

Greig Johnston and the Bears were wide-eyed over their first two wins

V-ball gods relent as Bears win first and last of year

by Alan Small

Before last weekend's series with the Saskatchewan Huskies, the Bear volleyball team were winless. After, they were the CIAU's tenth ranked team.

"It was a kind of relief," said Bear head coach Pierre Baudin. "It's kind of scary when you're facing 0-16."

The Bears swept the previously seventh ranked Huskies 3-1 both nights. Although their first win in conference play was on Friday, the Bears were more excited over their win on Saturday, their second of the year.

"We felt like national champs on Saturday night," said Baudin. "I think it got rid of the old Golden Bear image that have us looking like losers. It's good for our credibility."

Both matches were similar. The Bears were in control throughout, as they defeated the Huskies 15-13, 10-15, 15-7, 15-9 on Friday night, while they handled them just as easily on Saturday 15-11, 10-15, 15-8, 15-11.

"We finally put it all together," said Baudin, "we got good defence, with good offence and good passing. I think we're even better than our ranking shows. There isn't a single team in the country that we're not competitive."

The number ten ranking looks good for next year, not only for Golden Bear pride, but also for recruiting. Baudin is looking for even better results from the green and gold next year.

"We've had some good luck recruiting in the past two years," said Baudin who has five sopho-

mores and rookies among his starting six. "We're getting some top high school and college recruits next year too."

"We'll be challenging for the Canada West title next year," Baudin boldly added. A Golden Bear team hasn't finished first in the west since 1975. They won the CIAU title in 1981, the last time they qualified for the nationals.

The Pandas also finished the year on a winning note, as they defeated the Saskatchewan Huskiettes 3-1 both nights as well. The Pandas won on Friday night 15-3, 12-15, 15-8, 15-8. On Saturday night, they triumphed 15-2, 15-2, 13-15, 15-2. They have no hope of making the national championships.

U of A swimmers finish second

The U of A swim teams came up with strong performances at the CIAU swimming championships in Vancouver.

The Pandas won seven golds, five silvers and two bronze medals to lead them to second place in the country.

Debbie Gaudin, Anne Taylor, and Keltie Duggan both won two golds at the meet. Gaudin won the 200m free and 100m fly, while Duggan won the 100m and 200m breaststroke. Taylor won the 400m individual medley and the 200m fly.

Duggan's time of 1:08.54 in the 100m was a CIAU record. She was the top female at the

meet.

Gaudin also won a silver in the 200m butterfly. Keltie Byrne won three silvers, in the 200m and 400m individual medley, and the 200m breaststroke. Leigh Anne Martinson won the 100m breaststroke.

The 400m medley relay team also won a gold. The 4x100m freestyle team took silver while the 4x200m free team won a bronze medal.

On the men's side, Chris Bowie took the only gold, in the 1500m freestyle. He also won a silver in the 400m free. Dave Goodkey won a silver in the 200m free as well as Cam

Grant in the 200m breaststroke. The 4x100m medley relay team and the 4x200m team took silvers as well.

Jeff Welechuk won a bronze in the 100m backstroke while Grant was also third in the 200m breaststroke.

The Bears finished a distant third in the meet, behind the University of Calgary and Toronto.

Their third place showing is a place better than last year. The Pandas finished in fifth one year ago.

Both teams were ranked first in the country earlier in the year.

Clive Oshry

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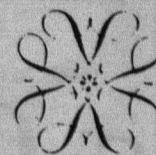


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