

sports

Old teammates square off across net

by Ajay Bhardwaj

Garth Pischke and Terry Danyluk played volleyball because they loved it. Now they're passing on their love for the game to the players they coach.

On Saturday night Pischke and Danyluk coached against each other. Pischke's University of Manitoba Bisons beat Danyluk's University of Alberta Golden Bears 3-0 (15-4, 15-4, 15-3) in the best of five semi-final match at the CIAU men's volleyball championships at Dalplex.

The Bisons lost the gold medal match 3-0 to Laval.

Pischke and Danyluk played together for only a short time: for a couple of months in 1978 and for six months prior to and during the 1984 Olympics.

When Danyluk was in high school, Pischke was the most famous member of the Canadian volleyball team. "He was sort of my high school idol," says Danyluk. Pischke played for the national team at the 1976 Olympics as a seventeen-year old.

When Danyluk was in grade twelve, the national team asked him to play on a five city tour of western Canada against the United States.

"I didn't know many of the guys when I showed up the first day. I sort of looked around and I felt a little out of place. I remember Garth coming over to me and putting his arm around me and saying, 'stick with me and you'll be okay.' He didn't have to do that. Since that day I've had a lot of respect for him."

That's when they became friends.

"I think we were a little closer than some of the other guys," says Pischke. "We really got along off the court as well as on the court."

Adds Danyluk, "we were fairly close from '78 and on and we kept in close contact." They kept in touch even though Danyluk played in Italy and Pischke in the United States. Danyluk tried to get Pischke to join his Italian team. But Pischke decided to do his Master's degree and stayed home.

They didn't play together after the '84 Games. But they continued to admire each other.

"Terry was an excellent competitor," Pischke says. "There was nobody that was a better competitor in this country. He's the kind of guy I wish all my players could be like. When he stepped on the floor it didn't matter if it was 1-0 in the first game or 16-15 in the fifth game, he showed the same intensity every time he was out there. He showed a real desire to play and a real love for the game."

Danyluk says he was impressed with Pischke, too. "When I first saw him play in 1975 I thought he had an unbelievable serve and that he could really jump. He was a very well-rounded player: he could play defence, he was smart blocker, a great hitter. The only thing he didn't do was set."

That was the main difference between Pischke and Danyluk: Pischke was a natural athlete, while Danyluk was a grinder. At one time Pischke was considered to be one of the top

12 players in the world.

"When you think of Garth Pischke, you have to think of the greatest volleyball player ever in Canada," says Vic Lindall, a former coach of the national women's team and now a colour commentator with The Sports Network. "In the '76 Olympics and even in the '84 Olympics he played brilliantly. He was always very smart."

"Terry would run down every ball and turn that into a beautiful play. He was very aggressive and did a great job of setting."

Now they coach two of the best university volleyball teams in the country. Manitoba won the Great Prairie Athletic Conference, while Alberta reached the CIAU championships as a wild card.

"Garth had high expectations for himself and he has high expectations for his players," Lindall says. "Terry really worked hard as a player. His teams work really hard, too, and prepare well."

Pischke watched his team warm-up from the bench and remained quiet during the match with Alberta. "I was going crazy inside," he says.

Danyluk rolled up sleeves and spiked balls to his team during the warm-up and yelled encouragement and instructions to his players during the match.

"As a player I was more vocal than Garth, too. Garth was quiet and patient and didn't show a whole lot of expression, but inside he would do anything to win," says Danyluk. "My job was to create atmosphere

because I could play with that kind of outward emotion. I don't demand that of all my players. Sometimes I look at myself and go 'whoa, you've got to sit back and be quiet.' I'm trying to be consistent now. I'm not jumping off the bench and doing anything radical. But it helps me stay in the game."

But Danyluk had little to be vocal about on Saturday night because his team couldn't match up against Manitoba. Danyluk says he couldn't get into the game on Saturday. "What

can you talk about when everything is going so poorly?"

Even though the match wasn't a good one, Pischke and Danyluk still love the game and that's why they stay in it.

"We played the game because we both loved it," says Pischke. "We certainly never thought there were going to be any rewards after we finished playing the game. It was just a matter of we got involved in something we really loved to do. That real love is common in both our games."

Basketball

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putting Dal behind the eight ball.

Clark, returning to her hometown of Fredericton, picked up the slack for the Tigers, hitting for three of her 17 with just over seven minutes to play, pulling the Tigers to within one, but it wasn't enough. With Wares no longer the force inside, UNB went on to their third conference title in four years with a 72-57 win.

Second-year forward Jennifer Offman was quick to point out that although Wares's mobility was cut down, the Tigers still needed to get the ball to her.

"In order to win we have to get it inside," said Offman. "In the second half we didn't get her the ball."

The Tigers went to New Brunswick aiming for AUAA gold. They

fell one game short of that goal but achieved more. The league, in fact the whole country, now knows about the young, talented team that Coach Savoy has assembled. The scary part is that they can only get better. With Wares and Kathie Sanderson in only their first years and Jennifer Clark expected to return for her final year of eligibility, the Tigers already have an incredibly strong nucleus. You get the feeling that one more big-time recruit is all the Tigers need to put them over the top.

When asked about next year, Offman is all smiles. "I think that Jennifer Clark may come back," says the Halifax native. "Carolyn [Savoy] is already working on recruiting. She has some people in mind. It should be interesting."

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