

1998 Oregon Volleyball Preview

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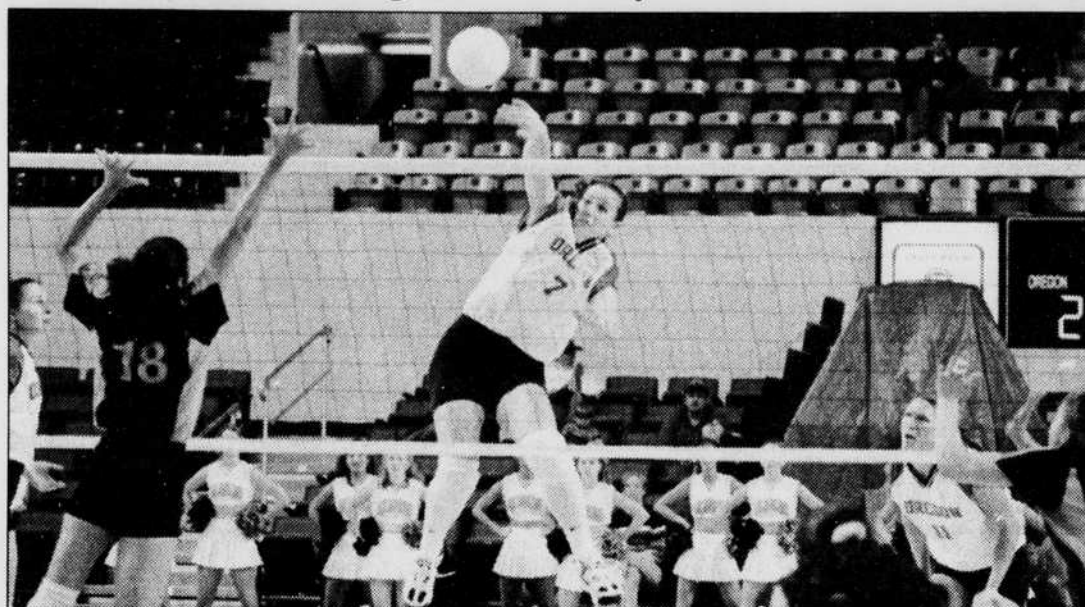
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EMERALD

Senior outside hitter Madeline Ernst will lead the Ducks as co-captain along with fellow senior Alli White. Ernst was named the team's most valuable player last year after leading the squad in kills with 363.

Volleyball: White, Ernst lead UO rebirth

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wanted the season to be over with."

Although ten new faces will be joining Ernst and four other returning players, the future looks bright.

"Cathy is feeling really good this year. She's in her own and that's because these are her recruits," Ernst said.

Perhaps the brightest spot comes from the return of 6-foot senior Alli White. White was sidelined with a knee injury early in the season — an injury that kept her from competing in the first nine games. She briefly returned only to re-aggravate a shoulder injury, causing her to miss the remaining games of the season.

This year she will be vital to the program as a middle blocker and as co-captain alongside Ernst.

"I think that's one of the most critical parts of our team being successful this season is having Alli White healthy," Nelson said.

White's 1996 season is proof of what she can do. She was the only player to start all 31 matches, accumulating 120 total blocks, 284 kills, 246 digs and 17 service aces.

Last year was tough for a player like White to watch. Certainly she would have contributed.

"It was really difficult last

year," White said. "It's hard to think about the past, but it opened my eyes to the attitude and the personalities on the court and what I could change for this year."



ERNST

With so many new players being incorporated, it's difficult to determine what the strengths of this year's team will be.

"It takes a while to get everybody up to speed in your system. What we're dealing with right now is trying to get all the young people to understand exactly what we want technically, exactly what we want tactically and then putting them into play," Nelson said.



WHITE

But these are Nelson's recruits, and she knows that they are capable of being an integral part of this team.

"In terms of their physical ability, they're great and there are definitely some instant-impact players," Nelson said. "Right now Julie Gerlach, who is a setter from Arizona, is our starting set-

ter as a freshman."

