

Sports

Randal Smathers



Late goal gives Pandas west title

by Alan Small

The Panda soccer club has tripped over the same hurdle for five years. After finishing second to the UBC T-Birds for five years, the Pandas won the Canada West women's soccer title for the first time.

Despite the fact the championship-clinching goal came with 30 seconds left in injury time, head coach Tracy David said the team "never had any doubt in our minds and that we should be the team to represent our conference in the nationals."

The goal was scored by Diana Kondrosky, who volleyed a Dawn Poulin cross past two T-Birds and the UBC netminder. That made

the score 2-2, and the tie was all the Pandas needed to clinch the conference title.

Panda Kelly Vandergrift opened the scoring on a corner kick early in the first half, but in the second half, the T-Birds came back and scored twice, the second one coming on a controversial penalty kick to take the lead. It was after the second UBC goal, when doubt started to linger on the Alberta side.

"We had the fear of losing," said David, "and we just said to ourselves that we had had enough of this nonsense. It's tough enough to beat them let alone the referee. Justice prevailed in the end however."

The Pandas had three "golden"

opportunities to score besides the eventual one. That gave the U of A side the encouragement needed to press on for the equalizer.

In the three previous games the Pandas came up with impressive wins. They defeated the Calgary Dinosaurs in the opener 1-0, on a goal by Sheryl Ferry.

"It was our first game and we were very uptight," said David, "we didn't play very well."

The next day, they came back and clobbered Saskatchewan 8-1. It was a game where Vandergrift was very good for the U of A, and she scored two goals. Center-midfielder Janine Wood scored three times, forward Mary Liao scored twice and Nicole Poirier scored once.

They defeated Lethbridge 2-1, but not before the Pronghorns scared the Pandas. Janine Wood had to nail the penalty kicks to complete the comeback against the pesky southerners, who will be a force next season.

"They were kind of a Cinderella team," David said, "they hadn't scored a goal in five years, and now they tie UBC and score first against us."

With the conference win, the Pandas head to Vancouver on November 10, for the CIAU finals. They will face the Atlantic conference champion in the first game. The winner goes to the finals.

CORNER KICKS: The Pandas placed six players on the western all-star team. Defenders **Sherri Froc** and **Tanya Orr**, joined Wood, Poulin, Kondrosky, and Liao on the post-season squad.

This one's for Wayne. No, not Wayne the Whine — Wayne from my first-year Russian class, who's the only guy I know who's as big a Leafs fan as I am.

The Leafs, in case you haven't noticed, are off to a fine start this year. Yes I know they usually get off to a good start and yes, I know they are winning on the strength of great goaltending, but I'm still impressed.

The Leafs seems to have a new attitude this year. Buoyed by their young veterans (Dampousse, Olczyk, Leeman) and much-improved defence (Kotsopoulos, Veitch and Marsh), they are actually playing decent hockey at both ends of the rink.

All this is cause for some concern, of course. Harold Dullard, er Ballard, is due to get mad at Daniel Marois for not fighting, or Ken Wregget for being a little eccentric — not that every goalie in the league isn't a little eccentric. I mean, something bad has to happen to the Leafs soon, because nothing good ever lasts for this club.

Toronto has acquired a tradition of screwing up, that is threatening their old tradition of excellence in the years B.H. (Before Harold). A large part of the problem is the regular rotation of players: after Borje (The Old) Salming the next longest-serving Leaf is Dan Daoust, with five full and two partial seasons with the club.

That's where this column comes in — rumor has it that Gord Stellick is talking trade with Trader Phil Esposito. The last big Rangers-Leafs deal was Walt Poddubny (78-97-175 since the trade) for Mike Allison (23-31-54 in the same era).

