

Sports

Alan Small



No rest for the wicked Bears

Canadians are becoming paranoid of steroids.

Everywhere we turned our collective heads, we see someone popping 'roids. First, it's Ben Johnson, then the Dubin inquiry (or maybe self-lynching, it's portrayed as that) tells of horror stories concerning the weightlifting team injecting someone else's urine to hide the fact that you've taken steroids.

Now we have found out that the '88 bronze medallist in the decathlon, Canada's Dave Steen, has said that he trained in St. Kitts in December '87 with Ben Johnson, Charlie Francis, Dr. Mario Astaphan and the rest of the steroid gang. Steen is being tossed around like the proverbial shotput by the media in this country.

An *Edmonton Sun* column on Wednesday tested Steen positive for steroids, despite the fact that the decathlete has said he never took steroids. Steen also wouldn't have won a medal if he was on steroids. Just ask Ben Johnson. Steen has been found guilty for associating the likes of Francis and "track and field's Lex Luthor, Dr. Astaphan."

Canadians have become naturals at seeing a track and field star, or a football player, or a weightlifter and saying "steroids". The athlete has become guilty, punished and hanged immediately after uttering the word. An athlete has no way of backing himself up. No one will believe him anyways if he said he is drug-free. The latest incident with Steen is proof of that.

The story in the *Sun* blamed Steen's best performances, which oddly enough happened after his month long stay with Francis and Astaphan, on the fact that he has taken steroids. The story does not take into account that Steen may have hit the peak of his career, or that he naturally kept his best performance in reserve for the Olympics. The fact that Steen totally surprised the nation with his medal performance hides the fact that he was well within the top ten decathletes in the world.

that Steen may have hit the peak of his career, or that he naturally kept his best performance in reserve for the Olympics. The fact that Steen totally surprised the nation with his medal performance hides the fact that he was well within the top ten decathletes in the world.

Before this week, Steen, who will perform at the Butterdome this weekend as part of the Canadian Indoor Track and Field Championships, was the epitome of the clean, Canadian track and field star. He won a bronze medal in a gruelling event on talent and guts alone.

Now, he has been shamed like Ben Johnson, yet he has committed no crime.

He like Johnson, has no leg (or pole vault) to stand on.

by Randy Provencal

If the Golden Bears hockey team thought of hibernating for awhile after last weekend's big win over Calgary, that idea quickly vanished when they looked at this week's schedule.

The Bears have three big games in three nights, one tonight against NAIT in Face-Off, and two this weekend against the Regina Cougars. And Cougars don't hibernate.

Regina, well out of a playoff spot in third last at 7-14-3, would love to be the Bears

Hockey

spoilers. You have to remember, the last time the Bears met up with the Cougars they could only manage a split.

But that was in Regina, where the Cougars play .500 hockey. On the road the Cougars lose a lot of their bite, as their dismal 2-9-1 road record shows.

Bears head coach Clare Drake still considers Regina one big headache. "Regina has a good, solid team. They're

doing very well," he said.

"They're capable of beating anybody, so we want to be ready to play."

First things first, the Bears have their honor at stake in tonight's Face-Off '89. Bears forward Stacey Wakabayashi figures the team's play shouldn't be a letdown from last weekend's big win over Calgary.

