

SPORTS

We won! (well once)

by Brad Clark
Bears 91 UBC 79

A beaming Mark Baker succinctly summed it up: "It's about time!" The Bears finally got their first regular season victory, thrashing UBC 91-79.

Initially, it appeared Friday night's contest was to follow the usual pattern; defensive, close and tense. However, as the game progressed Bears confidence grew. Their offense was patient and fluid. They worked the ball in and around UBC's zone defense effectively. The Bears slowly pulled ahead and built up a 13 point lead by half-time.

The Bears' domination continued in the following 20 minutes. They continued to pile on the points and their lead grew to 21. At this point, in typical blow-out fashion, play became very sloppy and erratic, with poor transitions and meg-turnovers. UBC mounted a last minute scoring barrage but as time ran out the T-Birds were still short

by a dozen points.

Mike Suderman returned to the Bears' line-up in a big way. Coming off a lower back injury, "Suds" led all scorers with 21 points. Mike Kornak had 18 points and Mark Baker and Dean Peters added 15 apiece.

The win was the Bears' first in six attempts in the regular season. It is seen as a turning-point "We've got our confidence back," said Suderman. "We feel really strong now."

Vikings 72 Bears 65

The Bears could not take solace in the fact that this one was close. They had had a chance to end eight years of complete domination by the University of Victoria Vikings, but in the end the Bears lost their poise and the game, 72-65.

Early on Alberta displayed the same confidence of the previous night. Kornak and Chris Toutant were unstoppable shooting from the outside. By half-time the Bears stood at the long end of a 38-31

score.

In the second half the Bears came out flat. Victoria began to press, and for the first time all week-end, the Bears became tentative. Offensive patience was forgotten and bad passes and low percentage shots became the norm. The result was lot of Alberta turnovers, and the Vikes capitalized. "Turnovers really hurt us," said Kornak. "We lacked patience on offense. That's been the problem all year."

The Bears defensive dam began to spring leaks. The Vikings, finding themselves increasingly in possession, discovered they could work the ball inside to their behemoth center Gord Clemens. Clemens' 24 points broke the Bears' back.

In the final few minutes it looked as if the Bears just might come back. Unfortunately they squandered a number of scoring chances particularly from the free throw line. Kornak was the most visible culprit, shooting one of eight in the second half. Kornak is generally a fine free throw shooter, who had a respectable 70% shooting average going into Saturday night's match.

After the game Coach Horwood was not particularly pleased. "We played well in spurts but we couldn't handle the pressure," he said. "We're our own worst enemies in these close games."

Kornak was the Bear's high scorer with 17. Tom Demeo and Suderman had 10 each.

BEAR PAUSE: Both weekend games were fairly well attended with close to 700 fans each night... Friday night's TSN game was rather noisy and a lot of spectators showed up with green and gold painted faces.



photo Chris Menard

Pandas end up with split

by Mark Spector

Pandas 59 T-Birds 53

The Pandas sleep-walked past the UBC T-Birds on Friday night in a game that saw the final buzzer sound at 10:50 p.m. The reason for the extremely late start was because of TSN's broadcast.

The Pandas played a very sluggish game, and head coach Debbie Shogan attributed it to the delayed start.

"This is simply too late to be playing a basketball game. I feel like it's past my bedtime," she said.

Fortunately for Alberta, UBC was not on top of their game either. Toni Kordics' 25 points were enough to keep the 1-6 T-Birds at bay. Another bright spot, on an otherwise bleary night, was the play of Panda guard Debbie O'Byrne. With bench strength like that provided by O'Byrne, the Pandas will be in good form come playoff time in two weeks.

Vikings 68 Pandas 53

The Pandas needed to come up with a Herculean effort to defeat the No. 1 ranked Victoria Vikings. The heart was definitely there, but the height was not.

"They're just such a big team that it's hard for us to play our game against them," said 5'5" guard Shelaine Kozakavich who had a tough time in the world of giants. The Vikings have four players who are at least six feet or taller.

Panda's head coach Debbie Shogan countered by giving 6'0" Lisa Janz a lot of floor time. Janz responded with a strong game.

"They also have such great depth. They were just pulling their six footers off the bench and we can't do that," explained Shogan.

It was simply a case of Victoria being the better team on Saturday night. The Pandas record fell to 5-3. They see action next weekend in Lethbridge and Calgary.

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Friday, February 15

vs.
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