

Grapplers sweep mats with U of C

by En Solite

This past weekend the Golden Bears wrestling team proved why it has been rated the number two team in Canada. Friday night the east gym was the site of a massacre when the Bears demolished Northern Montana college by a score of 48-16.

The team was led by Scott Tate, Mark Yurick, and Earl Binder who recorded impressive pins. Glenn Purych, Pierre Pomerleau and Marc Landry won their matches by decision. Al Harmon, Adrian Man, and Geoff Owen won by default.

Saturday, the grapplers amassed a total of 82 team points while their closest rival, the U of C could only manage 51 points. An ecstatic coach John

Barry gives a great deal of credit to the trainer Doug Gilroy who kept the team healthy and has put a number of athletes back on the mats. For example, Mark Yurick, having undergone knee surgery in early November, wrestled in his first match this weekend. Yurick was brilliant and easily captured the 158 pound weight class.

Of the eleven weight classes the Bears entered they placed ten times in the top three. The champions included Al Harman (110), Glenn Purych (134), Shaun Holmstrom (142), and Pierre Pomerleau (167). Second place finishes were won by Earl Binder, and Kelly Rich while Marc Landry and Geoff Owen placed third.

This weekend half the squad will be travelling to the Guelph invitational.

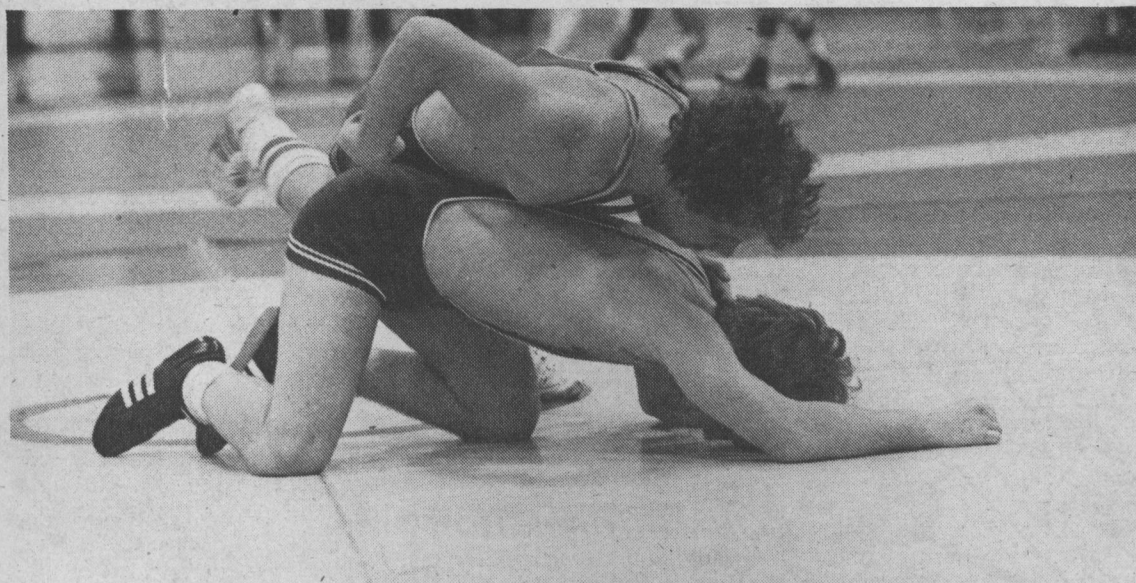


photo Brad Keith

Clinical tests show U of A matmen clean up in 10 out of 11 matches.

Bears warm up

Hugh Hoyles, mens volleyball coach, described the weekend's results at "face value" as a "discouraging experience". The Bears competing with the defending senior Canadian and CIAU champions managed a sixth place.

Hoyles mentions the meet was not a CIAU event and the results do not indicate "the end of the world". Also, Hoyles believes if competition had not been so tough in their pool the U of A would have placed better.

The tournament can be looked at positively, Hoyles

believes, partly because the meet supplied the team with needed playing experience after a long Christmas break.

A big factor with the Bears this year has been Brian Watson. Watson scouts other teams and helps the Bears analyse the opposition and themselves. Hoyles mentions Watson is an excellent game analyst and his different approach to volleyball is valuable.

In total, Hoyles believes the preparation for matches is good. Rather it is the team's execution of play that will have to be worked on.

