



Oregon's Dawn Charroin has been a big part of the team's successful defense this year, leading the Ducks in digs and blocks.

Photo by Andre Ranier

## Ducks to face tough Cougar squad

By Jayson Jacoby  
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team is currently ninth in the Pacific-10 Conference with a 2-9 league record. The Ducks have lost six of their last seven matches and are playing with two senior starters hampered by injuries.

But probably the worst news for coach Gerry Gregory's team is that tonight in Pullman, Wash., it will be facing 19th-ranked Washington State, a team in the midst of one of its best seasons ever.

The Cougars are fifth in the Pac-10 with a 6-5 record, but three of the four teams ahead of Washington State are top-ranked Stanford, fifth-ranked UCLA and 12th-ranked USC. The Cougars also boast a 19-8 season record.

Still, the Ducks seem to match up fairly well with Washington State, which beat them in three straight games on Oct. 5 in McArthur Court.

The Cougars' offense features three of the top four most efficient hitters in the league. The Carry Connection: Carri Gilley and Kerri Killebrew, who rank first and second in hitting percentage, and Carrie Couturier, ranked fourth, present an interesting contrast to Oregon's strong defense.

The Ducks are currently ranked seventh among all NCAA Division I schools in block average and are 13th in dig average.

Gregory is convinced of Washington State's offensive strength, but he isn't so sure the Ducks nationally ranked defense statistics make for an even battle.

"Washington State's offense is legitimately one of the best in the country," Gregory said. "Our defense is at times very good, but when your offense isn't working well, as ours hasn't been, you get a lot of opportunities to get digs and blocks. Statistics like that can be deceiving."

Injuries may also play a role in the Ducks' fortunes this weekend as Mindee Adams and Molly McGrath are still recovering from persistent pains.

Gregory said McGrath's back injury is improving slowly, but that she practiced and scrimmaged with the team all week and will likely start against Washington State on Friday.

Mindee Adams hasn't practiced much this week due to continuing tenderness in her

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## Jeffery trying to duplicate last season's excellence

By Jayson Jacoby  
Emerald Sports Reporter

Julie Jeffery is something of a loner.

No, the senior outside hitter for the Oregon volleyball team does not try to keep to herself all the time. But she is the only Duck to come from the state of Washington, on a team packed with players from California and Oregon.

"My freshman year it was really different (coming to Oregon)," Jeffery said. "Other than a few tournaments, I had never really seen (the Ducks) play. But after three years here, I'm just like any-

one else."

Jeffery came to Oregon from Rogers High School in Puyallup, Wash., after leading her team to three state tournament appearances and being named Most Valuable Player of her league her senior season.

She battled an early season leg injury her freshman year, but she ended the season as a starter and was named the team's most improved player.

After collecting 249 kills her sophomore season, Jeffery put down 331 kills last year to finish second on the

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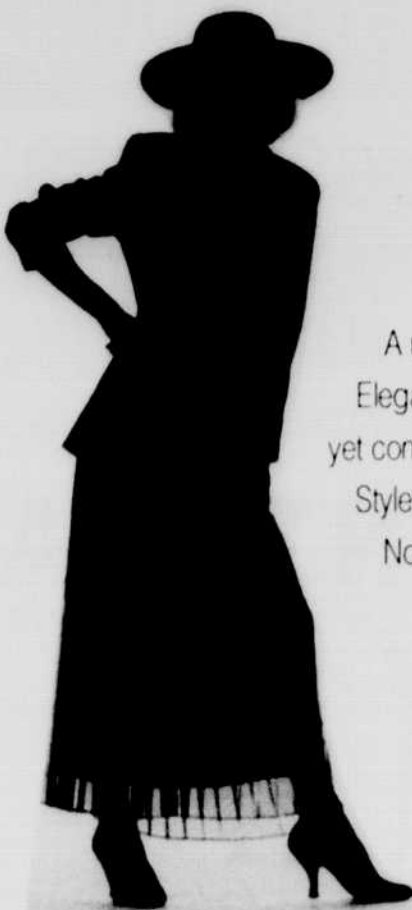
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