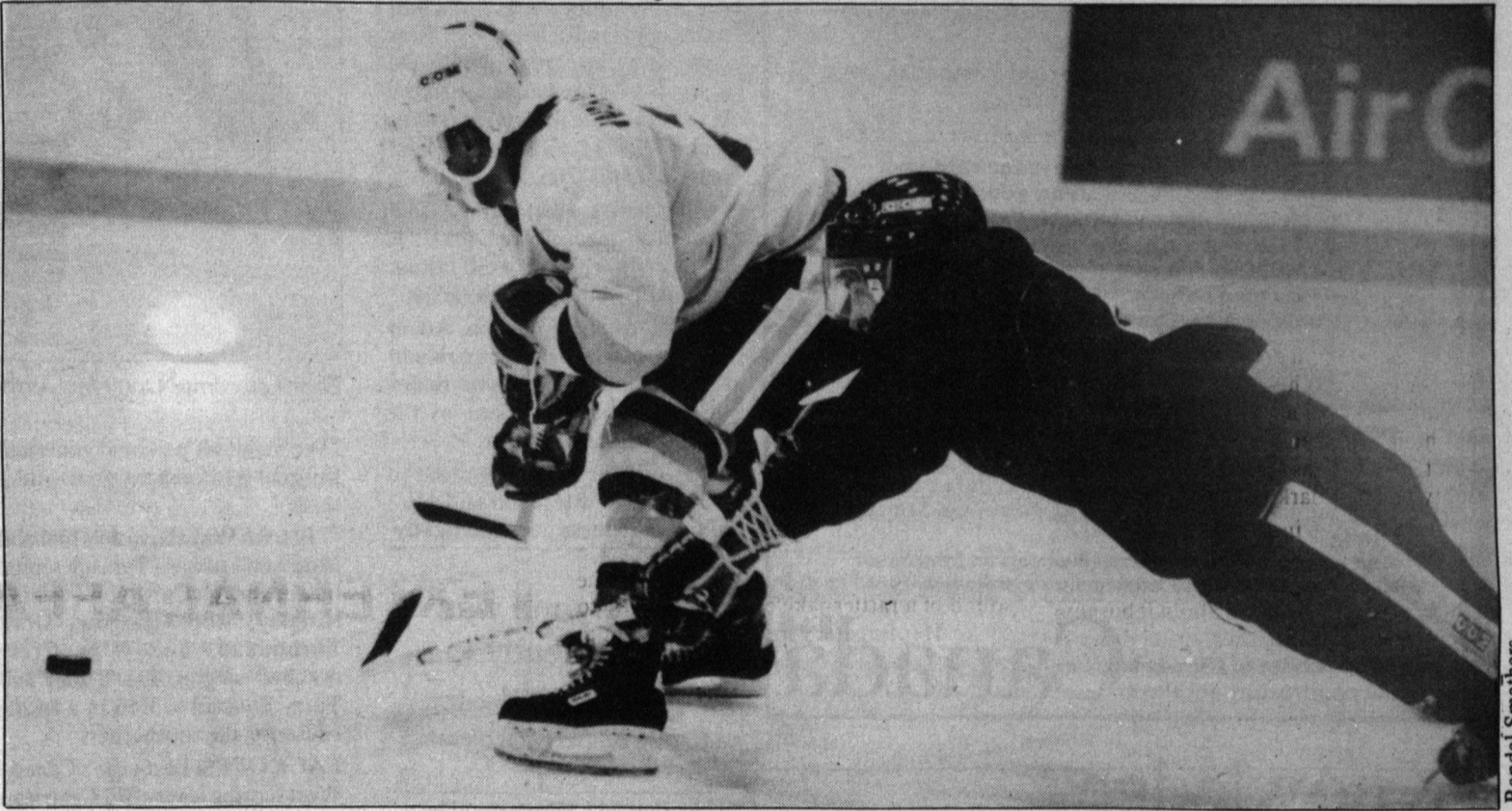


Not that I'm suggesting that Espo would try and pull a fast one on Gord (the youngest GM in the NHL) Stellick, or that the latest GM that Harold hired is vulnerable to a bad deal because he is giving away about a generation of hockey savvy to Phil, but frankly, I'm terrified.

As a Leafs fan I'm getting used to the feeling: will it be Olczyk for Lafleur or Leeman for Jari Gronstrand is the only remaining question. This is an old nightmare.

But relax Wayne (and I can too). After all, Ballard is OLD. How much longer can he hang on? A decade maybe? And then one of his loving children, or his "faithful" mistress, will get to ruin our dreamteam. At least it'll be a change.

Maybe we should start cheering for Minnesota.



