



Photo by Melchizedek Maquiso

Sherene Einarsson of the Loyalist Lady Lancers tries to save the ball from touching the ground during the women's volleyball game against the Cambrian Golden Shield in Belleville at Loyalist College, Saturday, Jan. 14. The Lady Lancers all three sets to top-seeded OCAA East Division Cambrian College.

Lancer teams have good start to 2012

By Melchizedek Maquiso & Meagan Pecjak

The Loyalist Lancers men's and women's volleyball teams had an overall great start in 2012 by winning three out of their four games at home.

The men's volleyball team won both of their games, while the Lady Lancers won one.

Both men and women's teams had a packed weekend as they battled the Cambrian Golden Shield and the Boreal Vipers on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

The Lancers swept Cambrian, 3-0 on Saturday and Boreal, 3-2 on Sunday.

Despite the weekend sweep, Dave Templar, coach of the men's team wasn't too happy with how his team played in the year opener.

"Not as we have planned. At the end of the weekend, we came away with two wins which I'm very thankful for. I still feel as though we left a lot of room for improvement and it's somewhat disheartening at this point in the season," he says.

Templar felt that his team's performance during the weekend can be attributed to plain laziness. He added that coming off the break was not an excuse in last weekend's performance.

"Yes, we're just coming off the break but the break should sort of re-energized and refocused our guys and yet I haven't fully seen the refocused and reshift for this semester yet, so I was hoping that would come out this weekend."

In the end, Templar acknowledged: "No coach can ever be unhappy with wins. I can only be mildly disappointed in the way that we got the wins but at the end of the day, they're wins."

In the women's games, the #1 OCAA East division Cambrian women's volleyball team proved too much for the Lady Lancers as they were routed 3-0 in Saturday's game.

"We won in confidence but it quickly got shattered because they do have a couple of strong players. But as soon as we went down a couple of points, that was

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just the end for us. We had a breakdown in communication and we had a breakdown in confidence," said Lady Lancers co-captain Kirsten Talsma explaining the main reasons why the Golden Shield beat their team.

"I probably personally would've had a positive attitude. I would've tried harder to bring my team back because I personally haven't fulfilled my captain role to the best I could have," she says, referring to the sweep in three sets by Cambrian.

Despite their first loss of the year, the Lady Lancers came back on Sunday, beating Boreal in three sets.

"We served tough and our passing was much, much better," said Talsma.

Amy Hoskin, assistant coach for the Lady Lancers, is looking forward more wins for the Lady Lancers this year.

"I think we're really off to a really good start. The beginning of first semester the girls looked really strong and they were playing really, really hard. We had a little bit of a rough go towards the end of first semester but we're looking to pick it back up and get things going again," she said.



Photo by Melchizedek Maquiso

Chris Holden (L) of the Cambrian Golden Shield attempt tries to block the volley of Matt Woods (R) of the Loyalist Lancers during the men's volleyball game against the Loyalist Lancers held at Loyalist College in Belleville, Jan. 14, 2012. The Lancers defeated the Golden Shield 3-0.

Local musher happy to be competing at home

By Thomas Lee

As he rides though the deep woods on the back of his dogsled, the cold wind stinging his face, the only sound is the wind howling and the dogs barking.

This is the life Shane Cox knows and loves.

With the 34th Marmora SnoFest taking place on Feb. 3 to Feb. 5, almost 100 dogsled teams will be participating in the event's seven races over the weekend.

"The late snow should not be a problem for the races. We should have enough snow on the track," said Vicki Best, the SnoFest event coordinator.

The races include everyone from amateurs to seasoned pros.

They also include Cox, the musher of the Marmora dogsled team, who is hard at work training with his 25 Alaskan huskies.

Cox grew up in Marmora with the dogsled races. His father always volunteered, and one of the races had a checkpoint at his house. One year Cox helped a musher during the race; the man later he gave Cox three of his dogs. He has kept as many as 60 Alaskan and Siberian huskies, but eventually downsized to 25.

"I started out racing in 25- to 80- mile races, taking in a couple trophies and most sportsmanlike awards," Cox said.

For Cox and his dogs training starts in late September when the temperature is 10C or colder. When there is no snow on the ground the dogs will pull an all-terrain vehicle driving at 15 miles per hour instead of a sled.

"We try to train at least four times a week. Right now we are running 25 to 40 miles, gearing up for the upcoming races starting in February," Cox said.

Cox spends hours getting the training and nutrition for his dogs just right so that they are in peak physical shape for the races.

"The dogs love to run and pull. With the right diet and training the dogs rarely get exhausted. They love their time out on the trail."

Cox said he likes to help the dogs on the races as much as he can.

"People say I work as hard or harder than the dogs. I am fine with that. I just hate to sit back and let them pull me."

In his 15 years of racing Cox has raced in almost 70 races around North America.

"I would love to race in the U.S a lot more," Cox said.

"They have very nice trails and races there."

Cox's longest one-day race was in Marmora and was 70 miles. His furthest two-day race was an 80-mile run in Kearney, Ont.

Cox currently lives in Marmora with his wife, Nicole, and their three-year-old daughter Charity. Charity has already begun running dogs and plans to compete in races with her new sled.

Bulls back in action Wednesday

After a couple of days off, the Belleville Bulls are about to strike up a close-to-home series, starting with a home game hosting the Mississauga St. Michael's Majors on Wednesday night.

The Bulls will then face a visiting Kitchener side on Saturday before heading to Kingston for a Sunday afternoon matinee.

Bulls miss Malcolm in home loss to Wolves

By Andre Lodder

The goalie woes continued for the Bulls as the visiting Sudbury Wolves jumped out ahead 3-0 and came away with a 5-3 win against the Belleville Bulls this past Saturday at the Yardmen arena.

The Bulls have yet to win a game at home in 2012 registering their fourth straight home-loss going 0-4 in the New Year.

With the top ranked North American goaltender in the upcoming draft, Malcolm Subban, still out with a groin injury, John Chartrand got the start in net for the Bulls. However, Chartrand was replaced by 16-year-old Charlie Graham in the second period after allowing three goals on 15 shots.

The first period ended with the shots 10-10 but the Sudbury Wolves were the ones who capitalized on their chances. The Wolves came out of the period with a 2-0 lead with goals from Alex Racino and Andrew Kuchin.

They then made it 3-0 five shots later on Kuchin's second goal of the

night, chasing Chartrand out of the net.

Graham came in to relieve Chartrand, and it seemed to give the Bulls a boost as Jordan Mayer scored just 18 seconds later. The goal was his first in a Bull's uniform after being traded from the Mississauga Majors last week.

The remainder of the second period saw the Wolves and Bulls go goal for goal heading into the third.

The Bulls got goals from Brendan Gaunce and Garrett Hooey. Gaunce netted his 21st of the year on a 5-on-3 power play, while Garrett Hooey scored on a penalty shot with zero seconds left on the clock after being hauled down on a break-away at the end of the second period.

Despite a late surge by the Bulls, neither team managed to hit the back of the net in the third period as the Wolves came out on top 5-3 despite being out-shot 13-3 in the third.

The Bulls were also in action Sunday night losing to the Ottawa 67's 6-1. The next home game is against the Mississauga Majors on Wednesday night at 7:05 p.m.



Photo by Andre Lodder

Garrett Hooey scores a goal on a penalty shot with no time on the clock in the second period against the Sudbury Wolves on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2012. Despite a late surge, the Bulls lost the couldn't recover from a 3-0 deficit and eventually lost the game 5-3. The Bulls are still winless at home for the new year going 0-4.