

First place finish doubtful

by Darrell Semenuk

The 1975-76 season has been filled with a lot of happiness, satisfaction and wins for Coach Shogan's basketball Pandas. They had won 17 games in succession and had a record of 18-2, including a league record of 6-0, going into weekend action.

Pandas were able to experience the way the other half lives over the weekend, when they lost both games to Victoria Vikettes (who now are 8-0) and left Pandas worrying about just making the playoffs instead of fighting for top spot. It's not bad enough to go on a drinking binge but Pandas will now have to keep their eyes on Saskatchewan, UBC, both 4-4.

Friday night's game could be considered nothing but a nightmare for the Pandas. Any resemblance to shooting was purely coincidental, as Pandas dropped a 53-21 decision. Pandas, who were averaging 65.5 points a game, managed just 10 points in the first half hitting on 5/38 while Victoria was unlucky in accumulating only 25 points, missing many layups after beating the Pandas underneath.

Pandas promptly came out in the second half and failed to hit once in their first 21 attempts and actually had a stretch of nearly 30 minutes without scoring a field goal.

Pandas shot only 13% Friday night.

The offensive collapse was evident in everyone's play, but particularly CWUAA scoring leader Ammanda Holloway who managed only 5 points (2/14) well below her 16.8 points per game average.

Coach Shogan felt the Pandas were uptight for the game and their lack of practice (only 4 since the Christmas break) wasn't necessarily responsible for their poor shooting. "Everybody was hyper for the game but just couldn't channel it."

Mary Ann Longmore led the Vikettes with 11 points with

Leslie Godfree and Lorna McHattie each getting 9.

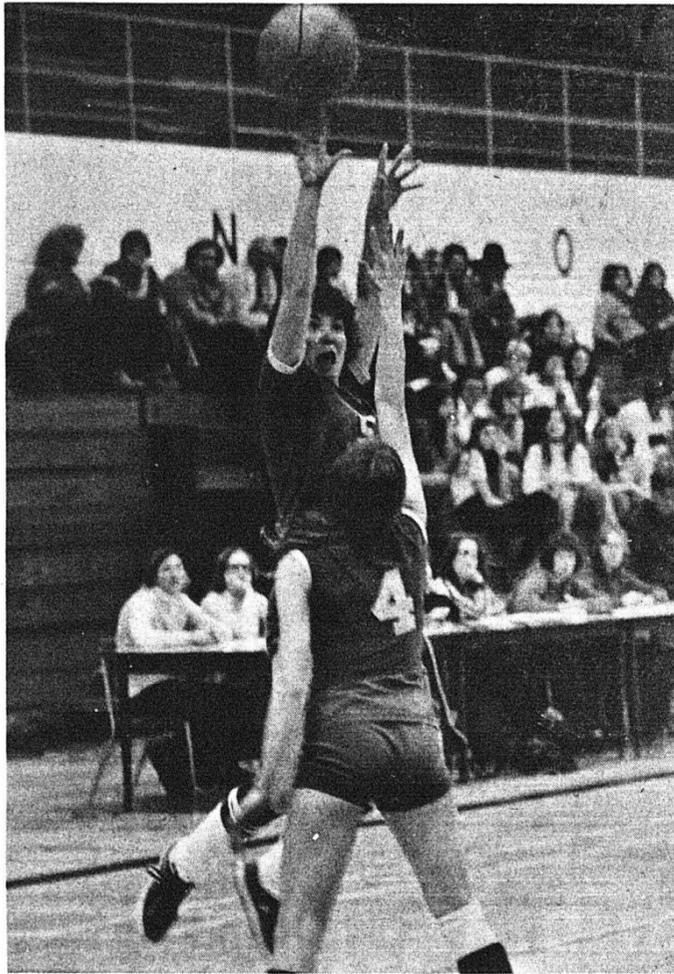
Saturday night saw the Panda's shooting start as cold as Friday but the Vikettes were nearly as bad and they led by 16-12 at the half. Pandas shot only 20% in the first 20 minutes while Victoria hit on 23%.

