

SPORTS

Pandas win CIAU wildcard position

by Mark Spector

Pandas 46 — Pronghorns 45
Vikettes 68 — Pandas 45

The Pandas knew going into the weekend that the important game would be the semi-final matchup against the Lethbridge Pronghorns. A win would increase their chances of going to the CIAU championships in Lennoxville Quebec. A loss and their season was a good as over. As it went, the Pandas had to wait until Monday to learn of their wildcard berth in the CIAU's.

In splitting their seasons series, Alberta outscored Lethbridge by a single point, with each team winning in the other's gymnasium.

Friday night was no closer than expected.

Pronghorn's Angela Hlauko missed her only freethrow attempt of the night with one minute left to play, to enable the Pandas to come up with the one point victory.

The game marked the return to the lineup of five year veteran Laura Cabott. In her final year as a

Panda, Cabott suffered knee ligament damage just before Christmas that would have caused most players to just call it a career. Against all odds, Cabott played on Friday night, but not without a heavy kneebrace.

"I'm three weeks ahead of schedule," she said, referring to the progress expected by U of A physiotherapists. They gave her virtually no chance of playing again this season.

Sue Tokariuk was the game's MVP plus high scorer with 16 points. It was a tough defensive battle that saw Tom Kordic re-injure a bad knee late in the second half. Like Cabott, Kordic played out the game despite a lot of pain.

Unfortunately, the Pandas could not keep up the intensity for the Canada West Championship game on Saturday night.

Their opponents, the Victoria Vikettes, went 10-0 on the season and are ranked number one in the country. And, if that is not intimi-

dating enough, Victoria is also a team that can utilize several different game plans at will.

"Victoria did the one thing that we didn't expect. That is that they ran their fast break throughout the game," summarized Tokariuk.

Victoria has been known as a methodical, ball-control team throughout the regular season. "We were prepared for their offense, we just weren't prepared for the running game," continued Tokariuk.

That fact was evident as the Vikettes rolled to a relatively easy 23 point victory.

But by virtue of their number five national ranking, coupled with

one imperative Concordia victory in the east on Sunday, the Pandas received a wild card berth in the CIAU championships in Lennoxville.

The Canada West conference is by far the toughest conference in women's basketball, so the Pandas will not settle for just an appearance in the CIAU's.

"We're not just going there for a holiday. We intend to bring back the championship trophy," said head coach Debbie Shogan.

And when Shogan speaks in that tone of voice, the other seven teams at the national championships had better listen. Including Victoria.



Gymnasts get bonus

The Panda gymnasts got a much hoped-for bonus yesterday as Margie Drysdale was added to the team competing at the CIAU Nationals this weekend in Vancouver. Drysdale, originally ranked 37th overall, was bumped into 36th spot after an injury to a gymnast from McMaster University occurred.

This means the Pandas will have five girls competing in the team competition, as Heidi Ross (7th), Shelley Spaner (9th), Carrie Nawata (16th), and Janice Neill (26th) were previous qualifiers. As Spaner explains, "It will really help our team chances with Margie there. Not only does she have previous

National championship experience (8th AA at the 1984 nationals), she is also a really valuable team member."

With five girls competing for the U of A, the Pandas have a much better chance for the team title as only the top three scores per event are counted in the final total.



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Campus Law Review Committee		1
Computing Committee	1	2
Conference Funds committee	1	1
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Library Committee	1	2
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Planning & Priorities Committee		1
Committee for the Improvement of Teaching & Learning	1	3
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Would those who are interested in serving on the above Committees please contact either Ms. Donna Kassian, Vice-President (Academic) Students' Union or Mrs. Plaskitt, Secretary to the Nominating Committee at 2-5, University Hall.



Rum flavoured.
Wine dipped.

Crack a pack of Colts along with the cards.