30 SPORTS tuesday, 13 february, 2007

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A light lunch will be served at this free public lecture Please RSVP by Feb. 12, 2007 to dean@law.ualberta.ca



These guys might look like baseball players, but really they just want to write for *Gateway* Sports.

You see, I went to a Yankees/Orioles game and told them that I was looking for new writers. All of a sudden, Derek Jeter jumped Brady Anderson and started pummeling him in the head. Paul O'Neill joined in, and things got a little out of hand, so I decided I'd stick with students—they're much easier to deal with.

So if you've never been in a basebrawl, stop by Sports meetings 5pm Tuesdays in Room 3-04 SUB.

## **GATEWAY SPORTS**

Sticking it to *prima donna* athletes since 1910

# New setter a chip off the old Brock

Bears volleyball captain Pehar admirably replacing all-Canadian Davidiuk

ANDREW RENFREE Sports Staff

In the summer of 2004, Brock Pehar found himself faced with a tough decision. He had just finished his second season with the University of Waterloo Warriors but wasn't satisfied with the program or his future volleyball opportunities.

He considered transferring to the U of A, but knew he would have to sit on the bench for a full season because of CIS rules for transferring players. Pehar weighed his options: a guaranteed starting position for three years in Waterloo, or a year on the bench in Edmonton, followed by another season as a backup. Eventually the Ontario native decided playing for Alberta was a chance he couldn't pass up.

"That first year was very frustrating," Pehar says. "It was tough to come here knowing that I would give up a year [of volleyball]. Without that, my choice to leave probably would have been an easy decision, but it was a sacrifice that I had to make to get where I am now, and I'm glad I did it."

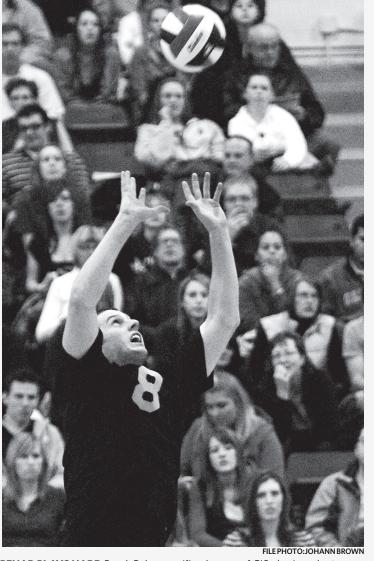
In the end, it was the opportunity to improve his game at the top men's volleyball program in the country that brought Pehar west.

"I decided to come here because I saw myself in a starting role [at Waterloo] for three more years and I didn't really see myself improving in that time," Pehar explains. "The coaches don't get much better than [Alberta head coach] Terry [Danyluk]; the players don't get much better than what we've had out here in the last couple of years, and that's a great environment that a player can put himself in for his development."

Two years after his decision, the move has paid off for the 6'5" setter. Now, Pehar is the Bears' captain and leads Canada West in assists per game, averaging 11.15 each match, and is ranked third in the conference in service aces per game with 0.47.

Many of his teammates and coaches saw leadership potential in Pehar last season, and Bears libero Justin Wong says Pehar was an obvious choice to lead the squad.

"Brock is an intense guy who leads by example and holds everyone on the team accountable. He puts his full heart and soul into every game,"



**PEHAR PLAYS HARD** Brock Pehar sacrificed a year of CIS play in order to come to Alberta from Waterloo, and spent another warming the bench.

Wong says, adding that leadership has fallen into place nicely this

At the beginning of the season, Pehar had some large shoes to fill from a leadership perspective—literally, as previous captain Leo Carroll stood 6'9"—but he also faced the challenge of stepping in at the setter role to replace Brock Davidiuk, one of the top setters in Canada. However, Pehar notes that taking over from Davidiuk was easier than some would think.

"As good as he was, he made the transition easier for me because I learned a lot from him last year," Pehar says. "I took things from him and he made the transition easier by teaching me things. I think it would have been harder from someone

who wasn't as talented."

"Both Brocks are great setters. The nice thing about Pehar is that he's still got a year of eligibility, so he still has time to refine his game even more," Wong adds, comparing the playing styles of each setter.

As it turns out, Pehar, the apprentice setter, honed his trade from one of the best journeymen in men's volleyball.

"[Davidiuk] taught me a lot of technical things, but more importantly, how to carry myself on the court—how to lead a team," Pehar says. "There's a lot more to setting than just volleying the ball to the right spot. It's about leading the squad and running an offence. He taught me some pretty valuable things about how to do that."



NOW THAT'S SCHOOL SPIRIT Members of the swim team came out in support of Pandas volleyball on Friday night.