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Professor Elaine Dreidame Quite a Coach of Volleyball and Basketball

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DAYTON, Ohio, January 26, 1972 --- A Dayton newspaper man watching Professor Elaine Dreidame put her University of Dayton volleyball girls through a workout 13 months ago couldn't make up his mind whether he should think of her as young and cute with a pert figure, or one who might deck you with a karate chop.

Miss Dreidame does have the cute figure and one wouldn't doubt that she has a karate chop up her sleeve if one were needed.

But regardless of her physical attributes Miss Dreidame is proving to be quite a coach of women's volleyball and basketball on the University of Dayton campus. She packed her volleyball girls, who were 18-5 during the regular season, into cars last weekend for a state championship trip to Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and drove back with a championship smile on her lovely face.

Her girls had proved to be number one among the 19 university teams at the event. On Friday they waded through Ohio State, 15-0, 15-6; Baldwin Wallace, 10-15, 15-11 and 15-10 and lost to Ashland, 10-15, 10-14. Saturday they copped the title with a 15-9, 15-7 wallop of Wooster, gained revenge 15-4 and 15-5 against Ashland and knocked off the state champions of two years running, Mt. St. Joseph of Cincinnati, 13-8 and 15-11.

Now UD's Assistant Professor has two tasks left for this weekend and next week. She packs her volleyball girls into cars again this weekend for a trip to Wooster and the Midwest Regional championship against teams from Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. The teams there will represent one-two in each state and six at-large crews.

That task out of the way, Miss Dreidame will return to Dayton for the opening of the 12-game basketball season on Tuesday, February 1, at 7 p.m. in the UD Arena against Miami University.

Miss Dreidame apparently looks forward to the coming season since she has six varsity girls from last year's 11-5 team and Ohio Valley League Tournament winner. She did lose her two top scorers, Linda O'Keefe and Jan Deters, both of Dayton, but, as she puts it, "We have good personnel back and the newcomers coming from high schools are better trained. Each year these women have better skills, know the terms and techniques, and generally are better prepared to play the sport."

Majors from psychology, pre-med, mathematics, elementary education and physical education make up the squad this winter. Carol Condon of Birmingham, Michigan, a junior math major; Sue Condy, Tappan, New York, sophomore; Jan Grady, Silver Springs, Maryland, sophomore; and Pat Palcic, sophomore, all physical education majors, are the veterans on this team.

Thelma Cromartie, whose father is a Dayton physician, is a pre-med major, Debbie Gapinski of Cincinnati, and Pat Penders from Pleasantville, New Jersey, are the promising newcomers. Miss Gapinski is a junior while the other two are freshmen.

When these women get down to their eight-minute, four-quarters game, they will have goals in mind through the 12-game slate. They want the league tournament championship and then a solid crack at the state. The league championship play is February 28 and 29 at the state champions' home, Mt. St. Joseph of Cincinnati, and the state play is at Cedarville on March 2 through 4.

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