



PETE YEE

**DRIVING BASELINE** Michelle Smith (4) and the Pandas are hoping for a pair of wins against BC opponents this weekend.

# Pandas in tough against BC foes

PAUL OWEN  
Sports Editor

After taking advantage of a soft schedule to win nine of ten before Christmas, Scott Edwards' Pandas basketball squad has been brought back to tougher competition this term, splitting every weekend series since the break.

"This past weekend [against Saskatchewan], we got back to being the team that went 9-1 in the first term," Edwards said. "The first couple weeks of this term we weren't that team, but I think [based on] team chemistry and overall the way we played on Friday night and Saturday—we didn't play badly Saturday, we just had some stretches and lost a good game—we're getting back to who we were."

Stringing together another winning streak won't get any easier for Alberta (13-5) this weekend against the second-ranked UBC Thunderbirds (18-1), the defending national champs, and the 9-10 Victoria Vikes.

"UBC is the best team in the country. Regardless of the rankings, they're obviously the team to beat," Edwards

said. "We need to deal with big post players and very smart guards who've been through big games before, and we have to handle the pressure they can put on us."

UBC boats the second-best post in the country with Kelsey Blair, who is averaging 15.8 points and 9.3 rebounds per game, which means Alberta bigs Trish Ariss and Kristin Jarock will be hard-pressed again this weekend, and will have to use their athleticism and quickness to gain an edge.

"Trisha can outrun Kelsey Blair if she wants to, but [Ariss and Jarock] have been banged up pretty bad, and they're not at full strength, so they're not running as well as they have in the past," Edwards explained. "If we're going to do anything come playoff time, they have to believe they can outrun people and take them off the dribble and do other things to attack offensively to make up for what they might give up on the defensive end."

Victoria also has a dominant post presence in Janet Hatfield, a Fort McMurray native who's fourth in the conference in rebounding with 8.3 per game, and who put up 27 points

and ten rebounds when the Pandas and Vikes met in the pre-season during the Pandas Hoopfest. Hatfield has been injured, but Edwards noted she could be ready to return this weekend, which could pose problems for Alberta.

"If she's back—we didn't do a very good job of handling her last time; I don't know if we had a very good plan—we'll scheme and try some different things and see if it works," he said.

For the Pandas to be successful, they will not only need to slow the opposing posts but also use the up-tempo style of play that spurred them to their hot start this season.

"Both teams offer us some different challenges to defend, but the things that we can do against them are the things we already do well: we're a high tempo team, we press a lot, and I think we can give [both teams] a challenge with that," Edwards said.

The Thunderbirds visit on Friday night at 6pm in the Main Gym, while the Vikes don the road uniforms the following night at the same time and place.

# CIS sports pulled from Vancouver radio

BORIS KOBUS  
The Ubysey

VANCOUVER (CUP)—The University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Trinity Western University and the University College of the Fraser Valley are being forced to look elsewhere in their continuing quest to transmit university athletics to the Lower Mainland's mainstream sports audience.

AM730 radio—broadcast partner of the four Vancouver-area universities over the past two and a half years—announced last month that it was parting ways with the schools, leaving them scrambling for coverage of the eight to twelve basketball games (depending on playoffs) left on the schedule.

The announcement was prompted by the decision to change the station's format to 24-hour traffic coverage, according to Jim Mullin, play-by-play voice for Vancouver's local universities and the man responsible for putting the original deal together between Corus—the parent company of AM730—and the universities.

Scott Kobus, business development and promotions officer for UBC Athletics, said the university was a bit blindsided by the announcement.

"We had a contract with them for

this year. Was there legal action that we possibly could have taken? Most likely, but at the end of the day it's just not worth pursuing," Kobus said, adding that UBC Athletics "doesn't want to work with a partner that doesn't want to work with us."

**"I'm glad UBC has been supportive after this whole thing broke up. It seems like the other schools are running to the hills right now."**

**JIM MULLIN**  
VANCOUVER RADIO HOST

UBC Athletics, which has had a mainstream radio carrier for football and basketball games for five years on AM730 and the TEAM 1040, will be re-examining its coverage status and exploring every option available, including television, continued Kobus.

For now, UBC Athletics has been webcasting the regular-season men's basketball games that were dropped from the AM730 schedule and plans to continue webcasts into the playoffs with Mullin at the helm.

"I'm glad UBC has been supportive after this whole thing broke up. It seems like the other schools are running to the hills right now" Mullin said.

Mullin added that local universities need to put their differences aside if they hope to receive more than minimal coverage by Vancouver's mainstream media.

"University and high school sports just do not get covered in the mainstream media the way it should in this market," Mullin said.

"You need marketing in place to [receive coverage], you need to be able to sell ads to pay for it, and the most important thing is the individual schools have to put their rivalries aside and start learning how to work together, because this radio thing was the only thing that these schools actually worked together on."


At the University of Alberta, the broadcast schedule is a little less frequent. While Bob Stauffer and Blake Dermott bring every football game to the airwaves on TEAM1260 radio, the broadcast schedules for other games are less clear cut. Most hockey games can be caught on CJSR, and the campus station also broadcasts occasional basketball games. Unlike the situation at UBC, however, the U of A is putting more games on the radio, instead of fewer.

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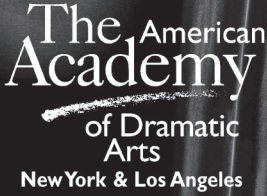
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Friday, February 2 vs UBC • Saturday, February 3 vs Victoria  
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