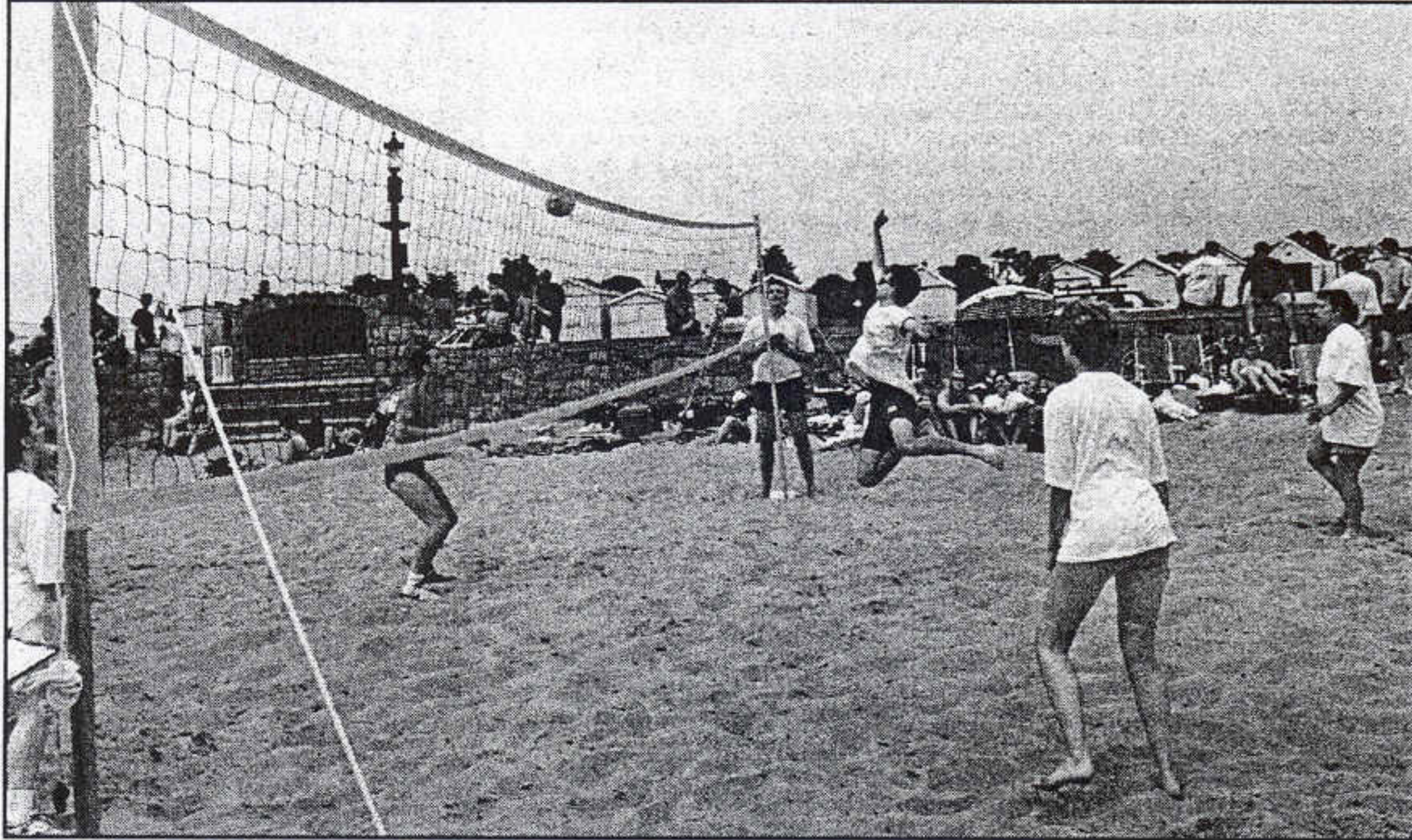
