

# Pandas lose to alumni, backcourt a question

by Tim Enger

The Panda Basketball team opened up their season last Friday night with a 67-56 loss at the hands of their own Panda Alumni. This is the first game of a season that ranks right up there with the old Arts building as a full-scale rebuilding project, and history is not exactly on Alberta's side. Although the Pandas have been a consistent winner, they have never won a CWUAA or National championship. Ever. In fact, they are the only team on campus never to achieve the above mentioned feat.

The main stumbling block for Alberta has been complete domination of the Canada West by the Victoria Vikettes who have won the conference title nine times in the last eleven years. So it really didn't matter how good a team the Pandas or any of the other teams in the Canada West were, the Vikettes were always better.

Now, with signs of weakening on the coast and a surge in strength from the prairie teams, this season figures to be a four team dog fight between U Vic, Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge.

The Pandas begin their quest for

that elusive championship in a cloud of mystery. While the front court seems solid (and tall) with 6'0" Kathy Keats, 6'1" Lisa Janz, and 6'2" Yolanda Kruyer expected to start, the backcourt seems a bit fuzzy with the loss of Shelaine Kozakavich and Debbie O'Byrne from last year. And no one but rookies and untested veterans are left to fill the void.

"It's tough to lose quality players like Shelaine and Debbie," said Keats, "but we have some good rookies and people like Michelle Durond who have really come a long way from last year."

One of the more positive notes for Alberta has been the addition of new coach Diane Hilko. "She's really been great," added Keats. "She knows what she wants, lays it out in practice, and is very positive about what she's doing."

"Her philosophy is very common in eastern universities, but it is something we don't see much of out west," said Yolanda Kruyer. "Hopefully, it will give us what we need to win this year." Hilko comes to the U of A after spending two years as head coach at the University of Ottawa.

On the downside Kruyer, who returns to Alberta after spending a year at Grant MacEwen College, will miss at least three weeks due to a stress-fractured fibula incurred during practice last week. The Pandas can ill afford to lose Kruyer because after her only second-year forward Zofia Jarsiuki and rookie Linda MrKonjak have the height to play on the front line.

Looking around the rest of the league, the defending champion Victoria Vikettes look strong as always with the return of CWUAA All-Star Lori Clarke, but they have lost two very important people in Suzie Neil and Sandy Pothier. And rumor has it that the big blue and gold recruiting machine has not been firing on all cylinders lately and may have produced a bad batch in '86-87.

In Lethbridge, the team that upset the Pandas in the playoffs and almost knocked off the eventual CIAU champion Toronto Blues in the quarter-finals, has lost only one player from last year. Unfortunately for them, it happens to be Inge Pot, a stand-out forward who practically beat the Pandas all by herself last year. Nonetheless, the

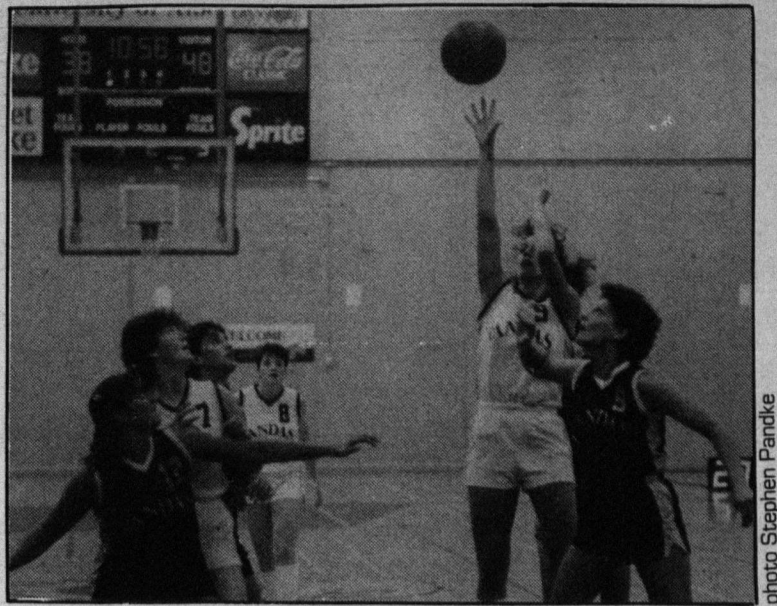


photo Stephen Pandke

Alumni Trish Campbell (left) and Annette Sanregret, in dark uniforms, led the former Pandas to victory over the current ones by a 67-56 score.

