

Sports

Pandas extinct

Pronghorns 68 Pandas 53
by Tim Enger

Lethbridge — Have you ever wanted anything so bad that you just seem to will your way into getting it?

That was the feeling that the University of Lethbridge Pronghorns had as they trampled the luckless U of A Pandas 68-53 Friday night to open the Canada West Conference playoffs.

After being tied at the half it seemed the Pronghorns could do nothing wrong as they filled the basket with some seemingly impossible shots and played a vicious zone defence which gave the Pandas more trouble than they could handle. The Pronghorns out scored the Pandas 41-26 in the second half.

"It was really a second half game" said Panda forward Annetee Sanregret "and they had all the momentum". "We really had a tough time with their zone defence," added Panda coach Sherry Melney "we had worked on it all week in practise, but we couldn't handle it during the game".

The Pronghorns play a kind of zone defence that reminds you of killer ants. Their not very big but they're all over the place. They effectively neutralized the Pandas inside game forcing them to take shots from ridiculous distances. "Even if you did get a pass inside" said Pandas forward Trish Campbell "they would clamp on you so fast and so tightly that it was almost impossible to get a shot away or pass it out."

The key to the game seemed to be emotion. While the Pandas wanted to win the Pronghorns simply had to have it and nothing else would be acceptable.

For years the Pronghorns had been the perennial doormats of the Canada West Conference. Since they entered the conference in 1970 their career record has been

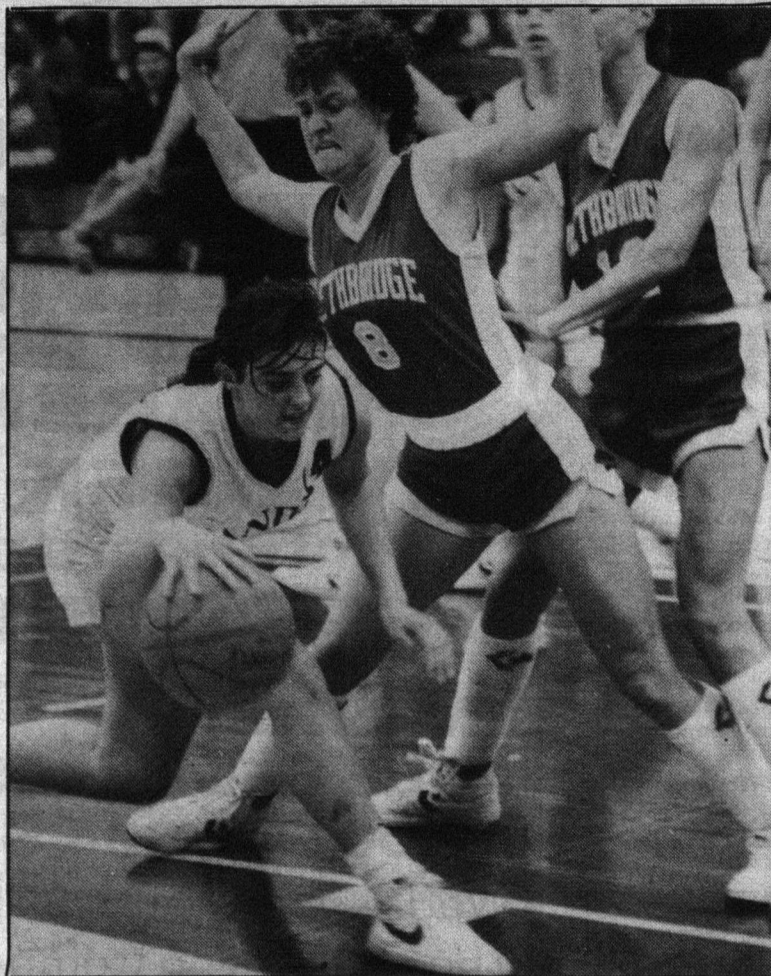


photo Pernell Tarnowski

Trish Campbell drives to the hoop in action from two weekends ago in Varsity gym vs. Lethbridge.

65-165 (.282). Last year they felt that they had their best team ever, but were nipped in the playoffs by the Pandas 46-45 and missed a berth in the nationals. So not only was Lethbridge trying to erase years of mediocrity from their minds, but revenge also played a part in fueling their emotional play.

The Pronghorns jumped out to a 15-9 lead but seemed to stall there allowing the Pandas to come back and open a 21-15 lead. Then the Pandas went into a shooting slump

and both teams crawled to a 27-27 tie at the half.

