

A way of life in Madrid

Beggars, painters and flamenco

The last installment of our saga on what happens when Our Man from Grande Prairie completes his drinkers' tour of Spain. If it's vino blanco it must be Jaca...

After spending seven of the ten days in Spain in the small northern town of Jaca, Canada's representatives at the World Student Winter Games, the University of Alberta Golden Bears, had an opportunity to tour the Spanish capital of Madrid before flying home. In this, the last of the series on Spain, I'll look at life in Madrid and see how it compares to Jaca and to Canada.

Madrid: A bustling metropolis of over four million people, the Spanish capital is twice as large as any city in Canada. And like any large city there are both seamy and posh parts of town. Like most European cities, Madrid has a history and tradition that goes back centuries before Columbus ever thought of sailing the Atlantic.

Our first exposure to the

and hotels are also named after figures from Spain's past. The subway system, a multi-level collection of rickety turn-of-the-century trains, had station names that read like a who's-who of Spanish history.

It didn't take long to find out we were staying in the ritzy part of Madrid. With room rates in the \$60-\$70 range per night and prices in the high-class shops

patrons then had to shell out six dollars a drink. And as four players found out the hard way, be careful of any strangers - especially females - who become uninvited companions at your table. It cost them, not only in the pocketbook, but bruised knuckles as well when the management tried to collect an additional "service" charge the Canadians were unwilling to pay.

After that unfortunate first-night experience, things went a little smoother the following two days.

On the second day, we toured some of Madrid's famous sights, including a trip to the world-famous Prado museum. Rated as one of the top art galleries - some say as good as the Louvre in Paris - it was built specifically as an art museum to host the Spanish royal collection. Home of the major works of all the important Renaissance painters in Spain, such as Velazquez, Goya and Rafael, some individual canvases are valued in excess of \$5 million.

Side by side with centuries-old buildings were steel and glass structures housing modern department stores, and yes, there was even a MacDonald's and a Burger King. But unlike their Canadian counterparts, in Madrid you could wash down a burger and fries with a cool glass of beer.

One of the major shopping areas was the Place del Sol, a giant pedestrian mall featuring everything from seven-story department stores to street vendors operating out of suitcases. Most of these fly-by-night operators - selling everything from dresses to toy ducks - kept one eye on the customers and one eye open for the local police patrolling the mall. At the first sign of a blue suit they whisked away their tables and boxes to the nearest side-street or alley-way.

Business suits were common in the Place del Sol, but so were the beggars. Dressed in dirty, tattered clothes and always holding a child, or two, or three,

they sat silently on the sidewalks with their hands out and forlorn looks on their faces. Most showed up in the warm afternoon sunshine and quickly disappeared as soon as the sun started to set.

Wednesday and Thursday we spent cruising the shops and sights, reserving Thursday evening, our last night in Spain, for an evening out on the town. We started with a trip to what our tour guide said was one of Madrid's finest restaurants, for a dinner of either steak or paella. It was then on to see the famous Spanish flamenco dancers.

Although the show got off to a slow start with some of the less-talented performers, by the time it

ended three hours later, our early reservations about the quality of these uniquely Spanish dancers had evaporated. The fast and furious pace and precise artistry of these performers made most of us feel we had received our money's worth.

It was a fitting way to finish an enlightening and interesting trip. The show was a refreshing break from the barrage of American and British music in the discos, and the finale to a full-circle exposure to the Spanish people and their culture.

Many of us had our appetites whetted for another taste of Europe sometime in the future.



The rich and the poor. Beggars on the street crying for pesetas.

Spaniards' pride in their cultural history the minute we stepped off the bus after the seven hour ride from Jaca. Our hotel for that night - and the next two - was called the Grand Hotel Velazquez. Named after the famous Spanish painter it was appropriately on one of the city's busiest thoroughfares - Velazquez Avenue.

Many of the streets, squares

rivalling any in the top-of-the-line Edmonton boutiques, no one was too eager to go souvenir hunting around the hotel.

On that same note, some players found that the night-life in Madrid, particularly in the discos on Velazquez Avenue, was a little more costly than back home. After paying anywhere from five to eight dollars to get in the door,

Broncos, brahmas and bits

by Kathryn McDonald

Have you got leather and dirt in your blood?

Do you enjoy the competition of man pitted against beast?

If so, then you're just one of the many rodeo enthusiasts from across Western Canada.

And for all those students on campuses throughout Edmonton who want their own taste of the real action, the University of Alberta has its own Rodeo Club.

Encompassing students from the U of A, NAIT, Grant McEwan Community College and Alberta College, the club was originally formed to sponsor a rodeo in conjunction with the Agriculture Club's Bar None events. Varsity Rink used to be the location of flying hooves and bouncing cowboys - and cowgirls - but in recent years the rodeo has been forced to vacate the campus site in favor of the Spruce Grove arena.

