

Bulls have a changing of the guard

New goalie expected to carry the load while other players sidelined by injuries

By Andre Lodder

With Malcolm Subban still out with a groin injury and John Chartrand not at 100 per cent, the Bulls have looked to goalie Charlie Graham to carry the load.

After being selected in the 7th round, 125th overall in the OHL priority draft, Graham was called up after posting a record of 9-4-0-1 with a 2.35 GAA and .923 save percentage with the Wellington Dukes.

The 16-year-old got his first OHL win on January 12 against Brampton, but has now gone 1-4-1-0 with a 3.48 GAA and .887 save percentage in five games with the Bulls.

Graham remains optimistic despite not putting up impressive numbers with the Bulls.

"I'm just looking to come to the rink every day, work as much as I can, and get in as many games as I can. I'm still the youngest goalie here so I still have a lot to prove, but just learning stuff with the goalie coach and improving my game is the biggest thing," said Graham.

Although the goal was to make the Bulls all along, not many would have predicted Graham to take such a substantial role so soon.

"It was my goal to be on this team, but you can't predict everything. With Malcolm going down recently it gave me the opportunity and that was unexpected. I was preparing to be up here but you never know what's going to happen."

The unexpected continues, as Graham has recently taken over the starting position after it was reported on the Bulls website that Chartrand is also out with injury.

As a result the Bulls have called up another 16-year-old, Braydon Banitsiotis from the Hamilton Bulldog Midgets.

However, Banitsiotis might not be with



Photo by Andre Lodder

Charlie Graham, 16, makes a save against the Sudbury Wolves during a home game last Saturday. Graham has officially taken over starting duties as the teams top two goalies Malcolm Subban and John Chartrand are out with injuries.

the big club for long as it's been reported that Subban could possibly make a return as soon as the weekend.

Subban's return would be welcome. Wednesday's 3-2 loss to the Mississauga St. Michaels Majors, was the Bulls' eighth loss in the nine games since Subban went

down.

Long-time Bulls fan John Wilson, also known as the man with the cymbals, hopes Malcolm can return soon but is excited to see Graham in goal.

"Subban's our main goalie and we hope he gets back soon, but having a guy like

Charlie in goal is a plus. If he keeps playing the way he is, I expect we'll see a lot more of him, and I hope we do," said Wilson.

With Subban possibly making his return soon, Graham is taking every opportunity to prove he can be the

team's number one goaltender in the future.

"I think Belleville's lucky to get him. It's a lot of responsibility and for the most part he's carrying the games," said Wilson.

"If he can carry the load than why not? Even if he is only 16-years-old."

Weather not co-operating for ice fishing season

By Rémy Legé-Jovian

With the warmer than average start to the season, some winter hobbyists are stuck inside sipping hot cocoa. So far, this January has been 1.5 C warmer than average. It may not seem like a lot, however, it is warm enough to cause a lack of ice on the Bay of Quinte.

With the opening of the ice fishing season, the weather has been unco-operative in freezing over the bay. The combination of fast flowing rivers and warmer temperatures has greatly hindered ice-fishing enthusiasts. Finding a safe spot to set up the stool and carve out a hole is increasingly challenging for this start of season.

"The Bay of Quinte, although it is a world renowned fishery, is also some of the trickiest ice in terms of safety that you can find because of all of the rivers that feed it," said Jeff Chisholm, operator of Hooked For Life ice fishing.

Ice fishing has always been a big part of the city of

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Belleville and a great tourist attraction. With the winter progressively getting colder, fishing huts are starting to pop up along the shorelines.

About 70 per cent of the lake remains unsafe. As tempting as it may be to some, it is highly recommended to be very vigilant if venturing out onto the ice.

"We're significantly behind schedule for the time of year. Typically in the last few years, we've been able to get out and on the ice

towards the end of December. This year it's basically mid-January," said Chisholm.

Any ice under 10 centimetres in thickness is considered unsafe to walk on, and 12 centimetres are required for a snowmobile or ATV. Slushy ice or ice near moving water such as rivers should be avoided.

Police are receiving reports daily of fishers and others venturing out onto the ice on the Bay of Quinte. The Belleville Police Service would like to remind everyone that ice conditions, given the recent weather, are very unstable and can be very dangerous. Local police and fire services recommend that everyone stay off the ice.

Dog race falls victim to lack of volunteers

By Sarah Schofield

What would have been Eldorado's 16th annual dog sled race normally held in January was cancelled due to a lack of volunteers.

Sandra Hannah, the race's chairwoman for the past 15 years, knows all too well that running the race is not possible without volunteers.

