

Sports

Basketball teams fight final home battles



Steven Bailey of the Lancers tries to get the ball away from Mahamat-Ali Hagggar of the Algonquin Thunder during the Loyalist College Lancers vs. Algonquin College Thunder at Loyalist Feb. 8. The Lancers lost 77-93.

Photo by Marta Iwanek

Both men and women lose to Algonquin College in Friday night action

By Sofia Rojas

The Loyalist Lancers men's and women's basketball teams lost to Algonquin College Friday night on home turf.

The women lost 77-48 while the boys lost 93-77.

Because it was the last home game of the season, the crowd came out and supported their Lancers by sporting the colour white, but even with the crowd behind them, the Lancers knew it was going to be a tough battle and a long night for both teams.

Algonquin was able to score the first basket of the evening and it quickly became clear to everyone that the Lady Lancers were having slight difficulty surpassing Algonquin's defence after ending the first quarter down 20-15.

As the game progressed, Algonquin's confidence and teamwork seemed to be rising quickly as they dunked basket after basket.

By the end of the second quarter, Algonquin had almost doubled their points and took a huge lead, walking away at halftime with a score of 61-34.

Martine Gauvin, the Lady Lancers' point guard and a soon-to-be graduate of Loyalist, knew her last home game was going to be one of the toughest games of the season. But when asked how she felt about her team's performance, she said it wasn't what she expected from her girls.

"After a good game on Tuesday (against Durham College), I was hoping we'd keep going this Friday, but Algonquin is a tough team to play. We just did not show up ready for them tonight," said Gauvin.

"I was expecting a fight from start to finish and that's what it was. They're the kind of team that makes my job as point guard harder, because they're always right in our face on defence. I'm not entirely satisfied with my performance, but for most of it I was happy with the way I handled the pressure," said Gauvin.

The Lancers were only able to score three points in the third quarter and by the fourth, the Lancers walked away from

their own court with a loss of 77-48.

It was time for the boys to face Algonquin and with a vengeance, the boys rushed into the first quarter with aggression and motivation as if to show the crowd the night wasn't over just yet. From the start it was a back-and-forth battle between baskets as both teams scored point after point.

It was obvious that the boys were much more contentious as the Lancers were able to dribble through Algonquin's defence, giving them a 26-23 lead by the end of the first quarter.

But Algonquin wasn't about to cut Loyalist a break and made an impressive comeback in the second quarter. With taunting words coming from the opposing team, it was clear that the Lancers

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Lancers' Brayden Gohn

were becoming frustrated with Algonquin and were consecutively being called out on foul plays, giving Algonquin chance after chance at free baskets; Algonquin took the lead by halftime with a score of 45-39.

Even with numerous baskets coming from Lancers Matthew Miller, Brayden Gohn, Steven Bailey and huge three-point shots from Patrick Kalala, Algonquin answered each time, leaving the third quarter with an incredibly close score of 60-58 for Algonquin.

By the last quarter, the Lancers had left all they had on the court but just couldn't keep up with the energy and determination coming from the other side. Algonquin was able to end the game with a 93-77 win.

"We knew it was going to be tough from the start, them being one of the best teams," said six-foot-five-inch Brayden Gohn, one of the Lancers' forward/centre players.

"They have also been together for few years now and this is the first year we have all been together, most of us being rookies in the league. We just had a couple miscues that a good team will take advantage of that every time, which they did," said Gohn.

Both teams are scheduled to play against St. Lawrence College on Wednesday at St. Lawrence College starting with the girls at 6 p.m. followed by the boys at 8 p.m.

Peterborough hosts Hockey Day in Canada activities

Belleville players among participants at hockey tournament

By Jessica Nyznik

Hockey Day in Canada put a national spotlight on the world's largest hydraulic lift lock Saturday as they played host to the unique event.

With Lloydminster, Alta., stepping down as the original host of this year's event, CBC had to look elsewhere and Peterborough gained their attention in an

unusual way.

An OMHA tournament called Under the Lock, which is held under the Peterborough Lift Locks on the Trent Canal, was in its fourth year of planning when it received a call from the CBC in December.

"They found us on YouTube," said Sanjeev Sukumaran, roster select coordinator and committee member for the Peterborough Hockey Association.

Under the Lock is the only officially sanctioned OMHA tournament to be hosted on a body of water, a unique experience that Sukumaran said drew CBC to Peterborough.

The canal was divided into five rinks,

with 63 teams in attendance and more than 1,000 participants.

Three teams from the Quinte region were among the wait-listed tournament, including the Stirling Blues senior tyke division, the Belleville Bulls' atom division and the Quinte West atom division.

