



Photo by Sarah O. Swenson

Loyalist's Matt Woods makes a diving save during Saturday's volleyball action against the Redeemer College Royals. The Lancers were knocked out of the playoffs, despite a late charge that forced a fifth, tie-breaking set.

# Men's playoffs slip out of reach

*Volleyball team suffers season-ending loss in weekend action*

By Sarah O. Swenson

The Loyalist Lancers men's volleyball team suffered a devastating loss this weekend, falling at home against Redeemer College Royals in a playoff qualification match.

"It certainly wasn't the way we envisioned our season ending, but we had a great year overall," said team co-captain Kyle Donnan.

"Obviously, it's not the result we wanted," agreed head coach Dave Templar. "It

felt like it was a good match. We had just a couple too many stretches of errors."

The Royals edged the Lancers 3-2 (21-25, 25-20, 25-19, 22-25, 15-12). The loss is reminiscent of last year's qualifier, when Redeemer defeated Loyalist on the road 3-0.

With the Lancers bounced out of the playoffs, the Royals will now go on to face the Humber Hawks in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association quarter-finals.

Going into the match, Loyalist held an impressive 9-1 record at home and the Lancers had the early momentum, taking the first set easily, but fell into a lull during the middle matches.

"The rest of the match was a battle, for sure," says Templar. "But we certainly fell

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co-captain Kyle Donnan

asleep in the second and third for a bit."

Despite the mid-game slump, the Lancers charged back to force a fifth, tie-

breaking set. Unfortunately, Loyalist fell behind quickly and couldn't dig themselves out of the hole they'd created.

"That's really hard to come back from in a shortened set," said Templar.

There were, however, several questionable calls which Templar believes — had they gone in Loyalist's favour — might have turned the tide.

"But at the same time, I'll never put a loss on the refs, that's for sure. If we control the match, then the calls don't matter."

Josh Lappala led the way in scoring with a whopping 21 kills, while co-captain Matt Woods did his work on the defensive side of the ball, making 22 digs. Donnan added another nine kills

to his record breaking total, capping his college career with an impressive 796 kills.

"We had a great year overall and every member of the team wanted to achieve success in that game," said Donnan. "Unfortunately, sports don't always work out to how you envision it."

Despite the season ending on a bit of a low note, and the loss of some key players to graduation, Templar says that he is already looking forward to next year.

"With the returning players that we have coming back, if we can put a couple of players around them, to develop with us, then I'm really happy with the core group that we have coming back."

## Otters outwork Bulls in Monday action after Belleville tops Mississauga Saturday

*Bulls in ninth place in the Eastern conference and a point off eighth place*

By Dan Pearce

The Otters slipped by the Bulls on Monday.

The Erie Otters chalked up their ninth win of the season after beating the Belleville Bulls 4-1 at the Yardmen Arena this Family Day.

The Bulls may have been a bit overconfident after a decisive 8-3 win over the Mississauga Majors on Saturday.

"It was likely a combination of having a nice win on Saturday and maybe a little bit of the edge taken off based on the amount of games we've played lately," said Bulls assistant coach Jake Grimes.

The Otters came out hard and fast early in the game, beating Bulls netminder Malcolm Subban three times in the first period.

"Erie took advantage of every single thing they could've possibly taken advan-

tage of, and they started that early," said Grimes.

Sondre Olden stuffed a rebounded puck past Subban for the Otters' first goal at 8:09.

Forty-six seconds later, Connor Brown scored on a breakaway to make it 2-0.

A shot from Kris Grant at 1:16 beat Subban for the third time in the first period and improved the Otters' lead to 3-0.

In the second, Olden found the back of the net at 16:36 for his second goal of the game and put the Otters up 4-0.

The Bulls began showing signs of life in the third, when Jake Worrada scored at 16:43 to put the Bulls on the scoreboard. However, Otters goaltender Ramis Sadikov was on fire, and despite the Bulls outshooting the Otters 42-33, Sadikov's performance in net landed the Otters their ninth win this season.

