

Pandas run into red hot Dinos

by Alan Small
Calgary 84 Alberta 49
Calgary 97 Alberta 52

The two game hoop series between the Pandas and the Dinos was like the Christians versus the Lions back in ancient Rome: the outcome was never in doubt.

The Dinos, who finished second in the country last year, showed no mercy on the Pandas this weekend, and used their huge height advantage to control the

"The Pandas were not ready to play us." — Dino hoop coach Donna Rudakas

key in both games. In the opener, they used their height to score their points from the inside; in the second, the Dinos used the three point shot to victimize the Pandas.

"They are the best team in the country right now," said Panda coach Diane Hilko, "it's nice to get them out of the way."

"The Pandas were not ready to play us," said Dino coach Donna Rudakas, whose team has four fifth year starters and another, Jodi Evans on the national team, "with the conference we're in, we can't afford to lose games like

this."

The Dinos were able to use their bench to its fullest in both games, as all of their players scored in both. Guard Claire Mitenko led the Dinos in the opener with 18 points. Joanna Ross led the Pandas with 20, while Marg Uytdewilligen scored 13.

In both games, the Pandas could not make the passes they regularly do because of the height of the Dinos. Forwards Lisa Schirok and Karen Degner turned the ball over 57 times in the two games.

The second game was more of the same for the Pandas, except they were burned on the outside shot rather than the inside game. The Dinos canned ten three point shots and won going away. At the twelve minute mark of the first half, the Pandas were down by only nine and had a chance to keep it close, but in the final eight minutes of the half were outscored 21-4. That was all she wrote.

"I'm happier about this game than the last one," said Hilko, "yesterday they were one for eleven from the outside, and today they didn't hurt us bad in the key."

Debbie Patterson, who was an assistant coach with the Dinos last season, led Calgary with 20 points, while forward Cori Blakebrough scored 18. The Pandas scorers were led by Celeste Bazinet with 17 and Ross with 10.

The Pandas had to do without point guard Patti Smith, who had a tooth partially knocked out

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early in the first game by an accidental elbow. Her presence

on the court was missed by the Pandas.

"She's a real fireplug for our squad," said Hilko.



Paul Menzies

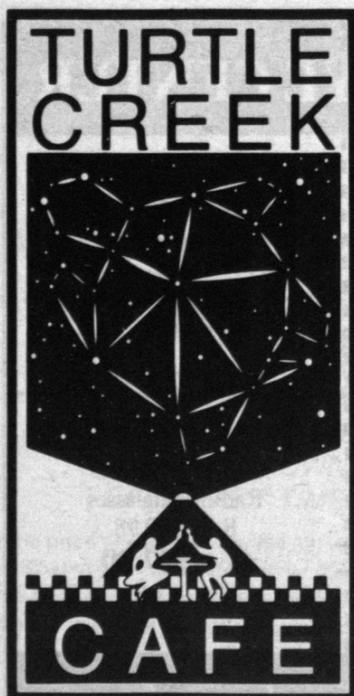
Panda under glass

Panda Celeste Bazinet hauls down a rebound against Calgary Dino forward Karen Degner. The Pandas were handed a pair of losses at the hands of the Dinos by scores of 84-49 and 97-52.

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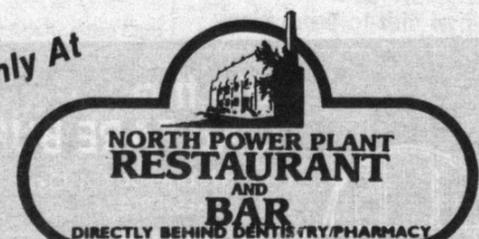
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