



Jay O'Neill

I think I can speak for all Saskatchewan Roughrider fans when I say last Sunday's 32-21 victory over the Edmonton Eskimos lifted a huge weight off of our shoulders.

This weight has accumulated over the last 13 years. It all started back on November 28, 1976 when the Riders were leading their Eastern namesakes, the Ottawa Rough Riders, 17-13 with less than a minute to go in the Grey Cup. It looked as though Saskatchewan was going to win its second Grey Cup. But with 22 seconds left in the game, Ottawa quarterback Tom Clements hit Tony Gabriel in the endzone for the winning touchdown.

Since then the Riders have missed the playoffs 11 straight years and always had to say "wait 'til next year." While the Riders had hit the skids, the Eskimos started to dominate the Canadian Football League. During that span they never missed the playoffs, appeared in eight Grey Cups, and won six (five in a row). With all this success, Edmonton and, especially, its fans became spoiled.

The Eskimo fans would walk around with their chest stuck out and brag about how great their team was. They took pride in rubbing it in to the rest of the CFL, but especially to Saskatchewan fans because of the state the Riders were in. Don't get me wrong. I don't mind fans cheering for their teams, but the way the Eskimo fans go about it, it's too much to bear. It's about time they receive some of their own medicine. This is why Saskatchewan's victory over Edmonton in the Western Final was so gratifying.

All week before Sunday's game, the Riders were treated with little respect from the media, the oddsmakers (13 point underdogs) and the Eskimos. Edmonton defensive nosetackle John "Juice" Mandarich was making statements like "I'm expecting to blow them out of the water," and "there's no doubt we'll shellac them." Well Juice, you didn't exactly blow them out of the water or shellac them.

I don't know why Mandarich was popping off at the mouth. Maybe it had something to do with his lack of press caused by the coverage the ALL-STARS on defence received. But if you are going to talk tough you'd better back it up, and he didn't. His stats from the Western Final were less than impressive: zero tackles, one quarterback sack, zero interceptions, and one fumble recovery.

Saskatchewan and its fans were spurred on by Edmonton's cockiness and the result showed on the scoreboard, and in the stands. "Rider Pride" was rampant as the Riders players and fans let out 13 years of frustration by going crazy. There was no arrogance or cockiness on their part. They were just having fun. This is the difference between the two teams' fans. Saskatchewan fans will savour the victory and will find no need to prance around and treat the Riders like they were God's gift to football (unlike the Eskos' fans who do). Although I think they took joy in beating Edmonton in their own backyard to get to the Grey Cup.

What was supposed to be the biggest blowout ever went, instead became — in Eskimo offensive tackle Hec Pothiers' words — "the biggest choke in the history of the CFL." It has blown the lid off 13 years of disappointment for Rider fans and caused Edmonton fans to say "wait 'til next year."

"Professor" Baudin leads v-ballers

by Ajay Bhardwaj

Pierre Baudin would not have gotten along with Green Bay Packer coach Vince Lombardi. Where Baudin sees learning as being the most important thing, Lombardi saw winning as the "only thing."

Baudin, the Bear volleyball coach, considers himself "a part of the educational program" at the University of Alberta.

