

Dino guard Jodi Evans grimaces as Panda forward Tracey Cook hauls down a rebound.

Dinos reach milestone at Pandas' expense

by Alan Small Calgary 98 Pandas 42 Calgary 87 Pandas 46

CALGARY — The Calgary Dinos captured two milestones with a pair of wins of the Panda basketball team last weekend.

Not only was it their 23rd consecutive victory — which broke the school record of 22 set last season — but Friday's win was Dino coach Donna Rudakas' 100th win while guiding the scarlet and gold.

The Dinos, who are now 23-0 in overall play this season and 12-0 in conference play, have not lost a game since they blew the CIAU final against the Manitoba Bisons last season. Last weekend, the Pandas were just another drop in the bucket for the CIAU's number one ranked team this season.

"You got to give credit to Calgary. They're just a super team," said Panda head coach Diane Hilko, "They've got everything. They've got an outside game and they've got a real good defence."

The star of the weekend had to be Karen Degner. The 6'2" senior scored 43 points, grabbed 13 rebounds and totally bottled up Alberta's inside game.

Hilko believes that her young players, freshman starters like Tracey Cook, and Corey Ennis, learned a lot of lessons after being dominated by players like Degner.

"There's only so many times you can say in practice 'You got to get the ball up quickly or you're going to get stuffed.'," Hilko said. "They don't realize that until they get in a game like this. They realized they were wide

"They were wide open but they hesitated and got the ball back in their faces." — Hilko

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Another one of Calgary's strengths is their speed. Many times did their guards, Jodi Evans and Cori Blakebrough, start the fast break and pass the Pandas while they were dribbling. Their speed was also a reason why Alberta gave up the ball 54 times in the two games.

After cruising through the '88 portion of their schedule, Calgary

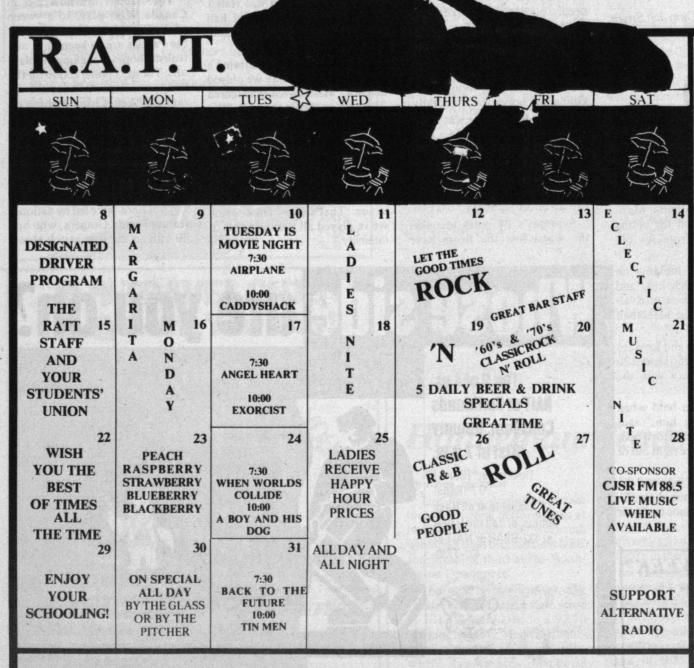
decided that they didn't have enough firepower, and added last year's Canada West player of the year Veronica Vander Schee, who had transferred back to the U of C during the Christmas break. In the games this weekend, Vander Schee scored 29 points, including a 22 point, nine rebound effort on Friday.

Calgary was nothing short of awesome on Friday. By halftime, they led the Pandas 51-23, and in case the game wasn't close enough, went on a 30-9 run in the opening 13 minutes of the second half. By the end of the game, they led by 46.

The second game was little better for the Pandas. The Dinos led 44-23 at halftime, and ran away with it in the second, helped by a 31-8 run in the first 12 minutes of the final frame. From there, they coasted to a 39 point victory.

Joanna Ross had one of her best weekends of the season however. She scored 29 points and was the only Panda that could withstand the tough Dino defence.

"It was her best weekend as far as putting two games, back-toback together," Hilko said. Ross, who has often been in foul trouble because of her physical play inside, stayed out of it this weekend and played strongly.



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