



Media Advisory

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Scott Edwards named Head Coach of Alberta Pandas basketball.

In the end, the best candidate for the job was already here as University of Alberta athletics is pleased to announce that Scott Edwards has been named the new full-time head coach of the Alberta Pandas basketball team.

In his time as interim head coach, filling in for former head coach Trix Baker who was on leave last season and resigned after 15 years in January of 2008, Edwards has put together a 33-11 Canada West regular season record and a 57-17 overall mark. In his first year as interim head coach Edwards guided the Pandas to the CIS national final and within five points of their first national title since 1998-1999, winning a silver medal and the CIS Coach of the Year Award in the process.

“I don’t think that losing the label of interim will change the way I coach this team, said Edwards. “I have prepared, coached, and recruited in the past to make this program the best it could possibly be. I look forward to the challenge of competing in the toughest Conference in the country and I have great confidence in the ability of the players here to take us towards our ultimate goal of winning a National Championship.”

After Baker’s resignation, athletics moved quickly to find a replacement, eventually running with the man who’s been running the program for almost two seasons already.

“University of Alberta Athletics is extremely happy that we could keep Scott Edwards on-board as the head coach of the Pandas basketball team,” said Director of Athletics Dale Schulha. “He has certainly proven his value to the program, winning a national silver medal and coach of the year award in his first season with the team. We feel that having Scott in place as the head coach after a season as interim head coach, benefits everyone involved. He obviously has a great relationship with the student athletes and a strong foundation of winning to build upon.”

Edwards, who grew up on Vancouver Island, B.C., moved to Edmonton in 1993 and completed a Bachelors degree in Education at the U of A in 1997.

“Becoming the next head coach of Pandas basketball, as an alumnus of the University of Alberta, is a tremendous honour,” stated Edwards. “I believe that this team has the ability to win a National Championship and I am truly grateful to be given the chance to coach such an amazing group of young women.”

While teaching junior high, Edwards became assistant coach for the ACAC Concordia University College Thunder in the fall of 1999 and assumed head coaching duties the following year. The women’s basketball program saw it’s conference record improve each year, finally winning the ACAC title in spring 2005 and taking the ultimate prize, a CCAA national championship title with a thrilling 86-63 victory over College of the Fraser Valley at SAIT in Calgary on March 19, 2005. For his efforts Scott was named 2004-05 ACAC Coach of the Year and two of his team members were selected as All-Canadians. Edwards was rewarded with his second straight ACAC Coach of the Year Award in 2005-06 and, after taking his rebuilt, young team to a 22-2 record, was selected as CCAA national college Coach of the Year on March 15, 2006.

He has also coached various teams and shared his knowledge at many coaching clinics and in other coaching positions; Assistant Coach – Basketball Alberta Juvenile Provincial Team (2004 & 2005) and Head Coach –Basketball Alberta 2006-09.

“I’d like to thank my wife Anne and everyone involved within Athletics here at the University of Alberta and Concordia University College for their support and faith in me as a coach. I will continue to build on the legacy left by Trix Baker and work with my athletes to give this University and the city of Edmonton a basketball program to be proud of.”

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