

Pandas runner-up in volleyball tournament

by Don McCrimmon

The Calgary Cals, as was predicted, won the U of A Invitational tournament again for their fifth consecutive time. This time, however, it was not so easy as the U of A Pandas put up a stiff opposition before going down 15-10 and 15-8 in the finals.

The tournament was split into two divisions with the Pandas and the U of C finishing 1st and 2nd in their division while the Calgary Cals and the Phoenix women's team took the two playoff spots in their division.

Getting to the semi-finals proved to be of little difficulty to the powerful Panda team as they swept their division in six straight games. First thing in the morning they demolished the University of Saskatchewan 15-4 and 15-4. Then they worked up an even better appetite for lunch by downing the University of Saskatchewan with scores of 15-10 and 15-6. All in all, a good mornings work.

The closest games in their division came, surprisingly enough, from the fairly inexperienced Yorkton team. Yorkton is a team of high school girls who have a good understanding of the basics of volleyball, the spike, the set, the block, and defensive coverage, but who were fairly weak on some of the finer points. They gave up a lot of "free balls" and the Pandas managed to capitalize on most of them. The first game went well enough as the Pandas, with some hard spiking from

Barb Styles, overpowered them to the tune of 15-7. The second bout was more exciting, though, as it see-sawed back and forth until the U of A girls finally sneaked through with a 17-15 win. After the game coach Susan Neill spoke confidently of meeting and beating the Cals in the finals. Unfortunately, only the first half of her prediction came true.

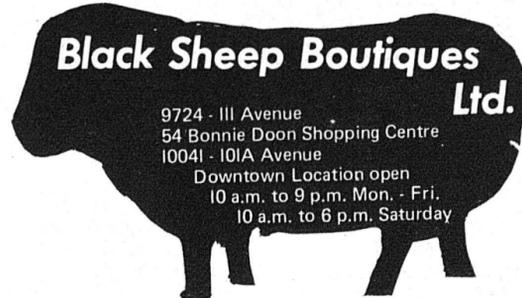
In the semi-finals against the Phoenix women's team the first two games split with the first one going to the Pandas 15-8 and the second one going to Phoenix 15-6. The third game was all Pandas as they annihilated Phoenix 15-5 and were ushered into the finals.

The less said about the finals the better, so all that can be said then is that the Calgary Cals won in two straight games with scores of 15-10 and 15-8. Rangy Carol Lanesupplied most of the punch behind the Cals with some very hard hitting while her team-mates did a good job at controlling the ball and repelling the Pandas offensive drives. However, Coach Jim Bedard said, "The Pandas this year are certainly a much better team than last year and I'm not so sure if I want to meet them again. They gave our girls a lot of trouble out there today."

Throughout the tournament the Pandas played extremely well. Some of the more eminent

spectators have collaborated to bring you the three star selection--Susan Seaborn, Janice Wotherspoon, and Dorothy

Armor. The selection of these three proved very difficult as all of the girls looked very good.



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ACTIVITIES

Things were pretty busy on the intercollegiate front here last weekend. But fiercer action at the intramural level, with playoffs in Division I hockey, Water Polo, and Co-recreational Innertube Water Polo, takes place this week.

The championship game in Division I Hockey will be held Thursday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m. It is quite difficult to pick a winner from the eight quarter-finalists but we predict that Engineering will defeat the Phi Delt's 4-2 Thursday night.

The playoffs in Water Polo will also be held Thursday night. Phys. Ed. may not reach the finals in hockey but they should take top place in water polo.

Playoffs, playoffs, playoffs; more playoffs! The Co-recreational Innertube Water Polo Champion will be decided Friday night, December 10. Bollo's Ballers have had an exciting season, but it will probably be Kennedy's Killers buying the beer.

The basketball schedule will continue after Christmas and the powers in Division III seem to be St. Joe's "D", Mechanical Engineering, and 2nd Mac.

Our "Athlete of the Week" is that infamous frat rat, Drew Livingston, of The Deke's. Drew helped both the Deke's water polo and hockey teams reach the playoffs. Thanks alot Drew, its guys like you that make our program work.

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