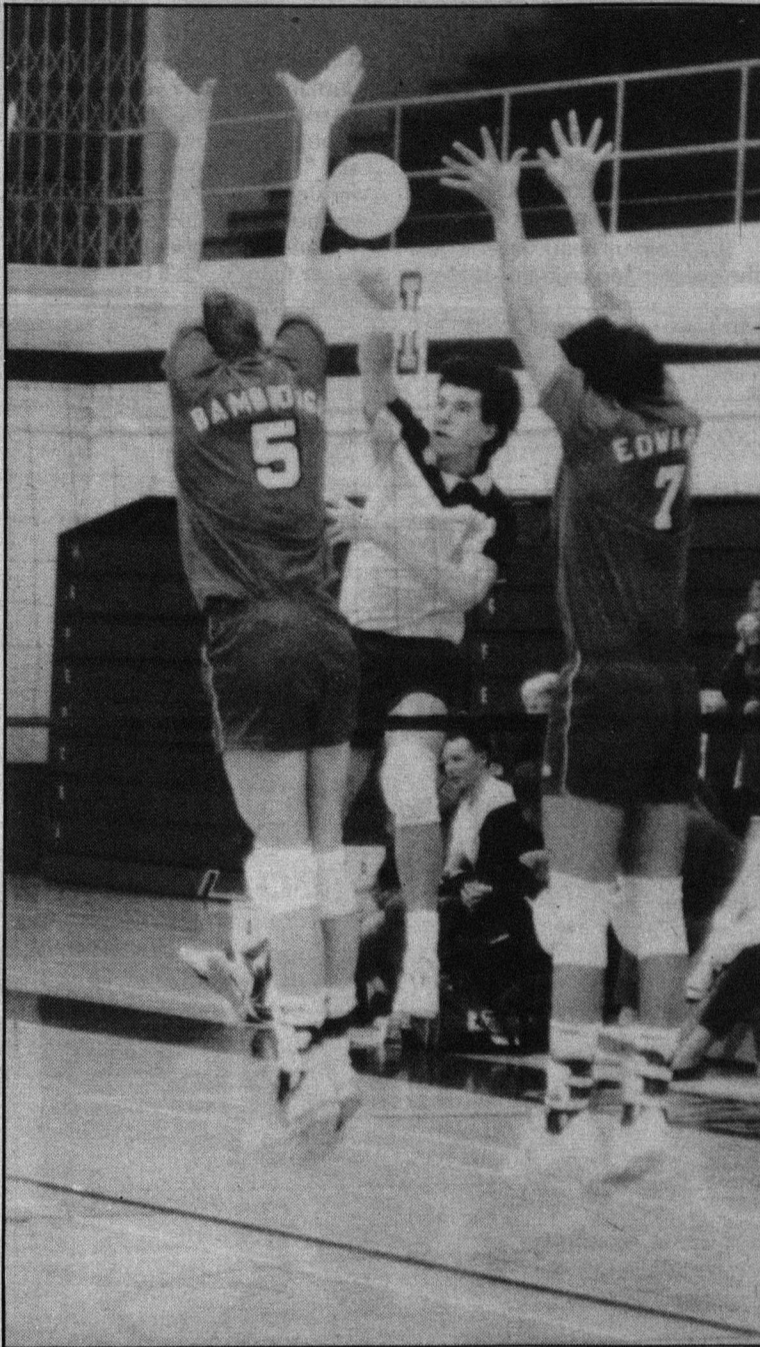
"It's the thing I always fall back on," Baudin said. "I'm a teacher and a student. I never stop learning.

When I stop learning, that's the day I'll die."

That's one reason that Baudin has been criticized in the past. People have felt that he was too easy on his players and that it cost him. "It's not part of my personality. But I've responded by surrounding myself with tougher people, like (assistant coach) Rick Oatway. He has a reputation for being tough."

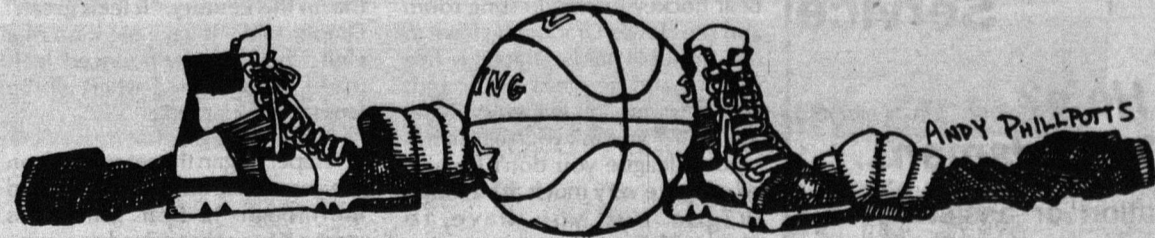
However, Baudin has also learned from the experiences of Panda volleyball coach Suzi Smith, who is known for pushing her players. "A little bit of me in her would make her a better coach, and a little bit of her in me would make me a better coach."

