

Stevenson didn't need anybody's help

John Younie

There is one quality Panda basketball fans can expect from this team this season. The Pandas are either very, very good, or very, very bad. For example:

The Pandas bring the U Vic Huskies 66-game win streak to a record with 64-54 and 64-60 victories, playing well in both games.

The following weekend, the U Vic Huskies make Debbie Shogan's team look, uh, awful, handing the Pandas two lopsided losses.

The Pandas travelled to Victoria the next weekend and were (wo)manhandled by the Victoria Dinnies, losing 62-48 and 69-53.

This weekend, in the friendlies of Varsity Gym, the Pandas got back on track, defeating the University of Victoria LadyPronghorns 70-40 Friday night, and left the Pronghorns in their dust next night, winning by 43 points, 85-42.

Conor, O'Connor

In both games, Pandas manufactured large leads by the halfway mark of the first-half and were able to take it easy the rest of the game.

Panda coach Debbie Shogan, who hasn't had a lot to smile about lately, was pleased with the weekend's result. "We needed that," she grinned after Friday night's game, "Our offence has been a little stagnant the past couple of weekends."

Janet Bosscha was the hero of Friday night's game, shooting 62% from the floor and scoring 21 points.

"Getting the ball inside is really effective against a small team like Lethbridge," Bosscha said later, "our height advantage makes a difference."

Bosscha's effort overshadowed another fine game by Panda center Trix Kannekans. The Stettler native shot 66% and scored 18 points.

Shogan felt the difference in the Pandas was the ability to Bosscha to get inside and score. "Trix is always going to score for us, she's a bit of a gambler; but



Sherry Stevenson. Photo by Jim Connell.

we need Janet to score for us to be effective."

The Pandas regained their shooting touch, completely lacking the last two weekends, converting 50% of their shots from the floor. Faith Rostad made it into double figures, scoring 10 points. Lethbridge, who shot only 32% from the floor received 12 points from Donna Hanna.

The two-hundred fans who showed up to watch the Saturday night match saw Sherry Stevenson almost beat Lethbridge single-handedly, scoring a career-high 35 points in the lopsided win. Stevenson got off to a rousing start, scoring Pandas first twelve points, and finishing with a first-half total of 20, giving Alberta a comfortable 42-28 lead. Sherry held a shooting clinic for the LadyPronghorns in the second-half, as she outscored the entire Lethbridge team in the final 20 minutes, finishing with a 77% shooting average.

Stevenson felt much of the credit for her scoring binge

should go to the backcourt, Noreen Mitchell and Glynnis Griffiths. "I'm going to have to thank the guards," she beamed "they were passing to open man all night, and I just happened to get hot at the right time."

Trix Kannekans, whose good performances always seem to be taking a backseat to someone, finished with 20 points.

Shogan believes the team has snapped out of their slump. "Hopefully this is a sign of good things to come, although we're going to need help from somebody to knock off (2nd place) Victoria." Pandas can help their own cause this weekend if they can beat last-place UBC.

PANDA PATTERN

Nancy Spencer missed both games and didn't practice with team all week. Spencer is laid up in bed with the flu.

Karen Johnson's broken foot is not responding well to treatment, and the spunky Panda guard probably won't be back this year.

Golden Bears

Gymnasts coming back

With James Hamilton back in the lineup, the Golden Bear gymnastics team came within four points of Calgary in this year's Calgary Invitational gymnastics meet. Although Bears finished third with 156 points behind U of Calgary (160 points) and EMC (Billings), with 171 points, this team shows they have the potential to win the Westerns this year, having lost to Calgary for three straight years. Saturday's meet saw the Bears improve by 20 points over their performance two weeks ago in Billings.

"At that time," coach Tally admits, "Billings trounced us by 35 points. One goal we met in this meet was to cut that difference in half." The Bears weren't all full strength in either meet, missing all-rounder Eric Ruckenthaler in the weekend's match, while James Hamilton competed only in three events in Billings.

Hamilton finished third (behind U Vic's Dave Bibby and Calgary's Keith Erhardt) in this meet with a personal best of 44 points all around after third place finishes in floor, pommels, horizontal bar, and a second place in parallel bars. "We're hopeful of James scoring over 45 at Westerns," Tally says, and seems confident he can now say that he's back on all events after a wrist injury. "This year we're on time with our training plans and it showed in the meet with only two falls from apparatus in the whole competition."