Both teams were plagued by poor shooting in the first half but the Pronghorns broke out of it in the second half as everything seemed to fall for them. Fifth year forward Inge Pot, probably the most emotional of the Pronghorns, took off on some insane 1 on 3 solo drives and usually came away with at least drawing a foul and shooting from the line.

Another factor which hurt the Pandas was foul trouble. All three of their big guns as of late Sanregret, Lisa Janz and Debbitt O'Byrne, were in foul trouble.

In the second half Lethbridge gradually pulled away and got stronger and stronger as the half progressed. The leading scorers for the Pronghorns were Pot with 17, Jodi Savage with 15 and Dori Rodzinyak with 13. For the Pandas Sanregret lead the way with 17 points followed by Janz with 14 (11 in the first half) and O'Byrne with 7.

Consolation Game Calgary 66 U of A 61

"Last game! Last game!" bellowed Calgary head coach Donna Rudakas to her players. Her jovial harassment of her players seemed to set the tone for the Dinnies in the consolation event on Saturday.

At the other side of the court things were a bit different. The Pandas were still hanging on to a slim hope of going to the nationals via wild card berth. But first they had to beat the Dinnies, and badly.

A Panda rout combined with a University of Winnipeg victory over Lakehead University in the Great Plains Athletic Conference playoffs would put the Pandas in the nationals.

And nervousness seemed to affect their play early as they turned over the ball frequently and allowed the underdog Dinnies to jump out to a quick lead.

The absence of their floor general

seemed to rally the Pandas as they fought back and took over the lead ending the half, Alberta 33 Calgary 30.

The second half started with a lot of fouls and the game seemed to drag with the Pandas holding a 3 to 5 point lead. But with 7:00 left things became interesting.

The Dinnies suddenly came to life and retook the lead which seemed to catch the Pandas off guard.

Down by six with 1:19 left in the game, Kozakavich (who had reentered the game and played the game of her life) hit two foul shots to draw within four. Seconds later she found herself on the line again. But this time she only hit one of two which closed the margin to three. That was as close as they were to get as the Dinnies ran out the clock.

"We simply didn't play up to our potential" said rookie forward Sofie Jarosinski "and it's tough to end the season like that."

It was especially tough for the two players who were in their fifth and last year of eligibility. Kozakavich who, after a rough start, responded with 17 points in her final game, and Sanregret who, despite not producing the kind of points that she can, turned her attention to defense and led both teams with five steals.

Along with Kozakavich and Sanregret it's possible that the Pandas will lose the rest of their starting

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Golden chance missed

by Mark Spector

The Golden Bears basketball team had their chances to qualify for the Canada West hoop play-downs in Lethbridge, along with the Pandas. As a matter of fact, going into the final weekend of regular season play, Alberta had a chance to finish as high as second place in the league.

But a costly miscue coupled with an aggressive Calgary Dinosaur defense left the Bears on the out-

side looking in for this playoff season.

Alberta defeated Lethbridge on Valentine's Day by a 73-68 score and needed only a victory the following night to assure a playoff berth. However, Alberta just couldn't manage the important win, falling 69-68 at the hands of the Dinos.

With a minute and a half left in the game the Golden Bears had the ball and a chance to go ahead. But that opportunity was thwarted as the Bears lost the ball out of bounds and Calgary held on for the one point victory.

In fact, Alberta still had an opportunity to get into the playoffs via the back door if Lethbridge could have beaten Saskatchewan that same night. But the Huskies pounded the Pronghorns 93-78 to nail the door shut on the Golden Bears.

Bear forward Dean Peters was named to the Canada West second All-Star team.

Panda Gymnasts capture Canada West

The Panda gymnasts remained undefeated against Canadian opponents last weekend in Winnipeg, Manitoba when they captured the 1986 Canada West Gymnastics Championship title. The Pandas scored 130.90 points to outdistance the University of Calgary (128.75) the University of Manitoba (128.15) and the University of Brit-

ish Columbia (127.85).

Fifth year Panda Heidi Ross and rookie Diane Patterson led the Alberta team as they finished fourth and fifth overall, respectively. Other Panda competitors were Carrie Nawata (10th), Shelley Spaner (11th), Donna Spaner (14th) and Margie Drysdale who finished up 16th overall in the four-team

competition.

Saturday's competition featured the top six individuals on each apparatus. The Panda's Diane Patterson performed a beautiful uneven bar routine to score a two-day total of 17.90 and capture that Canada West title. In doing so, she defeated last years National uneven bar champion Janet Black from the

University of Manitoba who finished in second place.

Heidi Ross captured the Pandas second individual championship as her 16.65 total was high enough to take first place on the Balance Beam event.

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