

Bears #1 in CIAU V'ball

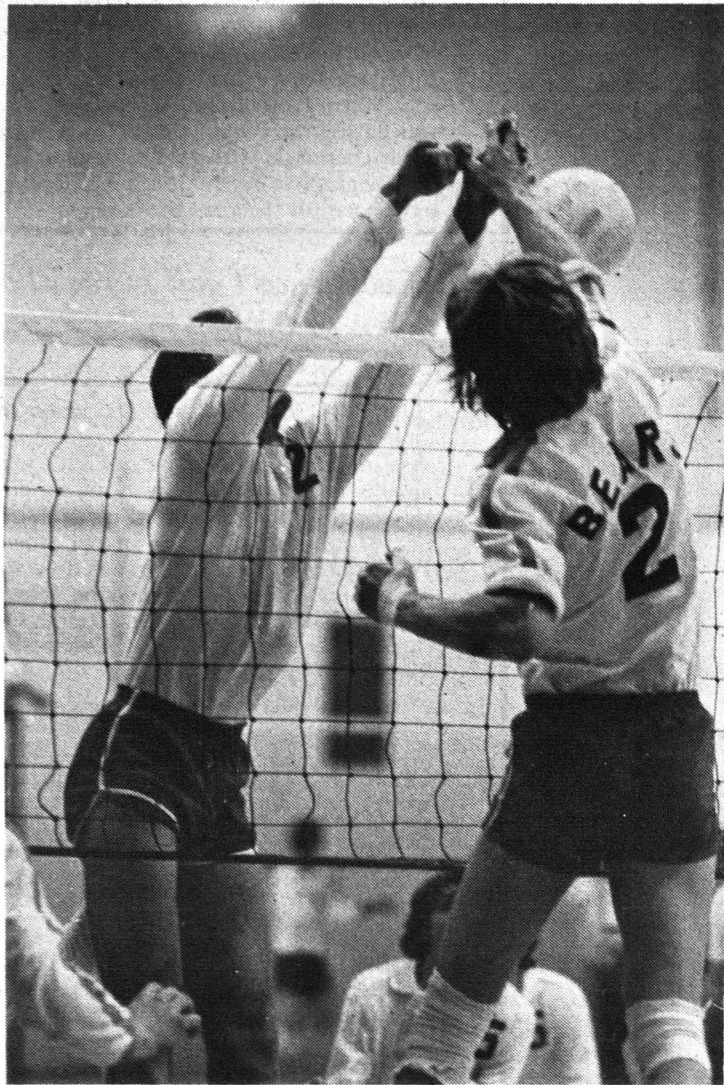


photo Tom Freeland

A strange place to hold hands...

Sparked by the outstanding play of All-Canadian Terry Danyluk, the University of Alberta's Golden Bear volleyball squad brought home the U of A's third Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) title of the year with an impressive performance in Victoria last weekend.

Twice, once in the final and once in round-robin play, Alberta beat the defending CIAU champion, Manitoba, by three games to two margins. Manitoba and Alberta had both finished the round-robin series with identical records of four wins and one loss in five matches to qualify for the sudden death playoff. The Bears' only loss was to the host Victoria Vikings. They also beat Sherbrooke, York and Dalhousie Universities.

Besides making the All-Canadian team, Danyluk was also selected the CIAU Most Valuable Player for the second year in a row. Added to his list of accomplishments was a tournament all-star berth and the MVP award in the National finals.

For Alberta, it is the first National championship in volleyball since the inception of a Canada wide playoff. Last year they made it to the Nationals as a wild card team, after finishing second to Nationals' host Saskatchewan in league play, and were third behind Manitoba and the Huskies.

BEAR FACTS

Other teams to win CIAU titles this year have been the

football and men's cross country squads.

Five of the six teams were repeats from the 1979-80 Nationals. Only Victoria, replacing Saskatchewan, was a new face.

The Bears had eliminated Saskatchewan in the Canada West final two weeks previous.

Dave Wilson of the Bears also made the tournament all-star team.

Small splash in T.O.

The competition proved too tough for the Bears in Toronto this weekend as they settled for a sixth place finish in the 1980-81 CIAU swimming and diving championships.

Toronto and Calgary, both with National Team swimmers on the squad, dominated the team standings and finished one-two in total points.

The only first place garnered by the Bears belonged to Brian Carleton. He took the 200 meter breaststroke in a time of two minutes and 22.67 seconds, ahead of the CIAU record holder from last year, Andy Ritchie. Carleton also had a personal best time in the 400 meter individual medley while finishing second and a sixth place finish in the 100 metre breast stroke. Unfortunately for Carleton he had to swim the 400 m and the 100 m breaststroke back-to-back.

Brent Desbrisay, who won two individual golds last year when the Bears were third in the Nationals, set some personal bests this year but could do no better than third in any race. He was up against Calgary's Mike Olson and

Waterloo's Alan Swanston, both National Team members, in his events. Coach John Hogg said he was happy with Desbrisay's times however, and thinks they should be good enough to earn him a trip to the Student Games in Romania.

The freestyle relay team of Carleton, Desbrisay, Dave Long and Dwight Manning bettered their winning time of last year but finished third behind Calgary and Toronto. John Ashton and Bruce Lecky also competed for the Bears and although neither finished high in their events, both performed well according to Hogg.

In the diving competitions, Glen Music was seventh in the one meter and eleventh in the three meter. Cindy Swartzack and Alison Godfrey had third and eighth place finishes respectively in the one meter women's event and were eighth and seventh in the three meter diving.

Twenty-six different universities took part and Hogg says, "It's going to be even better next year. Just about every CIAU record was broken and we're going to have to start planning right now for the '81-82 season."

