

# McGill tune up tunes out Pandas

by Tim Enger  
Laval 54 Pandas 46  
Pandas 67 UNB 65  
Regina 71 Pandas 54

Not everyone had a happy Christmas break. Take the Panda basketball team (please!), who rounded out their holidays by losing two of three games in the McGill Invitational in Montreal.

Alberta opened up the tournament losing 54-46 to the University of Laval in a game that they were never really in. Post Lisa Janz lead the Pandas with 15 points and 11 rebounds.

The next night saw the Pandas play the way they have shown early in the year during the first half, yet struggle in the second half, barely holding on for a 67-65 victory over the 10th ranked University of New Brunswick. Once again the opposition's full court press gave Alberta the most trouble, but that's not all that went wrong.

Pandas shot an abysmal 27 per cent from the line, at one point missing four clutch freethrows with less than 2:00 remaining.

Unfortunately for Alberta the poor play continued into the next night, as they dropped the consolation final 71-54 to the University of Regina Cougars.

"We played just awful," said head coach Diane Hilko. "We just couldn't get going and we got into foul trouble early which hurt us also." Foul trouble is an understatement, as the Pandas sent Regina to the line 29 times.

Alberta's record now stands at 7-8, but all that goes out the window now as conference play begins this Saturday in Saskatoon against the U of S Huskiettes.

"What happened was regretful,"

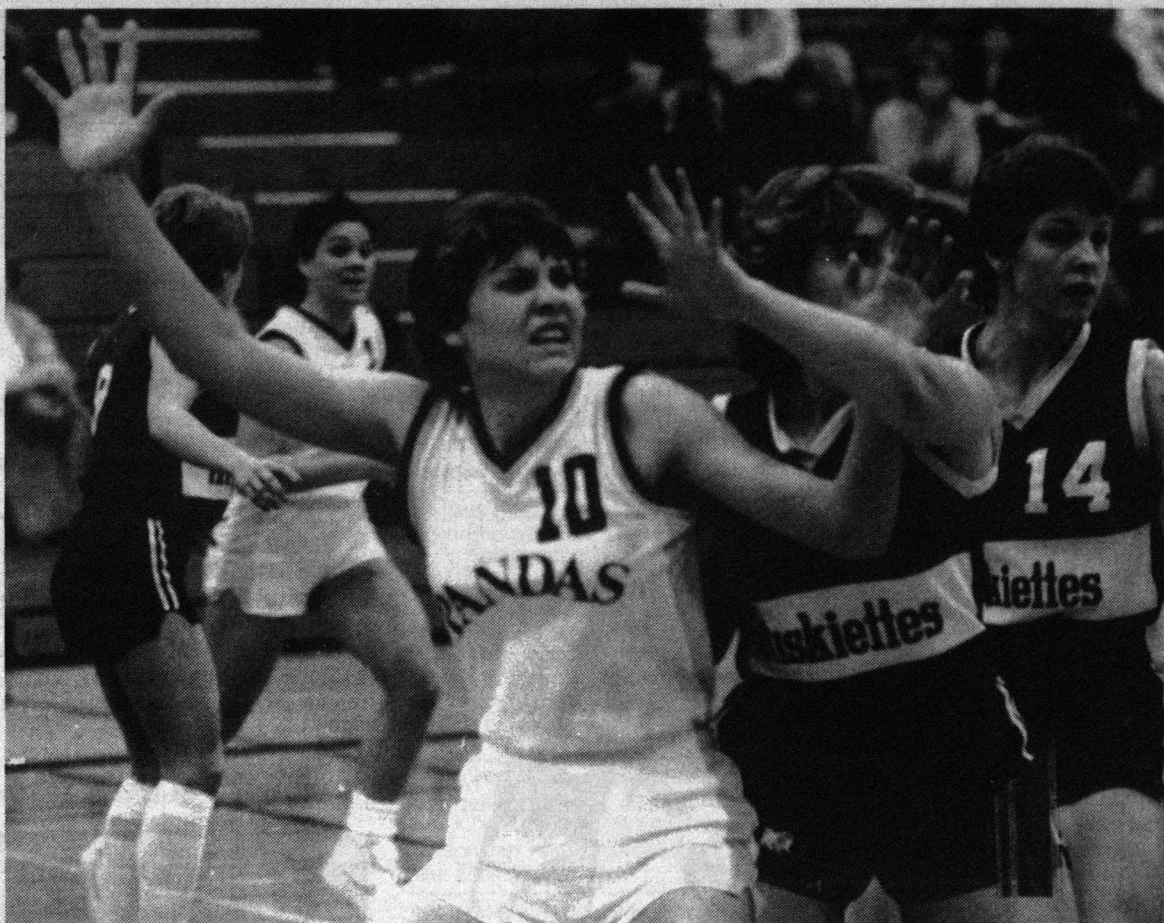


Yolanda Kruyer

added Hilko, "but nothing counts until the regular season so we have to go from here."

"In terms of our play, the tournament was a giant step backwards," said second year post Yolanda Kruyer, "but we've seen how we can play and it's just a matter of performing up to our potential now that the wins and losses start to count."

**B-BALL BITS:** The Pandas were lead in scoring in the UNB game by Kruyer with 21 points, followed by forward **Kathy Keats** who shot a phenomenal 73 per cent from the floor, chipping in 16 points . . . Keats lead all scorers in the Regina game with 20 points . . . Defensive standout **Linda Mrkonjik** was lost for the tournament after suffering an injury to her plantaris muscle (for those of you who study anatomy; she should be back for the game vs. Saskatchewan .



Lisa Janz (10) leads the Pandas into their first road game of the Canada West regular season Saturday night vs the Huskiettes.

photo Alex Miller

## Golden Bear Open draws a crowd

by Mark Spector

A rebuilding Bears wrestling team takes to the mat against an army of Western Canadian competition this weekend as they host the Golden Bear Open Saturday in the Van Vliet Center.

Teams from the Universities of British Columbia, Calgary, Regina, Saskatchewan, and Winnipeg, plus several top level wrestling clubs (including Salisbury) will compete in the all-day meet. There will also be a high school division that should attract as many as 300 wrestlers.

And on Friday night at 7:30 the

Golden Bears will take on Regina in a dual meet.

"It's important to get the guys wrestling in different weight classes and against varied competition before the finals," says Mike Payette, who last year won a CIAU gold medal for Alberta, but now coaches the team.

In university wrestling there is no real 'regular season' as such, but instead a series of tune-up events before the two major ones. In Alberta's case those are the CWUAA Regional Meet on February 14th and the CIAU Meet two weeks after that.

Last year the Golden Bears placed 7th in Canada on the strength of Payette's gold. "Saskatchewan placed third and Calgary finished in

sixth, just ahead of us so they should be the teams to beat this weekend," says Payette.

Two guys to watch for on the Golden Bears are heavyweight John McMullen (209 lbs and up) and lightweight Tony Bacon (125 lbs). "Tony's got bad knees, but he should be okay this weekend," said Payette.

In his first year out of competition, Payette, who has competed since grade seven and has three CIAU golds to his credit, already misses being out there on the mats.

"I do once in a while," he admits. "But I get to wrestle the athletes in practice sometimes. Hopefully I'm still a little better than some of those guys."

# OUCH



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