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SPORTS RELEASE

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Basketball

Cariboo College is hosting the Totem Conference finals in women's basketball this Friday and Saturday. The Gold Rush finished on top in the Interior Division and won the right to host the playoffs.

Okanagan College, second place finishers in the Interior, face favorite Vancouver Community College at 6 p.m. on Friday while the Gold Rush take on the runners up from the Coast, Douglas College, at 8 p.m. at the college gym. Losers play in a consolation game on Saturday at 6 p.m. while the winners compete in the championship at 8 p.m. and the right to go on to the 4-West Championships in Brandon, Manitoba, March 2-4. For the first time ever, national championships are being held in women's basketball, and the 4-West winner will advance to Montreal, Quebec on March 23-25 for this event.

According to Vancouver Community College coach George Moore, he has a very tough team. They have 5 returnees and possess a 17-4 record. Two losses came against Simon Fraser University, one to the University of Washington in overtime, and the other to the University of Western Washington. Two tournament wins came in the Mount Royal College Classic at Calgary and the B.C.I.T. "Cougar Classic" in Vancouver. They average 73 pts/game and are led by Tracy Vieaux (16.5 pts/game), a 5'8" guard from Carson Graham High School, centre Yvonne Goodwin (15.6 pts/game, 15.8 rebounds/game) from John Oliver High School and guard Deb Strate (11.3 pts/game).

The other Coast entry, Douglas College, have lost both their games to V.C.C. and are rated somewhat weaker.

Okanagan College started strongly in league play. however, have run into injury problems late in the season.

The Gold Rush, on the other hand, have improved steadily during the season and are playing their best basketball at this point. Their 4 guards, Lori-Ann Speed, Mary-Ann Skoronski, Barb Engelhardt, and Sandy Kelly, are very dependable at bringing the ball up court and setting up plays. Kelly has also been shooting very well from the outside. Up front, the Gold Rush is led by 5'10" Linda Borger with support from Wendy Kramer and forwards Theresa Drapeau, Carmen Duncan, Denise McArthur, and Barb Olson. A strong point for Cariboo is their bench strength.

On past record, Cariboo would have to rate as slight underdogs to V.C.C., however, they have played the Coast team earlier in the season and know what they are up against. Gold Rush coach Marg Bangen feels that a strong defense along with adequate rebounds at both ends will play a big role in Cariboo's chances. The key, however, is on offense where a disciplined approach to running their patterns is a must. A "run and gun" type of game will not work in Cariboo's favor. If the above is adhered to, the Gold Rush chances are excellent.

Hockey

The Chiefs head to Vancouver for their last 2 league games against B.C.I.T. on Friday and Saturday. Victories are a must as Cariboo is currently tied with Selkirk College for 1st place. Selkirk is finishing off their league play against Okanagan.

Current standings are as follows:

	W	L	T	Pts
Cariboo	6	2	2	14
Selkirk	7	3	0	14
Okanagan	5	4	1	11
B.C.I.T.	0	9	1	1

Should Cariboo and Selkirk be tied at the end of league play, Cariboo would get the nod along with the right to host the Totem playoffs by virtue of their 3-1 record against Selkirk. Okanagan also has an outside chance of gaining a playoff berth. The Totem Conference playoffs are 1st vs 2nd place in a 2 out of 3 series at the home arena of the top place finishers. Obviously, the Chiefs are very interested in being the host.

Injuries have plagued Cariboo lately with Brent Crosson, Jeff Kendy, Wayne Mitchell and Darrell Mounsey suffering various ailments. All should be ready for the week-end however.

Coach Terry Bangen has been fairly satisfied with his team's play of late. "Our goaltending is definitely the best in the league. the defence is showing gradual improvement and our forwards are finally starting to do their jobs properly on our forechecking system, which is also allowing the defense to do their assigned tasks." Don Schulz, Allen Karasiuk and Darrell Mounsey have been the leaders all year up front and are continuing their excellent play. Also, Brian Huber, who only recently joined the team, has fit in well.

Totem champions in hockey go on to the 4-West playoffs in Red Deer March 9-11 with that winner advancing to the Nationals in Montreal, March 23-25.