

Bears fall short

Vikings 85 Bears 84

by Philip Preville

"Everyone talks about (the Bears') guards," said University of Victoria basketball coach Guy Vetrie before Friday's game against the then-number one ranked Alberta Golden Bears, "but they have strong forwards, too. They're a good boarding team, and we'll have to pay attention to that."

Vetrie's strategy more than paid off. Rebounding was one of the Bears' more glaring weaknesses, as Victoria's 15 offensive rebounds combined with a poor outside shooting performance by the Bears to produce the Bears' first loss of the season, 85-84 at the hands of the Vikes.

"We expected to lose sometime," said forward Brian Halsey after the game. "I guess this is sort of the monkey off the back."

The game was close from beginning to end, and was eventually decided by the second-last possession. Vic guard Tom Johnson brought the ball upcourt and elected to shoot an 18-footer which almost miraculously sought out the hoop and found it. The Bears then had five seconds to convert their last possession, but Sean Chursinoff's shot was off the mark.

Victoria's Geoff McKay was the story of the game, finishing with 33 points, including 5 three-pointers. "He had been averaging less than 10 points per game up until then," said head coach Don Horwood. "There is no reason why we didn't shut him down. We just didn't do any kind of a job on him."

Often throughout the game, Alberta was caught watching the ball instead of watching the man on defense, and Victoria's big men—such as Spencer McKay and Dave Lescheid—found open lanes to

snare rebounds. McKay also managed to get position almost at will against Bear post Rick Stanley, and converted it into numerous back-door baskets.

The Bears' outside shooting was disappointingly off the mark. David Youngs was closely watched, and managed only one of his patented three-point shots. And Halsey, who was hot for his first few minutes off the bench in relief of Ed Joseph, cooled off soon afterwards. "I was

fired up off the bench," said Halsey, "but they just wouldn't fall in the second half."

"If we had gotten a normal performance out of either Brian or David, we would have won by about seven or eight points," said Horwood. "They are usually much more reliable than they were." Halsey only sank 3 of 15 shots, while Youngs went 2 for 8.

Chursinoff was the top scorer for the Bears, pumping in 34 points. **STUFF & THINGS:** Lorne Blatt took a nasty elbow in the face early in the game, and ended up with the nastiest shiner you ever saw.

Shields is doing just fine

by Mitch Paciuk

The man who perhaps most symbolizes basketball at the Canadian University level, Ken Shields; is alive and well and enjoying not coaching the UVic Vikings this year.

Shields replaced Jack Donahue as the Canadian Men's National team coach this year, after being the full-time Men's basketball coach and Athletic Director at the University of Victoria over the past 20 years. He also won the National Championship seven times.

"After being the full-time coach and A.D. for so long, every day at 4:30 I don't miss heading out to the gym for practice," Shields said while watching the Vikings play the Bears this weekend. "I miss it in the games, especially ones like these—but after so many years it's good to take a break."

Rookie head coach and the man charged to step into the shoes of the Canadian basketball legend, Guy Vetrie, says that the person who is helping him the most to make the changes to the men's program at Victoria is, ironically, Shields. "The one individual who helps subdue the pressure upon

myself is Ken Shields himself," Vetrie said. "People often ask me 'Don't you get nervous seeing Ken Shields watching in the stands?' Not at all—the first guy down here to congratulate the Vikings, the first guy to congratulate myself is Ken Shields."

One of Shields' conditions on accepting the National Men's team position, was that he wanted the team's base to be moved to Victoria from Ottawa where it had previously been under Jack Donahue. After his first season as head-coach, Shields is happy with the progress he has made, and said that "I enjoyed coaching the [Men's] team, and if the conditions can be worked out I would like to continue to."

Shields is planning on getting the National team together again in early May, and is looking forward to the World Championships which will be played next summer. Until then he is enjoying his new-found freedom and enjoying watching the continued success of the Victoria basketball program.

Mitch Paciuk is the colorman for FM-88 broadcasts of Golden Bear and Panda basketball.

Pandas pumped up

Vikings 77 Pandas 65

by Philip Preville

You may think *The Gateway* serves no purpose other than dog training, but last Thursday's issue managed to motivate Diane Hilko's Pandas for their game against the University of Victoria Vikings.

"The column really fired them up," said Hilko, in reference to Mitch Paciuk's *Posting up* column in last Thursday's *Gateway*, in which Paciuk said the Pandas had no desire, and all needed heart transplants. The Pandas did show considerable spark Friday night, but it wasn't enough to come out on the winning side of a 77-65 decision in favour of the Vikings.

For most of the first half the Pandas proved themselves equal to the Vikings, showing tremendous intensity. Hilko, who expected an extremely physical game with a slow pace, was proven wrong by a surprisingly quick Victoria squad which capitalized on every Panda mistake. More than one erratic pass was converted into a fast-break basket for the Vikings.

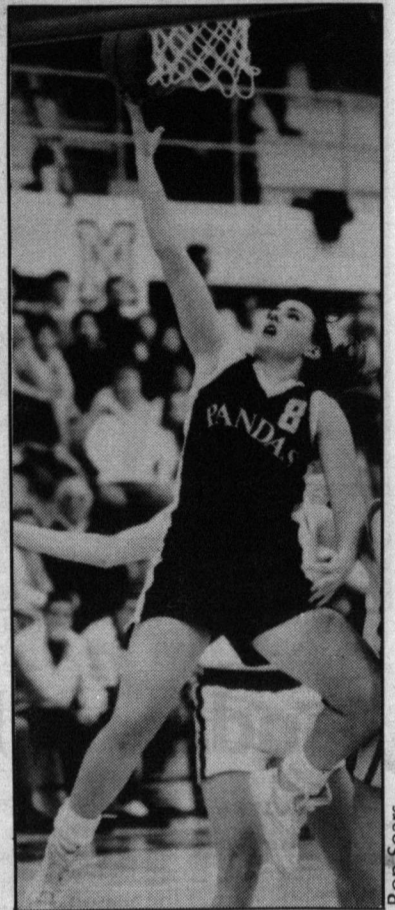
Hilko, however, didn't see the fast break as the kiss of death. "Their offensive rebounding did us in," said Hilko, in reference to the Vikings' 21 rebounds at the wrong end of the court. "They only shot 37 per cent from the floor, so we were doing a good job initially on defense."

"We showed we could play with Victoria, even beat them. I'm pleased with our performance."

The Vikings began to pull away at the end of the half, and carried that momentum into the second half, effectively burying the Pandas. Alberta had trouble offensively, as

the Victoria defense shut down the inside and forced the Pandas to take low percentage shots. "We were forcing the ball inside, using too many lob passes," said Hilko. "When we took the time to work the offense, it tended to pay off."

Alberta rookie Susan Chalmers topped all scorers with 22 points, and showed a tremendous amount of intensity throughout the game. National teamer Kelly Boucher tallied 21 for the Vikings.



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