

SPORTS

North vs South: 'The Dribble War'

by Mark Spector

Whether it is the incessant winds that blow in Lethbridge or the fact that southern Alberta is simply a place where good, hard basketball is played, it's no secret that U of A hoop teams have had a tough time winning in the U of L gym over the last few years.

The winds of change did begin to blow in 1985 however, as the Pandas managed a road victory against the Pronghorns for the first time in recent memory, besting Lethbridge 59-57 to avenge a one point loss in Alberta's Varsity gym only three weeks previous. The Pandas would later defeat Lethbridge in a Canada West semi-final match by a mere one point margin to lay claim to a wildcard berth in the CIAU national tournament.

Are you getting the idea that these womens teams are fairly evenly matched? The season series between them last year was decided by two points, Alberta outscoring Lethbridge 164 to 162 over three games.

As for the Bears, well they only won when it counted against a Pronghorn team that hovered around number five in the national rankings last year. Alberta lost by three at home and nine on the road before dumping U of L in the first of Alberta's two miracle playoff games, 79-78.

"We know that they play the same style of game as we do, which is a running one," commented Panda head coach Sherry Melney on the sixth ranked Pronghorns. "They have much the same team as us height wise (which is short), so there's really no secrets to this game." As well, there has been a history of questionable refereeing in Alberta's southern city, making any victory for a visiting club a hard earned one.

But perhaps even a tougher test will come on Saturday for the Pandas when they travel to Calgary to take on the fourth ranked Dinnies. Calgary defeated Lethbridge last weekend in both teams' season opener, leaving Calgary, Alberta, and Lethbridge in fourth, fifth, and

sixth place respectively in the national rankings.

On the mens' side of the board, the Bears have yet to face Lethbridge this year and were beaten by nine points by Calgary in their only exhibition meeting. "That was probably the worst effort of the preseason," admitted assistant coach Steve Roth, who has seen his club score only three points less than the defending national champions the Victoria Vikings but give up 22 more in their two conference games thus far.

"We've had no problems scoring points," says Roth, "it's just our defence that will have to shape up somewhat."

The Lethbridge and Calgary mens squad are embroiled in a bit of a controversy right now. In Calgary's National Classic tourney over Christmas, Lethbridge defeated the Dinos in a semifinal game. Then prior to the beginning of the Canada West season the league ruled that Murray Hanna, a Pronghorn forward, is ineligible to play in this his final year of eligibility in CIAU hoop.

The story goes like this: Hanna's an excellent golfer and is trying to gain his ticket so that he could perhaps play professionally. What Lethbridge didn't know was that Hanna had done poorly in school last year, so poorly in fact, that he wasn't allowed by the league to play this season. So what's Calgary's beef? They were beaten in the semifinal of their own tournament by a team using an illegal player. The fact that they weren't in the tourney final no doubt cost them a couple of grand at the gate, none of which they will probably be able to recoup.

So the Bears take their 1-1 record south to play the seventh ranked U of Lethbridge and the unranked U of Calgary. Just like the Pandas, wins are important now so that the pressure is less as the short season wears down.

"We're taking ten guys down and we're going to play some tough ball," states coach Roth, and really, that's all that one can ask for.



Swim fans won't want to miss what just may be the best swim team that will grace the West pool this year. The Bears and Pandas host the University of Washington this Saturday at 4:00 p.m. "We won't be out to beat this team, but our objective will be to bring our times down because we will be swimming against individuals who are definitely faster than us," admits Bear coach John Hogg.

First place showdown in the 'toon

by Mark Spector

If there is one redeeming feature about coming back to school after Christmas break, it's that at least the sports start to get serious. The teams begin their regular seasons, and all the individual sports like track and wrestling can start worrying about qualifying for the nationals and so on.

As for the hockey Bears, they play their most important series of the season this weekend in Saskatoon against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

This two game set should prove to be a dandy as Alberta and Saskatchewan are not only one-two in league standings, but are close in many other CWUAA statistical categories as well.

