

Alan Small



Panda Classic makes debut

by Alan Small

I noticed in yesterday's *Globe and Mail* that CIAU marketing director John McConachie has set his "line" on who would make the Vanier Cup championship. For the uninitiated, the Vanier Cup is the Grey Cup of university football in this country.

Sure, he may think that it's a great way to create hoopla for the sport. Sure, lots of bets are made in sports nowadays. But for an official of Canada's academic sport community to do such is poor p.r.

First of all, nobody really cares in the big papers like the above mentioned, and second of all, it condones gambling. There'll never be a problem of point-shaving CIAU football games, but the NCAA had had tremendous hassles with it. The CIAU has tried to bill itself as a NCAA of the north for years, and condoning something that the NCAA has had a public relations disaster with is a credibility destroyer. Besides, the favorite is some eastern club. What a surprise.

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It's certainly good to see another high profile tournament on campus, even if it just creates some more hype in the university newspaper. Suzi Smith, the coach of the Panda volleyballers deserves some credit for taking a sad sack, going nowhere club like they were before she was here to being competitive. The Panda Classic will only help their cause. They are luckier than the Bears however, as the Bear-York struggle yesterday was obliterated on the sports pages in the city by some hockey reunion. All the Pandas have to go up against is the monster truck pulls. Yeah! That's a top notch sporting entertainment.

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I've never asked him this but I bet that Bear soccer coach Len Vickery is having a lot more fun coaching a winning club (the Bears) this fall rather than coaching a loser (the Brick Men). One fact: watching a soccer game from the sidelines is a whole lot better than watching on a television. Watching it live, you get to see the whole game rather than the popular TV shot of two guys kicking the ball back and forth. Soccer, on television, has turned into a waiting for the highlight film on the late night sports.

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If I see anymore dramatics this week, I'll sure be jaded. After seeing the Bears lose the football game in the last minute, two World Series games won on ninth inning home runs, and some overrated hockey reunion, I'm nearly wired. It's about time the Super Bowl came around so that the writers would tell you the game will be close even though you know that it won't. That will bring you down to earth.

The Panda volleyball team grows up this weekend.

After a decade of obscurity (caused partially by poor win-loss records) the Pandas broke through the top ten in the CIAU and made people notice that the U of A will be a force to contend with during the 1988-89 women's volleyball season.

One of the goals Panda head coach Suzi Smith set at the beginning of her tenure as coach two years ago was to get the U of A to host a top national volleyball tourney. The Panda Classic Volleyball Tournament, which happens Friday and Saturday, is the

"In Korea, the assistant coaches do all of the training while the head coach just works with strategy. It's a lot different here." — Smith

culmination of another goal for the U of A women's volleyball program.

"The next step in the program is to host the CIAU's" says Smith, "we want that high profile competition at home." Smith also mentioned it would be the highest calibre of volleyball Edmontonians have seen since the Universiade Games in 1983.

The Panda Classic will certainly provide that as the U of A hosts

three top ten clubs from last year. UBC, Manitoba, and Regina, who form Pool A in the tournament. In the Panda's pool are the California Ambassadors, and the University of Lethbridge.

Although Lethbridge will be the weak sisters of the tournament, the Pandas will have their hands full when they face the Ambassadors, who are a semi-pro team that consists of All-Americans and former American national team players."

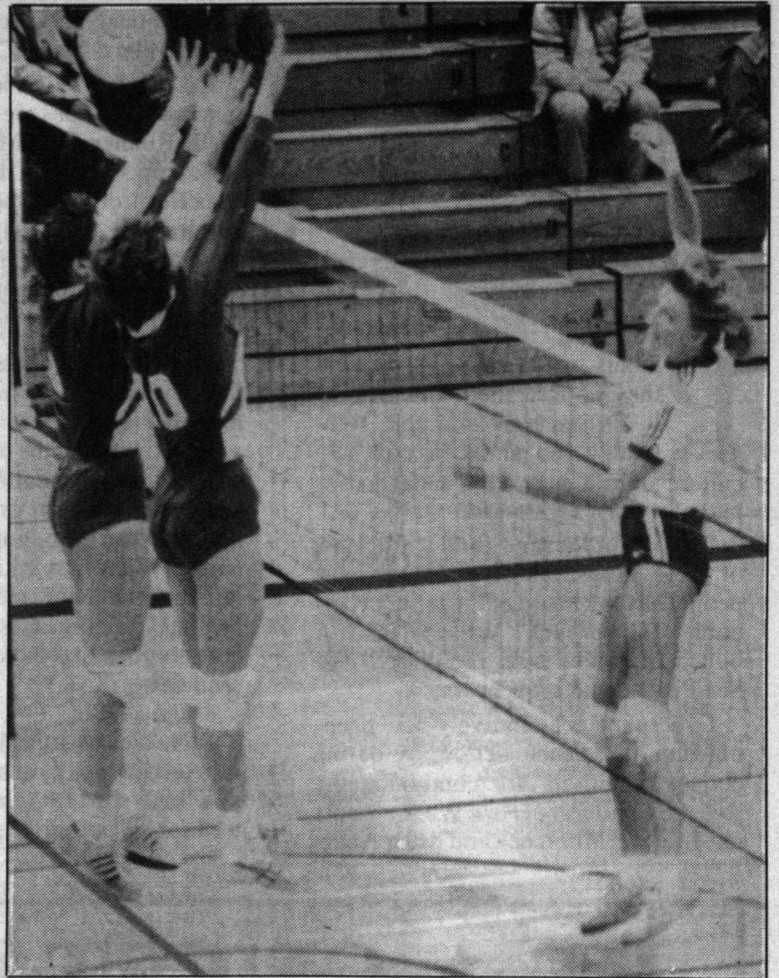
"They're a really huge club," said Smith, "only one of their players is under 5'11"."

