

Volleyball men go home Saturday

by Willard K.

Home is where the heart is for the Bears volleyball men. The third and final Alberta AA meet

will take place in Varsity Gym this Saturday. Finally, the Bears, in first place, going into the final, will be playing at home.

In addition to a home court advantage the Bears have an eight point lead over Calgary Volleyball Club #1. Still, the lead is narrow and, to win the title, the U of A must finish ahead of CVC. Moreover, the Bears can finish no lower than second. If the U of A is third the U of C or CVC will be likely to take the meet, and the government supplied trip to Halifax for the national open finals.

Of course the promise of fun in the sun amidst the cod fish is driving the Bears to practise day and night. In fact coach Hugh Hoyles has devised special drills to keep his squad in peak condition. One new drill involves a darkened gym, a lit candle on

one side of the net, and Bears on the other. The object is to extinguish the flame with a well placed vollyeball.

Another advantage for the Bears is the tournament schedule. Hoyles claims "I'd like to think the guys are in good shape" with the schedule because "the two big matches are at the end of the day." The U of A will face the U of Calgary before the final game that places the Bears against CVC#1.

Yet another advantage the Bears, and other college teams have, is their conditioning. Club teams, Hoyles points out, cannot train as intensively because their players are gainfully employed. Instead, club teams rely on

cleverness and experience.

Still, Hoyles believes the Bears are on an "equal footing" where cleverness is concerned. Moreover, their conditioning is an advantage when, during a meet, a player will jump 500-600 times.

Also, Hoyles has planned some new tactics involving a quick attack after spiked balls are dug up. Hoyles hopes the team can make this transition from defense to offense before opponents can prepare.

Finally, the Bears will have an additional advantage if the meet can attract spectators. The meet starts at 9:00 a.m., but the exciting finals will be in the afternoon and may end near 6:00 p.m.

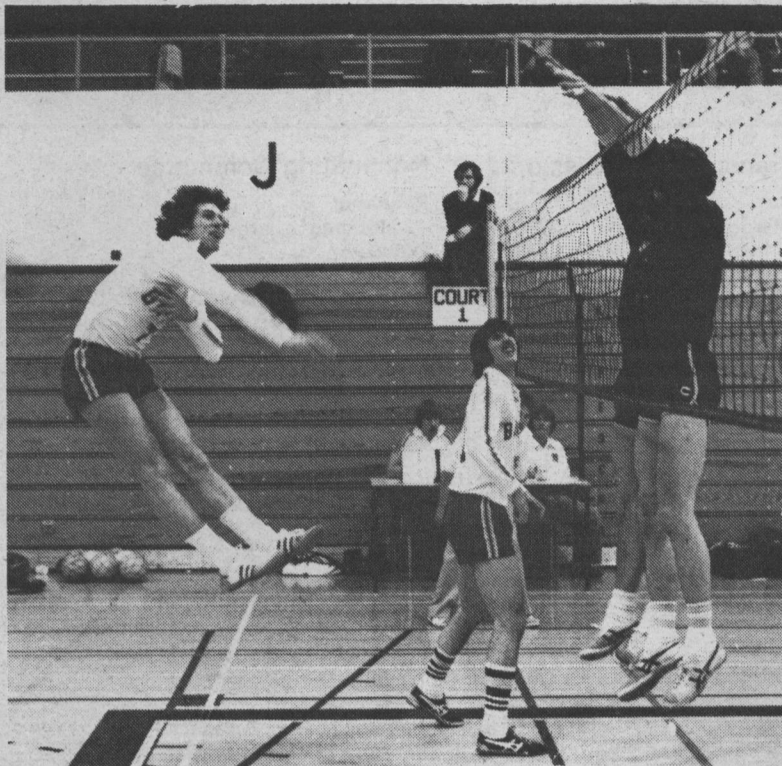


photo Russ Sampson

Last chance this Saturday to see the Bears at home.



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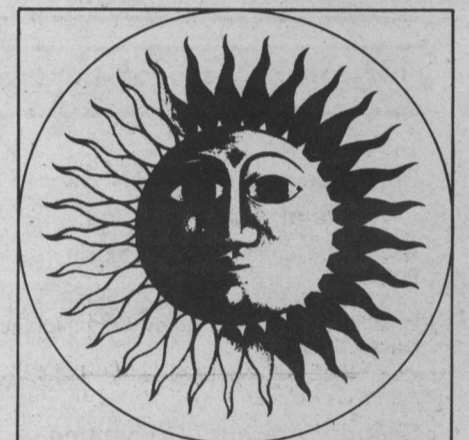
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