



The Pandas host the Lethbridge Pronghorns for a pair of matches this Friday and Saturday. Action starts at 7:30 pm.

## Too early to get down for Pandas

by Alan Small

The Panda volleyball team is glad to be hosting the Lethbridge Pronghorns this weekend. They are acting like Yosemite Sam with Bugs Bunny however: they are starved for a pair of wins, and Lethbridge is looking more and more like a rabbit.

The Pandas are fresh from losing a pair of matches with the University of Calgary, the third ranked team in the nation, and the UBC T-Birds, the sixth best. The Pronghorns should provide "the confidence builder" the Pandas need at this early juncture of the season.

"We had a tough start," said Panda head coach Suzi Smith, "we knew that Calgary would be

of wins over Lethbridge to spring-board them to taller heights.

"We're within range of the top ten," Smith said. The Pandas need to be in the top seven to be guaranteed a spot in the CIAU tournament in March, "we've still got 16 matches to go in the season and you have to be really careful that you don't get down after a bad start." Smith and the Pandas are trying to prevent that despite the fact that they were looking to finish November with three wins. If they sweep Lethbridge, will only have two.

"We're one or two matches away from where we want to be," Smith added.

The Pandas may have gone too far too early. They have implemented a new offence, and because of that, have not played as solidly as they could have.

"We're working all week on our control and consistency," Smith said, "we've lacked some consistency in our earlier matches.

"Our offence is the most advanced that we ever had. I knew we had better skills than we have in the past, but we may have gotten ahead of ourselves," Smith added, "we'll see what the players feel is going wrong."

Due to the fact that the Lethbridge men's volleyball team has folded, the Pandas will have the court to themselves when they host the Pronghorns this weekend. Matches start at 7:30 pm on Friday and Saturday nights at Varsity Gym.



tough, but we should have won the 3-2 match we had with UBC."

At the Panda Classic pre-season tournament, the Pandas had little trouble dispensing with the southerners. The Pronghorns have a very young team this season and so not have the talent to match up with most teams in the Canada West conference.

The Pandas are struggling right now and are looking to use a pair

— and third and fourth isn't as distant as it looks.

"We have to assume that every team in the league is capable of beating anyone," Drake said.

Krill figured that the lady luck the Bears have experienced lately is bound to turn in their favor

sooner or later. "I think we've had a bit of bad luck lately, like the splits in Saskatchewan and Calgary," he said. "We have to turn that luck around, and we have to have a better third period.

"After all, teams are right on our back."

## Bears fighting complacency

by Randy Provencal

Complacency. That's the word the University of Alberta hockey Bears are trying to eliminate from their vocabulary.

Complacency. It's that very attitude that could hurt the Bears this weekend as they travel to Regina to play the lowly Cougars.

The Bears contend that they aren't going into this series thinking they are bigger, better, and stronger than the 1-7-2 Cougars. These games are must wins for them if they want to put any pressure on the front running University of Calgary Dinosaurs.

"We're looking at the next four games as games that we have to win," defenceman Darwin Bozek said following Tuesday's practice.

"We want to get at least tied with (Calgary) going into Christmas."

That's not to say the team is looking past Regina to the series with Manitoba Dec. 2-3. "We know Regina could be spoilers. They're definitely going to be up for us," Bozek stated.

Goaltender John Krill noted that the Cougars could explode at any given time. "They're very unpredictable," the fourth year Bear said. "They went into Manitoba last weekend and got a tie. We definitely can't take them for

granted."

Coach Clare Drake also noted that "Regina's really improved. Every coach I've talked to has said they've been inconsistent but can have a strong game." Playing on home ice is an advantage for the Cougars. "They're really good in their own rink," Drake said. "The year we won nationals (1985-86), we went in there and lost both games."

The coach emphasized that the gap between second place — presently occupied by the Bears



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