

Pronghornettes a pushover, Pandas pile up points

by Darrell Semenuk

Alberta 72 Lethbridge 39
Alberta 71 Lethbridge 46

The U of A Pandas just keep rolling along. Pandas easily handed Lethbridge their 3rd and 4th straight losses of the season while remaining undefeated themselves with a perfect 4-0 record in league play.

Neither game was in doubt as evidenced by the lopsided scores. Friday night belonged to

Panda's 19 year old 5'5" rookie guard Karen Johnson. The Cambridge, Ontario native gets better every time out. Her natural athletic ability is always in evidence but as Coach Shogan states when she "thinks basketball" she's most effective.

There was no doubt about her effectiveness on the court against Lethbridge. Her superb ballhandling and heads up passing sparked the Pandas to their easy victory. On the night

she had 15 points, hitting on 54% of her shots, and set up her teammates on numerous occasions for easy layups.

Panda's superior handling and shooting was the difference, with Lethbridge turning the ball over 39 times compared to 24 for the Alberta squad and Pandas hitting on 40% of their shots to Lethbridge's 28%.

Pandas came into Saturday night's game knowing full well

they were the better team, and they played uninspired ball because of it.

Their unaggressive play resulted in lacklustre action throughout most of the first half. Centre Chris Leiske continued her strong rebounding

and effective play under the basket, but it was 5'9" rookie forward Lori Chizik who injected some life into the Pandas' play late in the first half. She lifted

the team from the doldrums with 6 points in the final six minutes.

Pandas played just well enough to keep their unblemished record intact at 14 consecutive wins. Amanda Holloway found her range in the second game and bounced back with 23 points, after scoring only 7 the previous night.

Pandas travel to Calgary this weekend to play the Dinnies for the first time this season.

V-ball Pandas extend win streak

by Keith Steinbach

The surging volleyball Pandas took two matches this weekend without losing a game.

Friday they coasted to 15-1, 15-3, 15-2 victories over the Lethbridge Pronghornettes at Varsity Gym, barely working up a sweat in destroying the southern Alberta squad with what has become almost routine: excellent spiking, solid defence, and sparkling team play.

Adding to the impression of Pandas' superiority was the neptness of the

Pronghornettes, who will need better talent and a lot of work to attain the same prowess the Pandas display.

Against the Vikettes, however, Pandas seemed to be

content to coast until they decided to end each game -

then, they turned on the Panda Power Plant and that was that. Vikettes fell 15-6, 15-12, 15-8.

The lapses in concentration resulted in more mental errors than usual.

Of her team's play, Coach Sue Neill thought, "we need to

play someone who can give us a better game." Assistant coach Sue Seaborn, referring to the 'apses, said "They get quiet and then they stop talking - that's dangerous."

Pandas' next action is November 29th at the Golden Bear Invitational Tournament, where they expect tougher competition, especially from the Calgary Cals.

Also entering teams will be U of Manitoba and U of Saskatchewan. Games take place in the Main Gym, and begin early Saturday morning.

Hoop Bears drop a couple

by Darrell Semenuk

Bears 66 Pronghorns 68
Bears 73 Pronghorns 77 (O/T)

The Golden Bears travelled to Lethbridge with three players missing from their lineup and came away feeling that they missed something else, namely consistent refereeing and more importantly a win. Bears lost two close controversial games to the Pronghorns whom they had previously beaten in pre-season action.

Friday's encounter was an emotional see-saw game that saw the lead change hands 5 times, tie 9 times and neither team have a bigger lead than 8 points at any stage in the game. Lethbridge rallied behind Phil Letham's hot hand to edge Bears 68-66.

The Pronghorns opened strongly with Letham, 2nd in league scoring last year with a 17.9 scoring average, throwing in 14 points in the first half to give Lethbridge a 31-30 lead heading into the final 20 minutes.

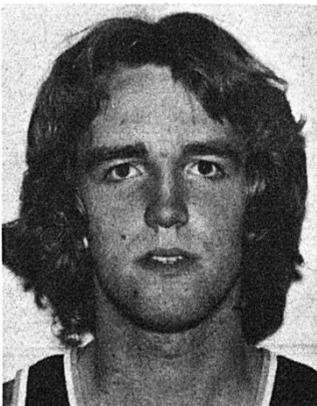
In the 2nd half the Bears held Letham in check and with 8 minutes to play the Bears were out in front 56-51. The Bears then seemed to lose their poise after some inconsistent refereeing that Coach Barry Mitchelson later described as "spotty at the best of times."

