



The Bears host Calgary and Lethbridge in v-ball action this weekend.

Bears gun for v-ball sweep

by Alan Small

The Golden Bears volleyball club will be trying to accomplish one of their pre-season goals this weekend when they play the CIAU third ranked Calgary Dinosuars in one of their two matches this weekend.

The Bears wanted to beat Calgary once this year. It's not as if they haven't attempted it. This weekend's match represents the seventh time the two Alberta teams have squared off on both sides of the net.

Although the Bears are one of the young teams in Canada West and are still learning the ropes, they have been steadily improving in their matches with Calgary. They have taken their southern rivals to five games more than once this year.

"It has something to do with the Edmonton-Calgary rivalry," Bear head coach Pierre Baudin said, "the players find that extra energy when we play them."

Baudin also said it is a credibility match for the Bears, as he thinks an upset over the Dinos could launch them into the top ten, like their Panda cousins, who are ranked tenth in the nation.

"It wasn't very long ago we were walking all over them (when Calgary was a young team)," Baudin said.

The Dinos are a powerful club. Two starters on the junior national team, Randy Gingera and Kevin Boyles finished fourth in the country last season at the CIAU championships.

"We should be able to dominate Calgary in the middle," Baudin said, "their middle is smaller than we are."

That means the responsibility of dominating the Dinos middle will be up to rookies Dean Kakoschke and Todd Sommerfeld.

"They are only 18 or 19 years old," Baudin said of the two rookie middle players, "they haven't filled out yet. They're not as strong as they should be."

The Bears will host the Prong-

horns on Sunday afternoon, and are looking for an easy win. The Pronghorns volleyball program has been in a mess of confusion for the past two years now.

"It'll give a chance for the young guys who haven't had the experience going on the floor as a Golden Bear in our home gym," Baudin said.

On the undercard for the two games will be the Pandas matches against Calgary and Lethbridge.

The Pandas will be looking to move up in the top ten rankings. Their move into tenth this week after beating UBC has been a long time coming for the Panda volleyball program. Calgary is seventh ranked nationally, so if the Pandas have any chance for a wild card berth in the nationals, a pair of wins over Calgary and Lethbridge, would be necessary.

Matches start at 6:30 Saturday night, while the Sunday match against Lethbridge starts at 2:00 on Sunday afternoon. Bear matches immediately follow.

Pandas need one more victory

by Alan Small

Usually when a team only has to win one of four games at home to make the playoffs, many people think that the playoffs are in the bag. Let's go for tickets.

That is not the case for the Panda basketball club. They have to win one of four games from the University of Victoria and the University of Calgary, who they play this weekend in a pair of games at Varsity Gym, Friday and Saturday.

Calgary is the third ranked team in the country, after being the top team for most of the first half of the year. It doesn't get much better next weekend when they face Victoria, the top team in the land.

The Pandas are 1-11 against top ten competition this year. This includes humbling losses to Manitoba (99-54), Victoria (77-40, 75-22) and Calgary (66-38), who are the top three women's basketball teams in the nation. In those twelve games the Pandas were outscored 840-603.

Panda coach Diane Hilko is keeping her hopes up. They cannot give up now.

"If we play smart enough, we can beat them," Hilko said of the Dinosuars.

The problem the Pandas had on their trip to Calgary last month is that they would come out of the locker room at halftime and miss every shot for five minutes. Against a team like Calgary, with players like Veronica Vander Schee, who is arguably the best female basketball player in the country.

"It (the game against Calgary) was like the girls were happy we were that close (after the first half)," Hilko said, "we just didn't keep playing."

Hilko says that the key of beating the Dinosuars is allowing only the original shot.



"We can't give them 23 offensive rebounds," Hilko said, alluding to the earlier games against Calgary. Doing that will be much more difficult for the Pandas, as the Dinos hold a huge size advantage over their northern rivals. Besides Vander Schee, who is 5'11", the Dinos can put Karen Degner and Lisa Schirok on the floor, who are 6'2" 6'2 1/2" tall respectively. The tallest players the Pandas have are Joanna

Ross at 6'1" and Chris White, who is 6' but are both rookies. Vander Schee is in her third year, while Degner and Schirok are in their fourth years of eligibility. Not only does Calgary have size on its side, they also have experience.

"We'll have to play on the perimeter," Hilko said, "against UBC, we were even seven, so we went inside."

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