

Soccer Preview



The ball has these four players in defensive postures.

Pandas ready for CWUAA

by Ajay Bhardwaj

Coming off a disappointing loss to the University of Acadia at CIAU nationals last year, the Panda soccer squad is looking for a repeat performance.

Of the 20 players from last year's team, twelve are returning. Fullback Barb Bentley decided to attend Western Ontario this year, while midfielder Janet Thompson will concentrate on school instead.

"We still have a good nucleus," head coach Tracy David said. Janine Wood, a CIAU all-star and a national team member returns this year.

Goalie Cathy MacDonald (last year's most valuable player) returns to anchor a strong defence. Fullback Tanya Orr, a Canada West all-star will be the glue which holds together the defence.

Sheryl Ferry, Diana Kondrosky, Dawn Poulin, Keri Romanufa will make-up the midfield. "Our midfield and our defense will be strong," David said. David expects big things from fifth year (third of eligibility) Kondrosky, a Canada West all-star. "If we can get her going, we'll be okay."

Like the men's side, David is

most concerned about her team's ability to put the ball in the net. "We don't finish in the attacking third," David said. "We really have to concentrate on going forward and finishing."

The Pandas open this Saturday at 1:00 pm at the Faculte St. Jean. The Saskatchewan Huskiettes, who were 1-4-3 last year, will provide the opposition. "They never give up," David said. "They battle for 90 minutes. They're not always the most skillful team." The Pandas were 6-0-2 in Canada West play last season, and will give the Huskiettes all they can handle.

Len's lads are reloading

by Ajay Bhardwaj

The 1988-89 Canada West soccer champions, the Golden Bears, open their regular season this weekend against the Saskatchewan Huskies. The Bears are coming off a 7-1-2 year and should be favored to capture another CWUAA title.

"I think we should be competitive," head coach Len Vickery said, somewhat modestly. The Bears carried 22 players in their championship season, but due to graduations and academic pressures, only eight will return this year.

Although this should be a rebuilding year for the Bears, Vickery expects the team to be "strong defensively." John Simon (the team captain), Jim Loughlin, and Burk Kaiser will return to anchor the Bear backline. Loughlin and Kaiser are busy with Canadian Soccer League playoffs and won't be available to the team until at least Sunday.

The Bears also have three de-

fenders on their roster who played in senior amateur leagues or with select teams last season. The three-some, Domenic Esposito, Kory Williams, and Pat Van Gelder, will add depth to the last line of defense.

The midfield will be led by Paul Walters and Dave Phillips. "Hopefully they will go forward and create things," Vickery said. Gary Wagner, Brian Drewry, and Jason Baugher complete the midfield.

Up front, the Bears have lost scoring sensations Salvatore Cammarata (to graduation) and Norm Odinga (to law school). "We'll have a few problems in the attack," Vickery said.

In goal, the burden will fall on Phil Michailides to carry the load. He was third on the Bear depth chart last year.

The Bears played five preseason games and won three. The only Canada West team they faced was the Calgary Dinosaurs, who the

Bears beat handily, 4-1. "The two losses were narrow 1-0 losses," Vickery said.

Vickery's side will play a 4-4-2 formation (four defenders, four midfielders, and two strikers) most of the time. "We like to get everybody involved (in the offence)," Vickery said. "Our midfielders have to go to the (penalty) box, we have to take shots from outside the box, and sometimes our fullback will go forward to join the attack."

That philosophy will be tested when the Bears meet UBC and UVIC. "They are perennially tough," Vickery said. "That area (Vancouver) is a hotbed of soccer. They will be two forces to contend with."

The Bears are expecting a tough game against Saskatchewan. "They'll be enthusiastic and tough to break down," Vickery said. "They defend in numbers. We have to change our point of attack and capitalize on our chances. But they're technically not as good as we are."

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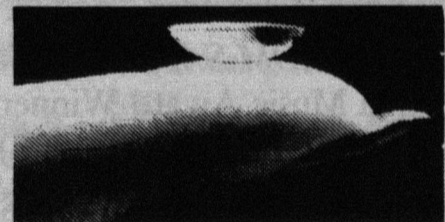
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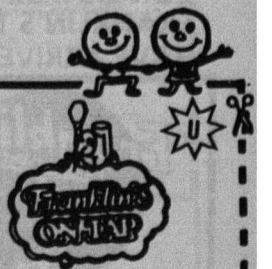
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