"We didn't have volunteers to step up to some of the positions that needed to be filled. One in particular was the trail boss. That person has to go out and make sure the trail is maintained and in good running condition. We didn't have that person. We need that person to have a race."

Hannah said she had gotten to the point where she could not accept any more jobs on top of her other responsibilities.

"I don't mind doing it and organizing the race and so forth. Our basic concept was for volunteers to step up and taking up some of the positions. Whether we will proceed for next year depends on if we have people contact me and say, 'I'll take the responsibility.' I have no problem organizing it and getting the race back up on its feet."

Ken Golton of L'Amable, who has raced for the past 16 years as a musher and passed on his skills to his sons Eli and Jake, said he was disappointed with the announcement that this year's race had been cancelled.

"I've been in the race since the second year it started. I have two boys who have also raced in it and they were shocked to hear it was cancelled. Most of the mushers feel shocked that it was cancelled. We knew there was some trouble with the volunteers but thought that everything was going to be sorted out. We understand it takes a lot to run a race."

Another factor was the age of some of the volunteers. With a lot of them getting older, the physically demanding tasks weren't as easy for them to fulfill.

"We need younger people and people with lots of energy to be able to volunteer for these positions," said Hannah.

Hannah said she also noticed that spectatorship was dropping each year as the number of local mushers declined.

"Years ago, when we started this up we had maybe five or seven local people in the area that were the big attraction for them. Now we draw a lot of mushers from the United States and Quebec but nobody locally," said Hannah.

"The snow has been going down each year too which doesn't help," Golton said.

Hannah said she tried various ways to get volunteers from the community.

"I went through media, the Intelligencer, EMC, did posters. It wasn't for a lack of trying. The volunteers just weren't there. We'll see what happens next year and hope someone steps up to help us with the trails."

Two Lancers break volleyball records

Students share skills on court as well as friendship

By Andre Lodder

From high school to college and from college to the record books, two Loyalist students have followed each other to successful OCAA volleyball careers.

It's been a record-breaking year for two Loyalist students, as Matt Woods and Kyle Donnan broke separate records this season.

This past Saturday, Donnan made the 720th kill of his OCAA career in a game against Cambrian College, breaking Ryan Talsma's old record of 719. Donnan has increased his total up to 724 kills heading into Wednesday's game at Fleming College.

Woods, who also serves as captain for the Lancers, made his 134th career serving-ace on Nov. 13. Woods continues to add to the record previously held by Ian Rettie of Trent University. Heading into Wednesday's game, Woods has brought that total up to 157.

According to the pair of Lancers, it wasn't tough to see that the records would be broken.

"Last year I came in second, so I didn't necessarily expect it, but it was one of my individual goals as a player, and it's nice to reach that for sure," said Woods.

"Based on previous season stats, I could see that both records were probably going to be broken this year. So it's exciting, but it's just a personal goal for the year," added Donnan.

With their personal goals behind them, Woods and Donnan are focusing their efforts on getting the team to the playoffs.

"It's certainly a great accomplishment but at the same time we're looking further into the season to see how far the team goes in the playoffs," said Donnan.

While both players have big reasons to be proud of themselves, they don't take all the credit. Both Donnan and Woods



Photo by Andre Lodder

Kyle Donnan (right) and volleyball team captain Matt Woods broke separate OCAA records in their fifth season with the Loyalist Lancers. The two attended high school together and have attended the same programs throughout their five years at Loyalist.

credit their record-breaking numbers to the teammates and coaches they've had around them over the last five years.

"We come together really well as a team. In practice we help each other a lot. If we see somebody making a mistake or a minor error, we come together as a team to fix it. So even though it's an individual record, it's the team that makes it happen."

Coach Dave Templar can attest to the team camaraderie saying that the team and coaching staff have grown a relationship with the two players over the past two years.

Templar also believes the two players,

as well as the team know what's expected of them heading towards the playoffs.

"I think they know what I expect of them in terms of attitude on and off the court. I'm not going to be looking for anything particularly different down the stretch. As a team we need to rally down the stretch and they will certainly be a part of that," said Templar.

Woods agreed with Templar stating that the team is less focused on individual numbers and focused on getting more wins this semester.

"We're definitely looking for more wins this year against teams that we lost to in

the first semester, so we have a different mentality. We're coming in more anxious and excited, so hopefully the rest of the season goes well," said Woods.

While this might be the last year Woods and Donnan will be playing Lancers volleyball, Templar is certain the Lancers name will be well represented in years to come.

"We have a good relationship now and it's really open and honest and that's all we can ask at the end of the day. I think they'll go and represent Loyalist and our team really well after this," said Templar.