

McAra leads Victoria to impressive 58-45 win

by Brent Jang

Tracie McAra spun around and made an easy lay-up.

However, for most of Saturday's basketball game at Varsity Gym, McAra's strong point was her outside shooting.

The University of Victoria guard finished with 21 points to lead her team to a 58-45 win over the U of A Pandas.

McAra's spin-around lay-up came at 13:02 of the second half. It was part of a Victoria blitz, which

saw them outscore the Pandas 19-4 over seven minutes.

Sandy Chambers, playing a very aggressive game, had 18 points for the Vikettes.

For the Pandas, Sherry Knutsvig had 12 points while Annette Sanregret had 9 points.

"We stopped shooting and they got three real quick breaks," explained Pandas coach Debbie Shogan.

"We didn't want to get into a running game....Toni (Kordic) usually controls the offensive boards and they really shut that off," said Shogan.

Kordic had a good game defensively, pulling down a game high of seven defensive rebounds.

Victoria coach Kathy Shields says she "knew it was going to be a tough battle."

"Our press helped a little bit

in the second half. It got them a little hesitant. They had less time to get the ball to Kordic," said Shields.

Victoria, the number one women's team on Canada, led 26-17 at the half.

Susan Tokariuk started a brief Panda comeback at 17:18 of the second half, completing a lay-up on a fast break. Tokariuk then sank a basket from the top of the key to narrow the score to 30-27.

After McAra pumped another one in from the outside, Knutsvig and Sanregret scored to pull the Pandas within one point, at 32-31.

That's as close as the game got.

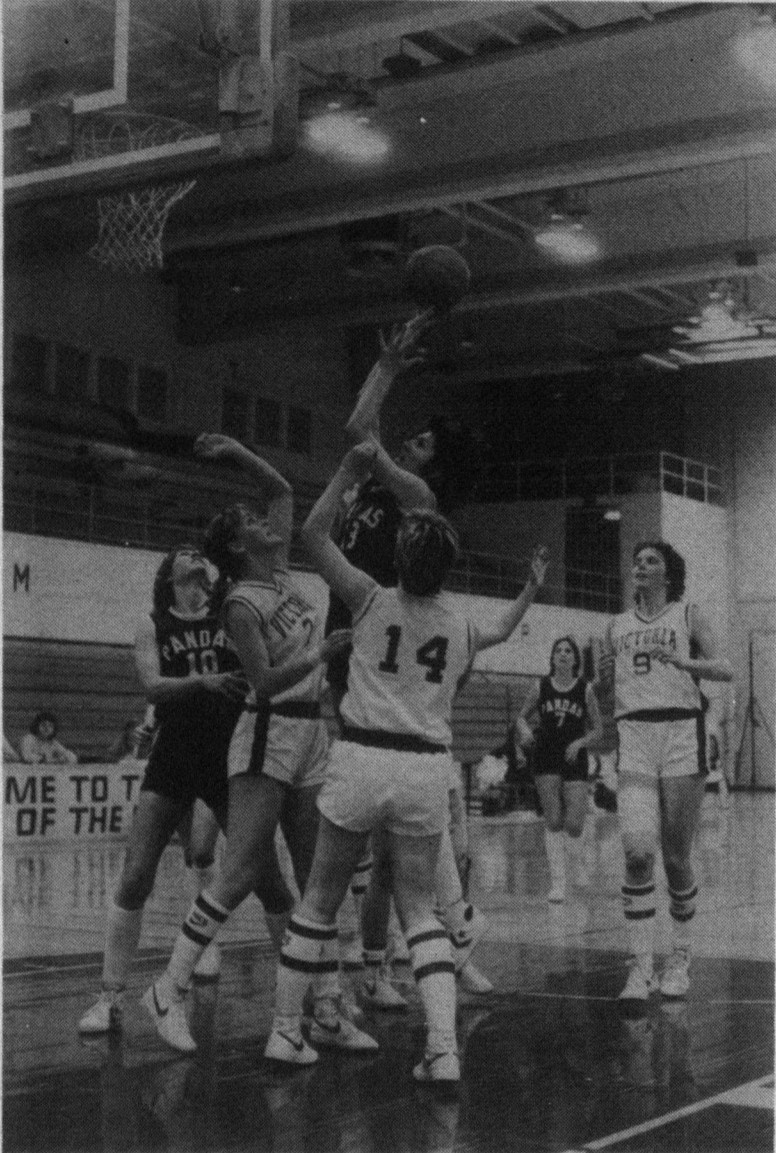
The tempo of the game picked up and Chambers started to connect for Victoria, as they went on a scoring spree.

