

# 2006 Bisons Women's Soccer Canada West Preview

## General Info

**Team:** Manitoba Bisons

**Name of Stadium:** University Stadium

**Head coach:** Walt McKee/entering his 3rd year

**Conference:** Canada West

## Quick Facts

**2006 CW Standings finish?:** 6th, 19 points

**2006 CW Tournament/Playoff placing?:** Did not qualify

**2006 CIS Nationals Placing?:** N/A

**2006 Overall Record?:** 6-7-1

**2006 Conference Record?:** 6-7-1

**Last CW Title?:** None

**Last CIS Title?:** None

## **2007 Preview:**

The women's soccer team builds on their first two Canada West seasons by showing steady improvements over the last two years and look to qualify for the post-season for the first time in conference play.

**Bison women's soccer head coach Walt McKee stated, "The goal is to make the playoffs.** The majority of the players know what to expect in Canada West play. It will not be easy as there are several strong teams yet we feel with the depth at starters, it will be a strength for our squad."

**In the 2006 season, the Herd finished with a 6-7-1 record. The team finished the conference regular season in sixth spot with 19 points and fell one spot short of a playoff spot.** Manitoba set four team records for points (last season: 17 points), six wins (last season: five), least amount of losses with seven (last season: nine) and goals against with 27 (last season: 46).

Last season, Caley Miskimmin finished tied for third in conference scoring with 12 points (7g, 5a). Desiree Scott was tied for sixth in conference scoring with 11 points (6g, 5a). Scott was named as a conference second team All-Star for the second consecutive season. Scott started the season by being selected and started for the Canadian Under-20 Women's National Team, which played at the FIFA U-20 Women's World Championship in Russia.

**As the 2007 season begins, 15 of the 21 players return to the Bisons roster**

**while a strong nine of the 11 starters will be back for the Bison squad.** The veteran crew will be lead by the 'Big Three' as strikers Desiree Scott, Caley Miskimmin and Karli Colpitts will be leaned upon for the bulk of the offense.

Scott is one of the team captains and rejoins the team after a successful stint with Team Canada at the 2007 Summer Universiade (World University Games) in Bangkok, Thailand in August 2007. She has been a two-time Canada West All-Star and was the conference rookie of the year in 2005. Scott creates opportunities wherever she is on the pitch and is versatile to play in the midfield position when necessary. Miskimmin is a speedy winger who has the ability to change a game with her lightning-quick speed that has defenders backing off. Colpitts returns after a year absence due to injury. She is very good with the ball at her feet and will draw attention away from Scott and Miskimmin. Colpitts placed sixth in Canada West Conference scoring with seven goals in 2005.

**McKee believes the team will have a good barometer as they host the defending Canada West regular season champion Victoria Vikes and CIS champion UBC Thunderbirds in the first week of the season.** McKee has emphasized to the team to play strong, tough games at home and then try and steal some points away from University Stadium – this will be important as Manitoba plays eight of the 14 games on the road.

**The Herd will play a 4-3-3 system but have the ability to adapt depending on the opposition.** Along with the firepower upfront, midfielders Dana Baker (strong on set plays), Stephanie Rurak (will be asked to produce most corner and free kicks), Victoria Sanders (good ball skills and enters second season) and Kathryn Ateah (one of the steadiest midfielders in the conference) provide solid protection for the strikers and ability to push up or back depending on the situations.

At the back, captain Katherine Reichardt (McKee feels she wants to prove one of the best in the conference), Nancy Feir (good attacking defender) and Jennifer Campbell (backup last year and ready to step in starting role) anchored the defense. Goaltenders Ashley Forbes, Chera Kirkpatrick and Louisa Fontaine showed their prowess by each earning a shutout at the U of S pre-season tournament in August.

McKee said, "The players are hungry to reach the playoffs but must earn it. It is the third year of the program and people in the conference know we can play and now we want to reach the post-season with the veterans and mix of rookies."