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Bears first, Pandas second

Swimmers successful in finals

by Mike Cook

The Canada West Conference Swimming and Diving Championships ended Saturday, in possibly one of the finest aquatic centres of any university in the country. The meet was one of the closest competitions held in many seasons. The U of A managed to win the meet but did so by only six scant points over UBC, with a score of 323 to 317. Calgary, with their meager team of only eight swimmers, finished third with a scant 81 points.

The championships got underway Thursday afternoon

with the heats for the first eight events. Of these, four were won by the U of A team members, along with eight other Alberta swimmers in the top three. Both Steven Badger and Cathy DeGroot won their long distance races to put up points for the teams. The only other individual win of the evening came from Janet Rooney in the 100 metre freestyle. The fourth win came from the Bears 400 metre medley relay, which was probably one of the most exciting races of the meet. The second place UBC team finished a mere eight tenths of a second behind the Bears. Excellent swims from the Cathro brothers enabled the relay squad to win. As the waves from the first night's swimming settled the Pandas found themselves ahead by four points, 44 to 40 for UBC. The Bears also found they were ahead with a score of 43 to 38 over UBC.

Friday's heats saw 20 people in the 10 individual events along with two relay teams. Winning their races were Mary Hughes in the 400 IM, Julie Sanderson, in her specialty, the 200 metre free, and Derek Cathro in the 100 metre butterfly.

In one of the most gruelling events in swimming, the 400 metre IM, both Shelley Woodman and Bruce Leckie showed their toughness by placing second and third respectively.

In the 200 free Brent DesBrisay placed a very close second to one of the finest freestylers in the country, with a time of 1:58.29. In what was the most exciting race of this day's competition, the Cathro brothers (Derek and Doug) showed that maybe swimming

does run in families by coming first and second in this event. 100 metre butterfly. Other superb swims came from Pam Gail McDonald and Mary Hughes in the 200 metre breaststroke and Dave Long in the 100 metre back with a time of 1:03.52 and second place finish.

The events were concluded with both the Bears and Pandas easily winning their respective relays over UBC and U of A. Unfortunately the tables were turned on the Edmonton team as the UBC women took a lead of 109 to 99 and the Bears had a lead cut to one point, 95 to 94.

The last ten individual events and two relays were swum off on Saturday. Going into the final day down in points the teams swam inspired races ending seven of the twelve events.

Easily the most inspirational race of the meet took place Saturday in the men's 100 metre breaststroke. Here with only a possible chance left to qualify for the nationals, Derek Lund took the chance of shaving down in order to make a time. Coming a season filled with both sickness and injury, Derek swam a holds-barred race, and not only made his qualifying time but won the race. This shows sheer determination and dedication can do for an athlete.

Also swimming two inspirational races, for the Pandas, was rookie Gail McDonald who in the 100 metre breaststroke proved she was not to be counted out too soon.

In other races Friday Dave Long, and Shelley Woodman placed second in the 200 metre backstroke. In the 100 metre fly, said by many to be one of the toughest races in swimming, Patti Campsall (a rookie who has never competed in the fly previously) decided to swim the race to pick up badly needed points. She finished fifth and picked up several points in the process.

Winning the men's 200 metre fly was Steven Badger, in a time of 2:10.51, which ranked him number three in the country.

Also winning was Derek Cathro in the 50 metre free, the fastest race in swimming. Both relays were won by the U of A which enabled them to win the overall title 323 to 317 over UBC. The Bears retained their team championship by defeating UBC men 161 to 144. The Pandas succumbed to the very powerful UBC women's team, but with a score of 162 to 173, they gave the opposition a good meet.

There are not eight Bears and seven Pandas qualified to go on to the National Championships in Montreal on March 2-4.

Curling

Both the men's and women's University of Alberta interuniversity curling teams finished last in their respective standings, during the 1979 CWUAA championship tournament held last weekend in Calgary.

The Bears, composed of skip Tom Pollard, lead Walter Demott, Grant Innes (second) and Gordon Rutherford (third) compiled a record of two wins and four losses. Their record put them behind all three of the remaining rinks. University of Saskatchewan finished first with four wins, two losses; University of Lethbridge was second (three wins, three losses); and University of Victoria was third (three

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