On Friday, the Pandas shot

well and passed their way to a 68-54 victory over UBC. Toni Kordic scored 22 for the winners, while three others also hit double figures. Knutsvig had 14 points, Sanregret had 10 points, and Laura Cabott regained her old form, scoring 12 points.

The Pandas play their next games at home this weekend. On Friday, they take on Calgary and on Saturday, they play Lethbridge. Pandas are ranked sixth in the nation.

Notes: Victoria's basketball program is a family affair....Vikettes coach Kathy Shields and assistant coach Carol Turney-Loos are on their way to another championship....their spouses, Ken Shields and Billy Turney-Loos, are coaching the Vikings (who are also highly rated)....a good crowd was on hand for Saturday's game....



Toni Kordic (13) had a tough time on the offensive boards on Saturday.

Fast times for Collins and Henning

The Golden Bears and Pandas travelled to the west coast this past weekend to compete in a series of dual swim meets against UBC, Simon Fraser and the University of Washington.

Bears were missing Peter Szmids, sick with the flu, and John Nash, whose diving eligibility is currently being settled. The Pandas were without star swimmer Maureen New.

The contest on Friday was a double dual against UBC and University of Victoria. The Pandas swam well and several team members qualified for the CIAU Nationals. Alison Collins (10:02.51) in the 800m freestyle, Barb Hemphill (28.74) in the 50m freestyle and Stephanie Donaldson (2:35.70) in the 200m backstroke. Panda winners included Liz Stirrett (2:16.13) in the 200m freestyle, Jan Meunier (2:31.37) in the 200m individual medley, Beth May (4:47.13) in 400m freestyle and Megan Watson (2:44.47) in the

200m breaststroke.

The Pandas were well supported by the diving performances of Charlene Bromley and Alison Godfrey (2nd in the one metre Board) and Alison Godfrey and Tar Marvin (2nd and 3rd on the 3 metre Board). Pandas' scores were University of Alberta 67, University of British Columbia 45, University of Alberta 89, University of Victoria 22.

For the Golden Bears it was a tough fight. Sixteen points down from the diving competition, Bears steadily fought their way to a win with Brent DesBrisay winning both the 100m free (53.32) and the 200m free (1:55.85), Jeff Riddle (4:31.21) in the 200m butterfly, Brian Carleton (2:29.33) in the 200m breaststroke and Cam Henning scoring a double in the 200m backstroke and 400m freestyle (4:00.76). The men won both relays and set up a new school record time in the 400m medley relay of 4:00.67 with Henning, Carleton, Riddle and Lewis. Final scores were: U of A - 60, U of B.C. - 52; U of A - 70, U of Victoria - 28.

The teams moved on to Simon

Fraser on Saturday afternoon, forfeiting 16 points to diving proved too much for the Bears who eventually lost 68 to 43 in a close competition.

Bears were pushed all the way to a new school record in the 400m medley record (4:00.19) and then out-touched by fractions of second. However, they won the 400m free relay easily in 3:37.79.

The Pandas were superior through the competition in both swimming and diving and won over SFU 77 to 36.

The swimming team travelled on to the University of Washington to meet the Husky swimmers on Sunday morning. It was a tough competition for both Bears (losing 60-35) and for the Pandas (losing 67-28). None the less, there was some good swimming and some close races. Bears almost caused an upset on the first relay (400m medley) but were out-touched by three hundredths of a second.

The next big meet is on Saturday-Feb. 5th when Bears and Pandas meet CIAU Champions, University of Calgary.

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