

V-men in tough league

This Friday is the start of the Canada West volleyball season. Undoubtedly, all the coaches are waiting to see what the other teams strengths are. In particular the coastal teams have not had a chance to see the Prairie squads.

The old cliché holds for this year's play. That is, almost any team could win the West conference. The stronger teams from last year have lost top players and the other teams have gained good competitors. Consequently, the season will be a whole series of closely fought and exciting matches. By the season's end most coaches

should have a new set of grey hairs.

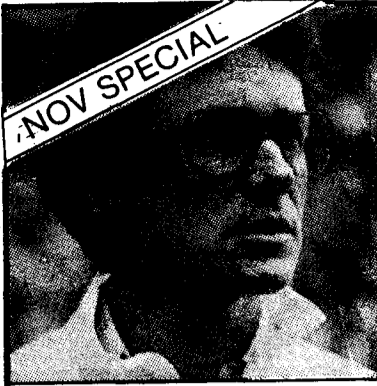
In spite of the league's closeness a few teams stand out. The U of S Huskies have to be rated number one and are defending CIAU champions. A new coach, Larry Plenert should throw new wrinkles into the U of S offense.

UBC is expected to do well largely because many players from the U Vic team (placed second last year) have transferred to Vancouver. Rated third are the U of A Bears who

have five rookies and two new coaches. Coach Hugh Hoyles has lured Brian Watson and Errol Miller to the Bears coaching staff.

Former national team member Terry Danyluk will continue to lead the team. Also, the Bears have 12 players capable of starting so bench strength is no concern.

The Bears should do well if their quick attack can be used, but in any case can rely on experienced members on last year's Junior national championship team.



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Going down:

The road

by Pam Spencer

The Pandas, off on their first road trip last weekend, came home a little disappointed. The Pandas hockey team didn't seem ready to face last year's provincial champions. Innisfail came up on top winning a hard and gruesome game 5 to 1.

The distress the Pandas experienced was crucial to the game. They had difficulties maintaining defensive and offensive strategies and adapting to Innisfail's style. Hence, the score was 5 to 0 for Innisfail at the close of the second period.

The Pandas, not to be outdone, came back for the third period and finally outshot Innisfail. Defenseman, Gail DePaoli was consistently flying up center ice leaving a trail of Innisfail players behind. Leanne Ekholm began showing true goalie form, warding off almost certain goals.

The lone Panda scorer, Joanne Hutsul on defense, caught a pass at the opponent's blue line and carried it down the right side. Nearly parallel to the net, Joanne let a shot go that zipped in between the Innisfail goalie and the post. All was not lost because in this third period the Pandas began to use their skills and feel confident with their strategies. When the Pandas meet Innisfail at Varsity Arena later in the season it will promise to be an exciting game.

The Pandas face the Chestnuts this Saturday night, November 24th in Varsity Arena at 8 pm.

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