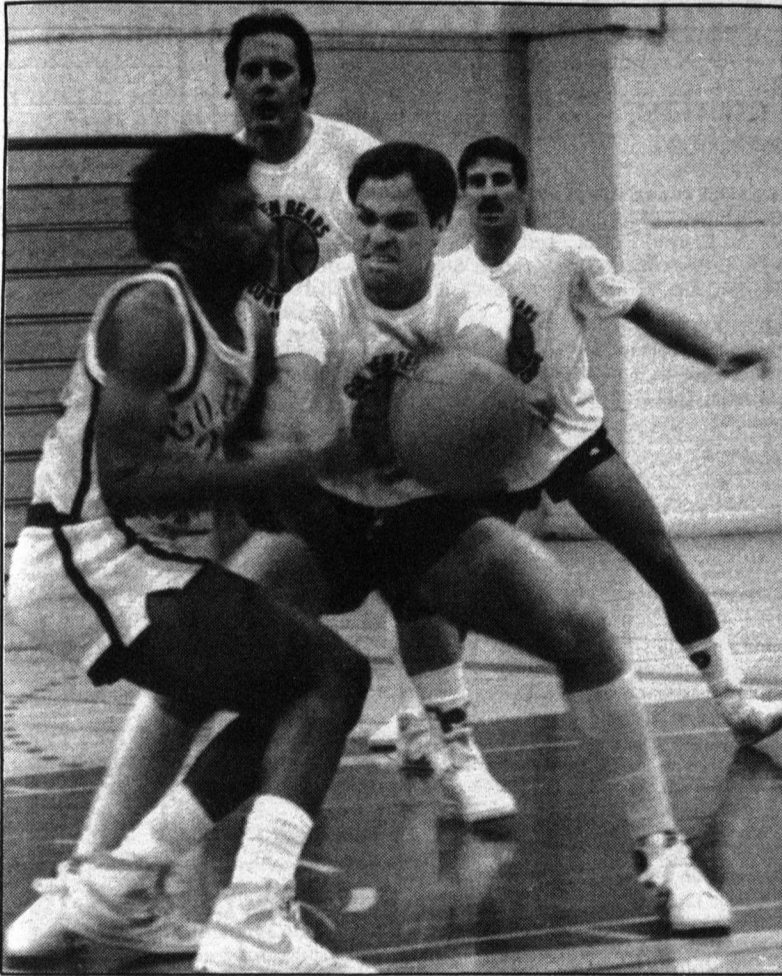
Pronghorns have a solid core returning including CWUAA All-Star Dori Rudziniak and Second-Team All-Star Sharon Hamilton. They also have a new coach in Cal O'Brien, who takes over from 1985's CIAU Coach of the Year Louisa Zerbe who is taking the year off.

The last team which figures to be a factor in this year's Canada West play is the Calgary Dinnies. That is, if they get the people they want. Head Coach Donna Rudukas' confident talk at the end of last season has turned into quiet optimism as she now realizes that she is not going to have the team she thought she was. Stand-out guard Jodi Hasslefield and Canadian Junior National Team member Kelly Boucher have quit while National Team member Karen Degner won't be

eligible to play until January. Still, the Dinnies will be tough with CWUAA scoring champion Debbie Patterson and monster-forward Veronica Vander-Schew returning. UBC and Saskatchewan don't figure to be in the race but both are capable of pulling off some upsets.

All this serves to make a very interesting Canada West season in which, hopefully, the Pandas will be able to break the curse and capture the championship at long last.

**PANDA PATER:** The Pandas next game is at the **Calgary Invitational** on October 31 . . . the Alumni's **Annette Sanregret** led all scorers on Friday with 20 points, while teammate **Trish Campbell** had 19. Both played with the Pandas last year.



Bears Ed Joseph works against members of the Bears' alumni. The Golden Bears went on to defeat their alumni 107-70. photo Paul Menzies

## Alumni no match for Golden Bears

by Alan Small

Bears 107  
Alumni 70

The Bears thrashed their alumni squad 107-70 in their home opener at Varsity Gym Friday night.

Scott McIntyre scored 17 points including one slam dunk in the second half, while Mike Kornak added 15 in support. Bears' assistant coach Gerry Couzens scored 16 and Jim Bonin added 15 for the alumni.

"We really executed well offensively," coach Don Horwood said, "but we need to sharpen up defensively. We gave up too many easy baskets."

"We tried to hold them under 60 points, but our defense in the second half was too scambly," said Mike Suderman, forward for the Golden Bears. "We knew they would tire in the second so we could run up the score," he added.

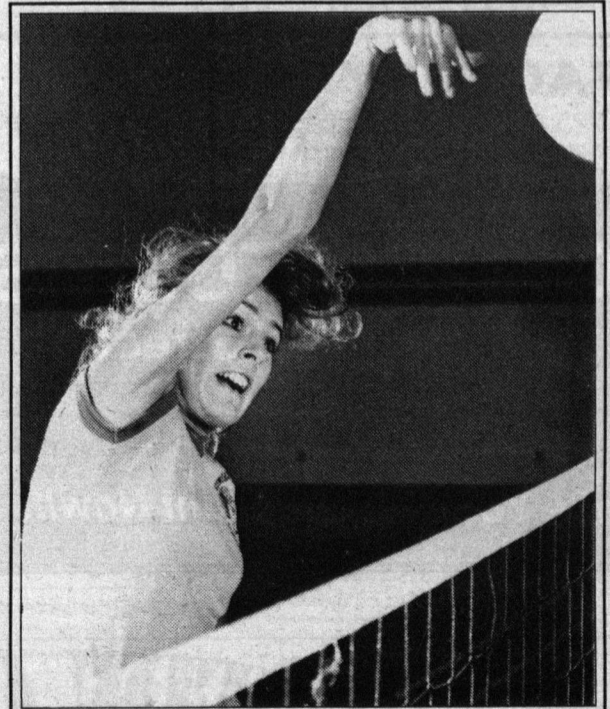
The Bears' next games are in Manitoba, as they play the Manitoba Bisons on Thursday, the University of Winnipeg Wesmen on Friday, then on Saturday, the University of Brandon Bobcats.

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