

Karen Iiams: a spark of personal

By Ann Breyne
Of The Print

Karen Iiams throws pots, designs T-shirts, makes posters, and still finds time to be a top notch woman athlete.

At the College, Iiams participates in volleyball, indoor track, track and field and other activities. She is deeply interested in art and would like to teach it as well as coach track.

Iiams is primarily a setter on the women's volleyball team. Setters have contact with the ball twice as much as anyone else making it a difficult job.

"Karen's job isn't easy," said Coach Mary Rubright. "She hasn't really played in the role of a hitter, but in some of our offenses she has had to. She's really adjusted well to it though."

In high school Iiams lettered three years in volleyball and four in track. At Centennial High School her discus record of 109'7" still stands. She also holds CCC's record of 39'2" in the shot put.

Iiams is enthusiastic about women's sports. She feels that track will retain its popularity while volleyball comes to the surface.

"When it comes to using the gym, the boys come first. Women, hopefully, will emerge as equals," Iiams said.

The proposal to abolish football and possibly all sports disturbs Iiams.

"It will hurt the school," Iiams said. "It wouldn't seem right — a school without

sports. The majority of the activities are sports."

"I haven't found any negative attitudes from teachers," Iiams said. "A few have commented that jocks wouldn't get through their class easy. That's it though."

The volleyball team won the state tournament last Saturday and boasts a 22-2 record.



Karen Iiams
... top notch athlete

According to Iiams it is mostly athletes who attend their games. She says their record has contributed to a large turnout.

Iiams was recruited by head coach Roger Smith. She was planning on Mt. Hood but wouldn't have come to sports. She registered at the College last day possible and was recruited for volleyball.

"I recruited Karen because of her leadership and athletic ability. She is probably the most team-oriented athlete I've ever coached," Smith said.

"I feel that competition has been there since high school. There we were, working on things, building skills," Iiams said. "Now we're perfecting them, not worrying much on the basic skills."

"Coaching has also improved," Iiams said. "In high school there wasn't much coaching there is."

Iiams receives three tuition waivers each for volleyball, indoor track and field. She is also employed as a lab assistant in the PE department under Kathie Wilson.

Iiams got started in sports because she wanted to beat a girl she didn't like. "I started only in the sixth grade," Iiams said. "I had to wait until seventh grade to compete. When I did, I walked all over her record."

"I stayed with sports because I love the people, the competition and the challenge," Iiams said.

Rubright cites Karen as having a lot of talent and as being a strong competitor. "She just never gives up," Rubright said.

"Karen is an integral part of the team. I see no reason why she can't play volleyball at a four-year university," Rubright said.

Iiams looks forward to competing in a year school. She is leaning toward Oregon State and Oregon College of Education as likely choices. OCE has a strong volleyball track team but no volleyball team.

"I probably won't compete at the state level," Iiams said. "The track club area just aren't that competitive these days."

Iiams still has both track seasons to go.

"I'm looking for Karen to go over 40' in the shot put. Then she'll qualify for the national ranking," Smith said. "Track will tell."

Women take regionals

The College's women's cross country team took the Region 18 championships last weekend in Eugene and are heading for the national championships in Tuscon, Ariz., this weekend.

"We put out a good team effort," Coach Roger Smith said.

The grouping was close with Lisa Thomas running second; Sally Arthur, third; Jean Thomas, Jean Sandwick, Vickie Packer, Angela Cotton and Barbara Young in places fifth through ninth. Mary Rammer was eleventh.

"Sally Arthur did an outstanding job. Jean and Sheryl also did well," Smith said. "The others had a bad meet."

At nationals, the teams to beat are Florida, Allegheny, New York, Penna. and Glendale. Individual competition is known because of the variation in courses and times.

"We've done what we planned and that's to become national contenders," Smith said. "We'll be elated if we come back in the top five, but our intent is to win it."

Women volleyball team captures state crown

The College's volleyball team went through the state tournament without a loss to claim the state title for the 1977 season.

The Cougars began the weekend with an easy win over Linn-Benton Community College 15-4 and 15-8.

However, Clackamas had a tougher time with Central Oregon as they struggled to win 16-14 and 15-11 in competition on Friday.

They moved their record to 3-0 as they breezed by Chemeketa Community College 15-3, 15-10 as Coach Mary Rubright elected to go with her substitutes for much of the second game.

In their final match of the tournament, the Cougars took on Umpqua Community College and as Rubright said, "the team really put it together," as they won the first game 15-4 in just 10 minutes and rebounded from an 11-1 deficit to win 15-13 to claim

the Oregon Community College Athletic Association State title.

"That final match was definitely our best match, both in terms of playing our best and importance. If we would have lost to Umpqua, there would have been a three-way tie for first place. Then the title would have depended on points and I honestly don't know who would have won," Rubright said.

"Over all, the tournament wasn't as easy as I thought it would be, and in some of those matches it was a real struggle to win," Rubright said. "However, injuries played a key part in our lack of sharpness and perhaps we were a little overconfident, considering the fact that we had beaten most of these teams before."

Hampered by injuries throughout the weekend were Tammy White, with a sprained ankle; Verna Simmons, with sore ligaments in her foot; and Monica Reed, who has ankle problems.

Selected to the tournament's all-star teams were Tammy Hinds and Karen Iiams on the first team, and White and Simmons on the second team despite being hampered by injuries.

The Region 18 Volleyball Tournament is scheduled to be played at Clackamas next Friday and Saturday with teams from Blue Mountain Community College, representing the Southeast, and Clackamas and Clark Community College representing the West.

The Tournament is scheduled to begin Friday at 11 a.m. with Treasure Valley taking on Clark and Clackamas playing Blue Mountain. The winners play at 2 p.m. and the losers play at 5 p.m.

The winners advance to the championship match Saturday at 10 a.m. This is a double elimination tournament.

The first two teams then advance to the national tournament to be held on Nov. 23, 24 and 25 at Cantonville, Mass.

