

SPORTS SHORTS

By Robin Collum

Black and white Pandas golden too

It was a good weekend all around for Alberta volleyball, as the Pandas—ranked fifth nationally—defeated first-place Manitoba in four sets on Friday in Winnipeg to clinch a spot at nationals. Tiffany Proudfoot and Jocelyn Blair each made twelve kills, and setter Daryll Roper managed 38 assists. Alberta had 13 team blocks.

The next night, the Pandas took Calgary in four sets as well and earned Canada West gold. It's the Pandas' second consecutive conference title. Blair led the game with 19 kills, and Roper put up 43 assists.

Basketball Bears blown away

Victory wasn't in the air for the Bears basketball team in Calgary, however. After beating Saskatchewan in three games at the beginning of Reading Week, Alberta went down to see the powerhouse Dinos, who finished the regular season at the top of the Central Division.

The Bears were unfortunately unable to repeat their January victory over Calgary and lost both games. On Friday, the Bears were ahead by five points at the half, but allowed 30 points in the third quarter and lost 87-78. Neb Aleksic and Alex Steele each put up 20 points.

On Saturday, the Bears trailed through the whole game, ending up with a dismal 90-66 loss. CG Morrison scored 21 points, but the Bears were unable to contain the Dinos' big scorers like Henry Bekkering, who sunk 31 points, or Ross Bekkering and Robbie Sihota, who scored 17 apiece.

The Bears aren't out of the game yet, though. They've earned the wild card spot into the conference finals next weekend.

Alberta rookies jumping for joy

The Alberta track and field teams were in Saskatoon this weekend for the Canada West championships. The women



KATY ANDERSON (THE GAUNTLET)

THE CAMERA ADDS TEN POINTS Neb Aleksic (left) kept his eyes on Calgary's Tyler Fidler, but the Bears couldn't get their hands on the ball enough to win.

earned bronze medals, while the Bears placed fifth.

Conference award winners were also announced on the weekend, and Alberta athletes fared very well. Thrower Matt Doherty was named male Field Athlete of the Year, and male and female Rookie of the Year honours went to Alberta high jumpers Matthew Cordoza and Lindsey Bergevin.

Water way to go

Both the Bears and Pandas swim teams came in sixth overall at nationals this weekend in Vancouver.

Alberta swimmers also brought in three event medals, all of them bronze. The women's 4x200m freestyle relay team came in third on Friday, as did Gavin D'Amico in the 400m free. On Saturday, Brian Yakiwchuk came in third in the

1500m freestyle final.

Put on your wrasslin' shoes, folks

Though their Canada West championships happened the first weekend of Reading Week, the Alberta wrestling squads deserve a shout-out for performing so well. Both sides, but Pandas in particular, have been trying to recover from what have been a couple of slump years, and based on these results, it looks like they could be well on their way.

The Pandas will be sending a pair of rookies, Marielle TerHart and Katherine Martin, to nationals, while four Bears earned spots. Bram Ratay, Steven Thatcher, Mike Hulbert, and conference male Rookie of the Year Mike Asselstine will represent the Green and Gold. Nationals are in Calgary this coming weekend.

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