

Pandas run away from Guelph

by Tim Enger

Pandas 69 Gryphons 52

If there is one thing to be learned from the Pandas slaughter of the Guelph Gryphons, it is that if a small team tries to play like a big team, they will lose. . . big.

This is what Guelph did and it was just fine with the Pandas who practically drooled when they saw the Gryphons enter the gym. For finally, after facing several Amazon-like teams, they would go up against a team their own height.

"It's certainly nice to play a team your own size" said coach Sherry Melney, "but unless you play defense, block out, and install a running game, like you would against a larger team, there is no advantage in it."

Right from the opening tip-off, coach Melney's words rang true as the Pandas ran, rebounded, and defended their way to an earlier lead. After that, the Pandas installed an evil full-court trap, that held the Gryphons at bay for the rest of the half.

The main recipient of the trap was forward Trish Campbell who converted three straight Gryphon

turnovers into six points on her way to leading the Pandas in scoring at the half with nine. The score at half-time was Pandas 35 — Gryphons 20.

When Guelph came out for the second half, you could certainly tell that they had seen enough of the Panda running game to last a lifetime. Their solution to stopping it was to do a little full-court trapping of their own. This tactic seemed to work as they reduced their deficit to seven points with 12:07 remaining. That was all coach Melney had to see because she immediately subbed Campbell (who had left earlier with a bruised thigh), and defensive standout Lisa Janz (who had left earlier because of foul trouble), back into the game. These two players, along with the dribbling of Shelaine Kozakavich shredded the Gryphons press and turned the final eight minutes of the game into a run-and-gun shootathon. And, as the rest of the womens basketball world is beginning to discover, nobody plays run-and gun better than the Pandas.

This offensive style allowed forward Annette Sanregret to catch fire and pump in most of her points

on her way to becoming the leading scorer in the game with 25 points. The Gryphons leading scorer was forward Tracie Bent with 12. The early season story for the Pandas has to be the play of freshman (freshwoman?) Kathy Keats. "I can't say enough about her" said coach Melney. "She's very smart offensively and tough on defense which is very rare for a rookie". "She's going to be a good one" concurred third-year point guard Debbie O'Byrne.

Indeed, if Keats continues her Funtasian like rookie season it could be just what the undersized Pandas need as they prepare for the regular season in the tough Canada West Conference.

Speaking of the Canada West Conference, the Pandas will get their first look at the rest of the teams in the conference next weekend in Saskatoon at the Canada West Classic.

"I'm looking forward to it" says O'Byrne "it will give us a chance to see what the other teams look like as well as showing them what we can do". As usual, the University of Victoria is highly favored, but this year it seems nothing is guaranteed and many teams have a shot at the title.

The Pandas next home game will be against the Taiwanese National Team.

"God knows what to expect from them" said coach Melney, "but it should be interesting". So if you're into exciting international basketball, Varsity Gym, Tuesday Dec. 3rd is the place to be. Their next Western Hemisphere opponents will be

