

Gymnastics

Team title belongs to Pandas

Two American teams and three Canadian teams gathered in Winnipeg for one of the biggest gymnastics meets of the year last weekend and the CIAU defending national champions, the U of A Pandas, dominated.

The Pandas managed to emerge victorious at the University of Manitoba Invitational even though a challenge was expected from the U of M, Minot State College (North Dakota) and Bemidji State College (Minnesota).

The closest rival to the Pandas team total of 130 points was the Minot team squad with 116.47 points. The University of Manitoba finished third with 113.7, followed closely by the University of Calgary Dinnies (113.68 points). (The Pandas have defeated the Dinnies handily in all three meetings between the two this season.)

Panda Peggy Bureaud led the contingent in the all around category with 33.49 points. First year Panda Kathy Mattock took

second place and qualified for the nationals with a total of 32.67.

Linda Basaraba of Minot was third and Lisa Johansen of Winnipeg was fourth.

Bear gymnasts

Hamilton leads on

Led by James Hamilton, the University of Alberta Golden Bear gymnastics team swept to the team title at the University of Manitoba Invitational meet. The Bears championed over the host team, North Dakota's Minot State and a number of other teams as they primed up for conference competition.

With only four workouts left until their Canada West Championship, Bear gymnasts are looking strong enough to win this year. Saturday's win over the University of Manitoba (152.5 to 152) has convinced Coach Fran-

Three Pandas, Sandra Brinkhurst, all six Pandas are qualified to compete in the 1979 National Intercollegiate Championships. The U of A contingent will be the largest from a single Canadian university.

Along with Carol

James Hamilton, who won the all-around title of the meet with 41 points and Charlie Mowat, who finished third with 38.00 points, have previously qualified for the C.I.A.U. event next month. Tally is confident that both Gary Carleton and Eric Ruckenthaler will qualify at the next event.

The Canada West Championship goes Saturday night at 7:30 pm with Finals held Sunday at 1:00 pm in the Main Gym of the U of A Physical Education Complex.

Bureaud was named outstanding performer of the day after winning three of four Olympic events. Her score of 9.47 on the uneven bars was personal best.

Kathy Mattock performed an excellent uneven bar routine to earn a 9.10 mark.

Sandi O'Brien, the Pandas coach since 1971, expects that her squad offer the most exciting performances at this weekend's Canada West conference championships, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday on the U of A campus.

Competition begins Saturday, February 17 at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 1 pm. Spectator support is encouraged and the Pandas promise not to disappoint (main gym, physed complex).

The Pandas appear destined to repeat their national championship performance this year but this weekend will mark their last appearance on campus in 1979.

Pandas still have hope for playoffs

by John Younie

Center Trix Kannekans was all smiles. Coach Debbie Shogan was speechless. And guard Karen Johnson was just plain pooped.

All this was the result of Pandas nailbiting 56-50 victory over the Victoria Vikettes in CWUAA women's basketball action, Saturday night in Victoria.

Pandas suffered a disappointing loss the previous night, bowing to the Vikettes, 60-52.

Alberta was in a must-win situation on Saturday, because a loss would have ended their playoff hopes. The Pandas were never behind in the game, but did they ever give their fans cause to worry! They started off like gangbusters, running up a 36-23 halftime lead. The first eight minutes of the half were a disaster for Alberta, as they scored only three points, a foul shot and a basket. The slump allowed Victoria to close the deficit to two points, but they couldn't get any nearer.

Coach Shogan felt the win was a team effort. "We were doing the things everyone was talking about in the team meetings today," Shogan gasped, slightly breathless after the close win. "We were blocking out and talking on defence, and our offence was patient. I'm really happy with the way we played together."

The Pandas' win was even more significant when taking into consideration that four starters (Faith Rostad, Kannekans, Sherry Stevenson and Janet Bosscha) played the final ten minutes with four fouls each. Down the stretch, Rostad, Stevenson and Lori Chizik (off the bench), sunk key shots to keep the Pandas ahead and still in the hunt for a playoff spot.

Guard Karen Johnson dragged herself off the court with three minutes left in the game. The Cambridge, Ontario native was playing in only her second game since breaking her foot, and the hectic pace totally exhausted her.

"I might've been okay if the game wasn't so close, but we couldn't let up, Karen said later. "It felt like I was going to die, but the win makes the pain easy to take."

The Pandas' defense was stingy, holding the Vikettes to only 50 shots.

