

Panda sweep over U of S are first and last wins at home



Jeff Cowley

Graduating Panda Marg Uytdewilligen (center) pulls down a rebound in between these two Huskiettes.

by Alan Small

Pandas 67 Saskatchewan 62
Pandas 91 Saskatchewan 84 (3 OT)

The U of A Pandas playoff hopes rested on a Celeste Bazinet shot that hung on the rim for what seemed like hours.

The shot finally fell in, and tied the game up at 74 with four seconds left in the first overtime period the second game between the Pandas and the Saskatchewan Huskiettes. Bazinet could have won the game by converting the three point play, but her foul shot missed the mark. And the marathon continued.

"We talked about it afterwards, and we all said that we were looking at the ball and praying," said sophomore forward Joanna Ross, who scored 20 points off of the bench for the Pandas. After the game, Panda coach Diane Hilko was sure that the shot would go in. During the game however, her reaction wasn't so cool.

The Huskies performed the theatrics in the second overtime, as Lisa Salloom was allowed to shoot two from the line to win it. She made only one, to send the game into another five minute period.

The Pandas took control in the third, taking an eight point lead with a minute remaining. They won by seven.

The Pandas looked like they were in trouble in the first half. At one point, they were down by 16 points to the winless Huskiettes. With three minutes left in regulation time however, they had retrieved the lead.

"Everybody was mad," said Panda coach Diane Hilko. "We



were just fed up.

They didn't need to say anything to motivate each other."

"We weren't all that worried," Ross said, "there was no way we should have been behind them." The Pandas wouldn't have been behind if it weren't for their foul shooting. They shot a "pathetic" 27 for 51 (55%) from the line.

The win wasn't wrapped up and under the tree however. It took a missed free throw by Tracy McLellan with three seconds left to extend the game to overtime.

Patti Smith scored 21 to lead the Pandas. "She could have had 41 if she hit her foul shots," said Hilko. Barb Mercier was the top Huskiette, with 22. Tracey Cook added 13 rebounds and six assists to her 17 points.

In the opener, the Pandas won their first game of the season on their home court, as they knocked off the Huskiettes by five. Tracey Cook scored 17 on Friday, while Mercier scored 18 to once again lead Saskatchewan.

"We didn't play very well," remarked Hilko, "we missed uncontested layups and that gave them confidence."

The Pandas travel to the west coast looking for the fourth and final playoff spot. They must sweep both games with UBC however, so the task won't be easy.

"It's nice to win the ones we're supposed to win," said Ross, "now we have to win the ones people don't expect us to."

FREE THROWS: Forward Marg Uytdewilligen played her final games at home as a Panda this weekend. The food science student scored 15 points in the two games this weekend.

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