

Hoop Pandas heat up to hammer Huskiettes

by Tim Enger
Pandas 79 Huskiettes 35

SASKATOON — Warm-up music has never had that much to do with the basketball game it precedes, yet in this case it set the tone for the contest.

As Don Johnson wailed "heart-beat... I'm lookin' for a heartbeat..." the University of Saskatchewan Huskiettes should have been checking themselves for any signs of life, let alone a heartbeat, as they went out and proceeded to get demolished by 44 points by an inspired U of A Panda team.

After last weekend's disappointing play at the McGill Tournament in Montreal, where they won only one of three contests, Alberta was looking for a big win to lift their hopes as conference play began.

"We were worried about how we would play in the league after McGill," said Panda head coach Diane Hilko, "but now we know we can play well as long as we keep up this intensity."

The game seemed to belong to the Pandas right from the start as they blocked Saskatchewan's first two shots and quickly built a ten point cushion. The first half was highlighted by the solid play of the Alberta guards and the Pandas defensive play.

The guard position was one of Hilko's big question marks at the beginning of the season due to the loss of last year's starters Shelaine Kozakavich and Debbie O'Byrne. But now those questions seem to have been answered as the combination of Michelle Durand and

Patti Smith (with Heather Smith coming off the bench) have more than filled up the gap for now.

Defensively the Pandas were almost picture perfect in the first half, at one point holding the Huskiettes scoreless for nine minutes. It didn't hurt that Saskatchewan was putting up their shots with little grace and no finesse, but it was still an admirable feat. The half ended Pandas 40 - Huskiettes 16.

While the first half was highlighted by defense the second half was dominated by offense, specifically Panda post Yolanda Kruyer who scored 14 of 18 points in the second half on her way to a game high 18.

"For a player her size she has great touch and is always a threat around the basket," said Hilko about her leading scorer. "It's nice to have that because in order to win in this league you've got to get the ball to your big players."

The game finished off with the Pandas shuffling their bench in and out of the game and, surprisingly, Alberta's domination of the game not only continued but increased, eventually ballooning the final score to an embarrassing 79 - 35.

"The fact that everyone contributed was great," said forward Kathy Keats. "It showed us that we have some depth, which is important because we're going to need that depth in order to be successful in our upcoming games."

For a team that only wanted a respectable victory to erase their troubles of the week before they sure got their wish. And, if all goes to plan they should be 2-0 (by beating the hapless UBC Thunderbirds

on Friday night) before they face their first big test on Saturday night at home against the Victoria

Vikettes, who are number one in Canada.

"What we showed tonight was the calibre of play we showed in November," added Hilko. "Now we know what we can do and the level of intensity it will take for us to perform at our peak."

"That is our team."

BASELINE MOVES — Following Kruyer, the Pandas had Keats with 15 points, Smith with 12, and Cheryl

Galenza with 12, who scored more than the top two Huskiettes scorers combined... It took seven minutes

before Alberta was assessed their first foul of the second half... Their next game is at home vs. UBC at 6:30 on Friday, then vs. Victoria at the same time on Saturday, both games at Varsity Gym.

CWUAA STANDINGS

	GP	W	L	T	F	A	PTS
Calgary	16	13	3	0	117	65	26
Manitoba	16	12	3	1	91	60	25
Sask.	16	10	6	0	95	65	20
Alta.	16	9	7	0	105	79	18
UBC	16	7	8	1	68	81	15
Brandon	16	6	10	0	61	82	12
Regina	16	3	13	0	60	120	6
Leth.	16	3	13	0	57	102	6

SCOREBOARD:

Jan. 5: Regina 5 at UBC 7.
Jan. 6: Regina 3 at UBC 9.
Jan. 9: Alberta 3 at UBC 4; Lethbridge 2 at Calgary 8; Regina 1 at Saskatchewan 9.
Jan. 10: Alberta 7 at UBC 2; Calgary 7 at Lethbridge 6; Brandon 1 at Manitoba 6; Regina 2 at Saskatchewan 7.
Jan. 11: Manitoba 9 at Brandon 3.

	GP	G	A	PTS
P. Geddes, C	15	23	24	47
C. Dill, A	16	14	24	38
K. Morrison, S.	16	18	18	36
T. Elik, R.	16	14	21	35
T. Jones, C.	16	11	22	33
M. Trotsuk, UBC	16	15	16	31
Ken Vinge, C	14	15	15	30
A. Sakundiak, S	16	14	16	30
S. Wakabayashi, A	16	13	17	30
H. Mahood, M	15	9	18	27
J. Fiesel, R	16	8	18	26
B. Marinos, R	14	14	11	25
B. Bracko, C	16	11	14	25
C. Saint-Cyr, M	16	8	16	24
P. Proft, A	16	11	12	23
T. Savoye, C	16	8	15	23
Dave Otto, A	13	5	18	23
J. Odland, L	16	6	16	22
R. Strachan, M	16	6	15	21

T-Birds leave Bears, Pandas in their wake

by Carolyn Aney
T-Birds 61 Bears 44
T-Birds 85 Pandas 27

On Friday the swimming Bears and Pandas travelled to Vancouver for a meet with UBC, a meet that would see both the men and women lose. The Bears were beaten 61 to 44, which was somewhat skewed because the U of A does not have a men's diving team. The Pandas lost 85 to 27.

The Pandas who turned in good performances were Judy Cowan with two wins, the first in the 200m free (2:13.0), and the other in the 400m free (4:41.03). Cowan also earned a second in the 400m individual medley.

Stephanie Lake also had a good meet, placing 2nd in the 200m butterfly and 3rd in the 100m backstroke. Colleen Delaney placed 2nd in the 800m free and Debbie Sigaty placed 3rd in the 100m breaststroke.

The Pandas only had nine swimmers attend, which may account for part of the 58 point loss, but in general did not swim to their potential.

In women's diving, Yanika Guilbault placed 2nd in the 1m springboard.

For the Bears, both Regan Williams and Sam Sim took a 2st and 2nd. Williams won the 100m fly with a 58.03, a good time for this point in the season, and took 2nd in the 800m free. Sim won the 50m free (25.18) and took 2nd in the 100m free.

Scott Flowers was out-touched twice and took 2nd in the 200m and 400m free; Rob Fraser took two thirds, the first in the 200m free and the second in the 100m free, while Scott LeBuke swam a fine race and won the 400m I.M. with 4:43.65 which is a good time for Scott. Kent Bittorf took 3rd in the 100m back.

The Bears also won the 4 x 100m free relay by more than a second, with Sim, LeBuke, Flowers and Williams swimming for Alberta.

When the diving points are eliminated, the Bears lost the meet by only five points. The T-Birds just came off of Christmas training camp in Phoenix, Arizona, which may have motivated the team to put the extra effort in to beat Alberta.

The U of A swimmers spent Christmas training in Edmonton.

Next action for the swimmers will be on January 24 against the U of C in Calgary.

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