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SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

Giant-killers

The Pandas volleyball game on Saturday against the Manitoba Bisons (18-2) was stunning not in that Alberta won, but for how handily they did it. The Pandas (14-6), ranked fourth in CIS, put the Bisons—number one in the country—off their usually bulletproof game and won in three straight sets: 25-22, 25-23, 25-23. Alberta had seven team blocks, and Tiffany Proudfoot led the Pandas in kills with ten.

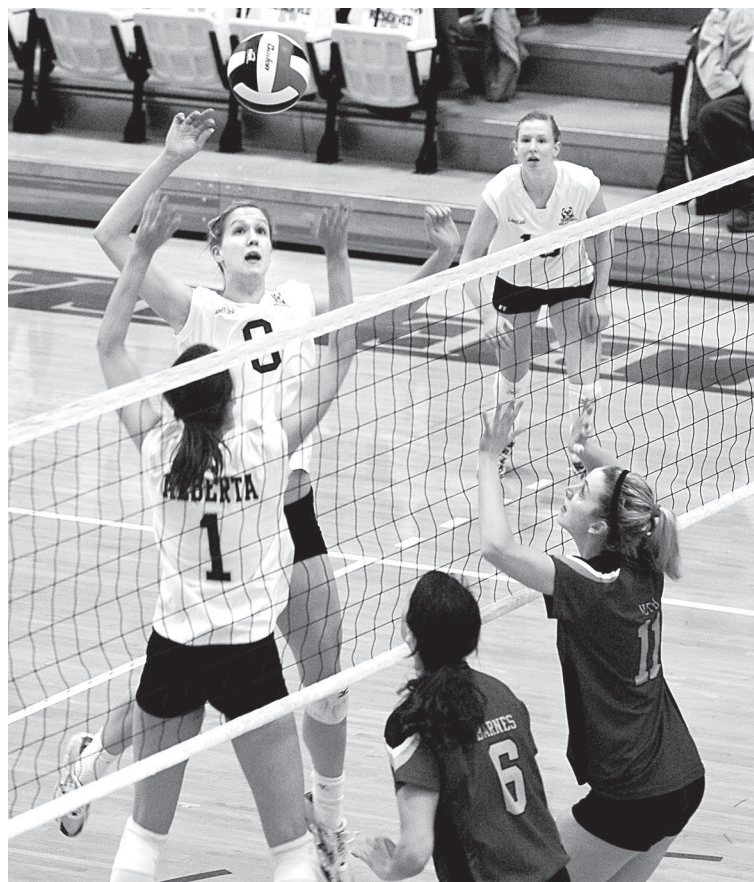
The next day was not such a happy one for Alberta, however. The Pandas drew the game out to five sets—winning the first and fourth—before committing an attacking error and losing 15-13 in the fifth. Jocelyn Blair made 16 kills.

The loss means that the Pandas have to go on the road for the first round of playoffs. They'll face Trinity Western in the first round this weekend in Langley, BC.

And first in our hearts

The volleyball Bears (16-2) won both their games on the weekend. On the road, playing Trinity Western (8-10), Alberta beat the Spartans 3-1 on Friday and 3-0 on Saturday. Joel Schmuland and Tim Gourlay had twelve kills each on the first night. Gourlay repeated on Saturday, leading the Bears with another dozen finishes.

For the fourth year in a row, the Bears have finished the regular season with the best record in the conference. Aside from bragging rights, first place means Alberta has a bye through the first round of the playoffs. They can relax and practice this



CYRIL BALITBIT

HAMMER TIME Manitoba's defence wasn't good enough on Saturday to stop the Pandas' balanced offence, but the Bisons were on their game Sunday.

weekend before hosting the Final Four. They're also guaranteed a berth at nationals because Canada West will be sending four teams this year.

You made a fool of me

I predicted, in print, that the Pandas basketball team (17-5) would win both of their games against Lethbridge by 15 points. Apparently they all hate me, because they only beat the 'Horns (5-17) by 13 on Friday night. I take the 69-56 win as a personal insult. Fortunately, they made up for it by winning 77-62 the next night.