Grimes said he could tell once the Otters got a bit of a lead, their goalie really upped his game.

"He just kept getting better, and better, and better, and all of a sudden, we couldn't get it by him," said Grimes.

Sadikov was named the first star of the game.

Even though the Otters have no chance at making the playoffs — they are last in the Ontario Hockey League — Grimes said there was no question they outworked the Bulls.

"They showed that just because a team is not going to be in the playoffs, doesn't mean they're going to come in and play like a team that's not going to be in the playoffs," he said.

This puts the Bulls in ninth place in the Eastern conference, and a point behind the eighth-place Peterborough Petes. The Bulls are going to take the loss in stride and try to learn from it.

"There has to be something that we can take out of it, that we can learn," he said. "Right away, the first thing is early urgency. We have to find ways to stop bad situations from compiling quickly and we've got to find ways to change momentum."

The Bulls hit the road on Friday to face off against the Brampton Battalion, who are in third place in the Eastern conference. They return home to play the first-place Western conference team, the London Knights, at the Yardmen on Saturday.



Photo by Tijana Martin

The Belleville Bulls took on the Erie Otters at the Yardmen Arena. Sondre Olden (#19) scores on Malcolm Subban. The Otters took the game with a 4-1 win.

## Women hot, men not in Lancers basketball

By Sarah O. Swenson

The Lady Lancers are in the basketball playoffs, but the men are out after their respective win and loss against the Centennial Colts on Friday.

The women got by with a 63-57 victory and the men succumbed in a 90-76 defeat. These results bring the women's record to nine wins and six losses, while the men stand at seven wins and 12 losses.

Despite it being what he called a "scrappy" game, coach Chris Eligh was pleased with the effort put out by the Lady Lancers.

"They're a tough team to play," said Eligh. "But we knew what to do."

The ladies controlled the game from the start, never once surrendering the lead. Dianne Boudier and Sierra Cauley led the way in scoring with 18 and 14 points respectively. Haley Sisler was also a solid contributor, logging 40 minutes of game time, scoring 12 points and collecting six defensive rebounds.

Having secured a spot in the playoffs, the women now stand fourth in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association East Region and will have one more regular season game to tune up.

"We've got one more game to get ready, to execute some of the things we've been working on — some court awareness ... recognizing the play on the floor and working within our system," said Eligh.

And in an equally scrappy game, the men did not make the most of their chances and are now out of playoff contention, ranking ninth in the OCAA East



Photo by Marta Iwaneke

Sierra Cauley of the Loyalist Lancers defends the ball against Shivon Witter of the Centennial Colts during the women's basketball game at the Loyalist College gym on Feb. 17. The Lancers won 63-57.

Region.

"We just ran out of gas," said coach Richard Whitfield. "The guys played well, but playing that physical for that long and not having 10 guys that can go in and do that, it's hard."

The Lancers fell behind early in the game, but after a first-quarter time-out seemed to get back on the right track. They charged back, the lead changing hands four times, and kept it a close game until a fourth-quarter collapse.

Robert Hanson and Patrick Kalala led the team in scoring with 18 and 17 points respectively, while Damone Donaldson shot with 100 per cent accuracy, earning 13 points. But the most telling stat might be the points on turnovers: Centennial capitalized on Loyalist's mistakes, snagging 21 points off the turnovers, while the Lancers managed just five.

However, Whitfield has been pleased with the progress he's seen of late.

"The biggest thing is that we're getting tough for longer in the games. We're not having as many breakdowns, so we still seem to be growing from it."

Despite the rough season, the men are looking to end the year on a high, in a game against the St. Lawrence Vikings.

"We've beaten them once already," said Whitfield. "St. Lawrence is definitely not as big as these guys."

The ladies will also be traveling to Kingston to face St. Lawrence Vikings on Wednesday, Feb. 22 for their final game of the regular season.