

Mark Bourassa of the U of A Judo club is on the bottom of this exchange with Kevin Krebs from Edson. Around 75 competitors from all around Alberta competed at the U of A Invitational over the weekend. The U of A club won three firsts and a third place in the 12 weight divisions (seven men's, five women's).

photo Rob Schmidt

Bears look strong after NCAA tour

by Philip Preville

Coach Don Horwood calls it "learning a few lessons." On paper it's called taking a few losses, but Horwood's view is not without merit. What else would you call three relatively close losses to three Division One NCAA schools?

Over the last week, the Bears basketball team lost to the University of Nevada - Reno (83-67), Pepperdine University (Malibu, California) (82-69), and Cal-State University at Fullerton (83-50). All three schools have excellent basketball programs, collectively producing at least four NBA draftees last year and an equal number in previous years.

The Bears did have a realistic shot at winning two of the three games, but failed to produce the small miracle required to do so. Alberta battled to within two points of Nevada — Reno with eight minutes left, but ran out of gas from there.

Horwood said the Bears were "outstanding" against Pepperdine, the school that has won the NCAA's Western Collegiate Athletic Conference six of the past seven years, and boasts of such top-name alumni as Boston Celtics' guard Dennis Johnson.

Mike Suderman played well in both those games, scoring 22 points

each time. Chris Toutant tallied 14 points in the Nevada — Reno game. David Youngs, receiving extra playing time thanks to an injury to red hot Bear point guard Cliff Rowein, rose to the occasion with a 16-point performance vs Nevada.

The Cal-State-Fullerton game, however, was a true "lesson." The Bears learned the true meaning of "tough, physical defense" and found themselves quite frustrated throughout.

"They were a mean team," said Horwood. Mike Kornak was the Bears' top scorer with 12 points.

Despite the losses, the ever-optimistic Horwood called the trip a confidence builder for the Bears. "Keeping up with high calibre teams the way we did is definitely an accomplishment," he said. "There are guys on the team like Chris Toutant and Dean Peters who remember what it was like three years ago. We would go down there and get demolished by 40 and 50 points."

"There is no doubt in our minds that we can beat anyone in the country."

Free Shots: Don Horwood will be in the studio live with **John Short** for **Sportstalk** on 126 CFRN from 6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Bears volleyballers earn split on B.C. swing

by Alan Small
UBC 3 Bears 0
Bears 3 Vikings 0

The Bears volleyball team showed some encouraging signs this week-

end with a split on the west coast. Alberta lost their first match against UBC in three straight games 10-15, 12-15, 13-15, but the scores were close, which is an improve-

ment over their matches with UBC last year.

"The guys got uptight, they put pressure on themselves," head coach Pierre Baudin said. "We had

strong attacks, but we had poor service reception and our defence lacked some killer instinct.

"We had to work our butts off for our points while they got four or

five easy ones," Baudin added.

Dean Weller lead the Bears with 14 kills and John MacKinnon chipped in 13.

"We can beat UBC," Baudin said, "and we'll have to make the playoff."

The Bears had much more success against a young Victoria Vikings squad the next night, winning in three straight 16-14, 15-5, 15-6.

Not bad for a team that only won one game out of ten against the Vikings last year.

"Victoria was pumped for the first game and plugged up the middle," Baudin said, "we had little success at first because that's where we wanted to attack. But when we went outside, we had no opposition at all."

Both Weller and MacKinnon continued their outstanding play, contributing 13 kills each.

"We also had better blocking against Vic," Baudin said. This was true as they had 17 stuff blocks, compared to the seven they had against UBC. Ben Spiller alone had five stuffs for the Golden Bears.

"Victoria has a young and enthusiastic team, but like most young teams, they fold under pressure," Baudin said. "They have a gambling defence which stops everything up the middle, but once we adjusted our attacks in the second and third games, we dominated and the score showed it," Baudin added.

The Bears next game is against the University of Calgary Dinosaurs in the Main Gym, Friday at 8 pm. They also play the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns on Saturday night at 8:00, also in the main gym.

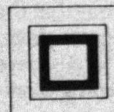
The Panda volleyball team also made the western swing, dropping both matches by 3-0 scores.



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