

Pandas playoff hopes plummet

by Alan Small
UBC 77 Pandas 61
UBC 71 Pandas 55

The Panda basketball team's playoff hopes were dealt a serious blow by the UBC Lady T-Birds last weekend.

The Pandas hoped to shut down UBC sharp shooters Raj Johal, their point guard, and Tessa Valg, UBC's main force underneath the basket. They were unable to however, as Johal and Valg combined to score 61 of UBC's 148 points in the two game series at Varsity Gym.

"(Valg's) been shooting a lot all year," said Panda head coach



Diane Hilko, "but we knew those two were hot going into this weekend. We could have done a better job defending them in the first game. We weren't able to take them out of their game."

The Pandas jumped out to an early 14-5 lead after six minutes of the opener, but UBC's pressure started to take its toll on the young Pandas, as the T-Birds went on a 21-6 run in the next eight minutes. By halftime, the T-Birds led by eight points, and never relinquished the lead for the rest of the weekend.

The T-Birds opened their lead wider in the second half and led by as much as nineteen points at one point. They were content with a sixteen point victory. Celeste Bazinet's 17 points was top for the Pandas in the opener. Point guard Patti Smith also helped pace the Pandas with a 13-point effort.

Valg led the T-Birds with 18 points, while Johal, a slick ball handler, was limited to 14 points because of early foul trouble.

Unlike the first, UBC came out of the blocks like Ben Johnson, jumping out to an 18-5 lead in the first four-and-a-half minutes. That was all they really needed, as they kept pace with the U of A for the rest of the first half leading by twelve.

"I think the girls did a good job of not panicking when we were down early," said Hilko, whose team is now 2-8 at the halfway mark of their conference schedule. "We came out pressuring and took them out of their full court, man-to-man pressure game."

With Johal out again due to foul trouble, the Pandas fought back gamely, cutting the T-Bird lead down to nine points with seven minutes to go, but when Johal returned for the final minutes, her poise showed. When the buzzer sounded, the T-Birds had opened the game up to 17



Panda Patti Smith (L) butts heads with UBC guard Raj Johal in basketball action from last weekend.

Rob Galbraith

points once more.

Johal scored 16 points, while Jana Jordan netted 14 to pace the T-Birds. Smith and forward Joanna Ross led the Pandas with fifteen points apiece.

The Pandas despite their recent improvement, are still looking for that one player they can turn

to for a crucial basket. That is the lone difference between the T-Birds and themselves at the moment.

"We've got to find that one person who can constantly put the ball in for us from the perimeter when they're open," said Hilko.

The Pandas were swamped with

even more bad news on Saturday night as guard Teresa Diachuk will probably be lost for the rest of the conference schedule as she reinjured her knee in Friday's game. Diachuk, who was wearing a bulky brace on the ailing right knee, had originally injured it before the season while playing soccer.

Korte shows skills down south

by Alan Small

Call it a milestone in U of A football history, but it was also a game that Brent Korte will always remember.

Korte, who plays on the defensive line for the Golden Bears, was one of two Canadians

chosen to play in the East-West Shrine Game, in Palo Alto, California on Sunday.

The Shrine Game is one of a handful of annual all-star bowl games where American college football stars get to show their talents in front of the eyes of see him as one of the top rush

NFL and CFL scouts. Since 1985, two Canadians are asked to participate in the game.

Although Korte spent most of his time on the defensive line for the Golden Bears this season, Korte spent most of his time at linebacker for the West team and was not really a factor in a

24-6 East victory. West's offence never got off the blocks all afternoon, and all six points were set up by East turnovers.

The other Canadian player, Bishop's linebacker Leroy Blugh, also played in the game.

It is uncertain whether Korte's performance on Sunday afternoon was noticed by NFL scouts, but he has already been noticed by CFL scouts, which

ends available in the CFL draft coming up in March.

Teammates Trent Brown, who plays at cornerback, and defensive lineman Jim Clelland will join Korte at the CFL evaluation camp later this month in Hamilton. It is here where CFL scouts make their final judgements on the talent of the players available in the entry draft.

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