Once again, however, the



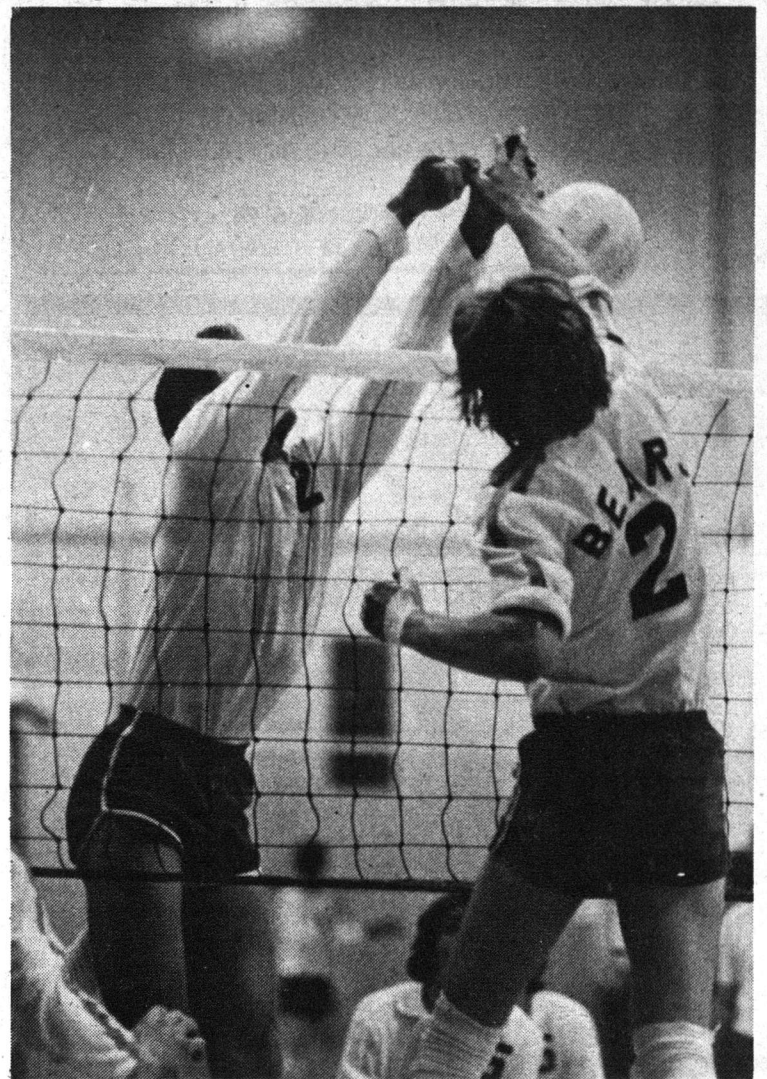
A rodeo club member tries to make the eight second count.

club - which participates in six rodeos throughout the year - has pulled up its stakes and is moving. This year the Hobbema Agriplex will host the six team competition on April 17-18.

Teams from Olds, Calgary, Lethbridge, Vermillion and

Saskatchewan will provide the opposition for the Edmonton contingent.

Action starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday night and 1:30 p.m. Saturday afternoon. A wrap-up dance, in Ponoka, follows on Saturday night.



The University of Alberta Golden Bears, Canada's university volleyball champs, tackle Germany Thursday night in Varsity Gym.

German volleyball

Thursday evening in Varsity Gym, the best from Canada will take on the best from West Germany.

The University of Alberta Golden Bears, 1981 Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) Volleyball champions, will meet Duren, West Germany in the second of a series of international exhibition matches. The first is in Vegreville on Wednesday.

Duren is a club team which plays in the West German first division. They will be in Canada for 21 days and play 11 different teams from Alberta and B.C. during the tour. After the pair of games against the Bears they will head south to Calgary and then west to Vancouver. Along the way will be matches with Canadian National Team and top club teams. They wind up back in Edmonton on April 27 with a match against the Edmonton Friars, the 1981 City of Edmonton champions.

The matches with the Golden Bears mark a return engagement between the two clubs. In a 1979 tour of Germany, Duren edged the Bears three games to two.

The Golden Bears, unlike most other varsity sports teams at the U of A, is composed almost entirely of native Edmontonians. Only Lawrence Sedore, from Red Deer, did not learn his volleyball skills at a local high school.

For Bears' star Terry Danyluk, Thursday's match will mark his last appearance in a Golden Bear uniform. Danyluk, voted the top university volleyball player the past two seasons by the CIAU, will move on to the Canadian National Team as soon as the academic year is completed. Danyluk was also recently named the U of A's Outstanding Male Athlete for 1980-81.

Warm-ups on Thursday start at 7:00 p.m. with the first game at 8:00 p.m. Students' admission is \$2.00 and tickets are available at the door.