

Ice Pandas lose shocker to Huskies



5



3

GAME SUMMARY

First Period

- Saskatchewan, Graham (Bertholet, Ross) 11:47
- Saskatchewan, King (Hopkins) 12:39

Penalties: Purcell, Sask (interference) 00:43; Connor, Sask (tripping) 14:50 .

Second Period

- Saskatchewan, Christiansen, (Bews, George) 9:56
- Alberta, Cabana (Miller) 10:28
- Alberta, Copeland (Newton, Mucci) 13:00
- Saskatchewan, Purcell (George, Christiansen) 17:04

Penalties: Hopkins, Sask (hooking) 1:30; Robinson, AB (hooking) 5:59; Bertholet, Sask (tripping) 11:26.

Third Period

- Alberta, Cabana (Donahue, Wooster) 12:40
- Saskatchewan, King (unassisted) 19:59

Penalties: Fenton, Sask (delay of game) 4:35; Mucci, AB (tripping) 4:41; Kolopenuk (hooking) 7:44; Pratt, AB (elbowing) 13:14.

Saskatchewan	3	7	2	—	12
Alberta	10	13	15	—	38

Goal— Saskatchewan: Frederick (W); Alberta: Tippet (L)

Attendance—277

	SK	AB
Shots on goal	12	38
Faceoffs won	28	33
Power-play goals-chances	0-8	2-9
Power-play shots	2	8
Power play minutes	6:06	7:50
Penalties	5	4
Penalties in minutes	10	8

Panda of the Game

The *Gateway's* player of the game for the Pandas goes to Alana Cabana, who did her best to get Alberta out of trouble, scoring twice. The first-year forward made five shots in total, and at plus-one was one of only two Pandas to finish with a positive points rating (the other was third-year forward Cami Wooster).

Another notable Panda was fourth-year forward Miranda Miller, who assisted on Cabana's second-period goal.

Huskie of the Game

Though a number of Saskatchewan's players had outstanding performances, including forward and two-goal scorer Dayna King and centre Shaye Christiansen, who notched a goal and an assist, top honours from that team definitely have to go to winning goaltender Vanessa Frederick.

Frederick withstood 35 shots in the game, holding up her team, who only aimed twelve shots of their own at the other end, and leading them to their third win of the year, and their second ever against Alberta. With this win, Frederick, in her second year of eligibility, is now 3-2 for the regular season.



TARASTIEGLITZ

ACCESS DENIED Saskatchewan goalie Vanessa Frederick was successful in guarding the gates to victory against Panda Patricia Tulloch on Saturday.

Saturday game Alberta's first home loss in seven years, and only second-ever loss to Saskatchewan

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

When the buzzer rang on Saturday night announcing the end of the Pandas hockey game, it was greeted with a near pile-up of bodies on the ice. But the revellers weren't Albertans, and the jerseys in the melee were green, not green and gold. For the first time since 28 October, 2000, the Pandas had been beaten at home.

This time, the Pandas (7-1-0) fell 5-3 to the Saskatchewan Huskies (3-5-0), whom they had beaten 9-2 the previous night.

"It's unreal. It's nice to beat them, to be [one of] the first ones to beat them on their home rink," said Saskatchewan forward Dayna King, who was responsible for two of the Huskies' goals on Saturday, including an empty-netter with one second left on the clock. "We were definitely more mentally prepared. We came out to play every shift, so that was the big difference today.

"The biggest thing for us was just coming in and wanting to play; every girl came into this dressing room today wanting to play, and I think that's what made the difference for us."

The Huskies took the lead from the beginning of the game, leaving the Pandas to play catch-up unsuccessfully. Saskatchewan scored twice in the second half of the first period and again on a power play 9:56 into the second. Panda Alana Cabana reciprocated a minute later, followed quickly by another Alberta goal from Leah Copeland at 13:00. Saskatchewan's Chelsea Purcell scored the evening's eventual game-winner at 17:04 to end the period's scoring.

Cabana scored again with 7:20 left in the third, but neither that nor a mad scramble in front of the net in the last few minutes were enough to get the Pandas out of their hole.

Alberta's performance was a sharp change from the night before, when they outshot the Huskies 38-9 and both Miranda Miller and Jennifer Newton scored hat tricks. Cabana, Katie Borbely, and Andrea Boras rounded out that night's scoring.

The Pandas kept the shots coming on Saturday,

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MIRANDA MILLER
PANDAS FORWARD

peppering Huskies goalie Vanessa Frederick 33 times, but Saskatchewan's twelve proved more effective.

"Basically, we were just so scrambly, and she was just rolling around, stopping everything that came her way," Miller, a fourth-year forward, said. "We gave her a few right in chest and made them pretty easy saves for her. Next time we play, we have to make sure we make them a little tougher for her."

"They were working honestly every shift as hard as they could, and full credit to them," Alberta assistant coach Judy Diduck said. "We didn't match that, certainly in the first period.

Perhaps we didn't make the changes we needed to make as a coaching staff early enough, who knows."

This was only the second time in team history that the Pandas have been beaten by Saskatchewan. The first time was a 3-1 loss on 20 January 2007 in Saskatoon.

"Our team is pumped right now," Frederick said. "I'm glad I got to play this game and be a part of it. It really gets us going for the rest of the season."

"It lets myself and my teammates realize what we're capable of, and get us ready for the rest of the season," King agreed.

In contrast to the giddy enthusiasm in visitors' locker room, the mood in the Pandas camp was resigned but not disheartened.

"Of course we're disappointed, but our coaching staff is good—they bring us right back up and get us to work that much harder," Miller said. "That's the Pandas pride: we own our home ice, and it's hard to take a loss, but definitely we're just going to learn from it."

Diduck shared Miller's attitude, viewing the team's first loss of the season as a learning experience rather than a catastrophe.

"There's always a first time for everything. Saskatchewan played extremely well," she said. "Maybe we weren't fully prepared—I don't know—but they shut us down. They deserved the win, but it could turn out to be one of the best things that happens to us this year.

"You lose early, and then you realize that the effort has to be there for the whole game, and if not, that's the result. It's not the national final; we've been there before, and lost that."