Baudin is in the fourth year of a five year contract. And although he believes that he shares the same philosophy as administration does on coaching, he concedes, "I'm not stupid either. It takes time to establish the program I want to be successful with." Although he isn't being pressured to win, Baudin has placed pressure on himself. Each of the last three seasons have been



Greg Perkins

Bears setter Oliver Semonis fires a spike through two Dinosaurs. The Bears and Pandas are off to Saskatchewan this weekend. Panda coach Suzi Smith feels that "if we can sweep Saskatchewan and split with Vic, we'll be fine going into Christmas."



by Mitch Panciuk

The national rankings for Men's basketball came out and the Golden Bear hoop squad is ranked number 1 in the CIAU. This is only the second time in the history of the University of Alberta that a team has ranked number one in basketball, and that other team was the Golden Bear squad of 1986-87. That team earned its number one ranking in January of that year, and held on to it for five months before losing in game three of the Canada-West playoffs against the Victoria Vikings by one point.

I was down in Calgary on Friday night and caught the Golden Bear-Dinosaur game. Great game in terms of excitement! The Bears were down by five at the half, and fought back to win the game with a final score of 97-91. That game told me a lot about this year's Bear club.

While I had seen them play a strong game against a very powerful Alumni team, and play just as well

in the Golden Bear Invitational tournament to win it, I couldn't really tell if the Bears had the character to win when the game was on the line. (Incidentally, five of the eight teams that were at the GBI are in the CIAU top-10.)

The Bears had a lot of bad luck in last Friday's game against the Dinos. They could have packed it in when forward Rick Stanley got into foul trouble early. They could have packed it in when rookie-forward David Wooldrige missed some easy baskets inside and when veterans

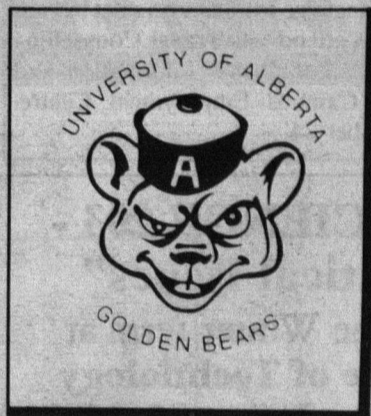
Posting up

like Bill Lavergne were being out-rebounded because some of the Calgary players wanted the rebounds more than he did. But to their credit, the Golden Bears didn't.

They stuck at it, and showed the "character" that a good team has.

sub .500 for the Bears, including a 2-14 mark last season.

Now the Bears are on the brink of national prominence. Last weekend they handled National Champion Calgary two nights in a row. "It's like a woman having a baby. There's nine months of anticipation, but when she gets to labor it's hell. My program has been in pregnancy for three years and now we're getting into labor. Things have started to come around and there is a lot of pressure. 90% of it is self-imposed. People come up to you and say 'good job, who're you playing next?' and you don't want to let them down. I know what the players' goals are and what their expectations are. You have the lifetime goals of others in your hands and it's kind of stressful."



This weekend, the stressed out Baudin takes his team to Saskatchewan to face the Huskies. The Huskies are a small team, who were marginally better than the Bears (the Huskies were 5-11). "We have to hit high outside and use our height," setter Oliver Semonis said. "They're known as a good defensive team who never give up on the ball. They don't make the mental mistakes. We can't let them get any runs."

Ben Spiller, middle, believes that the Bears' height will be the key. "It will really help us with our blocking," Spiller said. "We can get up quickly, which makes our defense easier."

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