

SPORTS

Vikettes too tough for Pandas (again)

Vikettes 74 Pandas 61
Vikettes 64 Pandas 40

It took four wins including this past weekend by the Vikettes basketball squad until Coach Shogan grudgingly admitted that they were the better team. Victoria had handed Pandas their first defeats of the year in January at Varsity Gym with scores of 53-21 and 34-30. Pandas may have tried to put some doubts into some people's minds if Vic really is the team despite their sweep in Edmonton. Pandas had little preparation going into that game after the Xmas break, playing only four games in over a month and practising as a team for roughly a week.

The Pandas opened in the first half with the main thrust of their scoring coming in the opening and closing eight minutes. Karen Johnson put in 10 points in the first 8 minutes and Amanda Holloway did all the first half scoring in the final minutes, putting in 10 points to pull Pandas to within two at half time, 35-37.

Pandas actually had a four point lead after six minutes into the 2nd half, but Vic's outstanding rookie guard Leslie Godfrey scored 6 points on drives and Vic came back in a three minutes span to grasp a six point lead.

Shogan was impressed with the 5'6" guard. "She's a very good player. She just beat her opponent one on one and in the defence we were playing someone is supposed to come over to help out, that didn't happen so she was successful."

Pandas cut the deficit to four but Vic came back to build a 14 point lead and Pandas could never make up the spread. Shogan said that "most of their points came from crashing rebounds and looseballs ... they're so ball conscious."

That point is borne out dramatically in rebounds especially on the offensive board. The Vikettes pulled in 50 rebounds, including an incredible 33 on the offensive side to Pandas 13 including 3 offensive.

Marg Mainwaring shot an amazing 92% from the floor (11/12) to lead Vikettes with 22 points. Godfrey added 18 points for Victoria. Pandas had their own rookie sensation in the game with Lori Chizik leading the Alberta scoring with 19 points playing at both the guard and forward positions. Holloway added 18 points.

Game two on Saturday night saw Pandas overcome the problems they had rebounding with the Vikettes, but couldn't match the shooting power of the league leaders.

Pandas were outshot in the game 40% - 26% but out-rebounded the Vikettes 34-29. Alberta fell behind early 8-0 but came back with four consecutive hoops to knot things up. But from then on it was all Vikettes as they poured in 22 points to Panda's 9 to take a 30-17 half time lead.

Pandas were never in a challenging position and Victoria was never in danger of not keeping their perfect record intact. Vic mathematically clinched the league title with Friday's win and upped their league record after weekend action to 18-0. Alberta is still occupying second spot with a 12-6 mark.

Amanda Holloway was the only Alta. player to hit double figures with 11 points while Nora Way had 8. Lorna McHattie had 12 points and Leslie Godfrey 10 for the Vikettes. Both Bears and Pandas end the season this weekend at home against Saskatchewan.



Vikings missed this block on Bear spike.

photo Brian Gavriloff

V'ballers capture games, finish 2nd

by Doug Leib

The Bears volleyball team ended their regular season Friday on a winning note. They downed the Victoria Vikings 3 games to 1 in a best of five match. The main gym was the sight where a satisfied Shuichi Ota, the Bear coach, saw his team end up conference play with an even 4-4 record and second place overall.

It was almost a complete reversal of the weekend before in Victoria when the Vikings clobbered the Bears 3 to 0. On that occasion Coach Ota expected his boys to win easily but

a breakdown in confidence and a few ill-timed mental errors cost them the match.

In the first game Friday, the Bears seemed to be heading for a repeat performance of the Victoria trip. They lost it 15-4 and were never really in the game. But they came back strongly, and despite almost blowing big leads in the last two games they won three in a row 15-7, 15-13 15-10. In the 15-13 win, the Bears led 12-5 but let up and the Vikings pulled within one to 13-12.

Coach Ota used everyone

on the bench equally, as it was the last conference play for the season. Bruce Wasyluk once again shone for the Bears. The Bears won't be in the playoffs as only the top team in the conference makes it. UBC qualifies with a perfect 8-0 record. The Bears should be much stronger next year with the return of at least five players as compared to only one veteran this year.

The Bears will finish the year with a tournament in Saskatchewan on Feb. 20, and the Alberta Open in the main gym on March 20.

1st place at stake this weekend

Bears fail to clinch top spot

by Keith Steinbach

Leon Abbott added a few more gray hairs and a few less fingernails this weekend. He was chewing on his pinkie as he watched his Bears fall 4-3 (double overtime) and 8-3 to the third place UBC Thunderbirds.

"They (UBC) had nothing to lose; they didn't give a damn so they came out and played a gambling, free-wheeling game and it worked," said Abbott.