New, improved Pandas

According to Pandas volleyball coach Pierre Baudin, last weekend was only 70% kind to his team. The International tournament of champions, held in Calgary, featured the nation's top teams in a best of five round robin format. The Pandas missed the playoff round and ended in fifth place.

Still, Baudin is "not too disappointed" perhaps because their goal was not just to win the meet. First of all the Pandas were using new offense and defense systems.

Baudin emphasizes the importance of players being experienced with a system because volleyball relies so much on reflex response. Consequently, Baudin attributes a 3-1 loss the U of C to an unfamiliarity with the new system.

Baudin goes on to mention there were "a lot of mix-ups with the new system" during a 3-1 loss to Mount Royal. In particular, Baudin mentions the rookies had problems with the new playing style.

The Pandas toughest

challenge came against the U of S Huskiettes. Baudin says the team approached the strong U of S squad planning to go to a fast outside game.

The Pandas "did just that" Baudin comments, but lost a one game lead to be defeated 3-1. In particular Baudin blames poor service reception for the loss. Against the Huskiettes Baudin believes the new system was not at fault. Baudin is encouraged by the situation and points out

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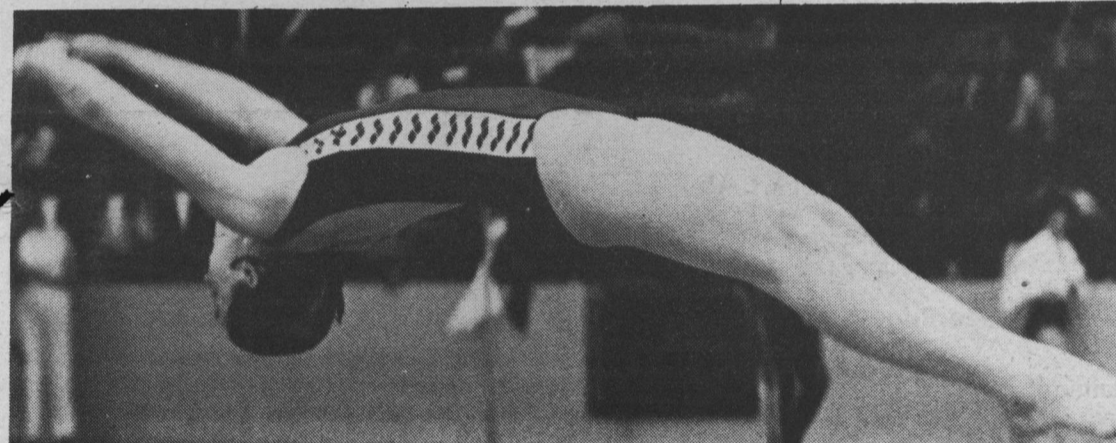


photo Russ Sampson

U of A divers placed well against UBC.

Small but mighty

In spite of facing the defending Western champion UBC swim team, John Hogg's small U of A squad placed well in several events. UBC won the meet, but the margin of victory was limited, especially in the mens events.

The U of A came out of the Friday meeting with such good placings in the mens that Hogg believes it can "give the guys a little bit of heart" for the next CIAU meet.

For example, Dave Long won the 800m freestyle and freshman Dwight Manning placed second in the 200m freestyle event. Brent DeBrisay took first place in the 400m freestyle and the U of A handily won the 400m relay.

The women's team gained some good results too, winning the 200m freestyle relay and S. Slavin took the 50m backstroke for the women.

U of A divers also placed well with Steve Stutt taking the mens and A. Godfrey taking the womens events. Stutt went on to take the 3m event. Hogg mentions UBC did not have Don Lieberman, the defending CIAU diving champion in the meet. Against UBC Hogg was

pleased with the mens performances especially because UBC had great depth.

The next challenge for the U of A came Saturday against Central Washington State and Pacific Luthern. The men lost to WCS who had good depth by their sheer numbers. However, the U of A, according to Hogg performed quite well.

In particular, Manning won the 800 freestyle, DeBrisay the 200m freestyle and Dave Long

took second in the 200m butterfly.

Hogg emphasizes the U of A team is small and is at a disadvantage to teams that can field large numbers. In any case though, the U of A is "getting good performance swims" and Hogg agrees the team is on the right track where training is concerned.

Presently, the squad is preparing for the Canada West Feb. 14 to 17 meet in Vancouver.




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