

Divers make new waves

by Karl Wilberg

The U of A diving program has been building a reputation in competition and in the community. Last weekend at a UBC duel meet Alberta's Steve Stutt and Allison Godfrey took firsts on the 1 and 3m boards. In addition, Molly Murtha took a fourth and a third.

Coach Don McGavern has been involved in training an elite diving team as well as running a diving program, at the Kinsmen aquatic center, for the less experienced. So far McGavern believes he has three divers shooting for the national finals at Laval.

For example, he mentions Stutt as "my main hope", and is sure Godfrey will qualify. Also, he believes Murtha "might qualify for the nationals."

The U of A divers will have to place in the West conference final top three to qualify for CIAU funding to go to the national finals. However, if a diver qualifies within point limits, but out of the top three he or she will still be eligible for national competition.

McGavern believes his divers can make the conference top there. However the men's title in particular, will be a tough battle. UBC has defending champion Don Lieberman and Calgary has good divers.

The women's event, McGavern predicts will be "an interesting battle" with Godfrey pitted against three ex-teammates diving for Calgary. McGavern notes that Calgary's Sherry Hall is the favorite but "she and Allison (Godfrey) will be neck and neck.

Aside from actual competition, McGavern's program is perhaps a forerunner for the future. McGavern is active in running development programs and coaching clinics. He states part of his job is to expose the new aquatic center to a dining program.

McGavern sees the growth of diving programs in Canada owing a great deal to the construction of good facilities. Consequently, he believes institutions have made a demand for programming.

In addition, McGavern sees the modern coach bridging a gap

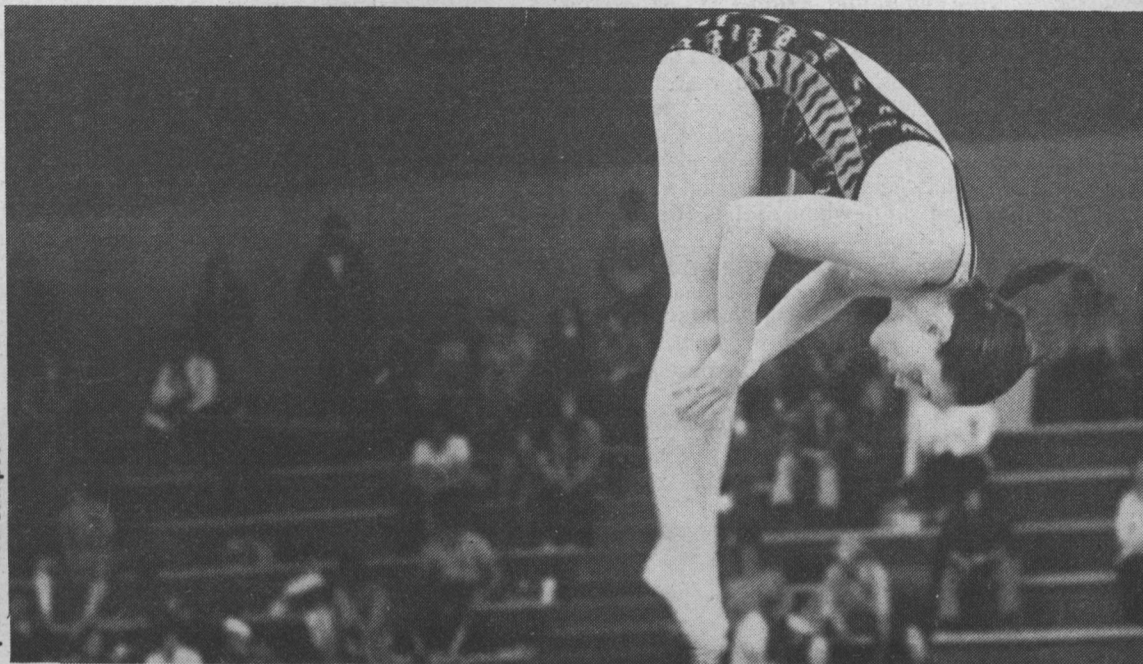


photo Russ Sampson

U of A divers have no fear of heights and may figure in national finals.

between the coach and academics. He believes the academic establishment has relaxed and included the possibility of coaches contributing to the academic community. In turn scientific infor-

mation and approaches can be used to help athletes.

This process is seen as part of what McGavern terms "strengthening the performance

level" and improving the school's community image. In any case it seems battered baseball caps, Absorbine Jr. stained sweatshirts, and meager academic backgrounds will be little use to the modern coach.

Finals come home!