The two losses by the Alberta squad enabled the Calgary Dinosaurs to tie them for first place by virtue of 6-3 and 5-3 victories over the U of S Huskies.

It was just not the Bears' weekend (as illustrated by some of the other scores). A good illustration of this is Friday's game. Of the four UBC goals that eluded Dale Henwood, three were deflections.

For the first period of Friday's game the Bears played like the band present at the game - out of tune. Alberta came up with the old malady of disorganization in their own end. For the rest of the game though, the Bears played decently.

Decently enough to go ahead 3-2 at the 11:10 mark of the third period. But UBC came back and tied the score at 17:37 with what could be called a "tainted" deflection by Steve Davis.

The Bears had applied good pressure in the overtime periods but at 7:00 a Wayne Hendry shot bounced in off Rick Peterson to end the game.

The scoring for UBC was handled by Sean Boyd, Peter Moyls, Davis and Hendry. Alberta got tallies from Dale Hutchinson, Blair Burgess, and Brian Sosnowski.

The shots on goal were 34-28, the Bears being outshot by the Birds. Dale Henwood handled some difficult chances between the pipes as did Ian Wilkie for UBC. "They had one coming," shrugged Abbott. "No one really played bad."

The next night was not as bad as the 8-3 score would indicate. The game was tied at 2 after a stanza of play. BC was gambling by playing their forwards up on the Alberta defense and it paid off. The Bears rookie defense handed the puck to the T-Birds several times.

The second period was the turning point of the game with the Birds out-scoring the Bears 4-1. The T-Birds added a pair of

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Cager's season grinding to a halt

by Darrell Semenuk

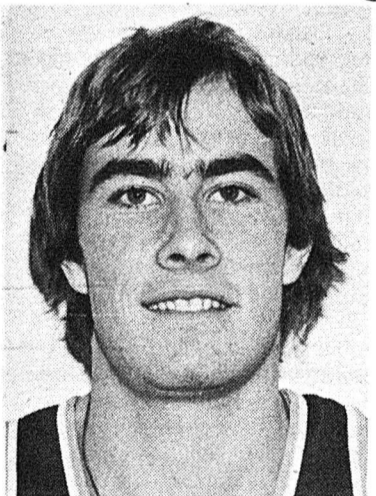
Victoria 65 Alberta 55
Victoria 66 Alberta 63

If one word could be used to describe the Golden Bears' play during the weekend it could be uninspired.

The Alberta crew lost its fourth straight game and brought its road record to 2-8 and season totals to 7-11. It's tough for a team that knows it has been eliminated from the playoffs to put up a great effort, and most players would rather see the long schedule come to a halt than prolonging the agony of a disappointing year.

The Bears ran into the same problem that has hurt them all year - their failure to win the close games in the late stages.

Coach Mitchelson admitted that he was taking a look at all the players, but winning was still foremost. Friday's game was one of the more physical encounters Alberta has experienced this year. Mitchelson rationalized the loss this way: "They took us to the boards and intimidated us,



Brent Patterson.

especially on the offensive board ... In the last four minutes we tried to force things and they didn't work."

Bears trailed 37-30 at the half and scored only 25 points in the final 20 minutes, while Vic managed just 28 in the scambly second half. The turning point in the final 4½ minutes came on consecutive 3 point plays by Vic within 35

seconds. The two plays which were the result of individual lapses underneath the hoop broke open a 51-51 deadlock and put the Vikings in a comfortable lead.

Mitchelson did get a good look at some of his subs with the result being leading scorer Doug Baker seeing only about 6 minute's action in the first half. Doug Lucas played nearly 14 minutes and Bob Baker 10 during the game, well above their average playing time this year.

Dave Holland who was playing his last road games as a Golden Bear led Alberta with 11 points while Baker and Bain McMillan had 10 points apiece. Jim Duddridge and Lee Edmondson had 17 and 15 points respectively for the Vikings.

Saturday night was pretty much the same story. Vic led 37-32 at half time and pulled away in the second half largely by way of the foul line. Bears picked up 17 fouls in the last half and Vic popped in 11

points from the line.

Bears had the chance to pull ahead in the second half but could never get closer than one. Bears led only twice in the game, both times briefly in the first few minutes.

Despite the loss some individuals turned in excellent performances. Brent Patterson was able to penetrate from his guard position throughout the game, something which has been lacking in the Bears' offence this year.

Patterson lead the Bear attack with 15 points, shooting 54% while Baker added 14 points. Lee Edmondson had 19 points for Vic.

Bear(ly) News: The two losses dropped Alberta's record to 7-11, and leaves them in fifth place, one game behind Lethbridge. Calgary won their 12th consecutive game and brought their league leading record to 17-1. Vic and UBC are tied with 2nd with 11-7. Sask. is still winless with 18 consecutive losses.