Continued from Page 1

until her legs began to grow and cartwheels became dangerous that she realized she may have to shift her focus

"Once my legs started hitting the ceiling fan in our living room I knew that was pretty much it for gymnastics," Gerlach says.

She began to think more seriously about volleyball during her sophomore year in high school when colleges began to take notice of her play, as well as her legs. Nelson says Gerlach's height and athleticism are primary reasons for recruiting her to Oregon.

Gerlach was also pursued by Arizona, which she said made her think that maybe she could go somewhere with volleyball.

"I just never pictured myself going on to a Pac-10 school. Gerlach says. "When I see my name on the sheet as a starter, I still can't believe it. I have to look at it a couple of times before it sinks in.'

When No. 19 Arizona visits Oregon this weekend, they will remember Gerlach.

In her final year at Horizon High School, Gerlach led her team to a thirdplace finish in the state tournament, and ended the season with 352 assists, 84 kills and 49 service aces Her contributions did not go unnoticed: She was named the Desert Valley Region most valuable player and Scottsdale/Northeast Valley player of the

Gerlach had no qualms

about passing up the opportunity to play for a ranked team. While starring at Horizon High, Nelson brought Gerlach to Oregon for a recruiting vis-

"As soon as I visited Oregon I knew that this was where I wanted to go," Gerlach says. "I miss my friends and family in Arizona, but I'm excited about moving to a new place with new people."

With the stats she has posted at Oregon thus far, it's hard to believe that Gerlach did not begin her career as a setter. She made the switch during her sophomore year after trying it in practice. To Nelson that was a benefit for the Oregon volleyball pro-

"The fact that she's not

tapped out or going to get tapped out is a plus," Nelson says. "Her potential is only going to grow.'

While most freshman spend their Friday nights trying to become familiar with the local scene, Gerlach prepares for a weekend of intense competition.

Scheduling problems and dorm life will become distant memories when the 18-year-old steps onto the court and exudes the confidence that she rightfully owns. It's not the typical life of a freshman, but Gerlach wouldn't have it any other way. It's not enough to be known as the best setter at Oregon, she wants to compete in an NCAA tournament.

If that should happen, Gerlach may find that she isn't able to blend in quite

Julie Gerlach File



WYEAR: **HOMETOWN:** Scottsdale, Ariz. SIZE: 6-foot POSITION: Setter

■ STATS: Second in the Pacific-10 Conference and 12th in the NCAA in assists with 13.62 assists per game ... against Wake Forest recorded a season-high 76 assists, the highest total in the Pac-10 thus far this season and good enough for seventh on Oregon all-time single-match list ... assisted on a season-high six blocks against Missouri ... has recorded 613 of the Ducks' 707 total assists this season ... one of three Ducks, along with seniors Madeline Ernst and Alli White, to play in all 45 games in 1998 ... honorable mention all-American at Scottsdale's Horizon High School her senior year ... older sister Jen is on a volleyball scholarship at Missouri, which the Ducks beat in five games Sept. 12.

Emerald

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Come Make a Difference!

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: poster crew needed to spread the word about Cultural Forum events. Must be dependable and free twice a month for 2-3 hours. Contact Jessie Johnson at 346-0007 or visit the Cultural Forum, EMU Suite 2.

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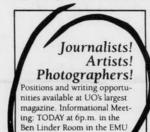
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If you would like to have your name included in the directory, you can sign up at: Office of Human Resources, 463 Oregon Hall through October 9, 1998.

You must show verification of current UO enrollment. You must be a fall term student.

For more info call Karen Logvin at

346-2962,TTY 346-0852.



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