

SPORTS

Volleyball 'powerhouses' recruited

By Jayson Jacoby
Emerald Sports Reporter

The Oregon volleyball team received letters of intent from three highly touted prep recruits last week, including the state's player of the year.

"It's got to be one of the very best we've ever had," Oregon coach Gerry Gregory said of the 1992 recruiting class. "We've got a nice group of athletes coming in. They're all coachable, and they have some developed skills."

Oregon continued its strong in-state recruiting by signing Anna Gomez, a 5-foot-7 setter who was named as a second-team All-American last fall after leading Gresham to the state championship.

Stephanie Warren, one of the Ducks' top performers last season as a freshman, was also a Gresham standout.

Gregory said Gomez, who also plays for the Nike Northwest Juniors, one of the nation's best club teams, will compete for playing time as setter with returning sophomore Kallie Kerr.

"She can play back row, is a hard worker and an excellent leader," Gregory said of Gomez. "She has good quickness and is an accurate setter."

Amy McNeel, a 5-foot-10 all-state selection last year, also signed with Oregon. She led Centennial to a second-place finish behind Gresham at the state tournament.

"Amy is very aggressive," Gregory said. "She is a very good passer and is strong defensively. She is a very inspirational player and will be a crowd favorite."

Gregory said McNeel will push for playing time as an outside hitter.

Oregon also maintained its strong recruiting tradition in Southern California by signing Karissa Meith, a 6-foot-2 middle blocker who was a two-time all-California Interscholastic Federation South Section Most Valuable Player.

"(Meith) has refinement in her skills and is improving all the time," Gregory said. "She's a very tall player who will contribute immediately in all aspects of net play."

Recruiting a top player from an area so close to volleyball powerhouses such as UCLA seems like quite a feat, but Gregory said Oregon has a history of stealing players from California.

"We seem to have done really well in Orange County," Gregory said. He named former Oregon stars Mindee Adams, Ali Watkins and Dawn Charroin as examples. All three came from Southern California high schools.

Joining the three incoming freshmen next fall will be Emily Coleman.

The 5-foot-11 Coleman, who graduated from Ashland High School in 1991, had knee surgery last fall after a summer injury. Coleman plays setter, hitter and middle blocker and was an all-state selection in 1990.

Ducks' defense not enough for victory

By Matt Bender
Emerald Contributor

An exceptional defensive effort wasn't enough to keep an inexperienced Oregon men's club volleyball team from losing all four of its matches in a tournament last Sunday at McArthur Court.

Oregon failed to win a game in matches against the Salem Volleyball Club, the Downtown Athletic Club of Eugene and the Eugene YMCA. The Ducks lost 3-15, 8-15 to the YMCA; 5-15, 6-15 to Salem; and 5-15, 7-15 to Downtown Athletic before being eliminated in their second match against the YMCA 9-15, 10-15.

The Downtown Athletic Club defeated the YMCA in two games to win the tournament.

Oregon, a Class-A team, stepped up a division to play the Class-AA teams.

"We really haven't played at this level yet this season," said Dan Gilkison, the Oregon team captain.

"The Ducks' defense was the lone bright spot in Oregon's disappointing performance."

"We played great defense," Duck player Eric Boling said. "We just couldn't get anything going offensively."

Gilkison agreed. "We had a really hard time finishing rallies and putting the ball away," he said.

Irving Coffee and Dave Trevino's blocking led the Ducks'



Playing against Class-AA teams, the Class-A Ducks were unable to nab a victory in Sunday's tournament at McArthur Court.

strong defensive effort. Most of Oregon's offense came from the setting of Gilkison and the hitting of Hossein Mafinejad and Andrew Bauer.

The Ducks' main problem was their overall lack of experience. This year's team has seven players new to the program and no returning varsity players.

The young Ducks hope to fare better in their next two tournaments. Next week the Ducks will compete in a Class-A tournament in Salem. The following weekend the Ducks travel to Davis, Calif. to defend

their title at the Far West Regional Club Volleyball Tournament.

Gilkison said Oregon is optimistic about its chances at the regional even though none of the players making this year's trip played on last year's championship team.

The Ducks' next home date is not firmly set, but Gilkison said the team tentatively plans to host a tournament in April. Gilkison said he would also like to schedule an exhibition match at home against Oregon State sometime in the near future.

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