

# Malaspina athletes ready for season

By AL CAMERON  
Staff Writer

Malaspina College teams are looking to improve on their fourth place aggregate performance of a year ago in the Totem Conference and athletic director Les Malbon believes they will.



LES  
MALBON  
...optimistic

"The whole program is stronger," said Malbon.

The badminton team is a perennial contender and this year should be no different. There is a possible trip to Quebec in the works for the team, which has won the Totem

Conference title two of the last three years. Alf McGuire will be coaching a team that Malbon says has "definite national championship potential."

Larry Roy takes over the reins of the men's basketball team. Roy was coaching on Saltspring Island and has been involved in regional development camps.

There will be a women's basketball team at Malaspina for the first time in two years, and it will be coached by Wayne Clouthier.

"There are a couple of girls who will really shine on this team," said Malbon. "I think a top four finish in the conference

is not unreasonable."

Bob DeBuysscher's golf team will have two members of last year's gold medal-winning squad back and Malbon is expecting big things from the three-time provincial champs.

"We're going to be sending them to a couple of U.S. tourneys and I think they'll do well," said Malbon. "A number of kids are getting scholarships to play down in the States."

The Mariners soccer team has finished in the top three of the Totem Conference for the last four years, but Malbon is hoping for at least second place in the conference this season.

"The top two teams in the Totem go to the nationals in Edmonton," said Malbon. "There are a lot of returnees from last year, plus four or five newcomers who should help out a lot."

Malbon will be coaching the team.

Malaspina's women's soccer team will be looking for revenge this year as they look to avenge last year's defeat at the hands of Cariboo College Gold Rush in the gold medal game.

Malaspina will be hosting the Totem Conference playoff tournament, and for the first time, Totem Conference women's soccer teams are eligible for national championship play.

The Mariners women's volleyball squad may be a team to watch out for, says Malbon.

"There are a couple of players who were on the B.C. Under 18

squad from last year so I think this team could make an impact," said Malbon.

## FROM CRANBROOK

The men's volleyball team has a new coach who could make a difference, according to Malbon. Doug Jesson comes to Malaspina from East Kootenay College in Cranbrook.

"He's had extensive playing background," said Malbon. "They have a really good program there, and we've got an expanding program here, so he should do well. We're looking to get the team in a lot more pre-season tourneys to get them tuned up for the season."

A possible addition to the Malaspina athletic program is a wrestling team.

"We're trying to get one started up," said Malbon. "Al Colyn would be the coach. We've talked to some other Totem Conference teams and they've expressed some interest."

The Totem Conference should be highly competitive in all sports this year. Armstrong says the conference is "the strongest I've seen in four or five years."

He attributes the strength of the conference to the various athletic directors.

"They are the ones who are getting the job done," said Malbon. "They've been working hard to get us to this point."

"We're starting to get a lot more corporate sponsorships," said Malbon. "That has helped us to be a little more stable despite all the cutbacks."

Malbon is looking to increase the number of scholarships at Malaspina from 10 to around 40.

"If we can, we'd like to get businesses and corporations to sponsor the scholarships," said Malbon. "They could help pay the athlete's tuition for one or two semesters."

A similar program is already in place at Cariboo College in Kamloops, where athletes are awarded the scholarships for athletic as well as scholastic performance. A grade point average of at least 2.00 is necessary for the athlete to be eligible. Cariboo Athletic Director Pat O'Brien says the scholarships help the athletic program immensely.

"It's very important in the recruiting process," said O'Brien. "It's also a good incentive for the athletes to do well both on and off the field."

The Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association national championships were scheduled for Manitoba but various difficulties have forced them to opt out of hosting a major portion of the championships. Sites in Alberta and Ontario will make up the slack.

Another CCAA development is the possibility that all future national soccer championships may be held in B.C. because of weather factors, a prospect that has Malbon smiling.

"We would get a pretty good shot at hosting some in the near future," said Malbon.