

Three starters return to volleyball

By Paul Morgan
Emerald Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team may be without three full-time starters and five seniors who helped the Ducks to a fourth place finish and an NCAA berth last year, but the expectations of head coach Gerry Gregory remain the same.

"We will be at least as good as we were last year," he said. "Maybe even better."

The Ducks went to the outside hitting of Melissa Terzian and Michele Krebsbach, and the sure setting of team captain Stephanie Snyder in 1989 for a team that finished 21-9 overall, and 10-8 in the Pac-10.

Oregon does return nine letter winners, but only three starters. The Ducks may be young, but they are not inexperienced. Junior middle blockers Dawnn Charroin and Mindee Adams both gained extensive experience while starting last year.

"The loss of our mainstays on offense last year, Melissa and Michele, changes us," Gregory said. "Everyone else has to pick up the slack."

"We need more balance from our attackers," he added. "We will have to spread the ball out more, we can't just set the ball high outside anymore."

Charroin, a member of the Olympic Sports Festival squad for the past two years, is one of Oregon's most talented returning starters. In 1989 she was second in kills (329), third in digs (282), and lead the team in blocks (101).

Adams returns with the added responsibility of being chosen team captain, after registering 113 blocks last season. "She is one of the best quick hitters in the Pac-10," Gregory said. "She is a real leader for us."

Junior Molly McGrath will take over as starting setter this year. "She sets a quick offense and is one of the best defenders we have," Gregory said.

Julie Jeffery, a junior outside hitter, "is one of the top setters on the team and can become a hot hitter," he said. "When she gets on a streak she is impossible to stop."

Another junior, Ali Watkins, has worked her way into a starting position as an outside hitter, and Gregory believes she is ready to do a good job.

Other returnees are Marcie Price, Jennifer Mc-



Photo by Sean Poston

Mindy Adams (left) prepares to block a shot by Jennifer McGinnis (right) in a practice session.

Ginnis, and Gretchen Hughes. Senior Kate Harper will try to come back from an injury that kept her out of last season.

Kalie Kerr and Alison MacKay may redshirt their freshman years to gain more experience with Gregory's system and collegiate volleyball.

LaReina Woods, a highly touted freshman from Corvallis and one of the top prep athletes to ever come out of Oregon, did not pass her SAT and will attend Linn-Benton Community College part-time to collect some college credits.

"Hopefully she will be prepared for college life," Gregory said. "This could really be a good benefit for her."

The Ducks opened the season at the pre-season Boise State Labor Day Classic in Boise, Idaho, August 31-September 1, and also participated in the J.M.N. Premier Tournament in Fullerton, Calif., September 6-8, featuring some of the best teams in the nation.

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