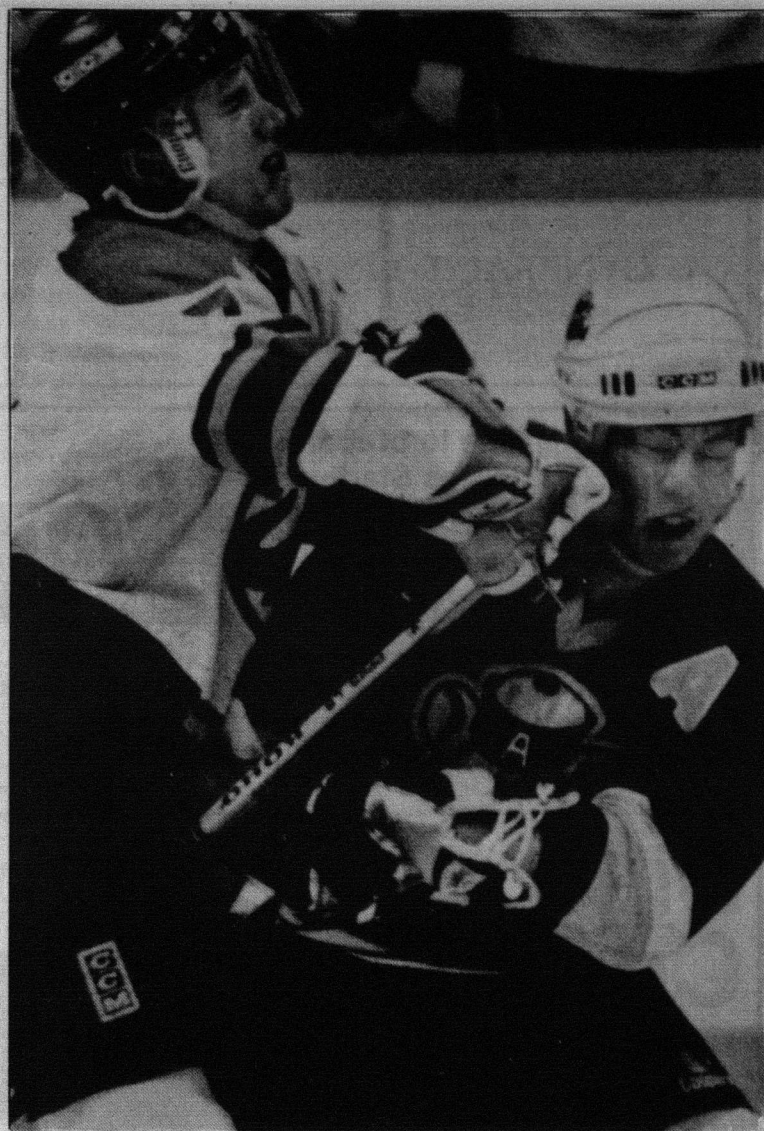
"I think whenever you get an opportunity to play down at the Coliseum and in front of — hopefully — a bunch of people, it's really good for both schools' programs. Also, it's for a good cause so the guys are going to go out and have a lot of fun at it.

"We could use that as a springboard for the last two series."

However, most Bears weren't too pleased with the three games, three nights.

"I wish we didn't have to, cause the guys have played a lot lately," coach Drake said.

"It was at a bad time for me at that time, but now I wish it were over with so we could get down to business for what we're

