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## Veteran weight-thrower leads the Way for Pandas track team

It was almost by accident that Jenilee Way took up field sports seriously, but the Panda has since become one of the best female throwers in the nation

ROBIN COLLUM  
Sports Editor

Though you'd never be able to tell from the results she posts now, Jenilee Way didn't plan on becoming a thrower. A prolific athlete in high school, the Pandas' star weight-thrower put most of her athletic energies into volleyball—track and field events were something to do in the off-season from the court. But then injury struck, and Way was forced to re-evaluate.

"I blew out my ACL, and it was a harsh recovery," she says. "[But] track, for me, did not hurt my body. Volleyball is a lot of jumping and impact, and that's what had been hurting my knees. But throws, it's all rotational motion that I do.

"The reason I kind of went for it initially is that it hurt less."

So her high-school track coach put her in touch with the U of A's then-head coach Marek Glowacki, and by the time she arrived at the U of A, Way was thoroughly invested in the sport.

The choice turned out to be felicitous. Way found herself with a natural talent for the very physical throw events like weight throw—her specialty in the indoor season—and shot put. Current holder of a U of A weight-throw record, Way was CIS bronze medallist in weight throw in 2005 and earned silver the next year.

After taking a year off for an industrial internship last year, the chemistry student is back with the Pandas this season and is expected to clean up at the Canada West level.

"Jenilee is a very talented athlete," Alberta track and field coach Georgette Reed says.

Reed has watched Way's growth since the athlete joined the Pandas, and is excited to see what Way will achieve in her last year.

"She definitely has the potential to win CIS as long as she remains focused and uses her talents to the best of her abilities," Reed says.

Probably the top weight throw



PETE YEE

**YOU SPIN ME RIGHT ROUND** Panda Jenilee Way practiced her shot put for the Golden Bear Open last weekend at the U of A's Snow Fling fun meet.

prospect in the country and a strong contender in shot put as well, Way has high hopes for her own performance this season.

"My goal this year, I guess, is to win CIS," she says. "So, results haven't been what I want them to be, but I know I can meet my key goal, which is to break my U of A record, first of all, and to throw a little bit farther at the CIS level—which I'm pretty sure will win me the medal."

Way will have another chance to test herself against the best throwers in Canada West this weekend at the Golden Bears Open meet. And

while she's one of Alberta's best medal hopes, she has high expectations for her teammates this weekend as well.

"I'm really impressed with the female team. They're looking like they might actually take Canada West this year," she says. "We have some amazing jumpers, a lot of really good sprinters—our women's sprint crew has always been really strong. It's looking really strong, compared to even last year."

The Golden Bear Open begins on Friday at 5pm in the Pavilion, and continues Saturday at noon and Sunday at 9am.

## I stand out.

### Mitch Martel

Full-time laboratory technician and part-time Bachelor of Science student at Athabasca University.



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CANADA'S OPEN UNIVERSITY

## SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

### There can only be one number one

The story with the Pandas hockey team this week is all about Manitoba. After years of dominating Canada West and the country in general, Alberta (15-2-1) finally has some real competition in their conference. The Bisons (15-2-1) are second to the Pandas in Canada West based on goal differential.

Most observers consider this small step towards parity to be a good thing for women's hockey in this country. What the sport has needed is a serious rivalry to draw fans, create suspense, and generally raise the level of play.

This weekend's games at home could be the start of just such a rivalry. The Pandas, though still playing solidly, are having one of their weakest years yet—and they've already lost to the Bisons once this year. Meanwhile, the Bisons

will no doubt be out to prove that that game was no fluke. The teams will face off in Clare Drake Arena at 7pm Friday and Saturday nights.

### Their balls have been extinguished

Compared to the Pandas game, the Bears hockey team (15-2-1) doesn't have too much on the line this weekend. They're in Calgary to see the Dinos (8-6-4) for the second time this year. The first time, Alberta swept the Dinos. Another planned series was postponed because of the mumps outbreak—and they're both sure to be gunning for a Battle of Alberta victory.

The Bears are the favourite, holding as they do the stronger record, an extremely deep scoring lineup, and some of the best goaltending in CIS.

### help me think of something good.

Except for the infectious-disease angle, the volleyball Bears (10-2) are in a similar situation this weekend, as they too travel down to Calgary. The Dinos (6-4), though hardly a bad team, will have to work pretty

hard to keep up with the Bears.

### No chance of a pity-victory?

The volleyball Pandas (9-3)—defending national champions—aren't destroying every team in their path as much as they have in previous years, but they're definitely still a side to be reckoned with.

Certainly, the outcome of this weekend's games are not much in doubt. The Pandas will be travelling to Simon Fraser (0-14). The Clan have lost more sets this season than the Pandas have won, and no one will be surprised if this weekend's games are rather one-sided.

### Trix no longer for university kids

The U of A announced Wednesday that Trix Baker has officially resigned as head coach of Pandas basketball. Baker has been on leave since the end of the 2005/06 season, and the announcement comes as the exact opposite of a surprise. Baker was head coach for 15 years, and led the Pandas to their only national championship, in 1998/99. She'll likely stay on as Pandas general manager.