

Panda hoop squad rolls over north

by Alan Small

The Pandas basketball squad started their year on a good note up in Grande Prairie. They swept their northern rivals in two games 77-36 and 79-36.

Grande Prairie played some tough defence throughout the games, which made the Pandas work on their fast break.



"We knew our defence would win it," Panda head coach Diane Hilko said, "we held them to 12 points in the second half."

Linda Mrkonjic lead the Pandas in the first game with 16 points, while freshman Joanna Ross had 15

and grabbed nine rebounds. Michelle Durand also scored ten points, and also had ten steals.

"We took a lot of shots," Hilko said, "we were having problems with that last year."

In the second game, their full-court press held Grande Prairie to 14 second half points, while Heather Smith shot 8 for 11 from the floor and Mrkonjic scored 15 for the Pandas. Patti Smith chipped in 11 points and also had 12 rebounds for the Pandas, as they controlled the boards over their northern rivals.

"It started out our fast break," Hilko said, "which was good because they took us out of our offence."

FREE THROWS: The Pandas start their home schedule against their alumni on Friday, before they go to tournaments in Calgary and Toronto. Their first conference game goes in Saskatchewan on November 13.



The Pandas easily defeated Grande Prairie twice last weekend. They take on their alumni Friday.

Grande Prairie hardly rivals for Bear onslaught

by Philip Preville

The U of A Golden Bears basketball team managed two lopsided exhibition wins against Grande Prairie college on Friday and Saturday, but the coaches still have reservations.

"Overall, the weekend was a success, but there were some definite things that we did not do well," said head coach Don Horwood of his teams 98 - 59 and 102 - 47 wins on Friday and Saturday. Mark Baker scored 34 points over the weekend, and Scott McIntyre 31. Sean Chursinoff added 17 on Friday, but left the game early on Saturday with a tailbone injury which remains unexplained thus far.

Among other things, Horwood

cited a sporadic offense, poor baseline defense and an overall lack of patience on Friday, none of which worries him too much.



"The guys were nervous. It was their first game of the year. Everyone got playing time," Horwood said.

That evening a collective decision was made that the Bears should win by 50 points. Horwood was absent on Saturday, and Mark Dobko's Bears slugged through a first half that ended 35 - 27. The boys apparently had another chat and came out flying, giving coach Dobko his first victory as a university head coach.

The Bears starting five for the two games consisted of Chursinoff at point guard, Ed Joseph and Chris Toutant at the wings, and Baker and McIntyre at the posts. As usual, this may not hold true come Friday in Lethbridge, as the team must

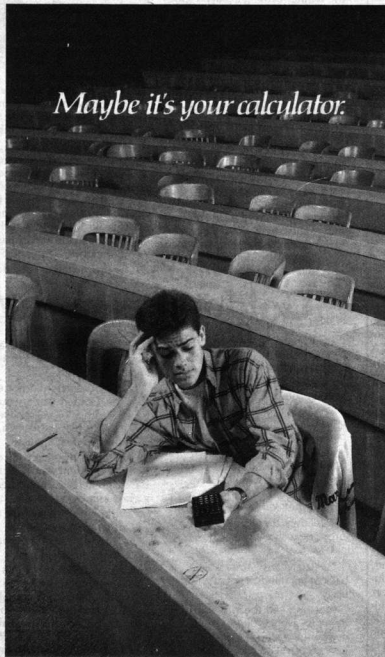
leave three players behind for the road trip. The Lethbridge Pronghorns apparently defeated the U of Regina over the weekend. Bears ex-coach Steve Roth now coaches at Regina, so "you can bet I'll be calling Steve for some news this week," says Horwood.

BEAR HOOPS: Don Horwood is a superb public relations operator, and the man just doesn't stop. Last Wednesday, Horwood announced the Adopt-A-Basketball-Bear program. It is a \$300 tax-deductible donation to the basketball program with a specific Bear being spon-

sored with each donation. "The guys only get \$6 a day for meal money on the road, and the sponsorship will increase that, among other things." True, \$6 a day wouldn't buy one meal at McDonald's for a basketball player. Sponsors will receive season's passes to Alberta home games along with highly coveted parking privileges.

Sportstalks' John Short himself got the ball rolling on the spot, adopting Ed Joseph. To date, six of 13 little orphan Bears have been adopted.

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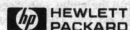
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