

'ballers' season opens on road

The Golden Bear Volleyball team heads to the University of Calgary this weekend for the first three tournaments to find out who is the best in the west. The Bears will play in a round-robin competition on Saturday and Sunday against the Universities of B.C., Calgary, Victoria and Saskatchewan. The results of this tournament, plus one to be held here at the U of A in January and one at U.B.C. in February, are all totalled with the victorious team heading to Waterloo in late February for the C.I.A.U. Championships.

Coach Hugh Hoyles is back after a year at the Montreal Olympics taking over the reins from his Japanese replacement, Michi Ota. Ota, who recently returned to his native Japan, headed a rebuilding year last year and has turned over a physically tough bunch of veterans to Hoyles.

Reg Van Drecht and Bruce Wasylik, two Manitoba natives, are back in the fold and will provide leadership both on and off the court. Van Drecht is a setter while Wasylik is a

deceptive middle-attacker.

Also returning is Robb Hornland, a fine south-paw hitter originally from Jasper Place Composite via the Edmonton Phoenix Juniors. Len Hudyma, the Grand Centre 'smasher,' rounds out the list of returnees.

Ken Flowers and Darryl Tetz can also be classed as veterans, as both have come back to the roster after having sat out a year.

Six new faces give the Bears the depth required to face the long season which started in September and will end in April. Hans Klohn, a transfer from U.N.B. who hits left handed adds some power to the front right hitting position. Brian Newman, a star with Harry Ainlay Composite in '75, is a setter-spiker whose strong fundamentals will aid the squad. Bill Stamile, from Calgary's Mount Royal College Cougars, is a good athlete whose talents could spell doom to opposition middle-blockers. Kevin Speer, from the powerful M.E. Lazerte volleyball team, is a setter-hitter, who is great when "the chips are down."

Tony Ryshtylo and Bob



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Pushie, from Manitoba and New Brunswick respectively, are two players whose desire will win many games for the team. Both have improved tremendously

since the season began.

The Canada West loop in Volleyball is pretty evenly balanced and it appears as if it will be a real 'dog fight' for the

right to represent the West. The Bears will be right in the thick of things come February, and are itching to get another trip to the C.I.A.U.'s.

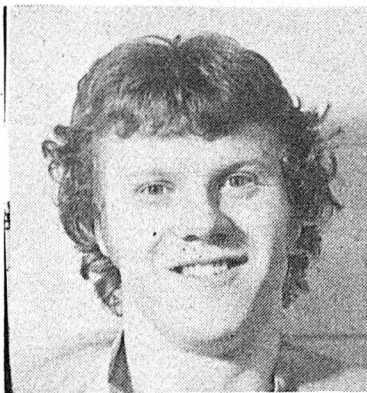
Sosnowski injury minor as Bears take to road

by Darrell Semenuk

A fateful grocery delivery nearly cost coach Clare Drake the services of one of his veteran players for their weekend series with the University of Calgary Mosasurs, where the team will attempt to bring home the bacon, in their first road game in league play.

Forward Brian Sosnowski stretched some muscles in his back Tuesday while carrying some groceries. He left Wednesday's practice complaining of back pains but practiced Wednesday and should be making the trip with the rest of the team to Calgary for games Friday and Saturday night.

The Bears stole a pair of games from the Dinos at home in their first two league games, and Calgary proceeded to drop their



Brian Sosnowski

next two on the road in Vancouver to the T'Birds, surprising a lot of people including Drake.

"Yeah, I was surprised. From what I've seen Calgary is the strongest team we've played."

Drake has other troubles plaguing him too. The club gave up its first power play goal in league play last weekend against the Saskatchewan Huskies. After spoiling their perfect penalty killing record they continued to comply to the Huskie power play, giving up four more goals. That's considered a major calamity for most coaches, particularly to Drake, whose teams are usually near or at the top of the league in penalty killing statistics.

"That's really disappointing. It's something we have to work on. We're definitely going to work on it this week."

Bears' record stands at 3-1 while Calgary is desperate for two wins having yet to win a game in its previous four outings.

The Saturday night game will be broadcast on CFRN radio starting at 7:50 p.m.



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