

Loud Germans slammed by Bears

by Alan Small

The Golden Bears and the Duren Sharks were at their crowd pleasing best when the Bears dumped the West German team 3-0 (16-14, 15-13, 17-15) Thursday night.

Going with only eight players, and only seven from this year's squad (setter Troy Lorenson played great in his swan song before a crowd of 500 in Varsity Gym), the U of A's great size advantage was too much for the boisterous West Germans.

The Bears played each game the same: jumping out to a big lead, then letting it slip away, then ending the game with the quick two points necessary for victory. A combination of strong serving and blocking proved to be all that was needed to beat a tricky Duren club.

"What amazed me is that they (Bears) didn't panic," said third year Bear coach Pierre Baudin, "This year, everyone is pulling in the same direction."

A highlight for the Sharks was the play of 6'3" hitter Jorg Ahmann. Ahmann was all over the court, but some advanced scouting by Baudin kept Duren's best player and cheerleader from being much of a factor.

"He was just scary in that match," said Baudin of the West German's first contest in Edmonton. "They use some different tactical moves to get him the ball."

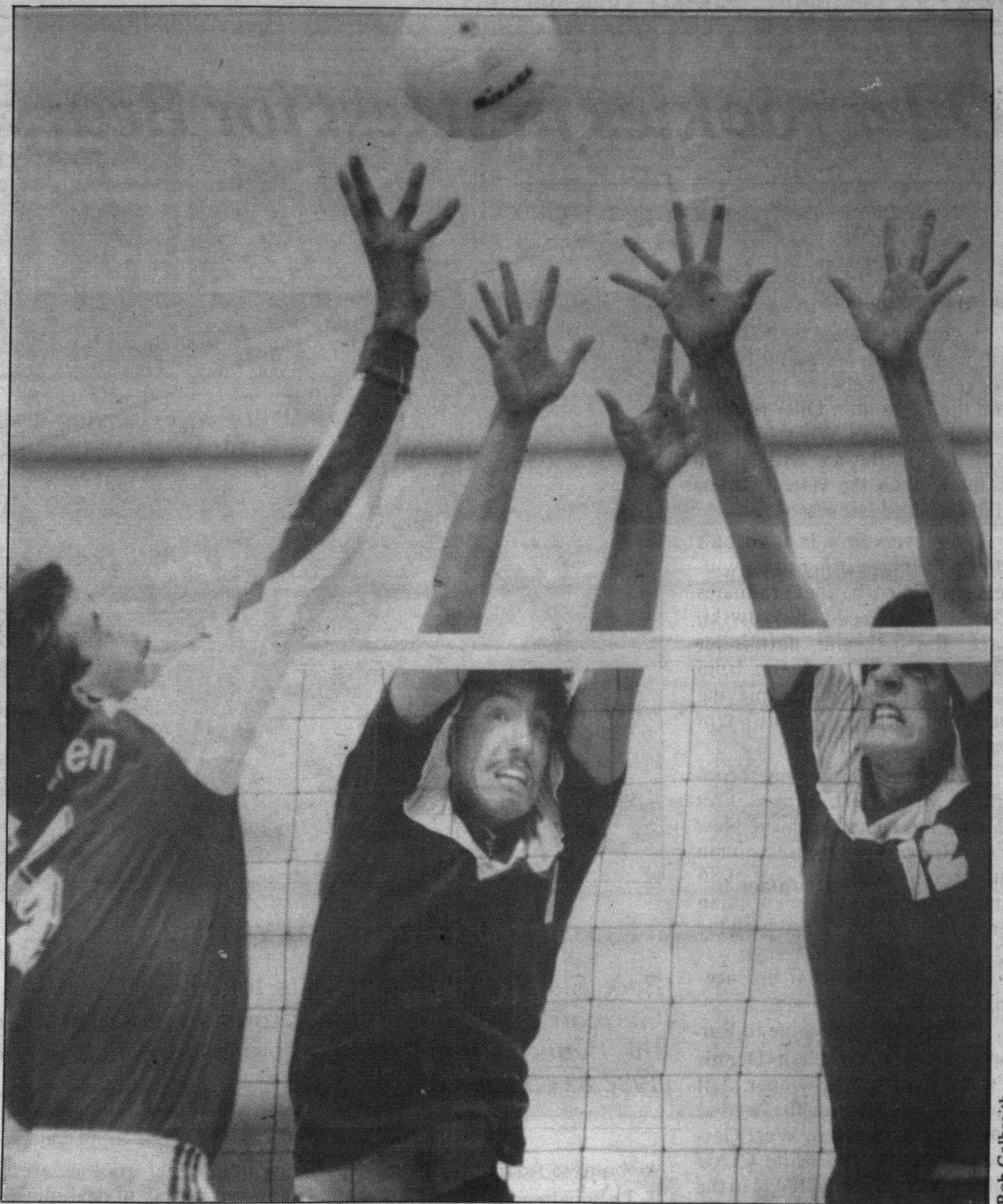
The Bears were led by the vicious serving and hitting of Dean Kakoschke. The 6'6" sophomore belted 16 kills (game high), and served no fewer than six aces in the three game match. The service tally included four in a row to begin the second game.

The match also showed the debut of two huge rookies. Hitter Oliver Semonis (6'6") and setter Joel Kern (6'4") did not look out of place in the home opener. Baudin is high on them both.

"Oliver is going to be a Canada West all-star someday," Baudin said. "Getting two impact players two years in a row is great."

Expect to see all the Bears who played (excluding Lorenson) in Bear uniforms this winter, as well as John Pallas, who will miss two months due to torn knee ligaments. Baudin will also add three or four more players to round out his club.

"We're going to take our lickings early, but 12 of our 16 conference games are after Christmas," an optimistic Baudin said.



Rob Galbraith

Duren's Jorg Ahmann (left) tips the ball over Bear blockers Darcy Dueck (2) and Todd Sommerfeld (12)



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