

# U of S v-ballers stifle comeback

by Alan Small  
Saskatchewan 3 Bears 2

A seesaw sendoff was given to the '86-'87 edition of the Golden Bears volleyball squad, as they pushed the number two ranked Saskatchewan Huskies to the limit in their final home game of the year.

The Bears came out flat in the first game as the Huskies got out to a 7-1 start and went on to defeat the U of A 15-8.

The Golden Bears started making a charge in the second though, as they kept up with Saskatchewan until the bitter end. But the Dogs got the upper hand in the game and the match with a 15-11 win and a 2-0 lead.

"They were reluctant to go with the game plan in the first game and a half," said Golden Bear head coach Pierre Baudin of his troops, "then they saw it was more effective."

The system was to use more tipping at the net to throw off the offence of the Huskies and their spirited defence. "We knew they could dig, so we wanted to see them with the transition. It frustrated them," Baudin commented.

And he was right. The Golden Bears put ten points on the scoreboard before the U of S knew what hit them, and went on to an easy 15-7 victory in game three. The game was filled with disputed calls, with referee Bill Ward handing out a yellow (warning) card and a red card to the frustrated Huskies. "We upset their rhythm, which threw them right off. They didn't know what to do," Baudin said.

It was more of the same in the fourth game as the Bears took control early on the flatlanders with 4-1 and 13-10 leads, eventually winning the game 15-11. During the five minute intermission before the final game, Saskatchewan coach Tom Graham took his team back to

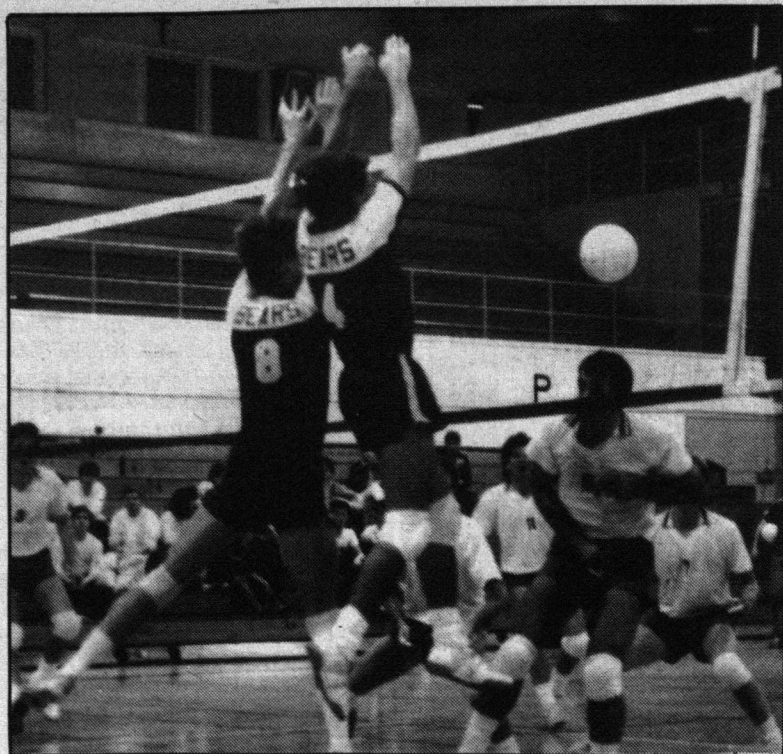


Photo Greg Perkins

**Jim Schubert (4) stuffs a Huskie with help from Ben Spiller. It was Schubert's final game at the Varsity Gym, as the Engineer graduates this year.**

the dressing room: The Huskie fur must have been flying.

"I asked how many of the guys were mentally prepared for the match and only two hands went up. It was a fair indication of our play throughout the whole match," Graham said. "We took them lightly right from the start, and by the third game it had caught up with us."

It turned out to be a good move by Graham as his squad had lost all of their momentum, while the Bears were sky high. Alberta were one game from toppling the unbeaten second ranked team in the country.

It all went for naught, though, as Alberta ended up losing the tie-breaker 15-7. "We seemed to tire in the fifth game, while they really settled down," Baudin admitted.

The Huskies, now 13-0, didn't seem so ecstatic. "I was really embarrassed with our performance tonight," said a not so happy Graham. "It's not sour grapes though, the Bears played really well."

"We had no pressure on us, it was all on them," added Bears' fourth year player John MacKinnon. MacKinnon leads the conference in serving aces with 17 and threw the Huskies off all game with his hard floating serve. "He was playing defence out of his mind, too," stated coach Baudin.

**Last Spikes** — Graduating players **Jim Schubert** and **Dean Weller** were honoured in a pre-game tribute... The Bears close out the season on the road against the **Universities of Calgary** and **Lethbridge** this weekend.

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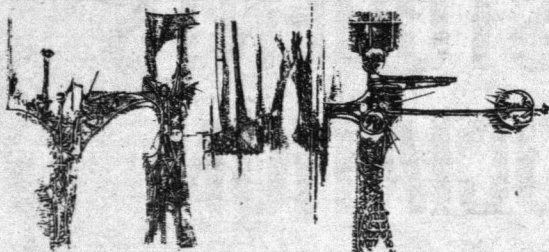
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