Canada West player of the week Stacey Wakabayashi goes on a breakaway past this diving Pronghorn.

Horrible Horns burned by Bears

by Randal Smathers

Hockey fans who stayed home and watched Jack the Ripper on TV didn't miss anything Saturday night. The Golden Bears were Jack and the Lethbridge Pronghorns were Mary Kelly in an 11-1 slaughter. The win gave the Bears an easy series sweep over Lethbridge.

"Lethbridge are not as bad as they showed this weekend," said Bear coach Clare Drake. "We would have played well against anybody, and they were a little flat for whatever reason." Simply put, the Horns were horrible.

Wes Craig led the Bears, scoring twice inside a minute in the first period. The second goal proved to be the game winner. He also scored a powerplay goal in the third period for the hat-trick.

Canada West player of the week Stacey Wakabayashi added a powerplay and a shorthanded goal, and became the all-time leading scorer in Bear history. The line of Wakabayashi, Sid Cranston, and Doug McCarthy

had four goals on the night. Cranston scored his goal 11 seconds into the second period, then sent Wakabayashi in alone on Lethbridge goalie Scott Fischer only 16 seconds into the third period for his shorthanded score.

"It's easy to play with Sid," said Wakabayashi, who played with Cranston's brother Dennis last year. "He's a determined player offensively. He's determined to get the puck in the net."

Wakabayashi admitted that he was surprised to be playing with Cranston this year. "We can do it because we have so many good young players," he said. The Bears depth keeps opponents from keying on the first line.

McCarthy has also worked in well. "He's impressed since day one of training camp," said Wakabayashi. He also said that the line is working together well. "We know where each other is going to be."

Goalie John Krill thought he might get a shutout for a while, before the Horns scored in the third period. "We were working

on one," he said, "but I let a shot slip through my legs. All the credit goes to the guys in front of me, they made my job easy." The Horns were outshot 45-21.

Adam Morrison, R.J. Dundas, Ian Herbers, and Serge Lajoie also scored for the Bears. Dave Bax got the only Lethbridge goal.

Drake said he's undecided about the possible advantages of opening against a weak squad, but is expecting a good test next week in Brandon, who play well at home.

RED LINES: Craig went over the 100 career point mark Saturday. He moved from Cranston's wing to join Morrison and **Rob Glasgow**, who were two of the hottest Bears down the stretch last season, and the line got nine points on Saturday. The three stars were Craig, Wakabayashi, and Lajoie.

Bears 11 Horns 1

1st Period

1. Alta. Craig 2 (Morrison) 6:47
2. Alta. Craig 3 (Glasgow) 7:36
3. Alta. Wakabayashi 5 (McCarthy, Bozek) 13:51
Penalties: Philpot, L 1:25, Lajoie, A 10:43, Walter, L 13:03, Dundas, A 15:23, Herbers, A 17:30

2nd Period

4. Alta. Cranston 1 (McCarthy) :11
5. Alta. Morrison 3 (Craig, Glasgow) 1:38
6. Alta. Herbers 1 (Morrison) 6:40
7. Alta. Dundas 1 (Gordon, Yewchuk) 7:39
8. Alta. McCarthy 2 (Bozek, Wakabayashi) 9:16 pp
9. Alta. Lajoie 1 (McCarthy) 13:27
Penalties: Baustad, L 3:05, Gillette, L 8:46, Williston, L 9:35, Baustad, L, Wiebe, A 12:58, Couture, A major, game misconduct, 15:36, Williston, A 16:44, Bax, L 17:11, Cranston, A 17:59

3rd Period

10. Alta. Wakabayashi 6 (Cranston, Draper) :16, sh
11. Leth. Bax 2 (Martinez, Orban) 3:27
12. Alta. Craig 4 (Herbers, Bozek) 17:05 pp
Pens: Orban, L, Cranston, A :41, Glasgow, A 1:03, McCarthy, A 5:21, Ritchie, L 5:38, Walter, L 10:53, Tennant, L 15:07, Gillette, L, Cranston, A 16:44, Lajoie, A 18:57

Shots on goal

Leth 7 8 6-21
Alta 12 21 12-45
Goalies: Fischer, Leth; Krill, Alta.

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