Another new part of the program is the addition of assistant coach Revis Ward-Daggett. A former head coach at Oral Roberts, Ward-Daggett led her 1995 squad to the NCAA tournament where they were eliminated in the Elite Eight by Stanford. Her six-year record was 105-85.

"What I like about Revis is that she's been a head coach for years," Nelson said. "When she's in the gym she can really identify weaknesses and knows how to improve those. That's what you want every assistant coach to have."

With the experience of the seniors, the potential of the freshmen and last year out of their system, the Ducks have only one thing on their mind: the NCAA tournament. They are confident that there is a spot waiting for them this year.

"I have a pretty good feeling we'll get to the tournament," White said. "It's amazing, the level we're at right now is probably our peak level that we were at all year last season."

Coach Nelson agrees.

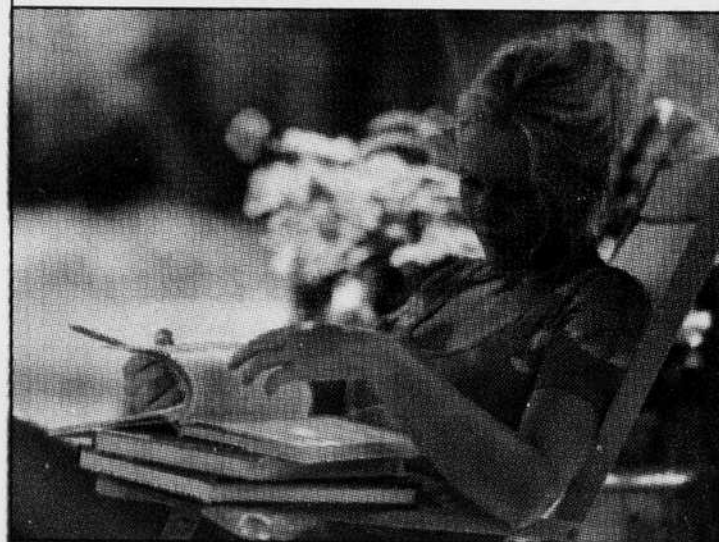
"I'm going to come right out and say it," Nelson said. "That's what we're training for, that's what we're playing for this year, and we're going to work our rears off to make sure that happens."

This is the last summer issue of the **Oregon Daily Emerald**

We'll be back September 21st with

Back to the Books

the fall orientation issue



1998 Oregon Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time			
Sept. 1	Portland St.	7 p.m.	Oct. 6	@Portland	7 p.m.
Sept. 4-5	Nike Invitational		Oct. 9	@Washington	7 p.m.
Sept. 4	N. Arizona	12 p.m.	Oct. 11	@Washington St.	1 p.m.
	Cal Poly SLO	7:30 p.m.	Oct. 16	California	7 p.m.
Sept. 5	Denver	12 p.m.	Oct. 18	Stanford	1 p.m.
	Fresno St.	7:30 p.m.	Oct. 22	USC	7 p.m.
Sept. 7	Utah St.	5 p.m.	Oct. 25	UCLA	1 p.m.
Sept. 11-12	Minnesota Nike Invitational		Oct. 30	@Arizona	7 p.m.
Sept. 11	Minnesota	8 p.m.	Nov. 1	@Arizona St.	11 a.m.
Sept. 12	Missouri	10 a.m.	Nov. 6	Washington St.	7 p.m.
	Wake Forest	6 p.m.	Nov. 8	Washington	1 p.m.
Sept. 18	Oregon St.	7 p.m.	Nov. 13	@Stanford	7 p.m.
Sept. 23	@Cal State Fullerton	7 p.m.	Nov. 15	@California	1 p.m.
Sept. 25	@UCLA	7 p.m.	Nov. 20	@Oregon St.	7 p.m.
Sept. 27	@USC	11 a.m.	Nov. 27-28	LBSU Thanksgiving Tournament	
Oct. 2	Arizona St.	7 p.m.	Nov. 27	vs. Oral Roberts	5 p.m.
Oct. 4	Arizona	1 p.m.	Nov. 28	vs. Illinois St.	12 p.m.