The Pandas have faced the Californians before. Last year, when the Ambassadors were in their formative year, they defeated the Pandas 3-0 and 3-1, so with the Panda's gradual improvement and experience over the summer, it looks to be a close match.

Middle blocker Shelley Brewster returns for her final year for the Pandas. Brewster had an outstanding season a year ago, when she was selected to the Canada West first all-star team and won the Bakewell Trophy, which honors the best female athlete at the U of A. During the summer, Brewster played with the Athletes in Action team in Japan and Korea.

Another Panda that travelled this summer is Debbie Dyson, who won a spot on the Canadian junior national team which won a silver medal at the NORCECA (North America, Central America, Caribbean) championships and qualified for the world championships next August.

The last cut from that team was power hitter Barb Donadt, who like Dyson, finished just her first



Pandas play the California Ambassadors Friday night at 8 pm.

year of university last season. Other returnees from last year are hitters Rhonda Neufeld and Carolyne Archibald, middle blockers Brenda Hesse, Val Krook, and setter Colleen Pistawka.

Smith has brought in six rookies as well. Andrea Boytinck, Jennie Umpleby, and Connie Pistawka will fill in at various spots, while Kerry Hapienko will be a defensive specialist for the Pandas. Winnipeg native Sherry Parkhurst and Julie Scarlett, who's from Kindersley, Saskatchewan will back up at the middle blocker positions.

Joining the coaching staff is Korean Young Sun Lee, and Smith says her presence has already been felt by the Pandas.

"She took them on a new defensive drill," Smith said, "they could barely get out of bed the next day."

Lee will be coaching the attacking and defensive parts of volleyball while Smith will concentrate on service reception and blocking. The delegation of tasks was important for Smith.

"I wanted to give her a little bit of freedom. In Korea, the assistant coaches do all of the training while the head coach just works with strategy. It's a lot different here."

SIDE OUTS: The Pandas play at 5 pm against Lethbridge, then at 8 pm versus the Ambassadors. The match against the Ambassadors has been called Beach Night, and all spectators are encouraged to wear their beach garb. Prizes will be awarded. Interuniversity Athletics director Susan Natrass said, "Maybe we can make them feel right at home so we can beat them." The bronze medal match is at 6 pm Saturday, and the gold medal match is at 8 pm.

Bears sporting airtight defence

by Alan Small

When you don't give up any goals, you won't lose many games.

That's what the Bear soccer team has been doing so far in the Canada West season, and they have won five games and lost two in seven outings.

Bear coach Len Vickery says that most of the credit goes to John Simon and Stephen Frank, both of whom didn't play in the CSL last season.

Simon had an especially difficult task at the beginning of the year — take over for Louis Picco, the backbone of the Bears defence the season before.

As you can tell from the amount of goals scored against the U of A this season, Simon and the rest of his mates on the back line have been doing their job above and beyond the call of duty.

Last weekend in Saskatoon, the Bears extended their undefeated streak to the same amount by whipping the Saskatchewan Huskies 3-0. Forwards Rob Biro and Dave Phillips, the backbone of Vickery's system of pace, scored as well as Sal Cammarata.

The second half of the home-and-home series occurs Saturday at the Faculte St. Jean (8406-91 St.), and the Bears are looking to keep their undefeated streak alive.

Vickery believes that if they keep up the pace they are going, they will only need one point in their final two games in Canada West, the first time since 1981.

That assumes a lot of things however. The Bears first beat the Huskies this weekend. Their final two games are in British Columbia. One of them against UVic, who are two points behind, and UBC, who are three. The Vikings and the Thunderbirds are no

slouches when it comes to soccer.

The Pandas soccer team will try to go where no Panda soccer team has gone before this weekend.

For five years the Pandas have finished second behind UBC. After they won three and tied one at the first Canada West tourna-



ment, they look in great position to grab the top rung on the Canada West ladder. What stands in their way is the second tournament, one that they have to do just as well to stay on top.

The only reason they are first is due to goal differential, and because of that slim lead, the game against the UBC, and the three other ones this weekend are so important. A loss by the Pandas could keep them where they are: the bridesmaid.

Yeoman effort

by Will Gibson

The Golden Bear volleyball team was pounded 8-15, 5-15, 5-15, 6-15 at Varsity Gym Wednesday night by the visiting York Yeomen.

Bill Knight, a ex national team member, and Dexter Abrams led the Yeomen with eight and seven kills respectively. Dean Kakoschke led the Bears with kills.

Bear coach Pierre Baudin was irate after the game "We served like girls, wait we did not even serve like girls, we served like wimps." Baudin did have good words for Dean Kakoschke. "Dean played an excellent game, he was hurting real bad."