

Alumni game helps: Pandas b-ball

by Dora Johnson

You're not getting older-you're getting better. That's what the Basketball Pandas thought as they snuck by the Alumni team 67-50, last Saturday night. The game started off in fine style with the Pandas trying their new offense and new players. However, this style soon became sloppy, disorganized basketball: the Pandas coughed up the ball 17 times in the first half alone. The Pandas certainly did not exhibit the control and precision that they are known

Coaches Shogan and Moore attributed the shaky start to inexperience and to a few of the players lacking in fitness. Despite these factors, the coaches feel they can improve the Panda's calibre by going, for the most part, with the experienced players.

They hope that the team will make a better showing at the Invitational Tournament here this weekend. Games are scheduled for Saturday and the final will be at 4:00 Sunday in the Main Gym.

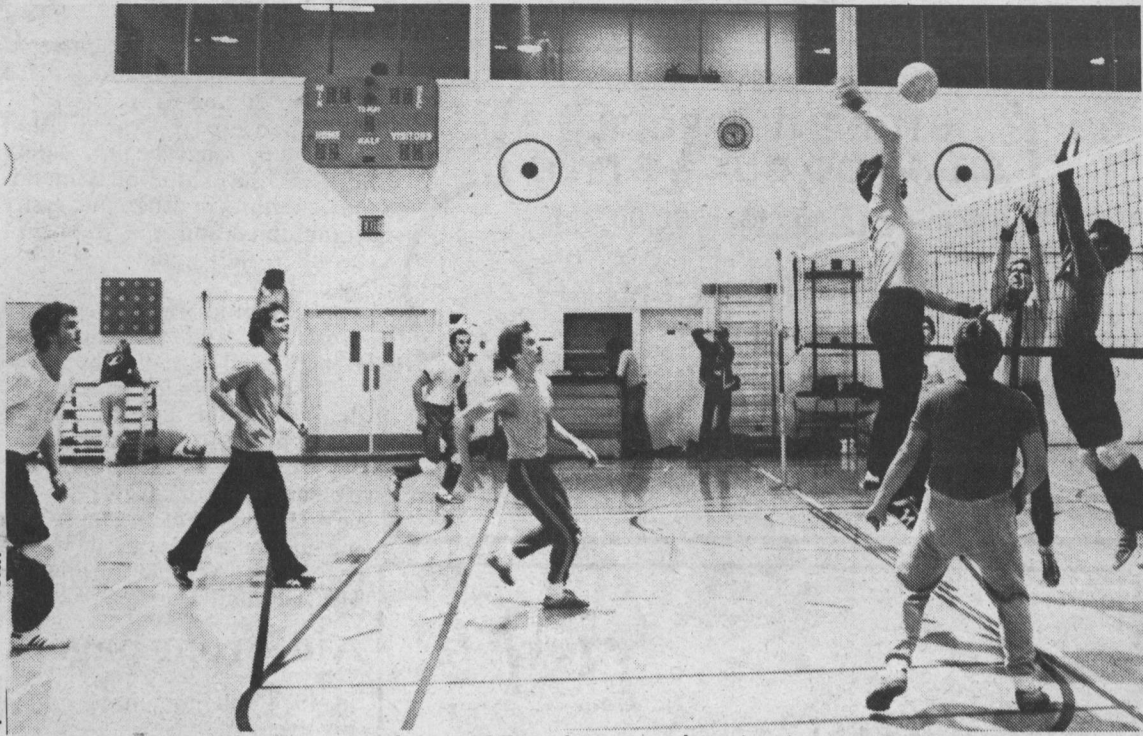


Photo Brad Keith

Egyptian team is staying in warmer places and Bears have enough posters to paper the pyramids.

Egypt stays home

Hugh Hoyles has 1600 posters for a volleyball match that will not be played. Hoyles had hoped a match between the Bears and Egyptian club champions Zamelek would publicize the season's start. However, because of a political decision Zamelek lost its best players.

Consequently, the team pulled out of the Canadian tour that had been planned since March. Hoyles states the Egyptian club president claims a government order forced him to send his best to play a military team. Hoyles seems unimpressed with the explanation and is upset at the "Promotion tied up" for the event and "the money down the drain."

Hoyles states he is "more disappointed for the players." In response to the pull-out, Hoyles and other teams scheduled to play Zamelek will be writing to the Egyptian Volleyball Association. However, Hoyles is not optimistic about receiving compensation for financial losses. To salvage the situation, Hoyles is trying to "line up a match with the National team." The Bears "want the experience from big matches", but will have to do without the cancelled October 20 match.

In any case Hoyles is pleased with his team and mentions that "everyone thinks our team will be super." In spite of the prediction, Hoyles maintains there will be "a dogfight in the Canada West" conference. For example, U of S and UBC are expected to be strong.

Last year many of the Bears played for the Junior Nationals winning Bears team and are the team's base this year. In addition, the team has Terry Danyluk, a national team member and carded athlete. Two experienced coaches, Brian Watson and Errol Miller have been added to the team.

Clearly the team has experience and technical skill. Hoyles says they are "well along in knowledge" of the game and he takes advantage of the situation by using two offenses. According to Hoyles a "lot of teams concentrate on one offense."

Also, Hoyles claims his squad is a "strong blocking team." He refers to blocking importance: "volleyball is won and lost at the net." In addition, a team "blocks for points" because scoring can only occur by the team with the serve.

Most teams, Hoyles comments, use a quick attack utilizing the net's middle. Hoyles figures "we will shut them down" and "force them high and outside." The Bear's height and blocking ability is integral in this plan. In addition, retaliation may be easier because the strategy will give the Bears "time to get into good recovering position."

Hoyles' team plays its first major tournament, the Tri-U, on November 18. However, the team is often busy organizing tournaments locally. For example, last Saturday a junior high school meet was held here. Clinics are also held with local teams. Certainly, the team is a good example of a university program directly benefitting the local community.

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