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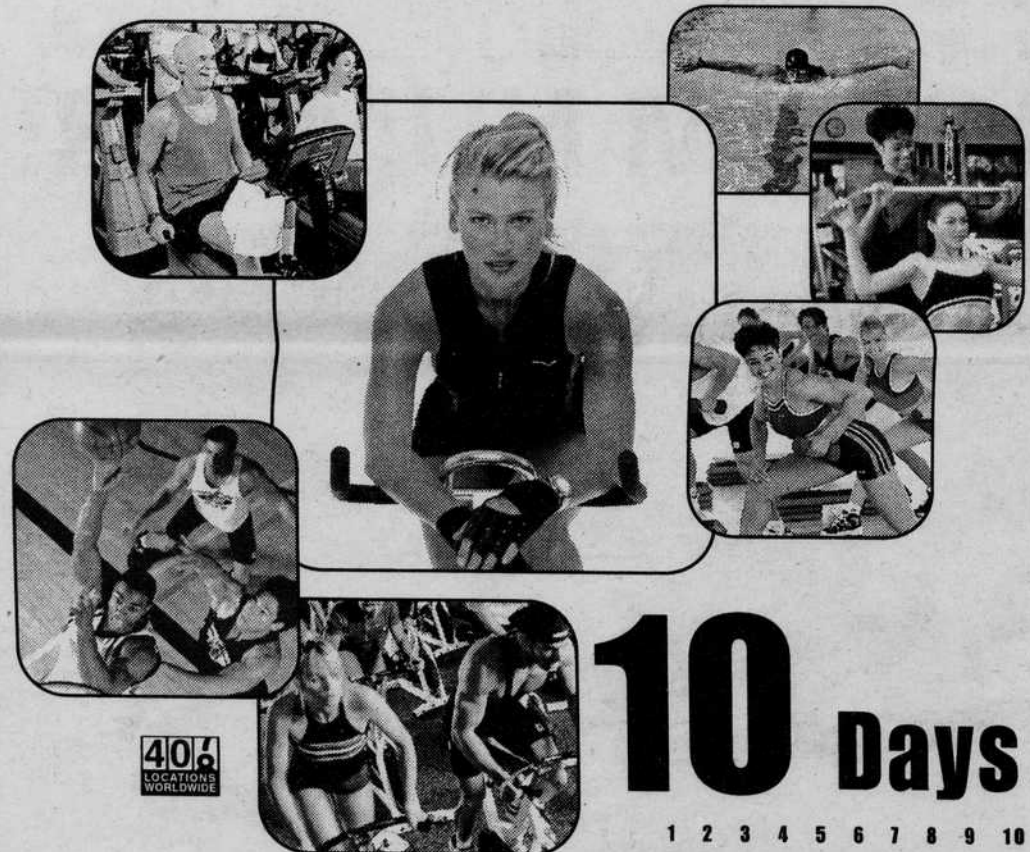
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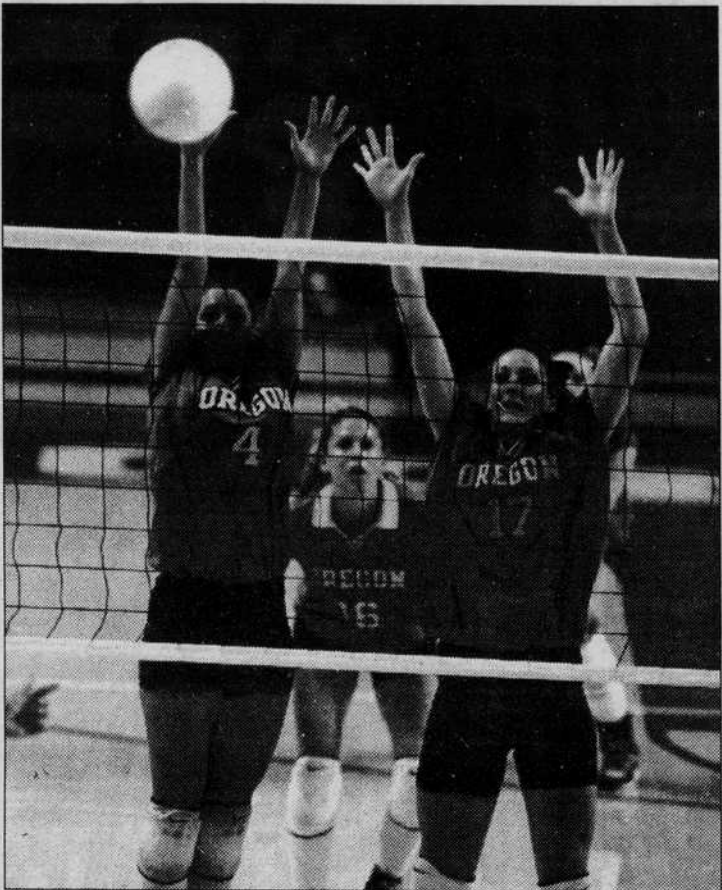
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Offer good with this ad only. Limit one per person; first time guests only. Local residents only. Must use same club for entire term. Days must be used consecutively, and between the hours of 8AM and 9PM only. No other discounts can be used with this offer. Must be at least 18 years old, or 17 with parent. No cash substitutions. Incentives may be offered for enrolling in other memberships. Babysitting available for a nominal fee. Facilities and amenities may vary per location. Not all clubs open 24 hours every day. Promotion available at participating 24 Hour Fitness locations only. Offer does not apply to Sporting Clubs by 24 Hour Fitness. See club for complete details. Offer must be activated by 10/8/00.

