

GOLDEN BEARS & PANDAS SPORTS



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Golden Bears & Pandas Basketball

Friday, November 3 vs Thompson Rivers

Saturday, November 4 vs Fraser Valley

Pandas @ 6:00, Golden Bears @ 8:00

Main Gym

492-BEAR / 451-8000 www.bears.ualberta.ca

Pandas serve for success in sweep over Bobcats

JANELLE SLOYCHUK
Sports Writer

On the strength of 16 serve aces, the Pandas volleyball team opened their season with a weekend sweep against the Brandon Bobcats. Despite a wavering start to both Friday's and Saturday's game, the Panda's sloughed off the home-opener nerves and played with poise in the victories.

"I think we really picked up our service game. They were having a lot of trouble receiving our serves and we were passing theirs a lot better," said Pandas third-year left side Jocelyn Blair. "We just got more comfortable after we started to play. Some of the players who had trouble [during] the first set really stepped it up the rest of the game."

Blair accounted for three of the twelve Alberta aces on Friday night as the Pandas flat out-played the Bobcats on the way to victory. Blair—along with third-year outside hitter Tiffany Dodds—also dominated in kills all weekend with 28, two more than Dodds.

Still, despite winning the final six sets of the weekend, the Pandas

were given quite a scare in losing the first set on Friday 25-23 after falling behind 16-6.

"[Brandon] started really well both nights," said Panda's head coach Laurie Eisler. "[Friday] they were brilliant and we were bad. We were real nervous."

The Pandas however, shook off the nerves and rebounded after the early deficit.

"We can't give any team, no matter what ranking, a ten point lead," Dodds said. "After that [first set], I think we played great as a team. We were not as tentative on defence. Things were just going for us once we stuck to the tactics."

"I think we're better than they are," Eisler added. "I think our game is pretty balanced; like any team you've got your strengths, but we don't rely on one player."

Eisler was also careful to note that, while the Panda's service game may have been up to par, other technical skills were otherwise lacking.

"We're a good serving team, and this isn't an easy place to pass the ball—as you can see by our own passing, which wasn't great either—but I think we got them in more trouble as

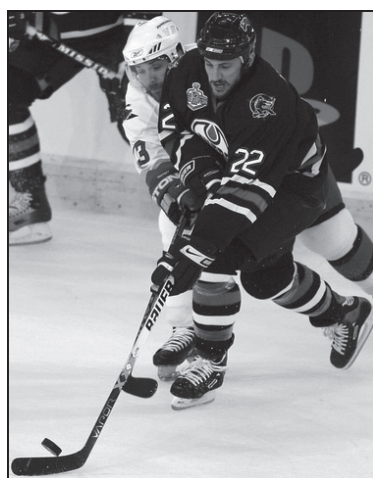
they got us in, and we stayed aggressive as a match went on."

Still, it was evident that the Pandas were the better team on the court. They got away with their mistakes while capitalizing on those that Brandon made. They hit at a .326 clip, while Brandon only managed an attack percentage of .101 on the weekend. They attacked Brandon's young roster and forced head coach Lee Carter to make changes.

"We've got a couple of rookies, and they really picked on them—like Teagan [Hunter]—and that's their job: find the weak link and go after them," he said.

After hanging close in the first two sets on Saturday, losing 25-21 and 25-22, Brandon fell badly behind and was unable to recover. Carter credited Alberta's play with hamstringing the Bobcats ability to comeback.

"We had a shot at that second set and we played really well, and it ended on two silly errors. That takes the wind out of your sails and it took us a little bit to find some confidence and get back into it," Carter said. "A team like U of A doesn't let you get confidence."



Rem Murray has never scored more than 39 points in an NHL season.



Ross Prusakowski has never written less than 39 articles in a Gateway season.

Gateway Sports Meetings at 5:30
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TIPPED OFF Kristin Jarock loses the opening tip against UVic at the Pandas Hoopfest last weekend. Alberta went 3-0.

THE PEP RALLY

By Paul Owen

Bears Soccer

Thanks to a 3-0 victory over UCFV and a 1-1 tie with TWU, the Bears (9-0-5) finished off their season with an undefeated record and earned the right to host the Canada West playoffs, in addition to Nationals. Whoever thinks that hosting soccer outdoors in November in Edmonton isn't all that bright. I mean, they better be using an orange ball or something, or it might get lost in the snow. Hell, 5'4" defender Quenton Zalazar might get lost in the snow.

Pandas Soccer

The Pandas (11-2-1) secured a second-place finish and first-round bye with a pair of victories over the same teams the Bears played, beating UCFV 1-0 and TWU 4-2. They finish the season having given up only eight goals, defending their net better than I defend my lead in the Gateway's RATT Burger tally.

Bears Basketball

Horwood's hardwooders finished off their pre-season in Calgary with games against some teams from Montana. After losing 67-66 to the College of Great Falls Montana on Friday, they responded by kicking the crap out of Great Falls' junior team. It's always good to get revenge against the jayvees, especially when it's by a score of 110-55. They finished up with a win over Montana Tech, 78-69. The Bears kick off their season at home this weekend against UCFV and TRU. Of course, I'm going to be in Winnipeg and miss it, because the schedules makers in CIS hate me.

Pandas Basketball

The Pandas also finished off an exhibition slate, participating in the Regina Cougars tournament. The Pandas knocked off Minot State 72-58, but fell to the hosts 67-57. A 79-31 thrashing of Brandon was in order after the loss. It's good to see the Bobcats have kept up their tradition of being the worst team in the CIS. More importantly, after rookies Jenny Brauer and Leigha Letford were left out of action at the Hoopfest tournament last weekend, both got to play, sparingly, in Regina.

After rookies Marisa Heylett and Katie Barrett impressed at Hoopfest, I feel a little disappointed I didn't get to see all the new Pandas in action.

Cross-Country

The Bears and Pandas both participated in the Stewart Run at the University of Calgary this weekend. Both teams placed third. The real Alberta story comes from the Bears alumni, who won the team race and placed four runners in the top 21 racers. Apparently the old runners are much better than the new ones. Maybe that's why they won all those medals at nationals.

Swimming

Taking on a team that actually lives near water, the Alberta squads were humbled with a pair of losses against the SFU Clan. The men fell 77-51, while the women lost 90-75. The silver lining is that the weekend saw two Albertans—Jian-Iok Chang and Katarina Symes—qualify for Nationals.

I haven't been a swimming fan for years, ever since I went off the diving board and came up without my trunks.