

SPORTS

B'Ball Pandas Flounder on Coast

by Peter Best

Victoria 51 Pandas 34
Victoria 55 Pandas 50

U of A's basketball Pandas lost their fight for third place in the Canada West University Athletic Association over the weekend. They were beaten twice by the University of Victoria Vikettes, 51-34 and 55-50, to fall into fourth position behind Victoria.

In Friday's game Victoria took an early lead with the help of a zone press that kept Pandas off balance as they were trying to bring the ball up the floor.

When U of A moved into Victoria's half of the court Vikettes shifted into a 2-1-2 zone defense that prevented Pandas from working the ball inside. Victoria's coach Mike Gallo explained after the game that he used the zone defense specifically to prevent U of A's Wendy Martin from scoring. "Wendy's the top scorer in the league and we didn't want to let her run free."

But it wasn't just the zone that let Vikettes take a 16-4 lead in the first 10 minutes. U of A was shooting miserably. A frustrated coach Kathy Broderick could do nothing but watch and shout at the ball to go in as her team made just 21% of its shots from the floor.

Pandas recovered from Victoria's opening attack to close to within 8 points, 22-14, by halftime. The key to the comeback was Alberta's change from a man-to-man to a zone defense that slowed Vikettes down on offense, particularly Lorna McHattie. McHattie had done most of Vikettes' early scoring on drives off solid screens by her teammates.

But in the second half Victoria moved the ball around U of A's zone better and found openings for good shots. At the other end of the court Pandas continued to miss four of every five attempts and fell further behind.

In the game's closing minutes Pandas tired and Vikettes' press became more effective in forcing turnovers. Victoria took advantage of Alberta's mistakes to win going away.

U of A had such bad luck shooting that no-one made double figures in their scoring. Amanda Holloway led Pandas with 8 points and 13 rebounds. Victoria's zone did its job on

Martin, holding her to 6 points. McHattie led Vikettes' offense with 13 points. Edna Ritchie scored 11 and showed why she's the league's leading rebounder, using her height advantage to pull down 17 rebounds.

Saturday Pandas came back with an improved effort but fell just short of evening the series.

Better shooting was one reason for U of A's improvement as they hit 39% of their attempts from the floor.

Another key to Pandas' better play was their rebounding. Friday Vikettes had out-rebounded them 53-38 but Saturday they tied Victoria 33-33 in rebounds.

Pandas also used their speed to run a fast breaking offense that Vikettes couldn't contain.

Alberta's problems were on defense, particularly in guarding McHattie. When they played a man-to-man defense McHattie drove and drew Pandas into fouling her. When U of A switched to a zone Victoria moved the ball around and found open shots.

Vikettes took a 31-25 lead at halftime and stretched it to 44-31 midway through the second half. They took advantage of Pandas fouls to score 19 points from the free throw line. The officiating was so close that by game's end Alberta had been called for 36 fouls and five of their players had fouled out.

Pandas made a strong comeback in the closing minutes, pulling to within 3 points with 16 seconds to play. But two free throws by Victoria's Donna Blaskstock with four seconds left put the game away for Vikettes.

Martin broke loose from Victoria's defense to hit 56% of her shots and score 22 points to lead Pandas' offense.

McHattie was Victoria's top scorer again with 14 points. Pandas' defense held her to just 3 of 14 shots from the floor, but she made 8 of 16 free throws.

Pandas play their last two games of the season this coming weekend against the University of British Columbia Thunderettes. First place UBC is led by Liz Silcott, who's competing with Martin for the league's scoring title.

Gametimes are Friday night at 6:30 and Saturday afternoon at 1.00 in the main gym.



Bears' Dwayne Bolkoway turned it on for two goals Friday and repeated his performance Saturday night as Bears downed UBC T'Birds twice in Vancouver to clinch a playoff spot for the Canada West championship against the U of C Dinosaurs this weekend in Calgary.

photo by Rick Bilak

Bears Top Vikings, Head to Playoffs

by Peter Best

Bears 69 Victoria 65
Bears 76 Victoria 60

The basketball Golden Bears finished an abbreviated schedule in excellent form over the weekend, beating University of Victoria Vikings 69-65 Friday night and 76-60 Saturday in Victoria. Bears won first place in the Canada West University Athletic Association with a 17-1 record and will meet the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds in the CWUAA playoffs this coming weekend.