Chris Longo, a former NHL player and Belleville resident, drove up with his six-year-old son, Sammy, who plays for the Blues.

Longo said his son wasn't quite sure what HDIC was all about until they arrived and saw the hype.

"When he got here he understood the excitement and the meaning of Hockey

Day in Canada," said Longo.

Having played hockey since boyhood and in the NHL for 12 years with the Washington Capitals and Hartford Whalers, Longo said hockey is an important part of Canada's heritage. "It's something that the country and people take pride in. It's our game. And outdoor hockey, you don't see that a lot nowadays," said Longo.

Ten-year-old Owen Hayes, of the Bulls, was also excited to be a part of the national event and have a chance to play on the natural ice.

"It's fun to be on the pond, it's cool. It's great to have Don Cherry and Ron Ma-

clean here," said Hayes.

MacLean hosted the 10-hour event beginning at the lift locks at noon and finishing the day at the Peterborough Memorial Centre, where he was joined by Cherry.

Coach's Corner was set up in the restaurant of the Memorial Centre, where the Peterborough Petes challenged the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds for a charity cancer fundraiser called Pink in the Rink, A Tribute to Hockey Moms.

With a 3-2 win for the Petes, a record \$79,000 and counting for Pink in the Rink and countless smiles on children's faces, HDIC in Peterborough appeared to be success on all fronts.

Belleville Bulls leading the pack in OHL eastern conference

By Jeff Peters

The Belleville Bulls trounced the Erie Otters this past Saturday at the Yardmen Arena, with a shaky first, a dull second and a resounding third period. The blazing Bulls, who have been on fire this season, won the match 4 - 1.

That was the outcome, despite a shaky start, to the first period with a goal at 10:25 scored by Otters rookie Hayden Hodgson. The goals were quickly revengeed by Bulls Tyler Graovac.

He scored two power play goals 48 seconds apart.

The power play goals were the first the Bulls were able to capitalize on since Jan. 11. The period ended 2 - 1 for the Bulls.

The second period was a rather dull affair with the scoring chances playing a game of tit-for-tat. What the period lacked in scoring, it made up for with heart-dropping moments of quick saves and failed scoring opportunities.

With the score deadlocked in an Otters 2-1 deficit, the scoring chances read much the same, with the Bulls outpacing the Otters in shots on net in the first half of the period 12 - 7, although eventually tying up at the buzzer with 26-26 stalemate.

The moment the Bulls burst into the third, their momentum was palpable. The first goal was scored by defenceman Jordan Subban at the 14:36 mark. The second seasoned defenceman, third period one-timer would push his score tally this season to 10 goals along with a respectable 26 assists.

Momentum was won along with



Erie Otter's goalie (31) Devin Williams denies a shot on net from Belleville Bulls (20) Tyler Graovac. The Belleville Bulls won the match 4 - 1 on Saturday at the Yardman Arena.

Photo by Jeff Peters

Bulls' third goal of the game, and the momentum propelled Belleville to finish the game with a resounding goal by Alan Quine, allowing him to register his 14th goal of the season at 18:03 to a sold-out crowd of 3,470

at the Yardmen. Belleville has had a triumphant season, with a 30-14 record out of 50 games played and are leading in the eastern conference.

The Bulls brought their 'A' game to

Ottawa on Sunday, dishing it out to the Ottawa 67's, winning the game 6 - 4.

The Bulls will face off next against the Kingston Frontenacs this coming Wednesday at the Yardmen Arena.

Ice Drags...

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MP Daryl Kramp took a mind-blowing lead down the track for wide-margin win, so much so his opponents MPP Todd Smith and Madoc Deputy-Reeve Tom Simpson jokingly suggested he may have been cheating.

The brilliant blue skies and the previous night's fresh 31-cm snowfall deemed the perfect day.

The plowing crew of five trucks had spent more than eight hours overnight and the wee hours of that morning to clear the groomed track of 660 feet.

"It's our first year hosting this event," said Andy Vanecko, president of the Centre Hastings Snowmobile Club. "We are learning what to do and what not to do for next year. It sounds funny but we were praying for the snow to stop, so we could get the ice cleared. That snowfall really put us behind."

The races ended years ago because of insurance costs and liability, said Kramp, and needed an organization to host it.

The CHSC has had a growth in enthusiasm and, Vanecko boasted, a few very positive years with an increase in membership.

"We groom roughly 70 kilometres of trails now," said Vanecko. "We had a groomer given to us and we got a new bridge. The last few years have been good."

The bridge over Deer Creek, Madoc within the CHSC borders was a government-funded stimulus project, through the Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance, last year.

Racers came from as far as Gatineau Hills and Hamilton clocking recorded speeds of over 167 km/h.