

Colin Northcott

Judo jostling

Judokas Paul Whishaw of Lethbridge and Brian Fujimoto of Calgary battled in the U of A judo tournament on Saturday.

Pandas get first win in Toronto

by Alan Small

The Panda basketball team wanted to get their first win under the belts before they finished their pre-season. They did so this weekend, but just in the nick of time.

They came out of the Toronto tournament this weekend with a win and two losses, their win coming in their last game of the



tourney against Brock University.

The Pandas nearly squandered a ten point second half lead, but scored six points in the last 74 seconds to salvage a 70-67 win. Joanna Ross was named the player of the game, as she came up with a 22 point, eight rebound effort. Guard Patti Smith scored 21 and forward Celeste Bazinet scored 10 to lead the Pandas.

"We should have put them away," said Panda head coach Diane Hilko, who played her university basketball at Brock. "We made some key turnovers,

but we came up with some tough defence in the last couple of minutes when Brock tried to run out the clock."

Turnovers seemed to be the name of the weekend for the Pandas, as both of their losses were caused mainly by turning the ball over too often.

"We're not running in our lanes. We dribble the ball too much," said Hilko. "Those little things add up and hurt us."

The Pandas faced Bishop's in their first outing but were ambushed by the Gaiters 64-45. The Pandas turned the ball over 27 times to Bishop's 8, and that was the difference in the contest. Again, Ross led the Pandas with 18 while Smith scored 17 and player of the game honors.

The second game of the tournament, while another loss, was a lot more encouraging for the U of A side. Western knocked off the Pandas 64-60, in a game the Pandas were always in, but not in front.

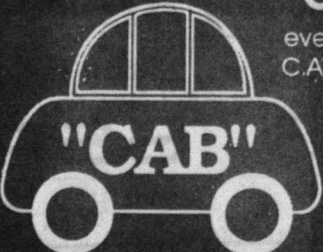
"I don't know why we didn't go out in front," Hilko said. "The game was never out of hand."

Again Ross led the Bears on the scoresheet with 17, while Corey Ennis scored.

The tournament in Toronto was the last pre-season action the Pandas will see. They open the season in two weekends when they host the Calgary Dinosaurs, CIAU finalists from a year ago. The U of C looks to be the class of the Canada West conference again this year, so the Pandas will be in tough.

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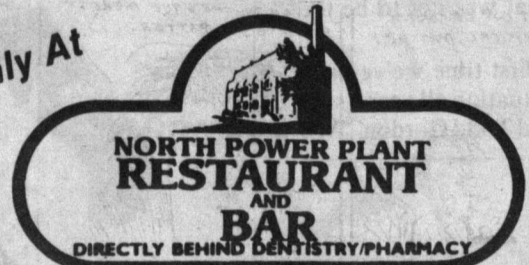
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