

# Basketball team welcomes new head coach

*Whitfield brings five years of combined experience as coach and varsity player*

By Rachel Cohen

The Loyalist Lancers men's basketball team has hired a new head coach for the 2011/2012 season, Richard Whitfield from Napanee.

Whitfield brings more than five years of combined experience as a coach and varsity player. Whitfield coached the Guardsmen Basketball Club and La Salle Secondary school teams in Kingston. Serving as assistant coach at Kingston's Royal Military College for a year, Whitfield also played varsity with RMC and St. Lawrence College, where he won rookie of the year.

"Coach Whitfield has done a great job so far," said Jim Buck, manager of athletics and campus recreation at Loyalist. "Although it's his first year here at Loyalist, he has shown his commitment through challenges, and making adjustments with the team. It's a learning process for everyone."

Whitfield worked hard to actively recruit players throughout the province for the fall season.

"He has a great list of contacts in the basketball community," said Buck. "There are always the challenges of recruiting lo-

cally; it's never enough. He was very active in the recruiting camps this season. The program keeps getting better and better."

"It's been a rollercoaster ride so far," said Whitfield. "These boys are a wild breed. It will take time for the team to get used to my disciplined style of basketball."

Loyalist Lancers veteran Nick Liard has been impressed with Whitfield's winning attitude.

"Rich has a very strong way of coaching. I've learned more this year alone, than any other year I've played basketball," said Liard.

With the former coach Darrell McGrath being replaced, the change in pace hasn't gone unnoticed.

"Where coach McGrath would have us in the gym three times a week, coach Whitfield expects us to invest every day," said Liard "I feel like I'm playing in a university program. His intense competitive mentality is exactly what we need to go deep in the playoffs."

Whitfield's coaching résumé extends across the university level or higher.

"I was very fortunate to learn many of the fundamentals and strategies under the leadership of Dave Smart," said Whitfield.

Smart has served as the head coach at Carleton University in Ottawa since 1999, leading the Ravens to seven Canadian Interuniversity Sport national championships.

"Our goal for this season is to learn



Photo by Rebecca Rempel

**Richard Whitfield, head coach of the Loyalist Lancers, offers encouragement to his team Jan. 20 against the Durham Lords. The Lancers, who are currently ranked 8th in the east region, lost the game 91-71.**

how to play disciplined," said Whitfield. "Consistency is key. It's my job to teach my team to be defence-minded, which will transfer into wins on the court."

The Loyalist Lancers will pick up their next game on Friday, Jan. 27, when the team visits La Cité, and Algonquin College in Ottawa the following day. The

Lancers will look to gain momentum from a couple of wins on the road to put themselves in a good spot for the next four consecutive games at home.

# Bulls continue losing ways with defeat to Kitchener Rangers

*OHL team failed to break home ice losing streak*

By Jessica Corriveau

In a disappointing 5-4 loss to the Kitchener Rangers, the Bulls failed to break their home ice losing streak last Saturday, Jan. 21. The trend continued with a 3-2 loss against the Kingston Frontenacs on Sunday.

Saturday night, with the Belleville Queen Elizabeth Public School's O'Canada Choir, made up of kindergarten through Grade 8 students, singing the national anthem, the mood in the arena at the start of the game was positive, with fans keen to cheer on their home team.

The Bulls themselves were seemingly poised to give the Rangers a run for their money and the game started off with a burst of energy and tension.

With the first period mostly played in the Belleville end, Rangers' Zach Lorentz scored his first goal of the night assisted by defenceman Ryan Murphy, followed by Murphy helping fellow teammate Eric Ming score the Rangers second goal, barely over two minutes later at 9:58.

With tension between the two teams exacerbated by Kitchener's quick succession goals, the Bulls became agitated.

In the final four minutes of the first period, Bulls Adam Payerl and Rangers Tyler Randell, Bulls Joseph Cramarossa and



Photo by Jessica Corriveau

**Belleville Bulls player Adam Payerl cringes away from an oncoming blow from Tyler Randell of the Kitchener Rangers during the final minutes of the first period on Saturday night. The Bulls lost to the Rangers 5-4, a home ice win evading them once again.**

Rangers Ben Thomson, Bulls Jason Shaw and Rangers Eric Ming, all faced off in a

series of fights supported by a cacophony of cheers from the crowd.

The second period saw the Bulls come back a little more focused, using Rang-

ers Lorentz second goal of the night, assisted by Radek Faksa and glancing off the stick of Bull Jordan Subban at 4:01, as motivation to push harder and try to bring the game into the Rangers' territory.

The fans became vociferous, vocalizing every hope, encouragement, and disappointment for the players to hear.

Belleville's Scott Simmons relied on his fellow players Garrett Hooey and Branden Morris to assist to his second goal of the season at 7:25 in the second period, giving the Bulls their first point of the game. The opening lines of the Black Eyed Peas *Pump It* blaring over the sound system underscored the goal.

Noting the renewed vigour of the Bulls, Kitchener came back to the third period strong, with Rangers captain Michael Catenacci setting up Tobias Rieder for a shorthanded goal at 8:29, bringing the Rangers to a 4-1 lead.

