



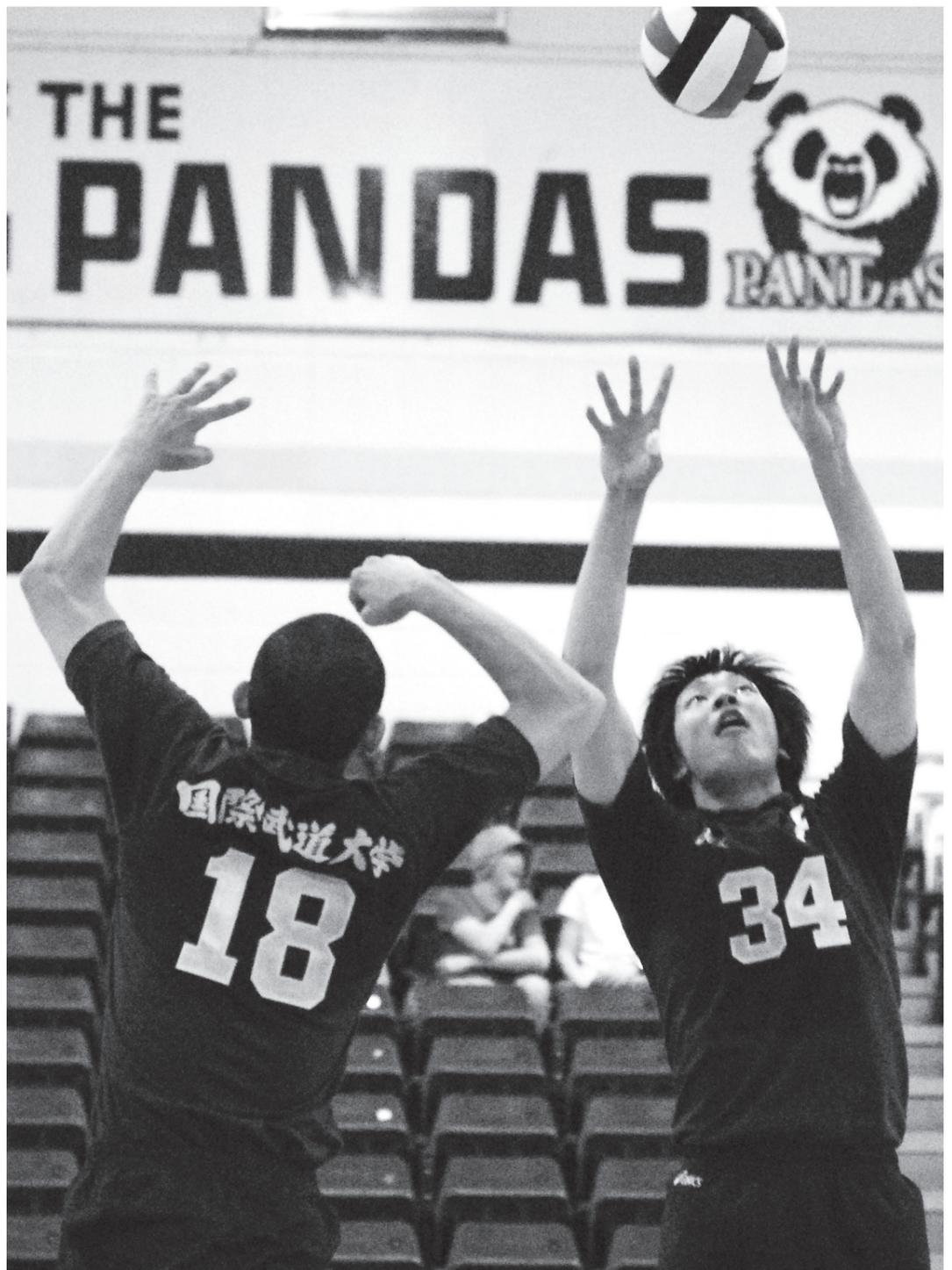
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KRYSTINA SULATYCKI

LAND OF THE RISING BALL Budo seemed to enjoy their time in Canada. They were really happy in RATT on Wednesday.

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Japanese volleyball teams bring international flavour to U of A

International Budo challenges Pandas, Golden Bears in Tuesday evening sets

ANDREW RENFREE
 Sports Staff

What's the main difference between volleyball in Canada and Japan?

"About eight inches in height," Bears volleyball head coach Terry Danyluk joked.

The Main Gym got a little international flavour Tuesday evening as the Pandas and Bears volleyball squads took on teams from Japan in exhibition matches. The Asian competition hails from the International Budo University in Chiba, Japan, located 90 minutes north of Tokyo. The Japanese contenders played against the University of Saskatchewan earlier in the week before travelling to the U of A to finish their Canadian trip.

"The guys [were] really looking forward to this competition because, for some of them, they've never played a Japanese team," Danyluk said. "It's a neat experience for the athletes: everything's in a different language, it's a different speed and it's one of the things I feel gives you experience and makes you a better player."

"There's a North American style of playing a particular sport and it's great for our athletes to experience the international style," U of A Athletics Director Dale Schula added. "The interaction with the other student athletes is

very important and I know the coaches appreciate having different systems to play against."

The Bears won their match 3-0 against the men's squad that plays in division one and would be comparable to most CIS teams.

"They frustrate you and it pushes those buttons, and you could see at times tonight we were getting frustrated because what we did wasn't working; it wasn't good enough."

**LAURIE EISLER
 ON INTERNATIONAL BUDO**

The Budo women's team plays in a division two league in Japan, but fought hard against the Pandas Tuesday with strong technical play. The Pandas won 3-1 in four hard-fought sets.

"They made us play really hard tonight," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "They have unbelievable tactics and ball control, and they force you to beat them because they're not going to make mistakes and they keep

the ball alive."

Eisler added that the strength of the Japanese team was irritating at times.

"They frustrate you and it pushes those buttons, and you could see at times tonight we were getting frustrated because what we did wasn't working; it wasn't good enough," she explained. "You couldn't get a more relentless and meticulous kind of opponent."

While no other international teams are scheduled to hit the volleyball court at the Main Gym before the end of the year, U of A Athletics Director Dale Schula mentioned that the U of A is attempting to increase the amount of international opposition they face.

"In terms of international competition we're always looking for that opportunity for all of our athletes; it's really an excellent situation for our kids," Schula said, noting that they are also attempting to send teams overseas to compete.

Schula continued that U of A is a leader amongst Canadian universities in terms of hosting teams from other countries and hoped it would enhance the 2011 Summer Universiade bid that U of A currently has tendered. Alberta previously hosted the Universiade in 1983, for which the Universiade Pavilion was built.