Track and field organizer Gabor Simonyi is upset because the Saskatoon Sled Dog meet has been postponed. However, his dissatisfaction really stems from the new time for the meet. Now, unless Gabor can help it, the Sled Dog will be held on February 16 to 17 during the CIAU Western championships and in the same facility.

Needless to say how the U of A plans to hold both meets simultaneously arouses Gabor's curiosity. In fact, the U of A organizer's concern has prompted him to request a change of location for the conference final.

The proposed new location is the Kinsmen fieldhouse, but the situation is not simple. First of all a rock concert scheduled for the proposed date may interfere unless the band backs

out. Rumor is the band will not show.

Still, there are other problems. The CIAU earlier asked the U of A to hold the finals. Originally Alberta refused and now asking for the meet at the late date may be difficult. In any case, the answers to these questions should soon appear.

For the track team there are two advantages to having the finals here. First, travel costs would be eliminated. Secondly, the Edmonton Journal meet, scheduled next to the finals would have made it difficult for U of A competitors to compete in both events. Consequently, Gabor would welcome the finals even though he believes the U of A has had its "share with organization".

Still, some things are certain. Although the track events have been a strength, the field events have recently been successful. Gabor feels the present squad is a "good crew" and the best in some years.

Generally the field men are young. For example the three able to put the shot over 14m are first and second year students. To build their new found shot put skills Mike Howser, Fred Fentimen, and Wayne Thomas have been following a weight and running program. Gabor provides technical instruction.

In any case the result of the postponed Sled Dog will be interesting. Also, in spite of uncertainty of location the U of A will be certain favorites for the conference final.



photo Russ Sampson

Panda six figure salaries have depleted coffers. See story.

Pandas deflate UBC

by Dora Johnson

This past weekend the Panda's Basketball team hosted the University of British Columbia. Friday night saw the Pandas clobber UBC 88-48. Trix Kannekens and Glynis Griffiths lead the scoring for Alberta with 18 and 14 points respectively.

The game began with a close score because Alberta was slow making the transition from offense to defense. Consequently, UBC scored on a number of fast breaks. The Pandas however, got it together and pulled ahead of UBC.

Friday also saw the return of rookie Annette Sanregret, back from an ankle injury and veteran Ann Faulk back from a knee injury.

Saturday, the Pandas again beat UBC but this time the margin was not as great: 68 - 49. The Pandas managed to shoot only 28% from the floor. The poor shooting almost them the game when UBC came out flying in the second half. The Pandas managed to pull it together in the latter part of the second half to hold off the UBC attack.



photo Russ Sampson

Pandas overcame poor shooting to defeat UBC.

Trix Kannekens lead the Pandas with 22 points and Cathy Bultitude scored 16 for UBC.

The Pandas, rated 6th in the nation, travel to Lethbridge this

weekend to play the Lady Pronghorns, and will be back at varsity gym the following weekend to host the University of Calgary Dinnies.

Pandas need \$

by Pam Spencer

The U of A Pandas hockey club are stretching their legs again after a long Christmas break. The green and gold began by hosting the Gee Bees last Friday and the Chestnuts last Saturday night. It was the beginning of the round robin qualifying tournament to gain a berth in the Alberta Winter Games this February in Grande Prairie.

Panda right winger Pam Spencer opened the scoring against the Gee Bees after scooping up a pass from Lois Walline. The Gee Bees potted three consecutive goals which left the Pandas trailing for the remainder of the game. The final outcome was 6 - 4 for the Gee Bees.

Joanne Ripley, Caroline Heslop, and Lois Walline also contributed to the Panda cause. Generally, the Pandas were recovering from their idle holiday and mistakes were costly. Nevertheless, the team played an extremely fast game with all the strength they could muster. Saturday, against the Chest-

nuts, the Pandas combined some fresh wind, determination, and shorter shifts for an all out effort. The results were rewarding as the green and gold sprinted to an 8 - 1 win. Forwards Emily Decorby, Joanne Ripley, and Joanne Hutsul each scored two goals while Caroline Heslop and Lorri Judin each marking an additional point.

The Pandas host the third and final game of the tournament against Capilano this Friday, January 18 at 7:45 p.m. in Varsity arena. The game promises to be exciting.

Regular league games resume Saturday January 19 against Innisfail at 7:45 p.m. in Varsity arena.

Support your favorite Panda hockey player by sponsoring her in a Skate-a-Thon this Friday January 15. She is required to wear full equipment and within an hour may skate a maximum of 100 laps.

The team needs funds to continue to pay for ice time and referees. Your support will be appreciated.