Some may say that fifty rockets blasting off in a field of wheat is to be the ultimate expression of art and science in one form. But they’re wrong. Drawing a comic about rockets is way better than the real thing. So volunteer for the Gateway to bridge the gap between the creative and the technical.

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**Pandas shoot it out with Vikes**

**Basketball Preview**

Pandas vs. Victoria Vikes

November 26-27, both at 6 p.m.
Main Gym

**Matt Hieb**

Sports Editor

Under the familiar lights of the Main Gym this weekend, the Court Pandas will face their most difficult test so far—a trip with the national number-two ranked Victoria Vikes.

The series won’t be a simple one; the Pandas’ travel had an easy road so far, facing two western teams to season-ending injuries just a week before the start of the regular season. The Pandas have been forced to jump over hurdles to achieve their tremendous early-season successes. With a 2-1 record, the Pandas are currently ranked second in the Canada West division. Having won four consecutive conference games, away from home against the Brandon Bobcats and the Trinity Western Spartans, the team is brimming with possibility.

“I was really proud of the team for the way that they played over two weekends, three different time zones, high altitude here, and on the road last weekend,” Pandas head coach Scott Edwards explained. “They had an opportunity to make excuses for themselves about their level of play. They could have said ‘we’re tired’, ‘we’re sick, we’re too tired.’ They didn’t do that. Now, we have some issues that we can fall back on and look at and say ‘this is how we can do things.’”

The Pandas are undefeated in their away games this season and are scoring, on average, six points more per game away from their home court in Ridimtson. Edwards attributes the point differential to his squad’s ability to develop a cohesive unit independent of the distractions that inherently come along with their home games.

“Mostly just time together away really concentrates your focus on the team and it really allows them to get to know each other well,” Edwards explained. “Maybe some teammates hadn’t really had the chance to spend time with each other. You get to know each other on another level when you travel that much. They were able to create a different type of bond.”

A lay to the Pandas’ successes this season has been the ability of their backcourt players to mesh.

“This weekend is huge for us to really see exactly where we are. Are we a team that can truly compete to win a conference, or are we a team that still has a lot of work to do to get there?”

**Scott Edwards**

Head Coach, Pandas Basketball

With fifth-year guard Michelle Clarke playing limited minutes as a result of a persistent foot injury, a large portion of the back-handing burden has been placed on the remaining four players to pick up the slack.

Freshman guard Jamie Norman has been asked to contribute to the team’s success this year—a unique situation for the Pandas, who normally ease their first-year players into the system and develop them outside of game situations. However, the transition has been made easier by playing the energetic Pandas alongside the mature third-year Kaitlyn Arbuthnot. The dynamic pair have combined for an average 12.6 points per game, and along with All-Canadian Martina Haylett, have created one of the most powerful backcourts in the CIS.

“Vikes have been a unique process for the rest of the backcourt players. They are creating a nice chemistry with each other. Jamie Norman is coming in and has done some great things for us on and off the court. We have played her with Katie [Arbuthnot] a lot too, which has been pretty cool. The dynamic of the backcourt is really nice. The chemistry that they are creating for each other is great—it doesn’t come easily and it doesn’t come naturally, so you have to work at it. We are two months into the season already and it’s obviously...