The Bears lead the league with a record of 14-2 for 28 points. The Huskies are second at 12-4 for 24 points. U of S has the lowest goals against average, allowing only 56 goals for a 3.50 average. The U of A is second, surrendering 62 goals for

a 3.88 GAA. In terms of goals for, Alberta is first with 111 (6.93 per game), while the Huskies are fifth, but only three goals out of second (87 for 5.43).

Both teams excel in their specialty units. Saskatchewan has the most efficient powerplay in the league at 32.3%, but Alberta has the best penalty killing unit, surviving penalties at a rate of 81.7%. This department, more than any other, should make for some exciting hockey.

If that's not enough, these two clubs genuinely dislike each other. The roughest game to be played in Alberta's Varsity arena this year was the final in the Golden Bear Invite which saw the Bears beat the Huskies by an 8-4 margin. Referee Larry Antoniuk whistled 86 minutes in penalties as the Golden Bears overcame a 4-3 deficit 6:30 into the third frame, scoring five unanswered goals to claim tournament honours.

Bear Facts— Training camp drop-

out **John Lamb** has rejoined the Bears and will make the trip... **Bill Ansell** had the shoulder examined that he injured last weekend in Manitoba, and the doctor pronounced him fit to play. **Jeff Helland** also hurt a shoulder last week, but will make this weekend's trip... **Gerald Koebel**, who played forward last year, but was switched to defence after a rash of injuries there this season, has been practicing this week with the forwards. With the loss of leftwinger **Jeff Fenton**, who returned last week to his home of last year Spokane, Washington, Lamb should shoe into the vacant spot on the wing... This week's CWUAA Player of the Week is Saskatchewanst freshman goalie **Greg Holtby**. He shut out the **UBC Thunderbirds** last week upping his record to 7-1 and lowering his GAA to a league leading 2.94... The games go Thursday and Friday night with the starting time at 6:30 on **CJSR-88.5 FM** on both nights.

V-ball tourney this weekend

by Blaine Ostapovich

This weekend on Campus, volleyball fans will get a full serving of the game as both the Bears and the Pandas host seven other teams in the Bears and Pandas Classic.

The Golden Bears field a solid club lead by third year setter Troy Lorenson and 6'4" rookie Doug Anton. Head Coach J.C. Meilleur notes that two teams to watch are the CIAU defending champs, U of Manitoba, and the Edmonton Volleyball Club led by former national team member Terry Danaluk.

"We play the best volleyball in Alberta let alone all of Edmonton" says Meilleur, who is confident about his team's chances this weekend. The Bears have beaten both the University of Calgary and the U of Lethbridge thus far this season. Alberta is 6-2 in non-conference play, but a disappointing 1-5 in conference action so far.

On the ladies side of things, the Pandas are returning home from the Bison Invitational meet in Winnipeg. The club went 0-4 in the windy Manitoba city last weekend, but showed some improvement.

Head Coach Marla Watson felt the trip was beneficial. "I think there was improvement from the time of the North-Am tournament (in December). We showed a little more team cohesiveness and our

new defense is coming along."

Team co-captains Brenda Kadatz and Trudy Antoniuk were optimistic about the teams progress. Kadatz says "The team played well, although the scores didn't show it." Antoniuk adds "The best game we played in the tournament was versus UBC." The T-Birds won that match 16-14, 17-15, 15-4, but the Pandas played well enough to win. And for an improving team like Alberta (0-5 in conference play this

year) that's a step in the right direction.

The nine visiting teams for this weekend's Classic are the U of Lethbridge, U of Calgary, U of Regina, UBC, U of Manitoba, the Edmonton and Calgary Volleyball Clubs, and Lakehead College.

Games commence Friday at 5:00 pm and run all day Saturday and Sunday with the finals beginning at 3:00 pm Sunday.

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