

Charroin obsessed with volleyball

Finds adjustment to new position difficult

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

To Dawnn Charroin playing volleyball is not just something she enjoys. It is an obsession.

"Volleyball is basically my life," Charroin said. "and if my volleyball is going well then so is my life."

"I plan on playing for many years to come," she said. "College is not the end of the road for me."

Charroin's junior year has been something of a transitional one. Coach Gerry Gregory decided that due to a lack of outside hitters it would be necessary to move Charroin from her natural position of middle blocker to the outside.

"Dawnn is probably a better middle blocker than outside hitter," Gregory said, "but she's made the switch for the good of the team with a good attitude."

Charroin is excited about the team's success this season, but she feels that playing a new position has prevented her from playing to her full capabilities.

"It's frustrating at times because I'm not as good at outside hitter as I am at middle blocker," Charroin said. "I feel that if I had about two more months I could be on top of my game because I'm finally beginning to understand everything about the new position."

The Ducks are currently

holding down third place in the Pacific-10 Conference with a 3-2 Pac-10 mark and an 11-4 overall record. They moved into third after splitting two matches in Los Angeles last weekend.

After getting drubbed by UCLA in three quick games, the Ducks bounced back to defeat USC for a big conference road win.

"Nobody really thought we would win either game down there," Charroin said. "but I never thought we were going to lose to USC."

Another highlight of the season for both Charroin and the Ducks was a five-game marathon victory over Oregon State at McArthur Court.

"The Oregon State game was a big win for us," Charroin said, "because they had beaten us in Fullerton (Calif.) when we really gave them the victory."

Personal success, as well as team success, is nothing new for Charroin. As a senior at Marina High School in Huntington Beach, Calif., Charroin was one of the top 10 recruits in the country. Her decision to attend Oregon caught a few people off guard.

"Some of my close friends were going to UCLA," Charroin said, "but I decided that I really wanted to get out of the state."

"Choosing Oregon was a gut

feeling," she said. "I was playing in a basketball tournament my senior year, and I got this gut feeling that Oregon was the place for me."

Charroin made an impact on the program from the very beginning. She earned a starting spot as a freshman and isn't about to give it up.

She quickly established herself as one of the Pac-10's top blockers with 1.5 blocks per game as a freshman placing her 17th in the nation.

"Dawnn is one of the best blockers in the Pac-10," Gregory said. "She's very competent in all aspects of the game and has vastly improved her serving and defense in the past two years."

Blocking and hitting are two things that Charroin feels makes her a good player, but she says a desire to get better is what really makes her tick.

"The best thing I have going for me is that I don't really feel that I am a good volleyball player," Charroin said, "and that, combined with the fact that I hate losing more than anything else, helps to make me want to improve."

Charroin has displayed her skills on the national level the past two years at the Olympic Sports Festival. She hopes that competing at that level will help lead her to a spot on the national squad in the future.

"The Olympic Festivals were great," Charroin said. "It's what made me want to see how far I can go with my game."



Photo by Sean Poston

Oregon's Dawnn Charroin considers volleyball her entire life, but it's been difficult for the Duck star this season, trying to learn a new position at outside hitter after being a middle blocker for her first two seasons at Oregon. Charroin plans to continue playing volleyball even after her college career is over.

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