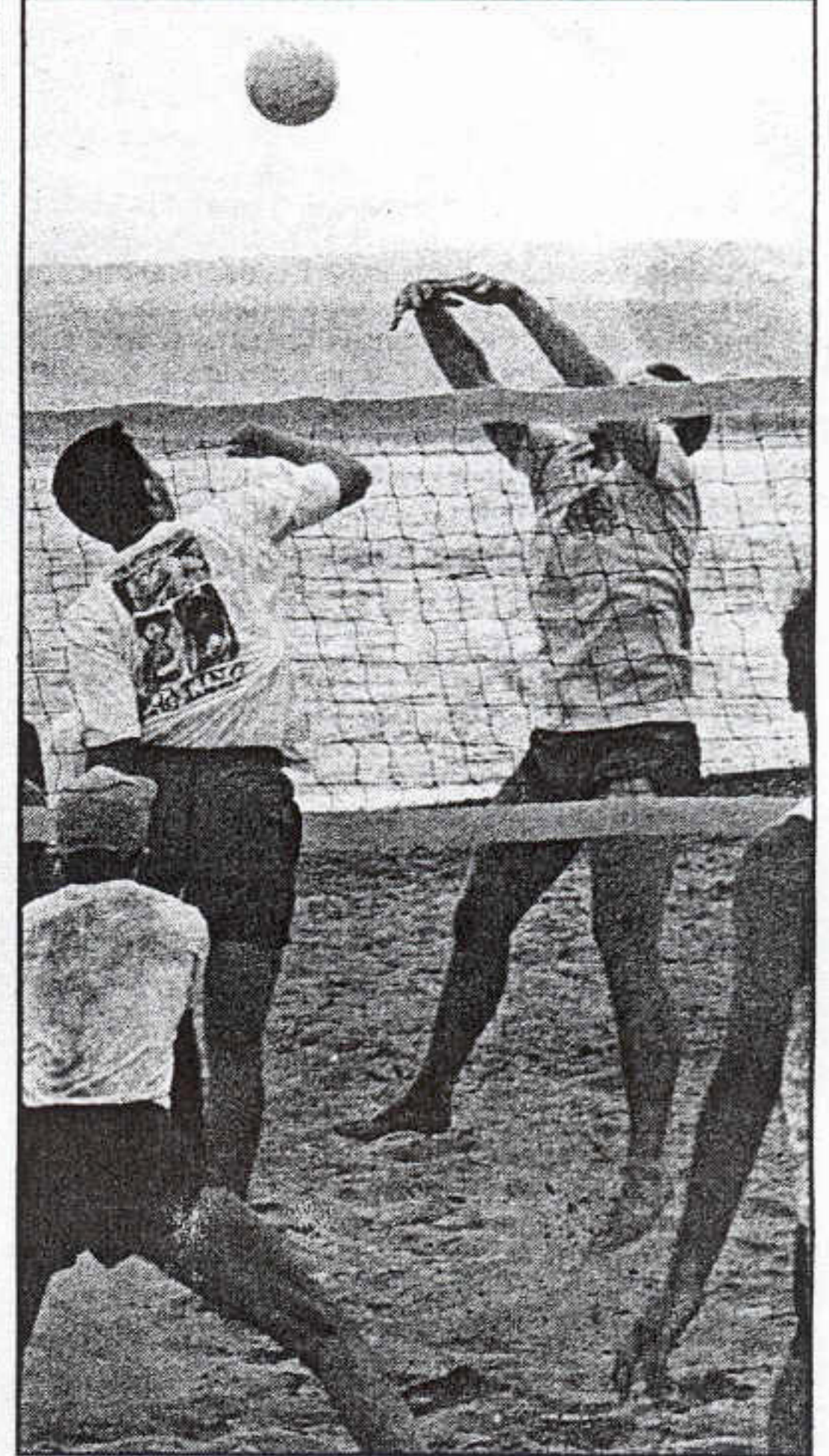


