

Pandas have fun at GPAC tourney

by Mitch Panciuk

The basketball Pandas visited Edmonton's sister capital city Regina, last weekend and actually, even had some fun. The Pandas won their first two games of the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC) tournament, but lost to Regina in the final by a score of 96-53.

In their first game, The Pandas took on the Saskatchewan Huskies and beat them 69-42 and moved on to the semi-final where they played the Brandon University team. The

Pandas played well as a team, and won that game 77-52.

Panda coach Dianne Hilko was disappointed with the play of the Pandas in the final against Regina, and feels that later in the year the Pandas should be able to beat them.

"We played Regina like we played against the Alumni: we were intimidated throughout the game," said Hilko. However, the young Pandas learned a lot from that game, and perhaps the single most important

lesson was that "we can't afford to ever let up."

Hilko felt the GPAC tournament was good experience for the Pandas, stating that what the Pandas really need is "playing experience, and the tournament provided that."

A few of the Pandas had good weekends, and Kelly Anderson and Joanna Ross were players of the game in the Pandas' two victories. Rookie Susan Chalmers was the player of the game for the final, and Hilko was happy with her play,

saying that "Susan got progressively better with every game."

The Pandas are next in action Friday November 17 when they travel to Calgary to play last year's champions in a weekend series.

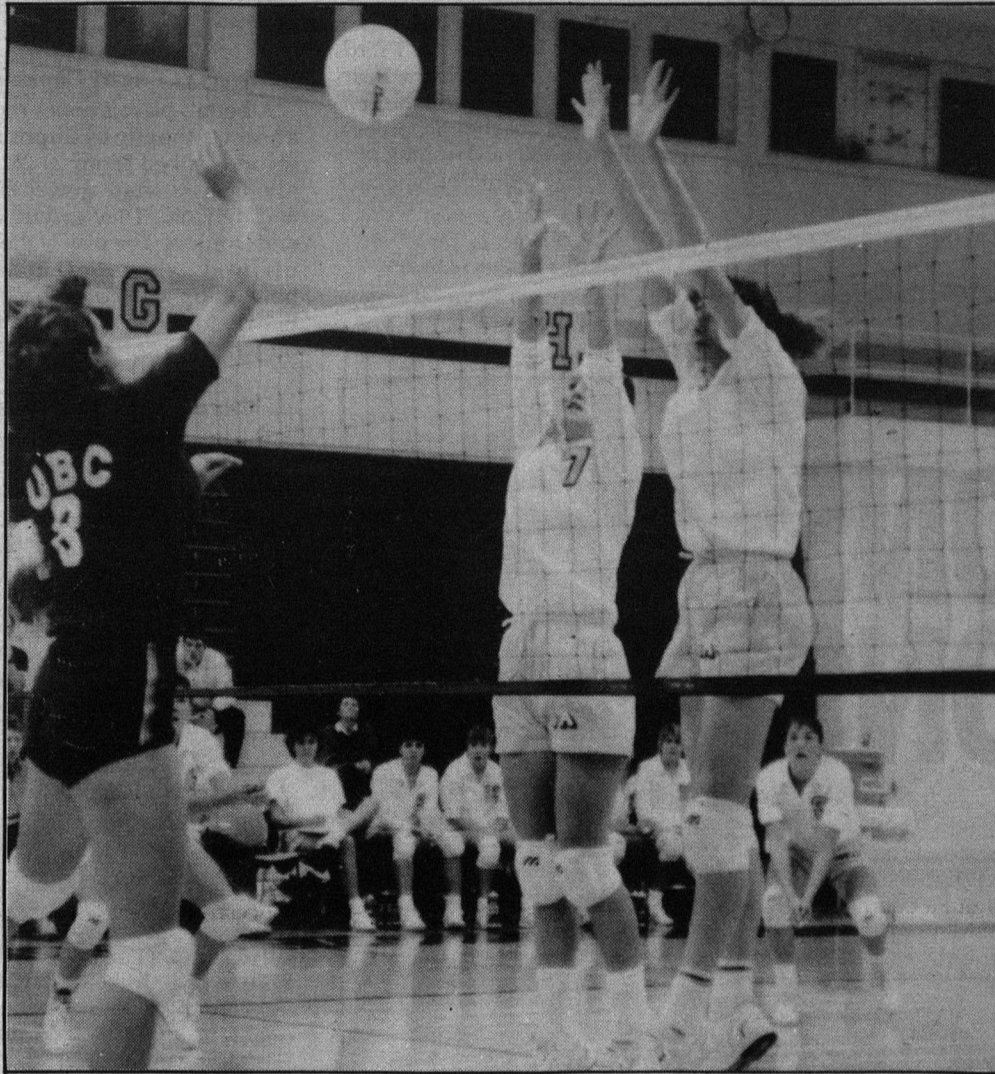
Mitch Panciuk is the columnist for FM-88 broadcasts of Panda Basketball

Hockey

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The team takes part in a variety of recreational activities as a unit, including many intramural programs on campus. As well, the club is involved in playing exhibition games against the Alberta Men's Blind Hockey Team as an enjoyable promotional activity.

