

# Hoops Bears split with Dinos

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

CALGARY—After sweeping the Calgary Dinos in November, the Golden Bears basketball squad was looking to go four-for-four against their division rivals this weekend in Cowtown. Instead, a determined Calgary squad fought the Bears to a weekend split, with Alberta (8-4) taking Friday's opener 90-82 and Calgary responding with a 89-77 victory on Saturday.

"Out of the three games [including a tilt in the Golden Bear Invitational over Christmas], it's nice to see we got the Bears twice, and that gives us a little confidence to maybe go into the play-offs [against the Bears] because they've beat us the last couple years," Calgary head coach Dan Vanhooren said.

Friday night, the Bears displayed the same offensive intensity that saw them blowout the Dinos 94-79 and 100-70 in November. The Bears shot .500 on the game and made only twelve turnovers while piling up 23 assists, and post Scott Gordon poured in 29 points in the victory.

"We were giving them holes and

letting Gordon do whatever he wants. Our post players need to play tougher inside," Vanhooren said.

Saturday night saw a reversal of fortunes as the Bears blew a 13-point advantage late in the first half by turning the ball over on offence and allowing Calgary to shoot 10-21 from three, including 8-13 in the second half.

"[Saturday], the thing that hurt us was our decision-making was brutal," Alberta bench boss Don Horwood said. "When we had that 13-point lead, we had about four or five turnovers in a row and we let them back in because we turned the ball over and they got a few quick baskets on us."

"I was disappointed because we had the game, in my opinion, under control," he added. "They outworked us in the second half. They wanted it more; they hit key shots; they made the big plays. They deserved to win and we didn't deserve to win."

Fourth-year guard Tyson Jones, the only Bear who notched significant playing time Saturday and finished without one of the team's 21 turnovers, attributed them to Alberta pushing too hard for baskets.

"We have a lot of competitive guys who come from different backgrounds where they're very good players and they think they can take it upon themselves to get the team back in it," he said. "I think we got a little bit impatient and tried to force things when we shouldn't have, instead of slowing it down and running our offence, so I think that caused the turnovers."

Despite suffering their first regular season loss to Calgary this year, Horwood was pleased with his team's position through twelve games.

"Playing on the road and getting a split is not that bad. It's tough to win back-to-back games in the other guys' gym," he said. "We're in first place in our [division], and we're in good shape. We could have come down here and lost both."

Jones, however, expressed a differing opinion on the weekend's outcome.

"Last year I would have taken a split in Calgary no problem, but this year we've got a lot stronger team; the season's going good for us, and we're not satisfied with a split—we should have come out with a sweep. We feel we're a better team than Calgary."



NEAL WILDING

CRASHING THE CREASE Jennifer Newton (8) bears down on Stacy Corfield.

## Problems exposed for Panda hoopsters

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

CALGARY—The best and worst of the basketball Pandas was exposed in a weekend split in Calgary against the Dinos last weekend.

Despite attempting 30 more shots than their opponents on Friday and forcing 35 turnovers, Alberta (10-2) shot only .342 from the field and 16-30 from the foul line in a 73-69 loss.

"We played horrible," Alberta head coach Scott Edwards admitted. "We were late to all the loose balls; we were late to all the rebounds; all the hustle plays we talked about, [the Dinos] won them. I have no idea how that team came out like that. We had a great week of prep, we had a great trip, we're fit and ready to go, and we just came out on the floor and put the ball above our heads and were scared."

For Calgary (5-7), a victory over Alberta exhibited the strides they've made since the first meeting between the two teams this season. Dinos head coach Shawnee Harle was particularly

impressed with her team's ability to hang on after star Lindsay Maundrell fouled out in the fourth quarter.

"We really battled hard," Harle said. "We're a different team than when we played them in November. We're a little more seasoned; we're a little tougher, a little scrappier and, hopefully, a little hungrier."

With only Ashley Wigg—who scored 26 points—in double figures, Friday's game served as proof of what may be the Pandas' downfall this season: a lack of dependable scoring.

"We're relying on people to trust themselves and take the shots they know they can hit, and [Friday], suddenly no one wanted to shoot the basketball," Edwards said. "You saw an example of how, if you don't have a go-to scorer, things can break down if people aren't working hard. Unfortunately tonight it was all five people on the floor, not just one or two."

"I don't know if we were quite playing our game yet coming out of Christmas," Wigg added. "[Friday] we started off real low and it wasn't our team play like we usually had going

for us. Our consistency wasn't there; our attack mentality was a little shy."

Saturday night saw the Pandas get back to doing what they do best offensively: distributing the ball and scoring by committee. Kristin Jarock notched 20 points while Wigg added 13. Michelle Smith put up 16 points and added seven assists as Alberta pulled out a 72-57 victory.

"It feels great to beat Calgary; we hate Calgary—always will," Wigg said. "It would have felt better had we not let up a little bit. We let up a little bit there at the end of the third and into the fourth, and the game should have been a blowout."

The Pandas forced 30 more turnovers on Saturday and held the Dinos to .345 shooting, flustering their southern Alberta rivals. For Edwards, the win showed his team's resiliency and pride.

"One of our team goals this year is never to lose two in a row, and [to do so] talks about your ability to bounce back from adversity and to challenge yourself to compete the next night, regardless of the situation," he said.

## THE PEP RALLY

Written by Paul Owen

### Pandas Hockey

The ladies of winter, as I'm dubbing the 15-1 Pandas, avenged their only loss on the season with a pair of thrashings of the Manitoba Bisons at Clare Drake this weekend. Alberta won 3-1 and 5-0 and Lindsay McAlpine had a five-point weekend on three goals and two assists to pace them. Jenna Barber added two goals and two assists in the two wins.

### Bears Hockey

In a shocking twist on what you've read in this space week after week throughout this season, the Lethbridge Pronghorns finally bested an Alberta team at a competitive sporting event. The Bears (13-2-3) were downed 6-5 in a shootout on Friday night, but were able to rebound with a 6-3 win Saturday. Ben Kilgour potted a hat trick in the victory. Big thanks to the Bears for forcing a moratorium on the Lethbridge jokes for a week. I appreciate it guys. If you're going to lose, could you at least do it to a school that is populated by students who couldn't get into Calgary (which is,

of course, populated by students who couldn't get in here).

### Pandas Volleyball

Alberta (9-3) headed to Winnipeg to take on the previously top-ranked Manitoba Bisons (8-1). Friday night saw the visitors surprise their hosts with a straight-set victory, but Manitoba returned the favour with a 3-0 win the following night. Also, Monday morning saw Rick Mercer and the *Rick Mercer Report* join the Pandas at practice. Alberta was preparing to host International Budo University, which hails from just outside of Tokyo. The game goes Tuesday at 5pm in the Main Gym.

### Bears Volleyball

The men had the weekend off, but also host International Budo tonight at 7pm, right after the women's game.

### Fantasy Hockey

After a rough Christmas break that saw my hockey team go 1-2-2 and drop to sixth in the standings, a scheduling break allowed me to tee off on league bottom-dweller Dave Young. The 9-1 beating my team administered is sure to leave a bad taste in the RATT manager's mouth, much like his food does.



Ross Prusakowski stole my hat.  
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