SPORTS thursday, 14 september, 2006

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Bears face inconsistent Saskatchewan sled dogs

CHRIS O'LEARY Sports Staff

While the schedule has been set for weeks and it's certain that the Golden Bears soccer team will head to Saskatchewan this weekend for a set of games, it's anyone's guess which version of the Huskies will be on the pitch.

Saskatchewan opened their season last weekend in bizarre fashion, first getting blown out 4-0 by the University of Calgary on 8 September, then turning their fortunes around two days later to top the University of Lethbridge 3-1. The broadly different outcomes of the two games have the Bears unsure of what to expect from the Huskies this weekend.

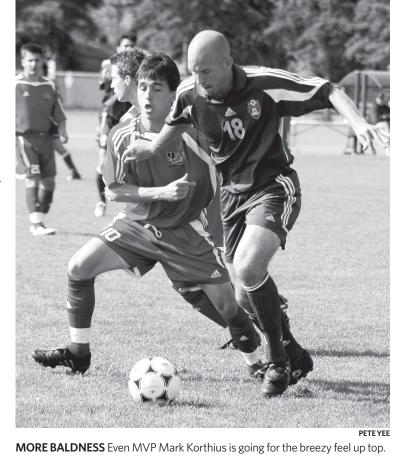
"We're just going to expect the team that won 3-1 against the team that we struggled against [this past weekend in a 1-1 draw] in Lethbridge, as the one that we're going to be playing against," said Bears head coach Len Vickery.

For the time being, Vickery has turned his focus inward, as his team makes its first road trip of the season.

"It's not so much about the opposition as it's about us getting out together and that's what we're looking to do," he said. "We struggled in the latter part of the game against Lethbridge, and-although we still did enough to win against Calgary—I felt we had some bad spells against them on the chances created and the ones that we should have put away. That was a game we should have won comfortably.'

Despite some offensive stagnancy that irked Vickery, the fifth-year head coach of the program has been more than pleased with the play of keeper Dan Gusberti, who has been filling the cleats of injured starter Devon Fraser, who incurred a foot injury shortly before the start of the soccer season.

"We're fortunate to have Dan, who's stepped in and done very well,"



Vickery said of the third-year science student. "He's only let in the one goal in the third minute of overtime."

The Bears are uncertain on the extent of Fraser's foot injury. Vickery expects him to be out anywhere from four to six weeks. One teammate's misfortune has been another's opportunity, though, for Gusberti, who said that he hasn't felt any pressure from the increased minutes he's now seeing.

"I [found out about the injury] about a week before the season started, so I was prepared to go for both of the games," he said. "It was nice to get a win against Calgary, obviously, and it was a tough break against Lethbridge,

with their goal in the 93rd minute, but still, only one goal conceded over the weekend—I felt pretty good about

As for the coming weekend and the possibility of facing a hungry Huskies squad or one that could lie down and play dead, Gusberti echoed his coach's sentiments, placing the responsibility on himself.

"You don't know what to expect. You've got to be ready and prepare the same way you would for any other game."

The Bears will face the Huskies in Saskatoon on Saturday and Sunday at

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Application Deadline: September 20 @ 17:00

Students' Union Elections

POLL CLERKS 20 POSITIONS

(September 28 & 29)

Paid Training Session

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- Paid Training Session
- · Wage: \$9.00/Hour

Application Deadline: September 19 @ 17:00

Applications Available from 2-900 SUB and online at www.su.ualberta.ca/vote

Pandas start year against old rivals

VERONICA DOLEMAN Sports Writer

When the Pandas volleyball team clashes with the Canadian Masters this evening in Whitecourt, it will be a meeting of old and new as the Pandas will get their first look at some new recruits while playing against some former Alberta volleyballers.

"This year's Masters Team has a very steep roster," Pandas head coach Laurie Eisler said. "The bios themselves could fill up an entire program, and a lot of them are old alumni from our team who have played extensively on the national team. It's the first time in uniform for our athletes; the bottom line is: [we] just hope to compete."

Not only will it be the Pandas' first time in uniform this season, but many new Pandas will also have their first chance to don the Green and Gold. Tiffany Proudfoot is a first-year out of Calgary who spent the summer with the junior National Team, while Samantha Wojtkiw and Kaylan Berg both transferred from Grant MacEwan, where Wojtkiw was the CCAA athlete of the year and Berg was second in the conference in kills per game.

The burden of leadership will fall on an emerging group of younger Pandas stepping into larger roles this

"For them, it's a chance to strap them on and have some competition. From my perspective, it's a chance to see some new athletes in a different way."

LAURIE EISLER

"Over my past years of experience as a Panda I have learned a lot from all of the other players," third-year middle Wendy Linnell said. Linnell will be one of those counted on to fill the leadership void left with the graduation of Tawana Wardlaw, Janna Konihowski and Kristin Van Eck. "I hope to carry on the determination and carry on the ritual of what the Pandas [represent]. "

With their opening game against

such tough competition, Alberta will be using the contest as a gauge to see where the team is at, and what needs to be worked on

"It's always good to play against [the Masters], because a lot of the girls are post-Pandas players. We get to play against old teammates, and you learn a lot from them because they have a lot of experience. I'm definitely looking forward to it," Linnell said.

"It will be the first time our team competes together, so it will be really good feeling each other out. We're all fairly young and it should be good just to test out our strengths and see what our weaknesses are."

"Its super early, so-for athletes in particular—they're always anxious to put a uniform on and play, they probably get tired of practicing after the first week," Eisler added. "For them, it's a chance to strap them on and have some competition. From my perspective, it's a chance to see some new athletes in a different way; with a jersey on and under the pressures of real game competition."

The Pandas will challenge the Canadian Masters tonight at 7pm in Whitecourt and Friday night at 7pm in the Main Gym.



THE FOURTH ANNUAL GATEWAY SCHOLARSHIP FOR **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF EXCELLENCE**

As part of our campaign for autonomy four years ago we promised you (students) that we would give back, not only with quality newspapers, but in the form of scholarships. And so: the Gateway Student Journalism Society (GSJS) is giving away three \$500 scholarships to reward continuing students for their creativity, writing ability and media savvy.

To enter, submit a resume and a 500 word essay on independent campus media by e-mail to biz@gateway.ualberta.ca or in hard copy form to the Gateway offices, marked to the attention of "Gateway Scholarship Committee". The scholarships will be awarded on the basis of essay radness, with extra-curricular and community involvement used as a tie-breaker.

To be eligible for the scholarship you must be a full-time continuing student with a GPA of at least 2.0, but can neither be a staffer of the Gateway (this includes volunteers), nor a member of the GSJS Board of Directors,

Applications will be due by noon on Wednesday 4 October Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Only successful applicants will be contacted.

THE GATEWAY