

Emerald file photo

Volleyballers from the People's Republic of China will repeat their 1982 visit to McArthur Court and challenge the Ducks Sunday night at 7:30.

Chinese return to Mac Court

By D.C. Jesse Burkhardt Of the Emerald

Glancing over the Oregon women's volleyball schedule for the month of October one sees Oregon State, San Jose State, Santa Clara, Fresno State, Cal State-Bakersfield, the People's Republic of China, ...wait a minute...How did a team from the People's Republic of China slip into the schedule?

Ask Mike Shen, if you can locate him. He's somewhat of a mystery figure that not even the University's razor-sharp sports information staff can get much of a handle on.

All anyone seems to know is that Shen is a University graduate, now living somewhere in British Columbia. He's a sports fan who went

out of his way to arrange a visit to Eugene by a Chinese volleyball team as part of a West Coast tour which includes stops at California, Portland State, and Washington, among others.

And there is also a plan in the works for the Duck volleyball team to take a tour of their own into China a couple of years down the road.

The Sunday contest at McArthur Court promises to be much more than just a volleyball game. The evening's activities seem to resemble an international celebration.

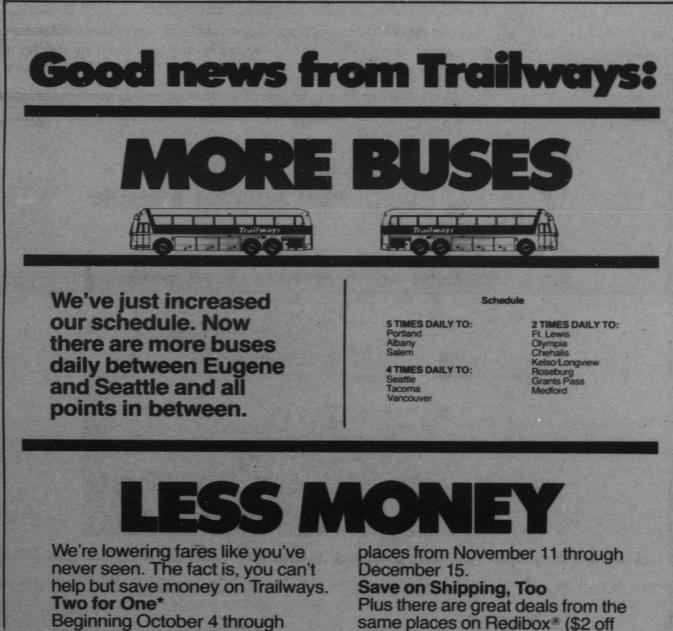
It might appear to be, at first look, a microcosmic replay of the Olympics. There will be players from each team marching into McArthur Court, bearing the flag of their respective country. Bands will play each team's national anthem. The team captains will meet at center court and exchange team gifts while individual players follow with a trade of individual gifts. International protocol will be the order of the day.

It will be reminiscent of the Olympics — up to a point. It's anticipated that the outcome of the featured sports event following all the ceremony will not very likely resemble the overwhelming American victories of the '84 Olympics — because this Chinese team will be tough. With a capital 'T'.

"This is a Chinese junior team," says Voelz. "They could be as good as most country's national teams. Everything about them is very quick, high intensity."

Chris Voelz, women's volleyball coach, summed up the abilities of the Chinese players: "Awesome. Volleyball is the national sport over there. They've literally got millions of athletes to choose between to make up their team." Need more be said?

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