

4. University of British Columbia
Ranked second last year



With all this talk of UBC's bid to join the NCAA, they aren't quite the cream of the CIS crop. Their athletic seasons fell a little short this year, and the 'Birds garnered less awards than the other top universities. Perhaps the consolation of falling off the podium in this year's rankings is that most of their athletics facilities are getting facelifts in preparation for the 2010 Olympics. Being on the ocean, it's fitting that swimming is UBC's marquee event, and both their men's and women's squads earned gold at Nationals. But UBC's prowess doesn't stop at the shallow end of the lap pool. The female Thunderbirds also won gold in soccer and field hockey—which have been strong suits of the program for several years. The basketball and volleyball programs are solid enough to make a national impact, which means UBC is one of the better all-round schools in CIS, and their four titles are more than any other schools.

3. Université Laval
Ranked sixth last year



Laval was the only team from Québec to crack the top ten in CIS this season,

but they made a run for the top spot by winning the Vanier Cup in football in the fall and following that up with strong performances in the pool and on the volleyball court. If only team results were considered, the Rouge et Or would have been ranked second in the country, but they only managed to get three awards despite having a strong season. Their silver in women's volleyball and bronze in women's swimming bolstered their score significantly, as did Élise Duchesne, who won Libro of the Year in women's volleyball. Laval also scored a pair of Rookie of the Year honours, as Geneviève Thibault took it in women's track and field, and Jean-François Beaulieu-Maheux did so in men's basketball.

2. University of Calgary
Ranked fifth last year



Track and field, volleyball and wrestling were strong sports that put the Dinos on pace for a strong athletic year, as were their efforts in the pool. What really bolstered their ranking this year was a plethora of awards including two for football, three for swimming, two for track and two for wrestling. Jessica Zelinka was named Female Field Athlete of the Year, while quarterback Dalin Tollestrup was Rookie of the Year in football. With Calgary having such a strong year in 2006/07, the battle of Alberta for varsity athletics supremacy looks to heat up even more

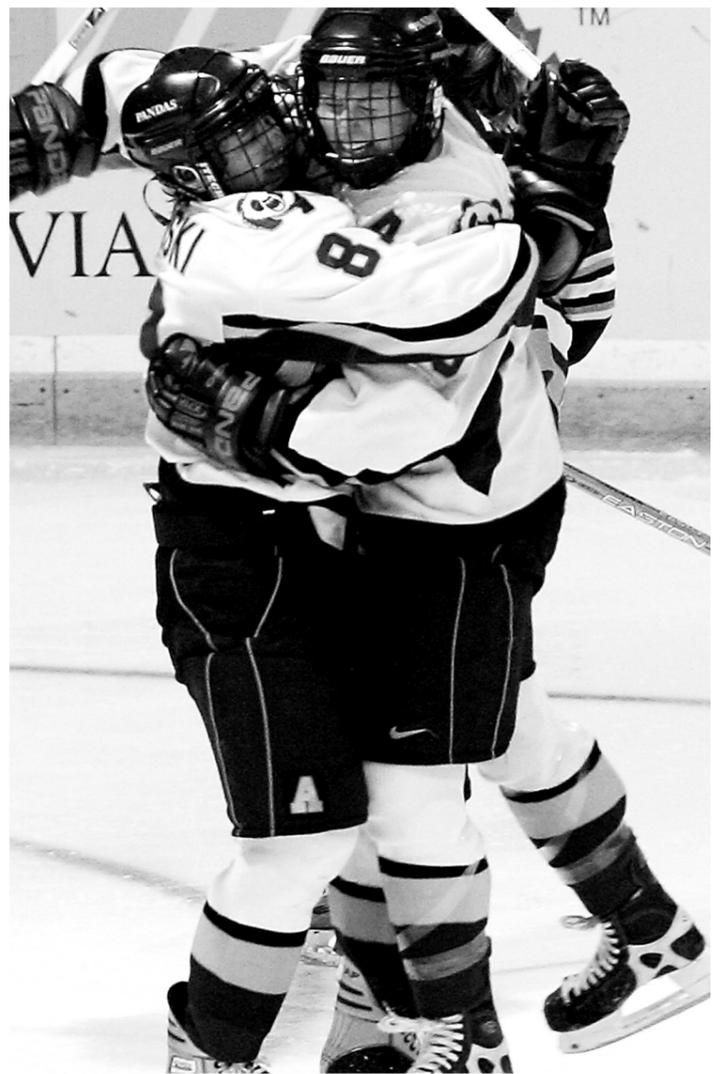
next year. A pair of silvers in swimming, a bronze in women's volleyball and golds in women's wrestling and track gave the Dinos five National medals on the year—a number that tied them with Alberta.

1. University of Alberta



Ranked first last year

For the second year in a row, the ol' Green and Gold came out as the best university athletics program in Canada. Be sure to put that on your Curriculum Vitae when you leave these hallowed halls. Both the Bears and Pandas were represented in the national finals by 13 of their 19 CIS teams. Football and rugby were the only real disappointments in an excellent year marked by five national championship appearances, three of which won gold medals. Alberta also brought in a ton of hardware in the form of individual awards for coaches and players. Scott Edwards, Carla Somerville, Len Vickery, Liz Jepsen and Terry Danyluk were all recognized as Coach of the Year in their respective sports. Pandas hockey and volleyball standouts Lindsay McAlpine and Tiffany Dodds both received Player of the Year nods, and Taryn Barry (Pandas Hockey) and Jarret Wall (Wrestling) were both recognized for their community involvement.



FILE PHOTO: JASON CHIU, THE FULCRUM (CUP)
GOLD MAKES EVERYONE HAPPY The Pandas' CIS title was a big part of a big year for the Alberta athletics department that saw them top our CIS rankings.

Rank	School	Performance	5 pt Awards	3 pt Awards	Award Points	Total
1	Alberta	95	7	2	41	136
2	Calgary	66	8	0	40	106
3	Laval	69	3	0	15	84
4	UBC	62.5	1	0	5	67.5
5	Toronto	41	4	2	26	67
6	Ottawa	47	1	2	11	58
7	Dalhousie	41.5	2	2	16	57.5
8	Western Ont	53	0	1	3	56
9	Saskatchewan	44.5	2	0	10	54.5
10	Manitoba	32	3	0	15	47

For complete statistics, including per-sport breakdowns and rankings of all CIS schools, check out the online edition at www.thegatewayonline.ca/sports

Method to the madness

Here's the skinny: universities were first assigned points based on how well their varsity teams fared at national championships—ten points for a win, one less for each subsequent position up to tenth. In some cases, only six or eight teams were considered because that's how many competed at Nationals. There was also a 1.5 times multiplier given to the seven televised finals: men's football, men's and women's basket-

ball, men's and women's hockey and men's and women's volleyball. After points were assigned, awards that schools won this year were also considered. Performance-based awards (player, coach, rookie, position) were given five points while community, sportsmanship and academic were given three. All results are based on National results; conference records didn't come into play. So that's about it: performance plus awards equals CIS dominance.

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