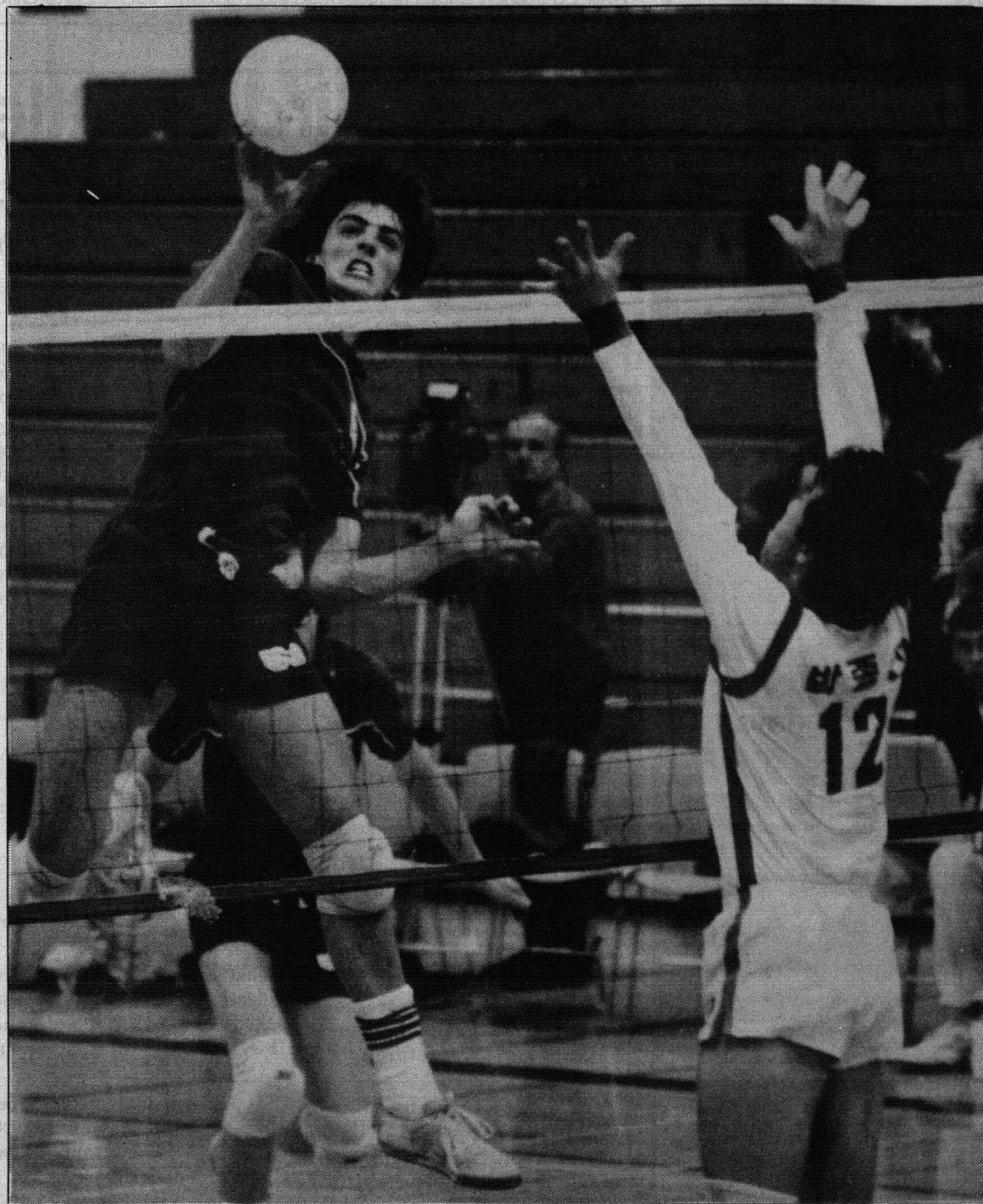


The boards'll be a-bangin' tonight for Face-Off '89 at the Coliseum.

here for; we want to win the nationals," Doug McCarthy explained.

Still, McCarthy couldn't help looking past the regular season to a probable rematch with

Calgary in the CWUAA finals. "We know we're going to be nice and rested for that first series then come on strong in the finals," he said. "And get our powerplay working."



Todd Sommerfeld tips one versus Korea from action Thursday night. The Bears host UBC this weekend.

Clive Oshry

Track on tap

by Alan Small

While many students will be off to the mountains to ski during Reading week, the Golden Bear or Panda track teams will travel to the frosty plains of Saskatoon for the Canada West Track and Field Championships.

38 Panda and Bear athletes make the trip for the February 24-25 event.

The first and second place finisher in each event qualify for the CIAU's in March.

Nine U of A athletes are ranked in the individual CIAU top ten event rankings. Both Andre Francois and Jason Chamney are in the top ten in the 300m, while for the Pandas, both Jane Cox and Sherry Heschuk have ranked in the long jump. Other Pandas that are in the top ten are Carmelle Hunka (60m hurdles), Ann Mangal (1500m), Heather Fuhr (1500m, 3000m), Helen Williamson (shot put), Maeve Muldowney (1000m).

Any athlete who has reached the CIAU standard in an event will also qualify for the nationals, regardless of their finish in Saskatoon.

This weekend, the Canadian Indoor Track and Field Championships will be held at the Butterdome. Tickets can be had at the door.