

Women surface in first?

by Karl Wilberg

This weekend's home triple swim meet may seem typical but it is taking greater importance for the U of A swim team. Coach John Hogg claims the meet, involving Calgary, UBC and the U of A, will be useful in determining "what route for the western and national championships to take."

Last weekend at the U of Manitoba the eight-member Pandas swim team likely won a dual meet. U of A women's coach Stuart Nelson says, "I think we won," but adds the organizers have not yet calculated the final standings. Nelson adds, "Supposedly the way they were counting, it came down to the 4x100 free," for the U of A to beat Manitoba.

Nelson mentions Allison

Collins performed well, winning the 800m and 100m freestyle. The U of A's Sandy Slavin won the 100m butterfly and Kathy Hemphil took the 100m backstroke in addition to a second place in the 200m freestyle event.

Slavin went on to take second in the 200m individual medley and the backstroke. Nelson mentions Slavin is close to national meet qualifying times in those events.

Nelson points out the U of A divers dominated the meet. Allison Godfrey and Molly Murtha took first and second respectively in the 1m and 3m board events. The two divers have placed well in every meet this season. Still, in general, Nelson believes the team "will be in tough against UBC."

In addition, U of A diver Steve Stutt, and the men's team are strong competitors and Hogg believes they have a good chance against UBC. In fact Hogg mentions "it will be interesting to see how they match up this weekend, especially the men." He adds the U of A women are not as strong as UBC's, but are more capable than Calgary's.

The U of A team was narrowly defeated by UBC earlier this year and in the process some strengths became apparent. In particular the men are expected to do well in the distance events. Hogg adds he will "stack the cards there" in

selecting swimmers for events. experiment.

The U of A team's small size makes placing swimmers into events a strategic decision. The team also has to rely on quality performances rather than depth in numbers. Consequently, Hogg says the "men have to be careful" because "Calgary could pick up dramatic points" that would otherwise be gained by the U of A to compete with UBC.

Still, a balance will have to be found and Hogg warns they "can't be too cautious" because the conference championships will be held soon. Consequently, Hogg does not want to lose the opportunity this weekend to

Although diving is a U of A strength UBC has a defending CIAU champion, Don Lieberman, who may or may not be a challenge. Lieberman has been coaching the UBC team this year and Hogg is not sure if the UBC diver-coach will compete. If he does Hogg believes "we're in trouble."

In any case the team will rely on quality performance and must compete knowing that even small mistakes will be costly. Hogg wants to see good performances and hopes he can soon decide how to attack the conference finals.

Panda surprise

by Dora Johnson

The Pandas have certainly proven pre-season predictions to be wrong because they are presently in a race for second place along with the Calgary Dinnies.

This past weekend the two teams both with a 7 and 3 record going into the games, met in Varsity Gym. When the weekend was over they both came out with an 8 and 4 record and are still tied for second.

On Friday night, before an enthusiastic crowd, the Pandas outshot and outboarded the Dinnies but couldn't outscore them as they lost 66-55. The Pandas were down by 7 at half time and fought back to within three points but Calgary's Dori McPhail hit for a three point play that kept Calgary ahead for the rest of the game.

Part of the Pandas' strategy was to change defenses throughout the game using both a man-to-man and zone defense. This strategy fell through as Calgary hit from the outside to force the Pandas back into man-to-man for the rest of the game.

Saturday night was a different story however, as the

Pandas showed just how good they could be by defeating Calgary 59-53. At half time they were again behind (by 7 points) but this time they were not going to stay there. In the second half the Pandas came out with an intense defense, holding the Dinnies down to only 14 points. McPhail and Hanna, two of Calgary's top scorers did not even score a basket.

As the defense held Calgary back the offense began moving ahead, scoring 27 points to come out on top at the end of the game. The Pandas came out in the second half as a team and left the game as a winning team.

Trix Kanekens and rookie forward Annette Sanregret lead the Pandas scoring rush on the weekend with 29 points and 22 points respectively.

This coming weekend the Pandas host the mighty Victoria Vikettes. The Vikettes have not lost a league game yet this season. The Panda defense will have to come up big to stop the big shooters like Tourney-Loos and Hebb. Last year at this time the Pandas recorded Victoria's biggest upset in years. Will they be able to do it again? Games go this Friday and Saturday at 7:00 p.m. at Varsity gym.

Bears turn corner



Bears Chuck Johnstone and Mark Stein during slalom course inspection earlier this year. Stein is presently fourth in Alberta Cup standings.

by Birt Townshend

In spite of the academic schedule U of A racers have done well recently. The Bears have been placing well in most slaloms this season and have placed respectably in giant slalom events.

Recently at a Pontiac Cup slalom in Revelstoke the Bear's Ted Redmond took ninth spot Sunday. The Sunday race was won by Edmonton's Graham Swam and Saturday's race taken by Kevin Hann.

Bears Mark Stein and Jeremy Guild failed to complete their runs on the icy and steep course. In fact, Stein stated half the racers were unable to complete Sunday's course.

On Sunday Stein and Guild both failed to survive a cramped series of turns, on rough snow, near the finish.

The Pontiac Cup, a series for the nation's best, continues early in February with a giant slalom event in Jasper. Again several Bears will compete.

Interestingly, the giant slalom is the team's weakest event. Coach Bruce Wilson explains "you need a mountain to learn giant slalom" and points out there are few in Edmonton's vicinity. Still, the Bears have one giant slalom victory. Two weeks ago at Rabbit Hill Tom O'Sullivan took a fourth Saturday

and placed first Sunday.

Other slalom results from last weekend were gained in a B slalom at Calgary's Paskapoo area. On Saturday no results of note were made, but Sunday the Bear's Karl Wilberg finished eighth and Mike Matishak placed tenth. Wilberg's time was two seconds back from the winning time for the two run race.

Generally the team was noncommittal about the results, although Wilberg and Matishak improved their personal rankings. In addition, the Bear's Chuck Johnstone, in third place after Sunday's first run, failed to finish the second race. Johnstone, along with the first five skiers down Sunday's second course, had trouble with a tight flush section. O'Sullivan, suffering from a thumb injury, also failed to finish Sunday.

Even though slalom is their strong event, the Bears have good downhillers. In particular, Chris Wright, Bryan Mekechuk and Jeremy Guild are capable of placing well.

Two downhills are scheduled for the next month. Wright and Mekechuk may compete at Rosslyn B.C. before Guild joins them at the Lake Louise Alberta Cup downhill during Reading week. Ted Redmond too, may participate in the fast and difficult race.

Coach Wilson and assistant coach Craig Wronko have the team in a weight training program designed to keep racers at a basic level of strength and technique. Also, on snow training will be increased to help the team's performance peak this February.

Even though the U of A squad cannot equal the on-snow training other teams undergo results have generally exceeded expectations. Consequently, the coaches concentration on basic technique and conditioning should be credited with much of the squad's success.

Right time

Last Tuesday's *Gateway* contained irresponsibly inaccurate information about this Saturday's 1:00 p.m. gymnastics tournament in the Main Gym. A sinister force had gained control of the sports editor's mind and forced him to, among other things, misinform the readership.

Francis Tally, men's coach, is optimistic about his team's chances, especially in response to the squad's fine performances last weekend at UBC.

In addition, Tally mentions he has three athletes probably able to qualify for the national finals. This weekend may be their chance.

Net's go play



photo Russ Sampson

Bears volleyball team will try to block U of S Huskies at a tournament in Victoria this weekend. The meet's final game will feature the Bears, second in the standings, against the first place Huskies.