adams redshirted her first year because of a left knee problem that required surgery. She said redshirting was the hardest part because she could not even practice until the season was over. Her knee is still not 100 percent, but it is strong enough.

"It makes you appreciate your teammates and stuff too because they help me out a lot," Adams said.

Charroin's injury was less severe and came in the form of a broken foot, but the ordeal was not

easy.

"I had just made the Olympic Sports Festival team and (the doctors) told me I wasn't going to be able to play," Charroin said.

Charroin found a good therapist after returning home to California and played in the festival. Injuries and all, coach Gregory sees nothing but improvement for his two middle attackers.

"Certainly (Charroin) has not arrived as the perfect volleyball player. She has her nights where she's unstoppable offensively," Gregory said. "But you know as is the case with a lot of sophomores and freshman, she has her matches where she struggles offensively."

Adams has taken to her new team role positively and is leading the team in blocks with a 1.0 per game mark.

"Although Dawnn often times has more spectacular blocks, Mindee statistically is getting her hands on the most balls of anybody on our team," Gregory said.

With both Adams and Charroin in the lineup, in addition to senior outside hitters Michele Krebsbach and Melissa Terzian, the Ducks have the ability to strike from anywhere at any time.

"We have more versatility and a very, very legitimate threat of attack any time that Dawnn and Mindee are in the offensive pattern," Gregory added.

Being only sophomores, Oregon fans will get to see a lot more of Adams and Charroin over the next two years.

"We just hope that (Dawnn's) serving continues to improve," Gregory said. She's one of the most devastating blockers in the Pac-10. She's the kind of blocker, defender and competitor that you would expect to find from an all-American."

Gregory sees Adams as the most versatile middle attacker for his team mostly due to her "sophisticated offensive patterns."

"I think in the Pac-10, she's doing more than anyone as far as faking this way and going somewhere else," Gregory said. "She's very deceptive, extremely quick and she has a very, very fast arm swing. She's just a fine player."

Adams, a human services major, and Charroin, a possible advertising major, were surprised that they got along so well as teammates and friends.

"We're really compatible and I didn't think we would be," Adams said while Charroin agreed.

"A lot of it has to do with playing the same position. We both realize that middle blocking isn't easy," Adams said. "It's a lot of work. Setters have the hardest job and then the middle blockers. You are always involved in something."

And Adams and Charroin are always right in the thick of the Oregon middle attack - an attack that has opponents confused and Duck fans cheering.

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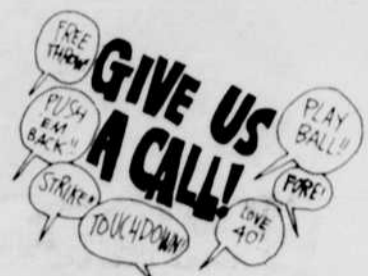
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