

# Lady Lancers guaranteed playoff spot while men lose close game to Fleming

*Women's team expected to finish in fourth place*

By Amielle Christopherson & Melchizedek Maquiso

Several easy offensive getaways by the Loyalist Lady Lancers contributed to the downfall of the Fleming Knights in Tuesday's game at Loyalist College.

The first half appeared to be a close battle when Lancers guard Jenni Thompson made a buzzer beater that ended the first half with a 38-37 score in favour of

the Lancers.

The third quarter started with a three-pointer from Knights guard Kelly Kiloran. However, this did not provide any needed momentum for the Peterborough-based Knights. Halfway through the quarter, the Lancers capitalized on several steals and ended the third quarter with a 64-49 score. In total, the Lady Lancers had 21 steals as opposed to the Knights' seven.

In the fourth quarter, the fate of the Knights appeared to have been sealed after only scoring eight points in the quarter compared to Loyalist's 18. The Knights never recovered ending the game with an 82-57 loss. The win brings the Lady Lancers to fourth place in the

OCAA East Region and a guaranteed playoffs spot.

Jim Buck, Loyalist College athletic director, says: "With last night's win, they were assured themselves of a playoff spot. They'll probably finish fourth in our conference, which would get them a crossover playoff game here at Loyalist as opposed to going on the road."

"In the last couple of years, the team hasn't been very strong. They haven't been qualified for playoffs for probably for four years so it's exciting that they're right there on the hunt," added Buck, who was at Tuesday's game.

Despite the win by the Lady Lancers, the opposite happened for the men's team.

What started out as a promising game for the Loyalist Lancers, who were up by six in the first quarter, ended with a seven point loss to the Fleming Knights Tuesday evening.

The first quarter started slowly for the Knights. The Lancers used this to their advantage and led by the end of 10 minutes. However, the Knights gained momentum in the second quarter and outscored the Lancers 13-4.

The beginning of the second half didn't see too many more points going up on the scoreboard for either team, with the Knights ending the quarter leading 26-19. The final 10 minutes saw the Lancers trying to get back on top.

With less than two minutes left in the game, the Lancers only trailed by six points, but a combination of a Fleming foul shot and three pointer put them up. Within the last minute of the game, Lancers' No. 14 Matt Miller sunk a three pointer, but Fleming won 79-72.

Assistant Coach Mike Latchford said it's the story of the season.

"We'll have a decent first, a better second, and then go down in the second half. We don't have that killer attitude to start out strong and keep teams out from the beginning."

As well, keeping tempers in check when things get hot on the court is something he said they also need to work on, "My coach would tell me that cool heads win hot games, and we don't have that

cool head yet."

This season as a whole hasn't been the best for the Lancers, who have a 5-11 record.

Latchford thinks the team has the talent and the ability to turn to do better. "There's a lot of individual play resulting in losses.

"We're also hoping that people will start being more dedicated to the team and buying into what the coaches are saying."

He complimented players such as Calvin Chevrannes for stepping up as a leader among his teammates, as well as Patrick Kalala and Damone Donaldson. Robert Hanson does a good job assisting the other players on his team and being a motivator, he said.

"Some of them have taken advice from Rich [Whitfield, coach] and I. Between the two of us, we have a lot of basketball experience and some of the guys have learned and helped the team grow."



Photo by Melchizedek Maquiso.

Calvin Chevrannes and Matt Miller of the Loyalist Lancers attempt to block the shot of Kameron Cyril of the Fleming Knights during Tuesday's basketball game held at Loyalist College. The Knights won 79-72.



View a photo gallery of Loyalist Lancers basketball action.

[www.qnetnews.ca](http://www.qnetnews.ca)



Photo by Amielle Christopherson

The Fleming Knight's Taylor Robinson jumps to block a shot by Loyalist Lancer's Amber Burton. The Lady Lancers won 82-57 and are ranked seventh in the province, one down from last week, and fourth in the eastern region.

# Mild weather doesn't put the brakes on devoted local backyard ice rink fan

*Arena-like boards with local advertising and rink-side seating add to the atmosphere*

By Michelle Cochrane

This year's warmer winter weather offered new challenges for one local backyard ice rink enthusiast.

Twenty-eight-year-old Belleville resident Jeremiah Meyers struggled this winter to build his family's outdoor ice rink and continues to fight a battle against Mother Nature to maintain the ice surface.

The Meyers family built their first outdoor rink three years ago and have invested approximately \$1,000 in it. It features arena-like boards with local advertisements, a miniature fan stand for rink-side seating and outdoor lighting for late night games.

"This year was a big struggle, there were a couple times I wanted to give up just because the weather wasn't promising," explained Meyers.

Meyers started building his outdoor 50 by 50 foot ice rink this year over the Thanksgiving weekend but his family was not able to enjoy their first skate on the ice until the beginning of January.

"Last year, I had it from November until March break. If I get three more weeks out of it this year, I'll be happy," said Meyers.

Meyers described having a backyard rink as similar to having a second job with the demanding hours.

"I'll come out every hour and a half in the middle of the night just to water it because it's been such a struggle. Every time it was cold, you had to be out here or you're not going to have a rink," said Meyers.

The family entered their rink in the Belleville Home Depot backyard rink contest last year, placing third overall.

According to Home Depot backyard rink contest organizer, Dianne De-Jong, this year is remarkably lower in entry numbers than the previous three years and said she believes the warmer winter climate is to blame.

"Last year, it really took off, it just blew out of proportion. It went national, which is really cool for Belleville," said De-Jong.

The contest had a total of 13 entries from the Quinte area last year. This year was up to 17 entries at the beginning of December but due to the poor weather, there are only four confirmed entries that have submitted pictures of their backyard rinks after last Sunday's final deadline.

"Everyone has been so upset because they had their layouts, their boards and ideas of what they wanted to do but in December they couldn't even get rinks flooded because it wouldn't freeze part of January," explained De-Jong. "In this area, hockey is Belleville and these families take their hockey and their rinks very seriously."

Despite all the setbacks, the Meyers' family is hoping their hard work and persistence will have paid off and is aiming



Photo by Devaan Ingraham

Kayleb Meyers, 5, takes a shot on net while skating on his family's backyard ice rink built by his father, Jeremiah Meyers. Their rink has been entered in this year's Home Depot's backyard ice rink contest.

for first place in the Home Depot backyard rink contest this year.

Winners of the contest will be announced Feb. 17 at the Home Depot night

at the Belleville Bulls home game at the Yardmen Arena.