

Volleyball

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become. In her first collegiate competition, the University Park/Holiday Inn Classic, she recorded 23 kills and 23 digs to earn all-tournament honors.

The following season was just as bright for each, as White led the squad with 120 blocks and was second with 284 kills and 246 digs, and Ernst was tops among returning players with 14 double-figure kill matches and had three double doubles (double-digit kills plus double-digit blocks and digs).

It seemed as though no matter how different the two were, together they would turn the Oregon volleyball program into a winning entity.

Unfortunately, 1997 had an unexpected twist.

White suffered a knee injury during the preseason, causing her to miss the first nine matches. After playing sparingly, she reaggravated a shoulder injury and missed the last five matches. Coincidentally, White chose Oregon because she felt it was a school that she would enjoy even if she wasn't playing volleyball.

"I was always told to pick the school you want to go to instead of picking it for sports," White says. "Because if something were to happen and you get injured and never play again, you've got to like the school."

Fortunately, White's injuries were not career-ending, and she joined Ernst this year as co-captain. Both are back to their old ways — leading the team in kills in almost every match — and have found a common ground.

"Things have just changed over the years," Ernst said. "You grow up and you mature and you learn more about the person. I look back

and laugh because that was ridiculous. I didn't even know her."

As the season's end nears, and Oregon plays its last home match this weekend, both will be remembered by their peers for their perseverance. And no matter what the Ducks' final record might be, their stats indicate they have never given up on this team.

"I remember feeling my first year like halfway through the season that some of the team had given up," White says. "I always told the coaches never ever let me be that way."

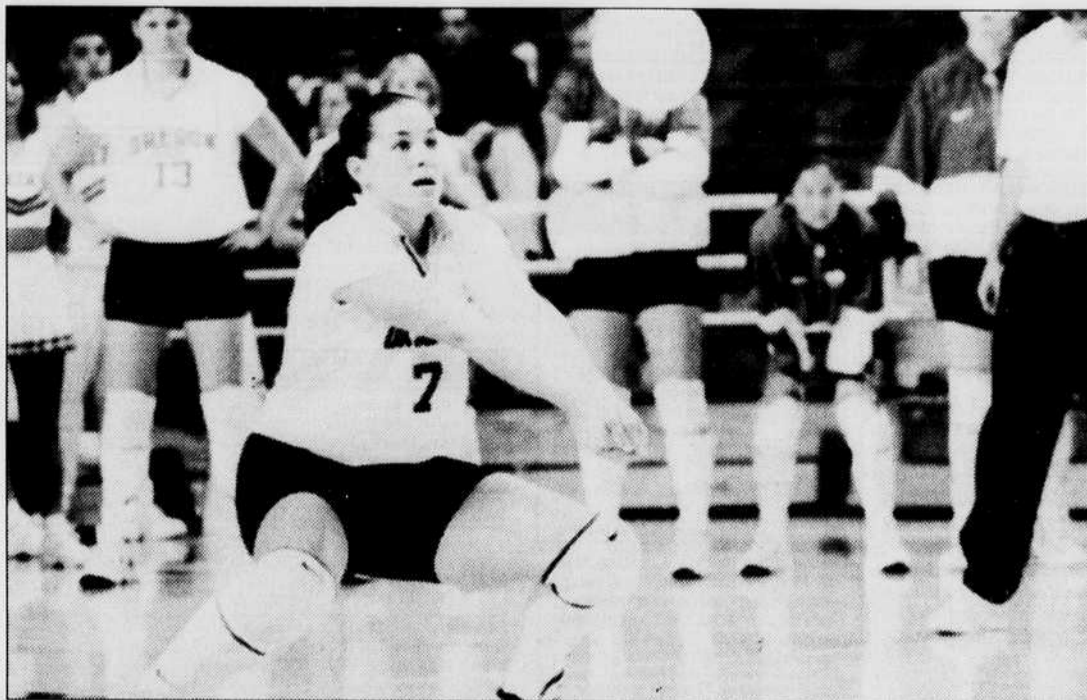
White and Ernst are the backbone of a young team this year, and they are setting an example. They have matured, overcome differences and have survived consecutive losing seasons. Ernst has emerged as an all-American candidate, and White has dealt with the injuries that interrupted her stellar career.

"They are obvious leaders," Oregon head coach Cathy Nelson says. "The team voted them as captains, so clearly the team feels they are leaders."

