

Gym Pandas clean up in meet

by Ajay Bhardwaj
"Can you repeat?"

That's a question asked of all championship teams. For most teams the question is inane. They usually don't end up repeating. Just ask the Washington Redskins and the Minnesota Twins. But the U of A Pandas gymnastics team is, as the saying goes, "a breed apart."

On Sunday afternoon, in the close quarters of the gymnastics room, tucked away in the corner of the Van Vliet Center, the defending CIAU champion Pandas tuned-up for the Canada West championships. Led by Michelle Hannemann and Diane Patterson, the Pandas easily defeated their southern rivals, the University of

Patterson finished second with a score of 35.65, while winning the uneven bars (9.15) and the balance beam (9.0).

"Diane and Michelle are so close from meet to meet," exuded coach Stephanie Bishop. "They work well together and push each other. But both want the team to win before the individual." Kmech finished a comfortable third with 32.75 points and was followed by teammate Michelle Graham who finished with 32 points. Calgary's Royanne Wilson finished fifth with 30.10 points, while Yasmin Kassam rounded out the top six with 28.40 points.

The win did not come as much of a surprise to Kmech nor did the margin of victory. "They're a younger team and in a rebuilding process," she said of the Dinos. "There are four of us who are vets, and we have an excellent coaching staff. Stephanie could

win coach of the year. I think we're peaking at the right time." Bishop echoed her captain's sentiments. "They're on the right track. I think (the gymnasts) did very well for this time of the year. We're as ready as we'll be."

The fact that the Pandas took the top four spots in the meet shows that they have a great deal of depth. "We could qualify eight (gymnasts for the nationals) if (the CIAU) allowed it," said Kmech. However, only a team of six is allowed to represent the University.

"There could be four girls fighting for two spots." Added Bishop, "I'll just take the top six (performers). But for us it's a team goal." Judging from Sunday's competition, this team will, in all likelihood, not tumble from the high that they're on right now. That could mean repeating as national champions.



Ron Sears

The Panda gymnastics team sent the Dinos for a spin on Sunday.

"I can't see any team beating us if we work hard." — Kmech

Calgary Dinos and a team from Harry Ainlay high school.

"I can't see any other team beating us if we work hard," said captain Monica Kmech, who placed third overall in the combined. But the captain also noted a word of caution, saying, "we're really unsure about the east(ern teams)."

Indeed, the Pandas displayed their championship form on this day, winning the team competition by nearly 20 points. They also swept the top four positions in the individual combined competition. Hannemann won the meet with 35.75 total points, including a first place in the vault (with a score of 9.25) and on the floor exercise (with a score of 9.0).

SNOW JOB

Send us your most horrific, heartrending, or hilarious stories about what happened to you during White Monday.

The 10 best entries will be published in *The Gateway* on Tuesday, February 7. **300 words max.**

Deadline: Feb. 4

STUDENT UNION GENERAL ELECTION AND REFERENDUM MARCH 9 & 10

Nominations are Open for the Following Positions:

SU EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- President
- VP Internal Affairs
- VP Finance and Administration
- VP Academic
- VP External Affairs

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- 1 Student Representative

UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC BOARD

- President Athletics
- VP Women's Athletics
- VP Men's Athletics

CLOSING OF NOMINATIONS: TUES. FEBRUARY 21/89 1700 HRS.

NOMINATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE RECEPTIONIST IN 256 SUB

CJSR REFERENDUM

"Do you support allocating \$1.25 per term of your Students' Union fees as the total annual S.U. financial grant to CJSR-FM88?"

TUITION POLICY REFERENDUM

"Should Students' Council be required to establish a policy concerning tuition fee levels before 30 September of each year?"

CLOSING OF REGISTRATION: MONDAY FEB. 20/89 1700 HRS.

NOTE: An important meeting for those wishing to represent a side shall be held WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14/89 at 1700 HRS in Room 034 SUB

Registration Packages Available in SU Executive Offices 256 SUB

ALL CANDIDATES FORUM: THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21 1800 HRS IN 034 SUB

For Further Information, Contact the Chief Returning Officer, Michael Hunter, in Room 234 SUB or 492-7088