Gymnasts close second

In the last eight years, the CIAU men's gymnastics competition has been a battle to see who is the "best of the rest."

York University has had a hammerlock on top spot since 1974 with this year's competition running true to form. However, the University of Alberta threw a scare into the Ontarians with one of the closest second place finishes in recent years.

With only three serious

contenders in the eight team field, York, Alberta and Laval, the Bears missed by just less than six points of upsetting the perennial champs. They had a total of 155.70, compared to York's 161.25. Laval was at 150.60.

Individually the Bears' top finisher was Allan Reddon. He was third overall and had first place finishes in the vault and floor exercise. Reeve Martin ended up fifth overall with a first

in the pommel horse. Eric Ruckenthaler was tenth and Brendon Carrigy eighteenth to round out the Bears' squad.

Both Reddon and Martin were chosen meet all-stars and Reddon was also named to the All-Canadian team.

The Pandas didn't fare as well with a sixth place finish among the eight entrants. Trish McMillan finished seventh overall individually and made the CIAU All-Canadian team. Jane Chamberlain was 27th, Audrey Gee 28th and Noreen Skoreyko 34th.



Panda divers took a plunge in Toronto.

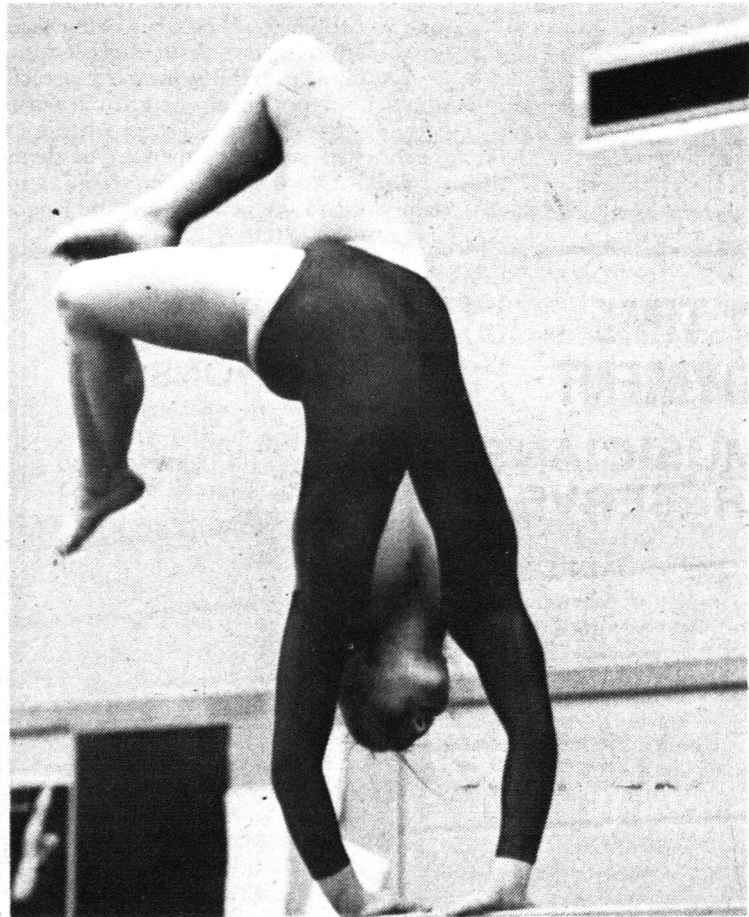


photo Tom Freeland

Things were not looking up for the Panda gymnasts in Calgary. The Bears, however, nearly upset top-seeded York in the men's competition.

Eric working way to top

by Lou O'Hara

Finishing tenth at a national championship may not be headline material. But if you take a closer look "behind the scenes" you will find that a tenth place finish for Golden Bear gymnast Eric Ruckenthaler at last weekend's C.I.A.U. National Championships is definitely a remarkable achievement.

Consider the following:

a) Eric enrolled at the University of Alberta in the fall of 1978, and tried out for the Golden Bears, having a very limited background in competitive gymnastics.

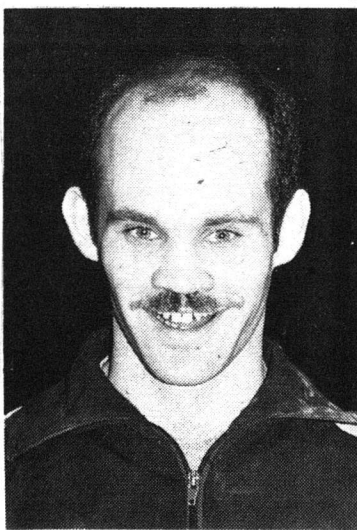
b) He spent the 1978-79 year as an alternate on the University of Alberta team.

c) In 1979-80 he qualified for the nationals as a sophomore and finished 27th overall at the C.I.A.U. Championships.

d) In his third year of competitive university gymnastics Eric finished 10th at the nationals.

The progress he has made to date deserves commendation. At

his current rate of development Eric will be one of Canada's top



Eric Ruckenthaler

university-level gymnasts in the next year or two.

The same progressive development was evident over the

course of the 1980-81 season. In one of the season's first meets, the Klondike Challenge in November, Ruckenthaler achieved a score of 44. (The score attained by the 20th place finisher at last weekend's nationals.) At the Canada West championship meet in February, Eric achieved a score of 46. The consistent progress continued into the biggest meet of the year, as Eric scored 48.7 in the National Championships.

"It's a great illustration of what kind of development is possible, with the right dedication, at the university level," says a pleased Golden Bear gymnastics coach, Francis Tally. "He's still a year or two away from his potential."

Continued progress will see the Bears' team captain from Calgary approach this potential, and become one of Canada's top university-level gymnasts.

For Eric a tenth place finish does deserve a headline.