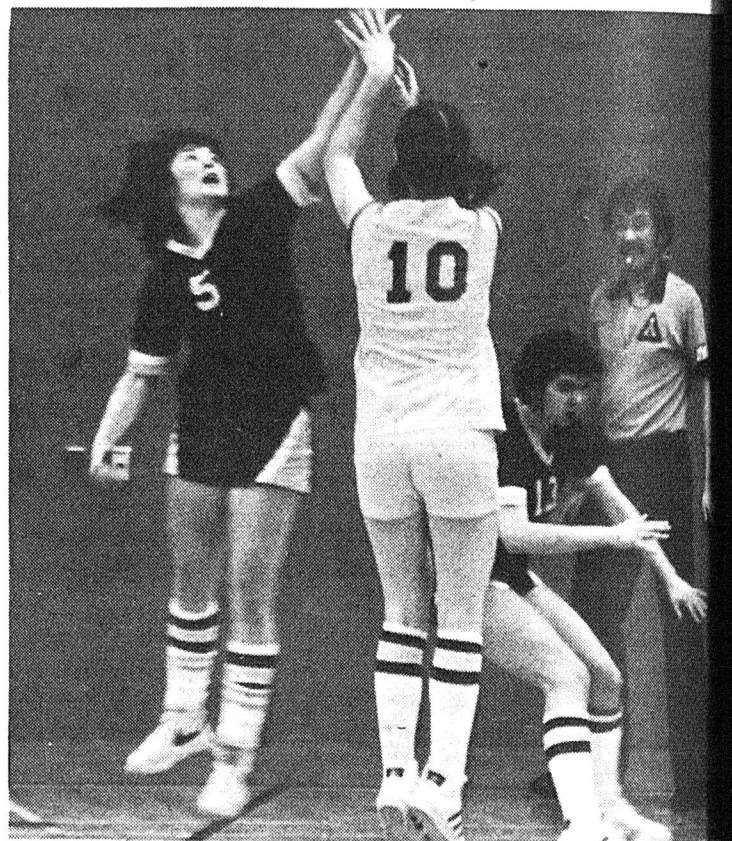
Trix Kannekans was an offensive and defensive standout, hauling down fourteen rebounds and scoring 12 points. Sherry Stevenson and Faith Rostad each had a dozen points. Sue Shaw was top scorer for Victoria with 11 points.

If Saturday's game was the thrill of victory, Friday's game was the agony of defeat. Victoria had a poor night shooting (31%) but converted fourteen more foul shots than the Pandas, thanks to some questionable officiating.

Besides being critical of the referees, Shogan was displeased with the Pandas' offence.

"We were respectable on defence, but we did virtually nothing on offence... we seemed tight."

The Vikettes were ahead 37-32 at the intermission, but crept to a 14 point lead midway through the second half, then coasted to the win.



Pandas' Karen Johnson (5) reaches for the sky while Faith Rostad (10) bends and stretches. Photo by John Younie.

The Pandas, who shot 38% from the floor, received 12 points from Trix Kannekans. Faith Rostad netted 10.

PANDA PATTERN
The split means the Pandas can clinch a playoff spot by sweeping their final

doubleheader this week against U of S Huskies, provided the Vikettes lose one of two games against U of C Dinnies.

Gail Braithwaite and Al Faulk travelled with the team but did not dress for either game.

Hockey dominance

continued

situation and deked him cleanly before rifling a shot through Sanza's legs. Jay Rumley put the T'birds in front 2-0 on a heads up play by UBC winger Rob Jones. The T'birds had cleared the puck into Alberta territory and would have been called for icing if Sanza hadn't touched the puck. Jones picked up the puck in the corner and fired it in front to Rumley before Sanza had time to return to his net.

Jim Lomas and Jones traded goals before the end of the period.

The trip to the dressing room after the first period must have woken a few of the Bears up as they came out gunning in the second stanza and scored four unanswered goals.

Chris Helland was the Bears' main munchkin in the middle period. He set up two of the tallies by linemates Hindmarch and Jim Causgrove and scored once himself. Mike Broadfoot was the other U of A marksman.

Jones' second powerplay goal of the game early in the third period brought UBC within one at 5-4 out three goals in less than

two minutes—including a pair ten seconds apart—erased any UBC hopes of an upset. Helland, Olson, and Mike Bachynski all found the range on Paterson.

T'bird coach Bert Halliwell said he thought his team had as many chances (to score) as Alberta but that letdowns at critical times hurt them. Although UBC was undermanned with the absence of Jim McLaughlin and allstar defenceman Ross Cory (both injured), Halliwell said that "even with a full team we wouldn't have beat Alberta."

Drake said he thought that UBC skated and checked a lot better in the second game than they had in the Friday night contest.

Fourteen different players got on the scoresheet with either a goal or an assist. The Bears took six of seven minors and outshot UBC 32-30 in the game.

The Bears have six games left in the regular season and won't have a weekend off until after the Nationals. The next home series will be a playoff preview against the Calgary Dinosaurs in two weeks.

Conference judo

The Western Intercollegiate Judo Tournament was held in Lethbridge on Saturday, February third. The University of Lethbridge judoka came out in full fighting force to win first place in both the team competition and overall standings. This is the first time U of L has won the championships since the competition began. Their success broke UBC's six year domination of the tournament.

Louis Kamenka battled his way to the top of the under 95 kg. division to win the U of A's only first. The men from the U of A placed second in the team competition and won several seconds in the individual fights. The seconds went to Gordon Okamura (under 71 kg.), Brian Nishimura (under 60 kg.) Rod Braithwaite (under 78 kg.) and John Horn (over 95 kg.).

Ski team strengthening

The University of Alberta ski team, presently in the midst of reorganizing their program, have been making a name for themselves on the slopes lately.

Two weeks ago Joan Wilson, a four year veteran of the national ski team and now completing her first year of rehabilitation medicine at the U of A, finished third and fifth in consecutive Pontiac Cup slalom races.

Last weekend Karl Wilberg of the U of A squad finished second in a Rabbit Hill sponsored 'C and 'D class slalom with a combined time (after two runs)

of 70.56 seconds. Wilberg's time was just .70 seconds off Matt Matishack's winning time of 69.86.

Another member of the U of A team, Chris Wright, is now in Lake Louise preparing for the Shell Cup downhill, scheduled to run Thursday and Friday of this week. Also competing this week in Lake Louise is a large group of national ski team members including Ken Read.

On February 24 and 25, Wilson, Wright and possibly a few other members of the U of A contingent will compete in the final Pontiac Cup race of the season, at Fortress Mountain.