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Emerald
Junior Julie Gerlach (4) and senior Halie Mazza (17) join new head coach Carl Ferreira in bringing the volleyball squad out of the Pac-10 basement and to the top of the set.

Under new tutelage, Ducks spike doubts

■ A pitiful season last year left the Oregon volleyball team hungry for bigger and better performances in 2000

By Adam Jude
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the Oregon volleyball squad, there's only one way to go: Up.

Following a dismal 7-20 1999-00 season — in which the team won only one of 18 Pacific-10 Conference matches — the Ducks have a new head coach in Carl Ferreira, a new style and most importantly, a new attitude.

Ferreira comes to Eugene with lofty expectations: Become one of the top 20 teams in the nation and make it to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1989.

"We need to have a common vision," said Ferreira, who compiled a 148-56 coaching record in six

Much of the team success this year will depend on the health of its four upperclassmen, particularly junior Monique Tobbagi. The 6-foot outside hitter, who led the 1999 squad in kills per game and service aces, was sidelined for part of last season with a nagging foot injury and missed one match in the San Antonio tournament this month due to a concussion.

"There's definitely going to be a change," Tobbagi said. "We're putting the past behind us. There's a new face to Oregon volleyball and we're going to make it happen this year."

Along with Tobbagi, senior outside hitter Amy Banducci, senior middle blocker Halie Mazza and junior setter Julie Gerlach will anchor the squad in its quest for an NCAA tournament berth.

"We need them to really buy into what we're doing and provide direction for the new players," Ferreira said of implementing his system. "They're doing great so far. I'm really happy with them."

One major disadvantage that Oregon faced last year was a lack of size at the net. In Amanda Porter, a 6-foot-2 middle blocker, the Ducks may have found the height they desperately needed. The Idaho transfer, who played for Ferreira last year, will be a key contributor off the bench.

Porter said the team is gaining confidence as it gets more acquainted with Ferreira's method.

"The system is so competitive," she said. "Competing is the main thing. Everyone is like, 'We're going to win,' and I love hearing that, especially since I already know the system and now people are believing in it just like I do. It's awesome."

Ferreira designed his system around the Ducks' strength: Quickness at the setting positions. Gerlach — who ranks fifth on the Ducks all-time assist list with 1,941 — and sophomore Sydney

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Monique Tobbagi
junior, outside hitter »

years at Cal-State Bakersfield and Idaho. "We need to prepare 30 times and give the same effort and the same intensity each game."

While Ferreira has high hopes of rejuvenating his newly-inherited program, his visions will not come easy in the country's toughest conference, which had four teams finish in the nation's top-20 last year.

"It's simple to be optimistic in August, but competition reveals character and exposes what you're made of," said Ferreira, who began the season with four straight wins in leading the Ducks to a championship trophy at the USTA/Hampton Inn Tournament in San Antonio on Sept. 2. "I feel good about heading into the season. I have a lot of confidence in what we do."