Pandas beaten by Vic: refs

83 FT attempts for hometown Vikettes

by Alan Small

The plane to the west coast was held for the basketball teams last weekend, but if the Pandas knew what would happen to them, they might have told the plane to leave without them.

The Victoria Vikettes went to the foul line 83 times in the opener, as the Vikes cruised to a 109-48 victory. The Pandas received only 39 attempts from the free throw line.

"I've never seen a home job like the home job I saw Friday night," said an exasperated Panda head coach Diane Hilko. "We only had four players left on the court at the end of the game."

Panda forward Celeste Bazinet, who played two seasons with the Vikettes, had an inkling of how bad the reffing was in favour of Victoria. Now that she's on the other side of the calls, she really noticed it, according to Hilko.

"I didn't realize how bad it was," Bazinet told Hilko after the horror show.

"We didn't deserve to win the game, but we didn't deserve to lose as badly as we did. It (the home job) was blatantly obvious," Hilko said.

Forward Marg Uytdewilligen led the Pandas in the opener with 10 points while post Joanna Ross scored nine. Shannon Conway was Victoria's top scorer with 28 points. Kim Poland and former Panda Kathy Keats scored 18 each.

The refs tempered their assault on the U of A in the second game, as they allowed only 35 Vikette foul shots, compared to the Alberta's 14. The result was the same, as Victoria won 93-60.

Guard Patti Smith notched 13 points to lead the U of A. Ross also scored 12 for the losers.

Corey Ennis (L) and the Pandas were trounced twice by Victoria, 109-48 and 93-60 last weekend

Conway once again stole the show as she poured in 22 points while Keats scored 156 more on her former teammates.

It was a weekend that the Pandas won't want to remember. Hilko certainly doesn't want to.

"We'll just have to forget it."

said Hilko. "We have two major weekends coming up."

The Pandas host the winless Saskatchewan Huskiettes next weekend. On their last weekend of the season, they travel to Vancouver to face the UBC T-Birds for the fourth and final playoff spot.

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Young net Bears inconsistent

by Alan Small Victoria 3 Alberta 1 Victoria 3 Alberta 1

The young Golden Bear volleyball team proved last weekend that they have a long way to go.

Although they showed some flashes of brilliance in the two match series with the Vikings, the more experienced Vikes easily handled the hometowners.

"I'm disappointed. The games were there to win," said Bear head coach Pierre Baudin, who is puzzled by his team's inconsistency so far. "Maybe they need that first match victory to set them straight."

They didn't get it last weekend, although the two games they took from Victoria were won easily. It was the let downs in between that left them without a win.

"It's the sign of a young team," Baudin remarked, "At this level, there's not much difference between winning and losing."

They won the first game in the opening match 15-6 before losing the second one 15-8. The match was decided in the seesaw third game, which had the Bears end

up on the short side of an 18-16 score.

"We didn't give the game away," said Baudin. "We felt good about how we played. It's just that we came out flat in the next set."

That they did as the Vikings plundered their way to a 15-7 win.

The second match's intensity level was much higher. Again, the two teams split the first two sets, with Victoria winning a 15-13 opener, and the Bears winning the second 15-11. The third set was another flat spot for the U of A. as they fell 15-7.

"It's a mystery to me how a team can go from sky high to flat in such little time," said Baudin.

The fourth game was the best of the match, as the two teams battled to a 13-13 draw. Some unforced errors at the end by the Golden Bears however were the difference as the islanders took the last two points and won the match 3-1.

On the undercard, the Pandas were humbled twice by the Vikettes. Victoria won the opener 3-

0 (15-10, 15-7, 15-1) and the second by the same score (15-9, 15-13, 15-13). Both teams travel to Saskatoon to face the University of Saskatchewan next weekend.