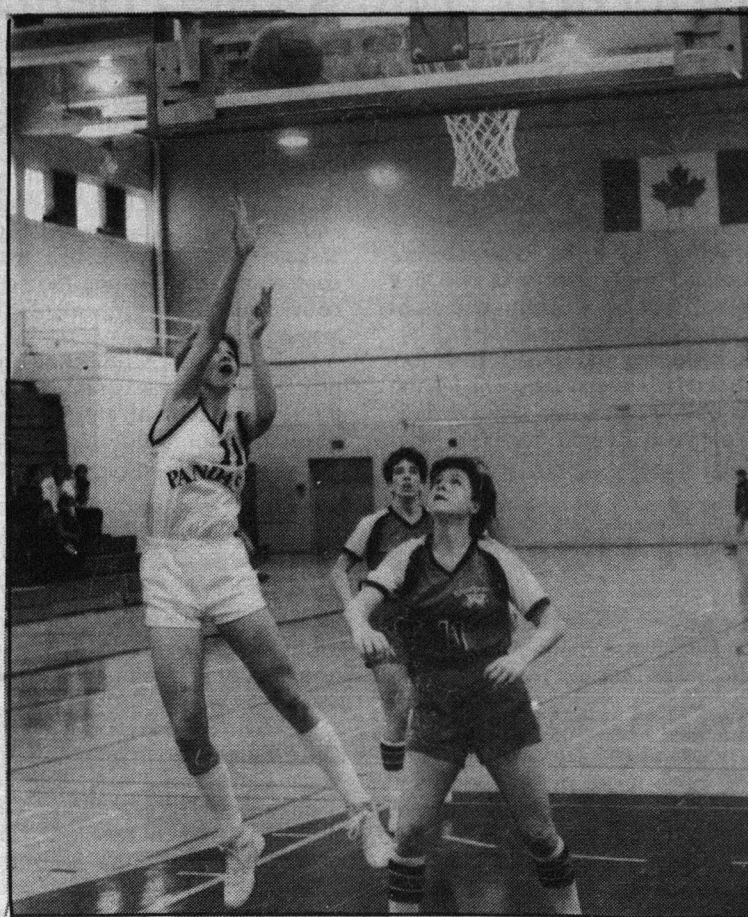


Photo: Rob Schmidt

Kathy Keats gets an easy two. She's having a great rookie season thus far

the Brandon Bobcats Saturday, Dec. 7th at 2:00 P.M.

Roundball Rumors: Along with Trish Campbell's bruised thigh the only other injury of the game was Kathy Keats lacerated gum incurred when she took a shot in the mouth late in the game. . . Coach Sherry

Melney is sporting a neck brace these days due to suspected vertebrae damage. . . Point guard Debbie O'Byrne's black eye is living proof that the women play basketball just as tough as the men. She received it in last weekend's loss against Laurentian. . . The Pandas record is now 5-2.



The San Diego Chicken returns to the UofA Varsity gym on Thursday, November 21st. The Golden Bears have just returned from dropping a pair of games to the University of Arizona and Utah State University, so they'll be hungry.

McMaster, last year's Ontario champs, will provide the opposition at 7:30 p.m. with an exhibition game between the Alberta Northern Lights and the Western Wind tipping off at 6:00 p.m.

Swimmers split in B.C. tour

Last weekend saw the U of A swim team travel abroad for meets with UBC, U Vic, and Simon Fraser University. The men were unsuccessful in UBC on Friday, but at the same time, the women were having a better time of it with SFU.

The following swimmers placed for their performances: Mary Jo Clark in the 800m freestyle finished second, Colleen Delaney in the 400m individual medley placed third, Elaine Lebuke finished first in the 100m butterfly with a time of 1:08.48, Larry Schulhauser in the 100m fly placed second, Dina Skinder placed third in the 100m free, Stephanie Lake placed third in the 100m backstroke, and in the 400m freestyle, Colleen Delaney and Mary Jo Clark finished second and third respectively.

On Saturday the team travelled to Victoria for a dual meet against U Vic. The women swam a good meet

and won. The men swam hard, but in the end lost.

In the 800m freestyle, the women finished first - Colleen Delaney and second - Kelly Bowden. Dina Skinder finished first in the 100m free style. Second place finishes were turned in by Mary Jo Clark in the 200m free, Tiffany Watson in the 50m free, Stephanie Lake in the 200m individual medley, Barb Henning and Larry Schulhauser in the 200m fly and Colleen Delaney in the 400m freestyle.

So far the team has had three swimmers qualify for CIAU national championships at the University of

Laval in Montreal this March. Mary Jo Clark qualified in the 800m and 400m freestyle, Colleen Delaney in the 400m I.M. and 400m free, and Elaine Lebuke in the 100m fly and 200m I.M.

The Bears/Pandas have finished their first segment of competition for the season. There will be solid training for the next three weeks to build up on all weaknesses, then the team will be at training camp from Dec. 27 - Jan. 7th. Following Christmas training camp will be a series of home competitions in January.



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