Focusing their efforts, the Bulls put on an impressive display of effort, landing three goals: Hooey assisted by Subban and Mayer at 9:06, Austen Brassard assisted by Payerl and Jason Shaw at 11:14, and Hooey again assisted by Michael Curtis and Subban at 13:50.

Unfortunately for the Bulls, Rangers Ryan Murphy came to the forefront and scored the winning goal unassisted during a power play at 16:39 in the third, shutting down Belleville's hope for the first home ice win of the season.

# Lady Lancers earn win while men drop the ball in basketball action against Durham Lords

*Guard Jenni Thompson scores 20 points in 74-55 win*

By Rebecca Rempel

The Lady Lancers earned a slam-dunk while the men's team headed to the dunk-tank Friday night in basketball action against the Durham Lords.

The Lady Lancers won 74-55 against the Lords, while the men's team dropped the ball and lost 91-71.

Guard Jenni Thompson led the Lady Lancers in scoring with 20 points, with centre Samantha Goff close behind with an additional 18 points. The Lancers opened up the match with the first basket and from there on led the game, leading 34-26 after the first half.

Six of the Lancers' 74 points were from successful free-throw shots, while 12 of the Lords' final 55 points were made on free throws.

"It was dry, but nice to get the win," said head coach Chris Eligh after the game Friday night and the Lancers' third win in a week. "I didn't feel there was a lot of energy."

This was the fourth time the Lancers have faced off—and beaten—the Lords this season.

Guard Haley Sisler said their familiarity with the Lords was one of the main factors in her team's performance Friday night.

"It's not as exciting anymore playing them," she said. "It caused us to make mental mistakes and not be in the game as we should be."

"We're young," Eligh remarked of his team of 10 ladies. "First semester was up and down. We're five and one this semester so far with exhibition play. We're really starting to come together as a team."

The Lady Lancers, currently ranked

fourth in the East Region, hope to continue on their four-game winning streak in league play, as they travel to Ottawa this Saturday to play the number-one-ranked team in the region, the Algonquin Thunder. The Lady Lancers' rank was not affected by Friday's game.

While the men's basketball team may have put the first points on the board, they soon found themselves behind as they ended the first half down 50-34 to the Lords.

At the end of the night the score was 91-71 for the Lords, with Lords guard Rob Gagliardi netting 41 of those points. Gagliardi leads the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association with 293 points.

"We sucked. Simple as that," head coach Rich Whitfield said following the game.

"You could blame refereeing, but we really can't. We could blame that Durham's just flat out better than us, but ... We gave them that game. We just stopped playing."

The Lancers ran into trouble with the ref as they racked in 26 fouls, of which the Lords took full advantage, gaining 28 points from free-throws alone. The Lords received 13 fouls, with the Lancers sinking 10 free-throw shots.

"We go out and play George Brown and we play physical and we play mentally tough," said Whitfield. "And then we come in against Durham, in our home gym, where we should be more physical and hit more shots, and they just out-worked us."

"We need to work harder. We need to become more mentally committed to the game."

Hoping to improve their record and current eighth-place standing, the Lancers head to Ottawa this weekend to play the La Cite Coyotes Friday night and the Algonquin Thunder Saturday.

The Lancers' standing did not change after Friday's loss. The men need to improve their rank to at least sixth place in order to qualify for playoffs.



Photo by Rebecca Rempel

**Martine Gauvin of the Loyalist Lancers reaches for the ball from opponent Kaela Stinchcombe-Brown of the Durham Lords. The Lancers won the game 74-55. The Lancers are currently fourth in the east region, while the Lords are sixth.**

# Alumni game raises money for Napanee splash pad

By: Liam Kavanagh-Bradette

Napanee is hosting an NHL Alumni game this Saturday, January 28 at the Strathcona Paper Centre.

Organized by the local Rotary Club to raise money for the Napanee Pool and Splash Pad facility, the alumni team will be facing off against the Napanee Selects, a group of local players from Napanee and the surrounding area.

The alumni roster is made up mostly of former Leafs, including former all-stars Mike Krushelnyski and Rick Vaive.

Another NHL alumni, high-scoring player Dennis Maruk, started his hot streak in 1975 while playing for the California Golden Seals. He scored 30 goals per season in two of his first three seasons and he raised the bar when he was traded to play for the Washington Capitals. There, he scored 50 goals in the 1980-81 season and, in 1982, scored 60 goals and 72 assists, setting what remains the Capitals' record for most points in a single season.

The alumni team will be coached by one of the most famous hockey dads ever, Wayne and Brent Gretzky's father, Walter Gretzky.

Not to be discounted, the Napanee Selects have former NHLer and OHL's Kingston Frontenac scout Dick Cherry behind their bench, as well as first-round Bruins pick Wayne Elder.

For anyone interested in seeing some great former NHLers play, this promises to be an exciting game.

Gates open at 5 p.m. and the puck drops at 6 p.m. Tickets are still available by calling 613-354-4423.