Other notable performances were turned in by U of A all-rounders Gary Carleton (35.85), Randy Joines (37.0) and Charlie Mowat (39.75) — all personal bests. Gary Carleton also performed a double back somersault in floor exercise, representing both his first in competition and the first done by a Bear gymnast.

Football Bears protected by Esks

Two members of the University of Alberta Golden Bears football squad have been named to the Edmonton Eskimos as territorial draft picks.

Wide receiver Marco Cyncar and slotback Kerry O'Connor will join U of A teammates Colfin, Dave Zacharko and possibly Leo Blanchard at the Eskimos open training camp this spring. Both Colfin and Zacharko are former draft picks of the Eskimos while Blanchard is presently on the pro team's negotiation list.

Pandas gain foothold

Volleyball provincials offer two things

The first of three provincial volleyball tournaments organized to identify a representative team for the national finals if history. And the U of A Pandas volleyball team are the only components of that group. Unfortunately the U of A Golden Bears volleyball contingent cannot make the same religious boast their female counterparts can.

Over the weekend, both U of A volleyball groups travelled to the sites of their respective provincial tournaments, with the Pandas returning number one in the Bears laying claim to a title of injuries and a fourth place finish.

Saturday in Calgary, the Pandas beat all but one of their opponents in the seven team round robin affair to gain first place and 50 qualifying points. The Pandas won four matches — Calgary Autumn, 15-4, Edmonton Friars, 15-12, U of C, 15-4, 15-6; Calgary Volleyball Club, 15-8, 15-10 — dropping one of three to U of C Dinnies (10-15, 15-8).

The Pandas' only loss was at the hands of, surprisingly, the Victoria Pandas. According to coach Pierre Baudin, the Pandas "came out like they possessed" and never let up, winning their senior counterparts 10-15, 3-15.

Final tournaments results placed the Pandas in first place, followed by Calgary Volleyball U of C, Junior Pandas,

Both Cyncar and O'Connor recently completed their third year playing with the Bears after notable careers with local junior football squads. Cyncar, at 5'11" and 180 pounds is the taller of the two players and carries impressive statistics. The receiver-punter-place kicker (and former defensive back) was second in conference receiving statistics with 363 yards on 24 catches (and two touchdowns) last season and was named to the Canada West conference all-star team.

O'Connor also

demonstrated his versatility last season although he played but one position. Besides frequently being mentioned as an integral part of the Bears awesome offensive line by the U of A coaching staff, O'Connor has impressive receiving and running capabilities that allow him to shine when given the opportunity to run from scrimmage.

Blanchard was named all-Canadian after the past season and travelled with this country's Can-Am team to Florida early in the new year.

place total of 15 points (0-5).

Both the Bears and Pandas resume Canada West play next weekend when they travel to Vancouver for the second of three interuniversity tournaments.

Pandas

The second hockey dynasty

The combination of renewed spirit and home ice proved to be fatal for the opposition this weekend, as the Panda Hockey Club swept a two game stand at Varsity Arena.

The Pandas played a stable, more disciplined game than they have shown in the past, enabling them to crush the Capilano Cruisers 8-1 Friday night. The scoring was dominated by Joanne Hutsel (two goals and two assists) and Yo Joly who accounted for 2 goals and 1 assist. Sheila White came away with two goals and an assist with Caroline Heslop and Lois Walline each contributing one goal and Sharon Spring and Sue Know each adding an assist.

Saturday's game, against the Gee Bees, was basically a repeat performance of Friday's action, although the 4-1 victory was a harder fought game. The first period was scoreless and it was not until well into the second that Chris Mack opened up the scoring on a passing play from Deb Rye. Speedster Joanne Hutsel and Yolande Joly each scored in the second while Lois Walline completed the Panda

scoring in the third as she scored unassisted.

A low screen shot with two minutes left in the third robbed goalie Leanne Ekholm of her

shutout. Ekholm played quite excellently Saturday, stopping at least one breakaway and was a major factor in the final outcome.



Pandas' Sue Fox gives a lesson in hard work along the boards. Photo by Russ.