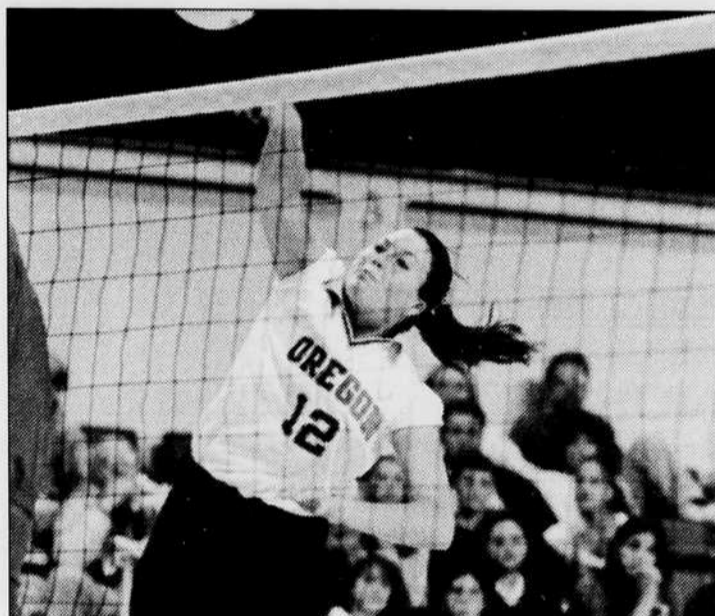
And clearly they accept the challenge.

"I was thinking," White says, pondering her early clashes with Ernst. "Here you have this college volleyball team. It's not like a high school team where everyone comes from the same place. Here, it's everyone coming together from different places with different personalities. You're here to be a family. Once you accept and respect people for those differences, I think it's easier."

Soon these parallel forces will stand alone. But if they truly are family, both White and Ernst will be mentioned in the same breath for years to come.



Matt Hankins/Emerald



Matt Hankins/Emerald

Oregon seniors Madeline Ernst and Alli White overcame differences to become powerful leaders and potent forces for the Oregon volleyball team.

Sports briefs

Oregon crew

The Oregon men's and women's Club Sports crew teams travel to Seattle to compete in the Head of the Lake Regatta. The three-mile timed event will take place on Sunday, Nov. 8, and feature national powers Washington, Puget Sound, and Seattle Pacific.

According to team coordinator Ruth Golar, Washington is among the teams to beat. The Huskies "are at the top of the competition," Golar said. "They have typically won all of the big races across the country every year for the last five or six years."

Coach Phil Holmes feels the Ducks are ready for the challenge.

"The Seattle Pacific men won it last year, and we beat them in the spring, blew them away," Holmes said.

Golar also feels the teams have great potential for the regatta.

"There is a lot of potential for the team," Golar said. "We did really well last year, and we have

a lot of returning varsity this year."

Ice Hockey

Was it justifiable or injustice?

This was the topic of conversation that would not evaporate this off-season throughout Washington's ice hockey team. The Huskies had finished tied for fifth in the Pacific-8 Conference with UCLA because one of their non-conference games had been canceled. The Pac-8 chose UCLA to participate in the tournament regardless, creating a bitterness that almost induced the Huskies to drop from the conference.

Their participation in the Pac-8 this season was by no means challenged by the Ducks, who swept their Northwest foe last season and look to do the same this weekend in a three-game road trip. Oregon will take on the Huskies on Friday and Saturday in Seattle and wrap up the trip at Western Washington in a non-league game Sunday.

The Ducks are familiar with

the Huskies' game plan, but the same can't be said for Western Washington. "We know how Washington plays, and we put them away last year, but we really don't know what to expect from Western Washington," said Oregon forward Thomas Mele.

As far as the wear and tear of a strenuous three-game road trip, Mele said, "It may be a factor if we were playing USC or Stanford, but not this weekend. No one wants to play three games in a weekend, but we'll be all right."

Rugby

Oregon successfully tested the waters at the Division I-A level last weekend with convincing victories over Washington and Western Washington. The next step is more like a leap, with international competitor Trinity College coming to Eugene on Sat-

urday at 11a.m.

The contest at South Bank Field (next to the Autzen footbridge) will be the Ducks' only home match of the fall. Trinity travels from Abbotsford, B.C., Canada, to attempt to contain the Ducks' offense. That offense is propelled by Cal Taylor, who was clutch for the Ducks last weekend with two tries, including a game-winning penalty kick against the Huskies.

Other stellar performances last weekend included the play of Avery Jeffers, who also recorded two tries, and Darren Haynes, who scored one. Oregon's practice this week will be accompanied by intense film sessions where the Ducks will try to expand their knowledge of Trinity's unfamiliar squad.

Ultimate

The Oregon men's and women's Club Sports ultimate frisbee teams will begin their quest to reach the national championships in spring when they play their first tournament of the

season this weekend in Santa Clara, Calif.

The regional tournament is one of the most important of the season, and will feature some of the best teams on the West Coast and in the country.

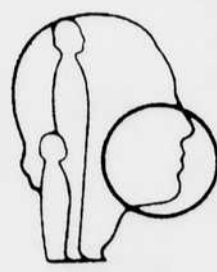
Both teams expect to have a successful tournament.

"We have a great bunch of women out this year," said women's team member Tiana Grzebik. "And we have a strong group of returners. Things are looking good."

Oregon soccer

The men's club soccer improved their season record to 6-1-2 with a weekend sweep. Its three victories were over University of Portland, Central Oregon and Umpqua Community College. Leading the Ducks in scoring were Chad Wright, with three goals, and Nick Sorch, with two.

The team's next game will be today at 3:30 pm at South Bank Field against Lane Community College.



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