

Canada West volleyball

Bears, Pandas dancing to same tune

by John Stewart

The U of A Golden Bear and Panda volleyball teams may be wondering if they are all offsprings of the same parents, after their performances in the second of three Canada West tournaments last weekend in Vancouver.

Both teams completed the weekend with 2-2 records, and each squad came away with third place ratings. In addition, the two U of A groups must win all four contests during the last Canada West competition February 23 and 24 in Saskatoon. To allow the Pandas an opportunity to play in the Canada West final, the University of Saskatoon Huskies (league leaders) must lose three of four contests in late February. The Bears face similar odds: league pace setters, the Universi-

ty of Victoria Vikings, must also drop three contests later this month while the U of A squad wins all four of its matches.

So much for mathematics trivia. The Pandas, who, according to Baudin, are an incredibly improved squad, dropped their first match to UBC, three games to none. Playing "absolutely atrocious volleyball" the Pandas spoiled their hopes for a totally successful weekend. Baudin had early last week expressed the opinion that if his group could not defeat UBC in the first match of the tournament they would not win the weekend's title.

The Pandas, playing up and down volleyball, next took on the University of Victoria Vikettes and dismantled them 3-1. Later Saturday afternoon the Pandas lost a close one to the U of S after their "service reception fell apart."

In the last match of the tourney the Pandas "blew Calgary off the court," winning in three straight games.

According to Baudin the Pandas "played much better as a team" over the weekend, primarily because setter Nancy Hawkes has emerged as a definite team leader.

For coach Hugh Hoyles, the Bears' performance last weekend is a "100% improvement" over the last tournament.

Bolstered by the recent addition of former national team member Terry Danyluk and a pre-game chat (minus coach) the Bears started on a high note, destroying the University of

Calgary Dinosaurs 15-9, 15-4, 8-15, and 16-14.

The Bears then played the U of S Huskies, who they took to five games (6-15, 4-15, 15-12, 15-13, 9-15) before submitting.

Experiencing "difficulty getting up" for the next match, against the Vikings, after the two hour battle with the Huskies and a 30 minute rest, the Bears lost one game to three (7-15, 9-15, 15-9, 7-15) to the Victoria squad.

In the final match of the tournament the Bears met UBC and dealt with them in three straight games (15-4, 15-7, 15-9).

Hoyles feels his team still has a good chance to make the conference finals, saying that "all

the university teams are you emotional and in any tournament they can be pumped up." He hopes it's Bears' turn February 23 and

Short Sets

Panda Alison Roper sprained her ankle over the weekend but all indications are that will recover quickly.

U of A first year sensation Debbie Shade has been proached by the coach of Junior National team but for time being Baudin would "raise she not think of it," and instead she'll "concentrate on her school work and playing with the Pandas."

Basketball

Pandas swamp Thunderettes

by John Younie

A post-game interview with the Panda basketball coach Debbie Shogan after her team's game on Friday without knowing the final score would have led the interviewer to believe the Pandas had lost to the last-place UBC Thunderettes by a wide margin. Such was not the case, as the Pandas buried the winless (0-16) Thunderettes; 80-48.

The Pandas completed the sweep, winning 95-61 on Saturday. "We didn't play very well tonight (Friday)," commented Shogan. "Our offence was tentative and we weren't sharp at all on defence. The team looked very undisciplined."

Although it wasn't one of the Pandas best team efforts, center Trix Kannekans continued her fine individual play of late. Trix (3rd in the league scoring game with a 14.3 average

and first in rebounding with an 8.7 per game average) finished the game with season high 28 points.

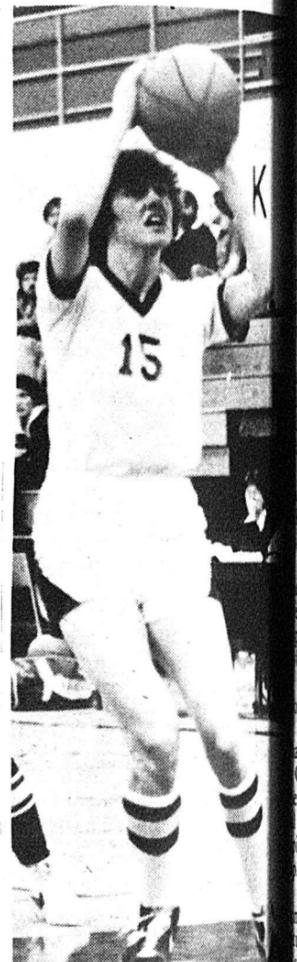
"We didn't play all that well, so scoring 28 points isn't that big a deal," Trix said later.

One statistic which reflects the sloppiness of the game is turnovers. Pandas finished with 33 turnovers, while UBC was even more ham-fisted, with 34 turnovers. The Pandas shot an uninspiring 38% from the floor.

Faith Rostad aided Alberta's cause, scoring 22 points. Sherry Stevenson netted 13.

Coach Shogan received a much more solid effort from her squad on Saturday. Pandas finished with a 52% floor shooting average.

"The team played much better tonight," Shogan said later. "We were bearing down more on defence and we were



Trix Kannekans. Photo by Jim C...

taking more good shots offence. The problem is it's so to get motivated when you know you can play your worst game and still blow the other team off the floor. The most fun we had all night was trying to hit 100% the last few minutes."

Trix Kannekans finished one of her most productive weekends in a Panda uniform scoring 26 points, giving her two-game total of 54 points. Faith Rostad had another game outing scoring 16 points. Sherry Stevenson had 15 points. Debbie Simard led the Thunderettes with 20 points. Margo Cullough added 10.

PANDA PATTERN
Lethbridge Pronghorns upset second place Victoria Vikettes 68-60 on the coast this weekend, allowing third-place Pandas to pull game closer to the Victoria Pandas travel to Victoria this weekend, and a two-game sweep would make the Pandas playing chances look rosy indeed.

Guy Spencer of Grande Prairie won the Panda raffle drawn at halftime of Friday game. Guy hasn't decided if he will take the trip to Victoria for the weekend, or the \$250.

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