But Mitchelson would be the first to admit that it wasn't refereeing that cost the game.

Letham was one factor and he warmed up again and started hitting from the outside. Lethbridge regained the lead for the first time in over 10 minutes with 3:39 remaining on the clock, after Rick Foggo stole the ball from Mike Abercrombie and went in for an easy layup. Abercrombie redeemed himself after tying things at 66 with 37 seconds remaining. Lethbridge called a time out with 28 seconds left to decide who would take their final shot. Coach Mitchelson and everyone else knew who was going to be taking the final shot - Phil Letham. Bears had the man they wanted (Colin Fennell) guarding the 6'3" forward, but Letham made his

arcing 12 footer look easy as the Pronghorns went ahead 68-66. The Bears moved the ball upcourt but failed to get a shot away after Len Davidiuk lost control under the basket.

Hours before Saturday's rematch Mike Abercrombie asserted that he would "use the body" to restrict Letham's success and guaranteed that he wouldn't plague the Bears as he did on Friday. Probably neither Mike nor anyone else thought that he would be as successful



Mike Abercrombie

as he was. Letham hit on only 2 of 12 and finished with 10 points on the night, 5 of those coming when Abercrombie was covering him.

Unfortunately for U of A, the rest of the Pronghorns picked up the slack and spoiled the Bears' comeback with a controversial foul shot by Letham with no time remaining.

After Dave Holland had put the Bears ahead with 12 seconds remaining, the Pronghorns called a time out with 8 seconds left. The ball

came to Letham who turned and threw the ball up, simultaneously being flattened by a ram-paging Doug Baker.

The referees ruled that the foul had in fact occurred before time had run out and Letham put the game into overtime and missed winning it by failing to sink his final free throw.

The overtime was in fact won by Roger Baldry who scored 6 consecutive points in a 2 minute span to put Lethbridge out in front 73-67. Bob Baker heightened the excitement by stealing a loose ball and going in for a layup with 47 seconds remaining to cut the lead to 75-73, but the Pronghorns came back with Roger Baldry driving up the middle unmolested to put the game on ice with just 14 seconds left.

The difference between a win and a loss came on the foul line with Pronghorns hitting on 23 of 37 attempts while Bears made only 7 of 9. Doug Baker played a determined game with 28 points and 11 rebounds to go with his Friday night totals of 17 points and 9 rebounds. Roger Baldry led Lethbridge with 18 points.

Bear Facts: Bears badly missed Bain McMillan who missed both games with a badly sprained ankle ... Lowell Neumann missed the trip because of a case of chicken pox, while 2nd year guard Randy Meyer has quit the team ... Mark Jorgenson, who played highschool ball in Calgary practice with the Bears and may possibly join the team after Xmas when he registers at university.

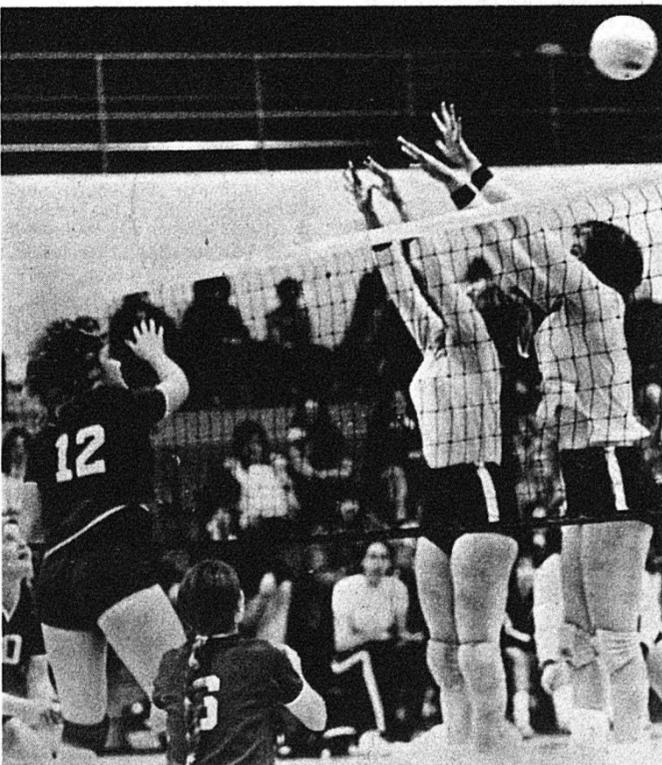


Photo by Keith Steinbach

An opposing player's spike sails harmlessly over the outstretched arms of two Panda blockers.

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