The series was the last regular-season action that graduating players Carly McLennan and Paige Gaudreau will see, and the two made sure to go out on a high note. McLennan led the game in points on Friday with 17 and added ten the next night. Gaudreau contributed six on Friday and seven Saturday.

The wins moved the Pandas up a spot to fourth in the CIS rankings, but more importantly, the sweep means that they've clinched first in the Central Division. They now have an extra week of rest before facing the winner of a Calgary-Saskatchewan series this weekend.

Bob Cole and his play-by-play have passed their expiry date

DAVE ROBERTS



The Peak (Simon Fraser)

BURNABY (CUP)—Alright, I just want to make this point clear: I love old people. I love my grandparents, and I loved serving the elderly working at a cozy café in my native Deep Cove, BC. Hell, even my dad is pushing past 60. Nonetheless, I'm about to rip into a geriatric media legend.

Bob Cole, it's time to retire. He's widely revered throughout Canada, bringing us the calls of over 20 Stanley Cup Finals and the Olympics, in addition to his *Hockey Night in Canada* duties. Sadly, Cole has faltered over the past few years.

Many members of the sports media seem to shy away from calling out one of their own. I've listened to Don Taylor of the Team 1040 in Vancouver defend Cole to fans upset with his rather biased play-by-play. Taylor usually states Cole's glorious calls of the past as his defence and downplays the old man's mistakes.

Unfortunately for Cole, we live in a society in which the question "what have you done for me lately?" has become ingrained in the minds of the population. In the world of sports especially, this question reigns as truly

as the North Star does in our sky. As sports fans, we rarely give athletes who are past their prime years a break. We shouldn't give Bob Cole a break for his declining abilities.

Anyone who watches Hockey Night in Canada knows what I'm talking about. Almost as unnerving as his partner Harry Neale calling Kevin Biaksa "Kevin Bies-ka," Cole calls Markus Naslund, "Mats Naslund," after the former Montreal Canadian.

I don't know if Cole realizes he's doing it, simply because he's done it so many times now. Either he doesn't read the media guide before the game to get familiar with the players, or the now 49-year-old Mats Naslund apparently still has wheels.

For me, when I think Cole's recent performances, I think of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin. During one of the games, the following happened: "And here comes Sakic, skating through the neutral zone with the puck," Cole rambled.

When Cole uttered this, Joe Sakic was already behind the net and in the process of passing the puck to Todd Bertuzzi. I know there wasn't a delay between the audio and the video feed because Bertuzzi then passed the puck to Jarome Iginla, who buried it. To this, Cole simply said "Scores!" after a few seconds of silence.

I turned to my friends and burst out laughing. I wasn't laughing at the fact that Bertuzzi had actually made a play; I was laughing at the fact that Cole had just bequeathed me with

such material to use in my crusade against his shoddy commentary.

As the years have progressed, Cole has become frequently more biased towards his beloved Maple Leafs. During the 2007 Cup run by the Ottawa Senators, his dislike of the Sens became apparent. With every goal scored on Ottawa, Cole would exclaim with glee as if Dave Keon had just jumped onto the ice wearing only hockey gloves while riding his hockey stick Tiger Williams-style.

The CBC was inundated with complaints from fans across the country, but they didn't work. He kept doing what he does best: loving his Leafs and beating on the Sens.

During the 2002 Olympic gold medal men's game, Cole added himself into the lore of that championship. When the fourth goal of the game came, Cole was caught so off-guard that he yelled "Gore!" In this case, "gore" was a mixture of the words "goal" and "score."

At the time, I laughed it off because I was so exhilarated that Canada was off to its first gold medal in 50 years, but now that I look back at it, it was indeed gore—Cole butchered the call.

Bob Cole: please, sir, do us all a favour and retire. You aren't the Pope, so you don't need to die to be relieved of office. Hand the keys over to Jim Hughson and walk away semi-gracefully. If I can find a sponsor, I'll even come to your retirement dinner and roast you like they did for William Shatner.