TUESDAY SPORTS EXTRA



SETTING THE SCENE: Action on Exmouth beach at the weekend during the Exeter Volleyball League tournament



CRUNCH MATCH: The Exmouth Beach Bums take on the Young Ones.

Fun in the sun

BEACH volleyball has a few rules which you do not find in the indoor game.

The court remains the same size, 18 metres by nine metres but teams are reduced from six to two or four players.

Unlike the indoor game, the player can serve from anywhere behind the base line, this means that players can take advantage of the position of the sun and the wind direction.

The ball can only be served, spiked (including off speed shots) or dug over the net. If a player volleys, dumps or tips the ball over the net, then the match referees will blow for a foul hit. This stops teams from placing balls over the net in order to find hole in their opposition's court.

In the two-a-side game players have to be able to perform all the basic volleyball skills of setting, digging and spiking. The four-a-side game allows teams to construct their game, and use different players for setting and hitting.

Players must serve in their correct rotation, other than that, there are no on court positions and no front or back court players.

Teams will generally play with one setter and three hitters. Players will also tend to stay in their chosen positions for the whole match. This produces good team play and results in a game of non stop action.

With players continually diving to retrieve the ball, players suffer from a build up of sand, and can request a "sand-out". This is a 10 second break in play to allow players to brush off the sand.

Beach courts do not have centre lines and hence the game has fewer net faults than the indoor game, however, referees should still watch for dangerous play and under the net contact with the opposition.

Beach volleyball is one of those

Beach Volleyball

games which to many people, conjures up visions of bronzed giants leaping around sunny tropical beaches.

The sport started on the beaches of California in the 1930s, today, sponsorship deals with beachwear manufacturers and with wide spread media coverage, the sport is one of the fastest growing spectators sports in the USA. There are also professional tours on the beaches of Italy, Brazil and Australia.

Tournaments have been held in Britain for the last five years with a series of events at Southport, Camber Sands, Bridlington Beach, Weymouth and Weston.

These events are organised along the Californian lines with two man or two-woman teams competing in the different sections. However the prize money is in the hundreds of pounds and not the thousands as on the Californian beaches.

■ TOP American players can earn in excess of £70,000 a season, even medium ranked players can pull in £20,000 to £40,000 a year.

■ The attraction of this sport can be seen in the number of TV commercials that use beach volleyball to see their products.

■ The 1996 Atlanta Olympics will see the introduction of beach volleyball as an Olympic sport for the first time.

■ Organisers of the tournament have already had to enlarge the press facilities as the number of press reporters have doubled from the expected 200 to 400.



BEACH BUMS of Exmouth beach volleyball line-up - back row, from the left: Paul Castle, Nick Hitt, Chris Hume. Front: Rick Partridge, Edin Hrapovic, Nigel Weaver.

Pictures: PAT EDWARDS.

Beach tournament wins applause

THE Exeter and District Volleyball League held its first beach volleyball tournament on Sunday, writes DAVID REECE

Building on the success of the two-a-side tournament run by the Exeter University, the league decided to arrange a four-a-side competition.

The demand for this type of competition proved to be a popular choice and with only six volleyball courts available, a number of team entries had to be turned away. In all 26 teams competed.

The day started on the no bathing

part of Exmouth beach, the overcast weather turned out to be just right for beach volleyball, with little or no wind.

The majority of teams came from the Exeter and Devon area. It was also good to see a number of local recreational teams involved for the first time. In the men's competition we had teams that had travelled from the Torbay, Honiton, Taunton and Bath areas.

The 140 players were well supported by an equal number of spectators who took advantage of the sea wall as a make-shift grandstand. With the weather not quite up to sunbathing,

the event attracted great interest from the public, many who had not seen the game before.

RESULTS

Men's Division: 1 Taunton VC, 2 Power Zone, 3 Beach Bums, 4 Spartans, 5 Bath VC, 6 Zymurgy, 7 Young Ones, 8 Four Players, 9 Team Late, 10 Torexe Crusaders, 11 King's Ottery, 12 QEC Crediton, 13 CRAP, 14 Torbay LC, 15 East Devon DC.

Mixed Division: 1 Wonford VC, 2 Torexe Crusaders, 3 Clifton Hill, 4 Beach Zombies, 5 Exeter Fire Service 6 Honiton, 7 East Devon DC, 8 Torexe Destroyers.

Ladies Division: 1 Torexe Clangers, 2 Torexe Crusaders, 3 East Devon DC.