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Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund 2007-2008 Applications

The Campus Recreation Enhancement Fund (CREF) was created to help ensure that high quality campus recreation programs, equipment and facilities remain diverse, convenient, accessible, equitable, and affordable to all University of Alberta Students' Union members.

Recreation for all is an integral part of a positive U of A experience. Therefore, those organizations applying for funding from CREF must show that their request will have a positive impact on student life at the University of Alberta. The request must facilitate healthy, active lifestyles for University of Alberta students.

Deadline for applications: Fri., March 2 @ 4PM
Application forms may be obtained in the
Campus Recreation Offices
Rm. W-10 and W-90, Van Vliet Centre
or ONLINE at:
www.campusrec.ualberta.ca

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Kokanee

Edwards earned second season

Interim coach deserves another year at the helm for turning the team around



PAUL
OWEN

It's hard to give credit to someone who never touches a ball in play, but Scott Edwards deserves all the accolades he can accumulate for turning the basketball Pandas from a team that hadn't won a playoff game in four years to a squad that's headed off to the Canada West Final Four and is on the verge of their first appearance at Nationals since 2001. Edwards will return as interim head coach next season, while former coach of 15 years Trix Baker continues her leave from coaching for another year, but will act as general manager for the club and handle the administrative duties normally required of the head coach. While it's a front-office model that is new to the University, there's a reason that everyone from the players to athletic director Dale Schulha are pleased with the decision: it's the right one.

It was a shock that Baker left, but an even bigger surprise that Edwards has been able to put together a 16-6 season and turn the Pandas into one of the top teams in the country. With the success Edwards has had, it's important to let him continue to see how far he can go; the change that put Edwards at the helm also brought about a drastic alteration in the way the Pandas play basketball.

Baker recruited and developed

the players who won seven more games this season than last, and a large part of their improvement as a team can be linked to their advancement and maturation as individuals, but the effects of their new coach are still easy to see. Edwards relates to this batch of players in a way that Baker never did. When she brought in eight freshmen two seasons ago, Baker had trouble adjusting from a veteran-laden team of leftovers from the 1999 National Championship to the group of headstrong rookies. The players—most notably starting point guard Ashley Wigg—and the coach clashed, and the stress of losing and dealing with their immaturity was visible in Baker. She wasn't the right coach for the group she was trying to lead, and the differences hurt this team on the court.

Edwards, on the other hand, fits in with the club. While his players have undoubtedly grown up in their first two years under Baker, making his job much easier, Edwards developed a strong connection with his squad right out of the gate. The two coaches are almost polar opposites: Baker is one of the most talented post players to ever grace the floor of the Main Gym, while Edwards never played college or university ball, but made a name for himself with his ability with the Xs and Os. Baker was calm and quiet on the bench, while Edwards is as emotional on the sidelines as his fiery point guard is between them. While both styles work for each, Edwards' matches that of his squad: letting out whoops when his team draws a charge, throwing up his arms in disbelief when he feels cheated

with a call and holding impromptu conversations with his coaches, the refs, the scorers table and whoever else will listen. And they do. Refs hear him out, reporters laugh at his jokes, and his players—especially Wigg, who is the motor that powers the Pandas—bob their heads as he dispenses advice. Scott Edwards has the ear of the people, and it's a part of what makes him successful as a head coach.

That's not to say he doesn't have other strengths. The Pandas look much more comfortable in their half-court offence than they have in previous seasons, and they also have the ability to score off of their set plays, rather than simply pushing the fast break and hoping that they'd be able to score quick baskets. Wigg has been able to tone down her theatrics on the court, and she's kept herself out of foul trouble and in games longer. A team that used to seem bored in their own end now prides itself on its defensive commitment and sits third in the conference in points against and second in steals per game. They find ways to neutralize opposing stars, like Sarah Crooks who scored 14, 22 and 15 in three playoff games well below her season average of 25.7 per game.

That Baker was willing to step aside and hand the team she built to Edwards has been hugely beneficial to the Pandas basketball program, especially since Edwards has stepped in and done such an amazing job in moulding the team into a contender. This team has been building towards a CIS banner for the past three years, and while it was Baker who was doing that building, it's Edwards who's the best bet to finish what she started.



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