The Vikettes built up their lead to 12 after 8 minutes and then Pandas had their best scoring spurt of the weekend, pulling to within 4 points after Holloway completed a pretty three-way passing play with

Deena Mitchell and Nicole Robert.

Holloway narrowed the lead to 2 when she hit two free throws with 2:04 remaining. But Pandas never did find their shooting when they needed it most and the Vikettes, by virtue of their 34-30 win increased their record to 8-0.

Pandas shot 21% compared to Victoria's 23%. Ammanda Holloway led the Pandas with 14 points while Marg Mainwaring led Victoria with 11 points.



Even Karen Johnson seems surprised with Pandas' poor shooting. Photo by Greg Neiman



Bears give one away....

"We beat ourselves", said Abbott

by Keith Steinbach

The Golden Bear Hockey Team travelled to Saskatoon this weekend for their first action in nearly a month. The long layoff didn't seem to hurt the Alberta team in Friday's 5-1 victory, but in Saturday afternoon's 5-4 loss the Bears looked like they were in hibernation.

The flow of play in Friday's game can be seen perfectly in the period shots on goal. In the first frame the Bears outshot Saskatchewan 21 to 5. The result was a 2-0 lead on goals by Randy Gregg and Kevin Primeau.

The Bears were flying in the first stanza as the Huskies, instead of playing hockey, tried to intimidate the Alberta crew. Coach Abbott had warned his team before the game: "If they try any shenanigans - ignore them."

The Bears obeyed and Saskatchewan, seeing that rough house tactics wouldn't work, finally settled down to play some surprisingly good hockey.

The second period saw shots favoring the Bears 12 to 7; with the rest of the scoring taking place. The Huskies scored first when the Bears were two men short. Alberta came back with two goals by Oliver Steward and one by Clark Jantzie.

The most effective line of the night was the Steward-Petersen-Hutchinson combination. They were skating well, evident when they connected on a picture perfect passing play for Steward's first goal. Dale Hutchinson had his hard work rewarded with two assists and two goal posts.

The third stanza was dominated by the Huskies as shown in the 19-6 edge in shots. Only some unbeatable goaltending by Graig Gunther held the Huskies at bay.

"These are the tough ones," Abbott said of the weekend series. "Everybody comes at you when you are at the top." On Friday's win, he commented, "Our forwards moved the puck well offensively."

Of Saturday's game, however, he was not so kind. "We beat ourselves. We gave the puck away, plain and simple. We gave it away because we weren't mentally ready, not alert."

The Huskies came out Saturday and skated circles around the somewhat sleepy Bears. The Alberta crew was generous as they gave the puck away frequently. No less than three times a Saskatchewan



Coach Leon Abbott.

player stole the puck and waltzed in to score on goalie Henwood. Henwood played a solid game in net but one can only stop so many breakaways.

Mark Bell led the assault for the Huskies with two goals including the winner early in the third period. The Bears' 1-0 lead was wiped out after four successive Saskatchewan goals. In the middle of the second period with the score 4-1, Randy Gregg and Jim Olfm scored within fifteen seconds of each other.

During the third period it looked as if the Bears might come back but it was not to be as Doug Spitzig again turned in some nifty goaltending to stymie the Alberta team. The Bears took as many shots in the third period as they did in the first two but could only score once.

"We worked all year on passing the puck out of our own zone," Abbott said. "We get some pressure, and zingo!" He was referring to the Bears' game-long problem of getting past the Saskatchewan forecheckers.

But the world will not end for Leon Abbott and his Golden Bears. They are still atop the Canada West standings with an 8 and 2 record, two points better than Calgary's 7-5 mark.

The Bears next action is an important two-game series in Calgary Friday and Saturday, plus a Sunday game at home against the Huskies.

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