

## Defending field hockey champs fail to medal

BORIS KORBY  
The Ubyssy

VANCOUVER—The 2005 national champion Alberta was the better team Sunday morning in the bronze medal match of the CIS women's field hockey championships, but will have nothing to show for their efforts after a 2-1 loss on penalties to the second-seeded University of Toronto at Wright Field in Vancouver.

After regulation play and two overtimes, the Pandas found themselves in penalty strokes at the national tournament for the second consecutive year. After scoring on their first two attempts, the sticks went cold for Alberta, who missed their final two, and lost 4-2.

"I thought we played quite well today," Alberta head coach Carla Somerville said on Sunday. "I thought we possessed the ball very well and generated more than enough opportunities to win this game, but unfortunately it wasn't our day to put the ball in the net."

After tying 2-2 in round-robin play the night before, Alberta and Toronto picked up where they left off Sunday, playing an even opening half that saw the teams tied 0-0 after 35 minutes. The second frame began with more of the same, with neither team managing to generate much in the way of scoring opportunities.

Toronto got on the scoreboard first, striking in the 62nd minute on an amazing solo effort by forward Cailie O'Hara, who managed to slip by three Alberta defenders, come out of the corner, and beat Alberta's sprawling Sara Houlihan low to stake the Ontario University Athletics champions to a 1-0 lead.

Toronto's goal seemed to spark the lethargic Alberta attack, who responded by dominating the final eight minutes of the second half. The Pandas were ultimately rewarded in the 70th



OKER CHEN, THE UBYSSY

**NEW CHAMPS** UBC (dark) defeated Victoria to take the McCrae cup and become the 2006 CIS field hockey champions. Alberta finished fourth.

minute when second-year defender Danielle Barron scored of a perfectly executed short corner to draw Alberta even.

"I think we really felt some urgency," Barron said. "We just didn't want to lose this game, it was just so important to us."

"It was a great thing to see, we got a bit little pissed off [after Toronto's goal] and we started to take it to them," Somerville said. "We really needed to do that earlier, and if we'd come out at the beginning of the game like that, I don't think

this game would have been in question, so absolutely a very disappointing loss in that regard.

It was an unlucky ending for an Alberta squad that managed to claw its way back into medal contention with a victory over York and a draw against Toronto after dropping its first two matches of the tournament to perennial rivals and tournament favourites UVic and UBC. It was fitting for a team that couldn't find a way to beat either of their conference rivals in regular season play this season. All three of their wins came against Calgary.

"We didn't get a result against either UBC or Victoria, and it was hard emotionally to come back from that, but we got ourselves into the bronze medal game," said Somerville, who was named CIS coach of the Year for the second straight time.

"It was a really tough tournament, it was a lot of fun, but it was hard work," Barron added. "UVic and UBC are very strong teams, and we knew it was definitely going to be hard to repeat."



LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**HIGH PRESSURE** Carly McLennan (8) and her teammates ran TRU off the court on Friday night.

## Pandas give 'Pack, 'Cades not-so-warm welcome

CHRIS O'LEARY  
Sports Staff

So much for being hospitable hosts.

The Pandas basketball team went one-on-one with the two newest teams in CIS women's basketball this past weekend and showed them just how harsh life is in the nation's toughest basketball conference.

Interim head coach Scott Edwards' squad needed only 20 minutes to blow the gates open in their Friday night matchup against the Thompson Rivers WolfPack, as the Pandas turned an early ten-point lead into a 54-17 halftime hole that the Kamloops squad, in their second season in CIS, couldn't dig their way out of.

With the game well out of reach, Edwards kept his starters involved, leaving them in the rotation until the final minutes of the fourth quarter. At the conclusion of the 98-49 trouncing, WolfPack head coach Scott Reeves refused comment on the game.

"Well, [Scott Edwards] came to play and I'm glad he did," WolfPack assistant coach Chuck Ferguson offered in his place. "I would have been offended if he had taken it easy on us. He came to play and that's the way it should be."

On Saturday night, the Pandas were a part of history—albeit an inauspicious part of it—as they handed the University College of Fraser Valley Cascades their first road-sweep of their inaugural season in CIS, finishing off the job that the Saskatchewan Huskies started on Friday night.

After a strong start on Friday night, the Pandas struggled with the Cascades, who were led by the stellar play of guard tandem Megan McAlister and Michelle Buhler. The two third-year Abbotsford products combined for 38 points, nine assists and seven steals, while they attempted to throw

a wrench in the Pandas' execution.

"They're good players. Buehler's a fantastic point guard, and McAlister is a great shooter, she's really quick. They did really well together and they did a great job against us," Edwards said of the backcourt he coached against for two seasons in the Canadian Collegiate Athletics Association.

While the Cascades looked to build on their three-point halftime lead, third-year Pandas Kristen Jarock, Ashley Wigg and Nathalie Kiernan took control of the game. Wigg came out on the offensive to start the third, driving to the hoop at will, collecting six of her 13 points in the quarter. Kiernan showed her shooting touch, padding to her team best 15 points, while Jarock did a little bit of everything, going for 14 points and grabbing ten rebounds, good for her second double-double of the weekend. Alberta's 18-8 third quarter put the game out of reach for the Cascades, who fell to the Pandas 74-66.

"They're third-years now, and they've played a ton of basketball together in their time here," Edwards said of Jarock, Wigg and Kiernan. "They've seen everything that this conference can offer them and they know how to compete in big moments. They're good at finding ways to win when we don't really have our legs, like tonight."

As effective as the trio was, the night belonged to Jarock. Named a second-team Canada West all-star for her strong post play last season, the 6'0" forward drove and dished to open teammates, in addition to showcasing a newly-found extended range that was absent from her game in previous seasons.

"Playing the four [power forward], it's kind of an advantage to be able to take it to the hole. I think I'm quicker than most power forwards, so I use that to my advantage," Jarock said.