Alberta track teams in tough at Canada West



Alan Small

The Golden Bears and Pandas track and field teams are gearing up for this weekend's Canada West championships in the Universiade

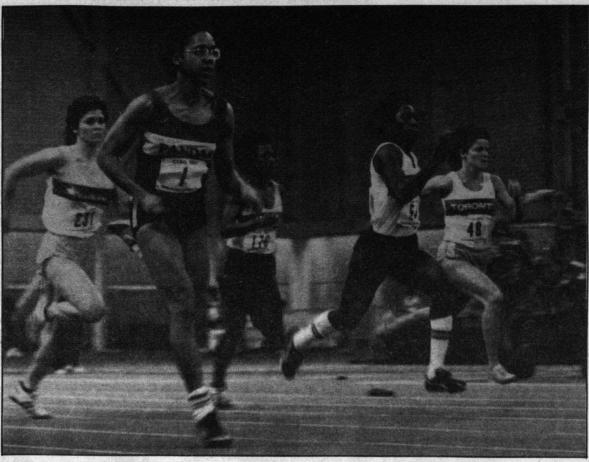
The Bears, who finished third in last year's championships, are looking for at least that much this year.

"It's difficult to predict," coach Al Weicker said. "We could be anywhere from first to third." The other two teams vying for the top spot are Saskatchewan and Calgary.

"They've got the stars, but don't have the depth that we have," Weicker added.

On the women's side, even though they are ranked fourth in the country, the Pandas will be fortunate to finish better than third this weekend.

Best in the West at Butterdome this weekend



Noella Lee Pong (glasses) is favoured in the 60m, after her gold medal performance last year.

"Calgary's top team in the country," admitted Weicker. "If we are lucky, we will beat Saskatchewan for second."

Returning this year for the Pan-das are CIAU gold medal winner Noella Lee Pong in the 60m, and Nancy Gillis in the long jump. Lee Pong is still ranked number one at that distance, and is now ranked second in the 300m. Gillis is third in the CIAU in the long jump, and is fifth in the high jump. Both of them have qualified for the CIAU's in March.

Other Pandas that have qualified are Sue Kallall (1000m, 1500m), Maeve Muldowney (1000m), Angie Debogorsky and Veronica Wolfgate, both in shot put.

Bears already in the nationals are Terry Gill (60m, 300m), Mark Johnson (300m, 600m), Angus McDonald (1500m), and Paul Bains in the

The meet this weekend is also the last chance for qualifying for the nationals. Beating the qualifying time or getting first or second this weekend will be the only way of qualifying.

"James Rappel is close in the 600m," Weicker said, "and Kirsten Madsen is close in the 1000m for the Pandas.'

The meet starts on Friday evening at 6:00 and continues Saturday afternoon at 12:30 in the Butter-

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