

VOLLEYBALL

Conway leaves Illini, bench behind

By Dave Charbonneau
Emerald Sports Editor

When Oregon's volleyball team has its home opener this Friday, one of the leaders of the team will be a player who has yet to play a single point on McArthur Court.

Anne Conway transferred from Illinois to play her senior year for the Ducks and is hoping increased playing time and an underdog role will make her experience at Oregon much better than at Illinois.

Conway will be a starter for the Ducks at the middle blocker position and will be one of only three seniors on a young Oregon team. Having a solid starting position will be something relatively new to Conway who played a utility role for the Illini.

Conway, who has competed in three Olympic Festivals, never quite understood why she found herself on the bench often at Illinois.

"I don't know what the deal was at Illinois," Conway said. "I guess my coach just saw me as more of a role player than a starter because I was versatile and because I could play left side, middle side and right. Actually, I played quite a bit and I even started a few games."

It was her chances to play in the Olympic Festivals that kept her playing volleyball.



Anne Conway, a transfer from Illinois, is hoping a change of scenery will help make her senior year a memorable one.

"Those experiences were awesome," she said. "It kept me positive about playing volleyball and reminded me how much I love the game."

Conway became so frustrated with the situation at Illinois, that she originally planned to drop volleyball altogether her senior year and concentrate on her schooling. But then she received a call from Oregon coach Gerry Gregory asking her to come to Eugene.

"Gerry called me and my parents told me it would be difficult to finish school without a scholarship," Conway said. "Gerry offered me a scholarship and a chance to play vol-

leyball again, and I took it."

Gregory said he's glad she accepted his offer.

"She's added a lot to our team," he said. "Everybody

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