

Beat Russians in volleyball

Islanders pace upset

By Jim Hackleman

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MEXICO CITY — Pista Hielo Revolucion looks like a high school gym, and last night it sounded like a high school gym — say St. Louis versus Punahou in basketball.

But it was the United States versus Russia in volleyball — the first confronta-



tion of these two political and athletic powers in the 1968 Olympics.

Noise rocked the arena throughout the hour and a half it took to play the match. Some of the cheering was for the United States "Hey, hey, U.S.A. hey, hey, U.S.A.—some for the Soviets, and most simply for good play by both sides. There were some boos, too, evenly parceled out. That's a custom here among the neutrals for play that isn't too effective.

At the end the noise was deafening and was, of course, for the Americans. They upset the team favored to win the gold medal, 11-15, 15-10, 10-15, 15-10, 15-6.

THREE OF THE American stars were John Alstrom, Pete Velasco and Jon Stanley — all from the Outrigger Canoe Club. The fourth member of the Hawaiian contingent, team captain

Tom Haine, did not play. ("I'm a spot player," the 35-year-old bank manager said, "and everyone was doing so well there was no reason to put me in.")

Velasco exuberantly described the victory — the United States' first over Russia in eight meetings — as — "my greatest thrill" and it was apparent everyone else on the squad felt the same.

Their excitement could hardly be contained — they bubbled over with it on the bus ride back to the Olympic Village.

Determination was the word the Americans used as the key — and now they're confident of going all the way — although there still are three or four teams rated higher.

"We had our eye on No. 1 when we started," said Coach James Coleman, "and we still have."

After taking a 5-0 lead in the third set and then losing it, it seemed the U.S. might be in the process of being worn down by the heftier Russians. But the Americans stormed ahead in the fourth and held on to win, and then ran off in the decisive set.

BREAKING A 4-4 stalemate in the fifth set, the U.S. steadily took command as Alstrom starred on attack, Rudy Suwara made some spectacular digs and Velasco was an all-round standout. In

one span, terrific slams by Alstrom scored two points for the U.S. and saved another from the demoralized Russians — and a match that was scorching almost all the way was over.

Notes — Suwara on Velasco: "He's so deceptive" goes up there smooth and easy, then at the last second he explodes that ball right at 'em and there's nothing they can do with it. He's something."

... Haine is more impressed with Japan's team than any

other he's seen in the men's division. The Japanese women, of course, are favored to win the gold medal and are a big hit of the Games.

Stanley expects to be stationed at Hickam AFB and play on the Flyers team in the Armed Forces Basketball League.

Yesterday's rain caused little interruption in the track events, but was mighty discomfoting to the spectators in the huge Olympic Stadium.

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SPORTS

Two track m topple at G

MEXICO CITY (UPI) — distance was set at 52-10 and only Art Walker of Los Angeles among the three Yanks in the competition was able to Giuseppe Gentile of Italy set a world record in the men's triple jump and Gulya Zsivotzky of Hungary broke the Games mark in the men's hammer throw today at the Olympics, while four more American hopefuls were eliminated.

Gentile, a 25-year-old student from Rome and a nephew of famed Italian philosopher Giovanni Gentile

