

## Ota's volleyBears gearing up

by Keith Steinbach

If you happen to walk in on a U of A Bears Volleyball practice, you won't see too many familiar faces of the defending Western Collegiate champs only Ken

Flowers and Russ Balmer have returned and even coach Hugh Hoyles is gone. It will of necessity be a rebuilding year, but perhaps not a bad one.

New coach Suichi Ota is working his team extremely hard. Ota is starting all over again with the basics stressing agility execution, and concentration. He is instituting an attitude of going all out all the

time and thinking constantly of how to improve individual play. Which, especially for a young club, is always good.

The team is solid offensively, where several people hit the ball hard on both long and short sets. Team play looks a little shaky but it is still early in the season. It is not a particularly tall team but, what is lacks in size is made up for in hustle and jumping ability.

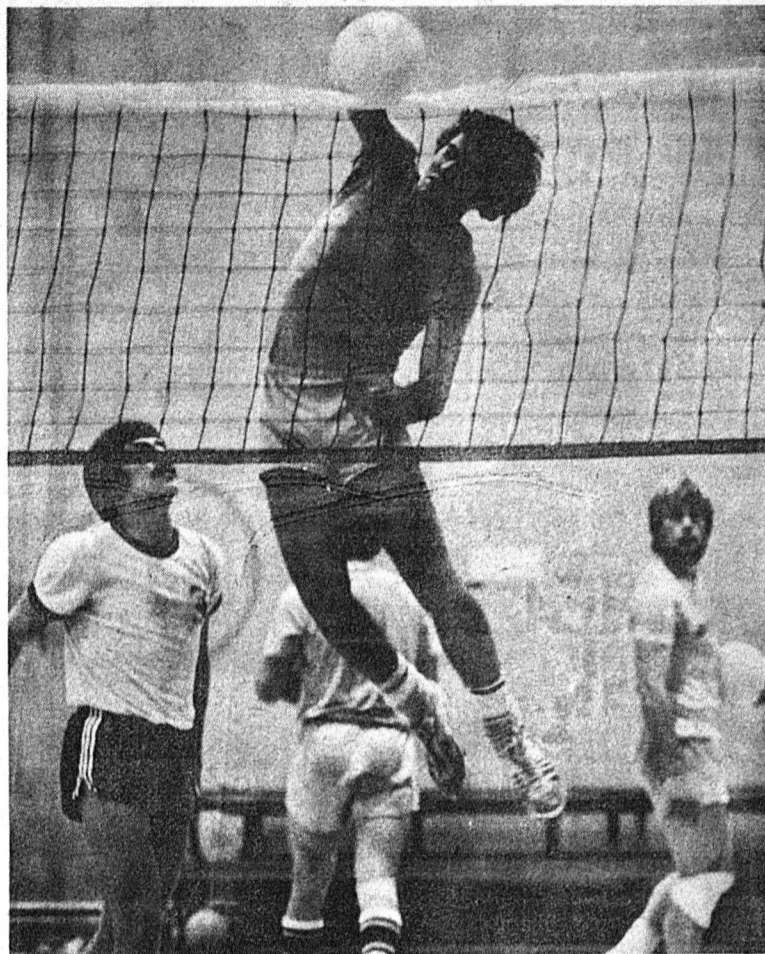
There are some problems, though. Inexperience is an obstacle that will have to be overcome. To make things

worse, the only injury of major proportions has been to Bruce Waslyck, a three year player from the U of Winnipeg Wesmen, who cracked a bone in his lower leg in a freak accident during the first week of training.

Service reception and setting are also areas that need work. Ota feels that his players are too stiff when they receive the ball. "Bend knees!" is Ota's most frequent instruction (what Suichi lacks in his command of the English language he makes up for in gestures and vocal enthusiasm). Setting is closely related to service reception, so once one improves the other shouldn't be too far behind.

The team's first competition, on Oct. 18 in Calgary is a seeding tournament to help determine a League schedule. Exhibition games as of yet have not been settled but the first home game should be early in November.

Ota's squad appears to have the potential to be successful in the CWUAA. The only question that remains unanswered is the extent to which inexperience will hinder them.



Ken Flowers, airborne

photo by Brian Gavriloff

## Puckers crunch Vikings

Rookie left winger Dale Fisher took full advantage of his linemates' experience, scoring twice and assisting on another Alberta goal, as the Golden Bears crushed the Camrose College Vikings 6-1 in exhibition hockey at Camrose Tuesday night.

The line of Bruce Crawford, Kevin Primeau, and Fisher was easily the best on the ice in the hard-hitting match, which brought Bear regulars Jim Ofrim, Randy Lemay, and Bill Andreassen, all Camrose natives, up against ex-teammates and friends in their home rink.

Jim Carr, struggling for a regular job on right wing, also notched a pair for the Bears, while Ofrim and Crawford had singletons.

Bears scored twice in each frame, with Camrose replying in the second period.

If U of A Coach Leon Abbott was hoping to get a good look at



Jack Cummings

two of his netminders in action, he was probably disappointed. Craig Gunther faced only 13 shots in two periods, and allowed Vikings' only goal on a 2nd-rebound effort by Brian Law.

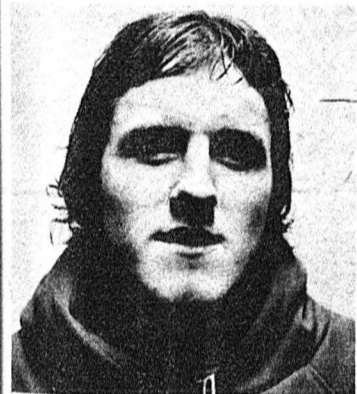
Cummings, who played the third period, handled just five shots. Dale Henwood did not dress for the Bears, but is expected to start against the University of Winnipeg Wesmen at Varsity Arena on Friday night.

The rookie defence did not look badly out of place against the disorganized Vikings, but will get their first real taste of University hokey in coming weeks, first against the Wesmen, and then in Colorado against the University of Denver the following weekend.

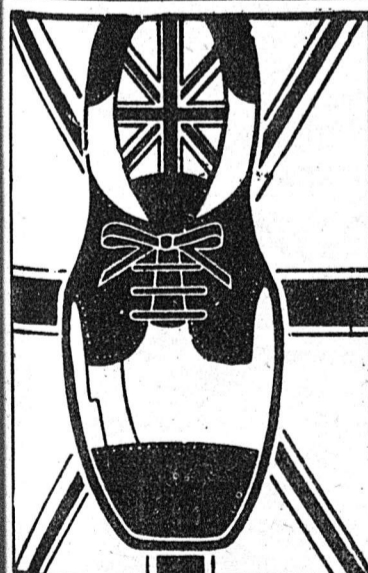
Game time Friday and Saturday nights is 8:00 p.m.



Suichi Ota



Dale Fisher



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