For the first half of Friday's game Alberta looked unbeatable. Their tough defense had the Victoria crowd shaking their heads in reluctant admiration. On offense they worked hard to get open and shot well, hitting 49% of their attempts from the floor.

Victoria was also playing well and hustling back on defense to prevent Bears from

getting their fast break going. But there was little else Vikings could do against U of A and by halftime Bears held a solid 39-28 lead.

In the second half though, Victoria made a strong comeback that had their fans stomping and yelling every time they touched the ball.

Led by centre Tom Holmes' smooth offensive play Vikings cut Bears' lead to 4 points with five minutes to play. The determined Vikes were hustling on defense and crashing the boards to out-rebound Bears 34-23.

But U of A refused to crack under pressure and hung on stubbornly in the last minutes for the win.

Steve Ignatavicius had a good night for Alberta, making 6 of 10 shots and two free throws for 14 points. Tom Solyom, Mike Frisby and Steve Panteluk each contributed 10 points for U of A.

Holmes led Victoria's offense with 13 points, followed by Jim Duddridge with 12 and Jim Hunter with 10.

On Saturday Bears again opened up in good form. Playing tight defense and controlled team offense they took a 43-26 lead after the first 20 minutes.

As the second half started Victoria's fans looked for another comeback but U of A wouldn't allow it.

Bears played some of their best basketball of the season to dominate the game and become the first team this year to beat Vikings twice in Victoria. In an impressive team effort their defense frustrated Victoria's attack while their fast breaking offense often outran Vikings' defenders.

Wallace Tollestrup had a super game for U of A, playing his usual tough defense and hitting 67% of his shots for 22 points.

Frisby overpowered Holmes, scoring 19 points, pulling down 17 rebounds and holding Victoria's centre to 4 points.

Panteluk added 16 points to Bears' total and Terry Valeriotte had 9 in another strong effort.

Hunter and Lee Edmonson each scored 16 points for Victoria.

In other CWUAA games over the weekend UBC beat Lethbridge twice to clinch second place and win the right to face Alberta in the playoffs.

Coming off their strong performance in Victoria Bears appear to be peaking for the playoffs. They should be in good shape to meet T'birds with only Bill Hamilton, who twisted an ankle in Friday's game, in uncertain condition.

The best-of-three series to decide who will represent the west in the national finals will be played in U of A's main gym Friday at 8:30 p.m. and Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. if the third game is necessary.

Tickets will be sold for the playoffs at \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students and 75 cents for children.

Panda Gymnasts - Best in the West

by Peter Best

Lenka Svatek, Barbara Rutherford, Wabe Wah-King, Pam Gilverson, Beth Fane, and Joan Baxter captured the C.W.U.A.A. Team Championship on the weekend. On each of the four events for women, side horse vault, uneven parallel bars, balance beam and floor exercise, the Panda gymnasts accumulated 10 to 20 points lead over U.B.C., the closest rival. Pandas earned 136.75 points in Friday night's competition with UBC second with 111.05. Calgary was third with 83.50.

The top Canada West Team last year was U.B.C., but this year the whole Panda team placed in the top eight conference spots. Janet Terry, former Panda in 1971-72, won the all-around (composite score) of the four individual events),

and Lenka Svatek, 3rd year P.E. student, and Barb Rutherford, also of U of A, took 2nd and 3rd respectively. Lenka was CWUAA champion of the vaulting event. Commendable performances were made by retiring team member, Beth Fane, who made three of the finals on Saturday, and is alternate to the conference team.

The depth of the Panda team this year allowed Pandas to fill four of the six positions on the conference team to attend the National Championships March 2, 3 at York University. Conference team members are Lenka Svatek, Barb Rutherford, Wabe Wah-King and Pam Gilverson. Because of this representation, coach Sandra Hartley was automatically named to be Conference Coach.



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