



File photo
Juniors Mindee Adams and Molly McGrath (4) were Oregon's most consistent players in a 15-14 season.

Duck volleyball team hampered by injuries after starting strong

By Robert Weber
Emerald Sports Reporter

It would be easy to judge Oregon's volleyball season as a complete disappointment by looking at its 15-14 record and its seventh-place finish in the Pacific-10 Conference.

While it may be easy to come to that conclusion, it definitely wouldn't be a fair and accurate assessment of the Ducks' 1990 campaign.

The Ducks got off to a quick start, winning nine of their first ten games. This included a four-game sweep to win the Boise State Labor Day Classic tournament. After later knocking off Washington in Seattle, the Ducks were 5-4 in conference play and poised to return to the NCAAs. But it wasn't meant to be.

As injuries took their toll, Oregon dropped nine of its last 10 conference games to finish tied with Washington State and 12 games behind conference champion UCLA.

Duck coach Gerry Gregory expressed some disappointment about the season but quickly added that the squad was hobbled during the latter part of the year.

"I'm a little disappointed that we didn't win as many matches as we planned on," Gregory said, "but I'm very proud of the way the team competed with all of the injuries and adversity that we had."

"At the end of the year, virtually every starter was slowed by some type of injury," he said. "Dawnn (Charroin) had an ankle injury that turned into an Achilles' tendon problem, and Ali Watkins' ankles really bothered her throughout the last third of the season. We also lost Jennifer (McGinnis) to a broken bone in her foot."

The injuries prevented the Ducks from practicing at full strength and from improving during the last part of the year, Gregory said. Despite having to make do with stopgap lineups, the Ducks continued to fight hard each time they took the court, which pleased Gregory.

"I was very proud of the way the team responded in our games against Washington and Washington State," Gregory said. "Injuries forced us to put a makeshift lineup together, but the team played hard in two five-game matches and very nearly swept the series."

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