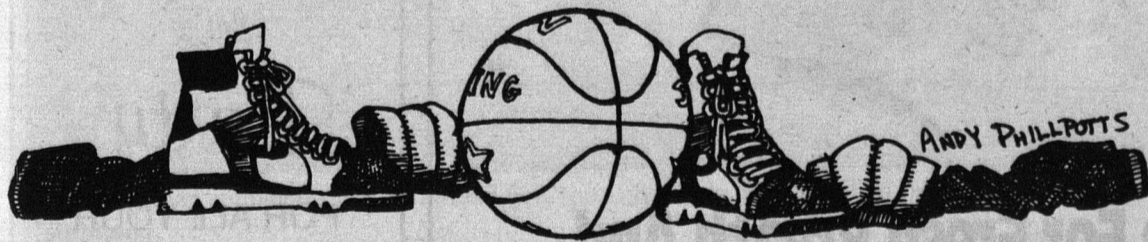
For more information, please contact Carol Kassian or Hugh Hoyles at 492-2555.



Greg Perkins

Rejection

Pandas Cathlyn Robinson (left) and Debbie Dyson go up to reject a UBC spike. The Pandas dropped both matches to UBC over the weekend, but they have a good shot at evening the record against the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns this weekend. The Pandas swept Lethbridge when they played last season.



by Mitch Panciuk

Shock of all shocks! Surprise of all surprises! The Pandas made it to the final of the GPAC tournament on the weekend in Regina. This may not mean a whole lot to the busy students of the University of Alberta, but we must stop and give this the proper consideration which it so richly deserves.

After watching the Alumni game in which the Pandas were totally dominated and intimidated from the opening jump-ball, many U of A basketball fans (including myself) went away thinking that this would be another horrendous season. Well it won't be, and the play of the Panda's on the weekend proves it.

The Pandas beat Saskatchewan in the tournament opener, and moved on to beat Brandon University to advance to the finals. The Pandas won both games by healthy margins, and coach Dianne Hilko is justifiably happy with the overall play of the Pandas. Apparently in the final the Pandas just lapsed into the same type of play that they demonstrated in the Alumni game. But of major importance, the Pandas showed some possibility—and with possibility sometimes comes prob-

ability. The Pandas will probably do better than last year. For the Pandas, this will be a feat in itself. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Posting up

The Golden Bear basketball team is in action again this weekend starting Thursday night as they kick off the 1989 Golden Bear Invitational Basketball Tournament. The GBI is fast becoming one of the best Men's basketball tournaments in the nation. This year's quality of teams will reinforce this feeling, and coach Don Horwood has already been asked by many Canadian University coaches to include their teams in next year's tournament.

This is going to be a high quality tournament, and the Bears even have a good chance to win it. Last weekend the Bears went into Regina and won the tournament without even playing well. In front of a home team crowd, the Bears should be able to increase their intensity to the appropriate level and repeat last weekend's tournament victory.

The toughest game of the weekend will probably be Saskatchewan

on Thursday. While the Bears beat the Huskies to win the GPAC tournament by a 104-90 score, the game was close until the 10 minute mark of the second half.

Former U of A assistant coach Steve Roth is now coaching the Huskies, and he will probably be able to motivate his players a little better than he would be able to usually. When Horwood and Roth were designing the tournament a few years ago, they chose UBC as the first team for the U of A to play because they wanted the easiest route into the semi-finals. That year the Bears were upset by UBC, and Roth will no doubt think that the U of A is playing Saskatchewan for those same reasons. He sent Horwood a note which said "Don—remember UBC."

So, it's going to be a big weekend here on campus, and we should expect a big weekend from some of the U of A players. Rick Stanley struggled at the GPAC tournament, and he's due to break out of it. Also, forward Brian Halsey was voted MVP for last weekend's tourney, and he should be able to continue the kind of play which earned him that title.

STUDENTS!!! RETURN YOUR POSTCARD TODAY!!!

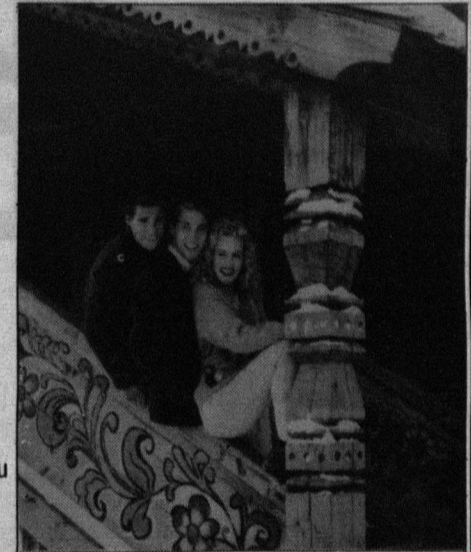
Don't forget that we need your signed postcards by Friday, November 10. The cards will be presented at City Hall on November 14, so ... **this is your last chance to send a strong message of support.** Cards can be returned to any SU Info Booth or Faculty Association Office.

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