

TWISTING IT TO THEIR OWN PURPOSE

"The important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part..." — THE OLYMPIC CREED



Volleyball Big in Europe

There's always room for argument, but Carl McGowan, volleyball coach at Church College, is back from a visit to Europe with the statement that volleyball is the world's biggest spectator sport.

He'll be hearing from fans who believe that soccer is the biggest. Who know that basketball plays before more spectators than any other sport.

There'll also be backers for football, baseball, tennis and maybe even field hockey, swimming or golf.

"I don't know if it is true," says McGowan, who was sent to Europe by the U.S. Volleyball Association and the U.S. State Department to study tactics there.

"But in many of the middle European countries, such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Romania, volleyball ranks 1-2 with soccer. In Czechoslovakia, volleyball is No. 1."

Volleyball also is right up there at the top in Japan — although it must be assumed that baseball outranks it in the popularity category.

McGowan coached his



CARL MCGOWAN

Church College team to the state Class B championship last year and it finished second to the Outrigger Club in the Open division.

As a result, the club will go to Portland, Ore., in May to compete in the national championships.

"I learned a lot on my trip

to Europe," says McGowan. "About Europe, about communism and about volleyball."

"In Russia, for instance, all members of the Russian volleyball team except two are in the Army. So they practice together the year 'round.

"The other big volleyball countries go into intensive training for three months before a big meet. Of course, the government pays their salaries while they are in training."

This is where other countries get ahead of the United States in international competition.

American sports teams pay their own way to all international meets.

"We are lucky if we can get to train together one month before the Olympics or the Pan-American games," says McGowan, who plays on the Outrigger team and formerly starred in the sport at Brigham Young University.

"We have a great chance for some international competition next year. Po-

land is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the sport in that country and is inviting teams from all over the world.

"It's before the Olympic games. But I doubt that we'll be able to go — because our boys can't afford to take the time off from their jobs. And they probably can't afford the transportation costs."

It is McGowan's opinion that the United States team won't finish any higher than seventh in the 1968 Olympic games.

He fears that Russia, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Poland, East Germany and Japan will finish ahead.

"And maybe Brazil, too," he adds. "We won the Pan-American volleyball crown, but Brazil beat us during the tournament. And we had all our best players there except one."

McGowan claims that the United States has just as good talent in a volleyball way as the other countries.

"The whole thing just boils down to the fact that we can't get the training they do," he says.