



Photo by Taylor Hermiston

Adam Cole, car 305, stirs up the dirt with competitor Cameron Pedersen, car 22, during the Snow Smash Derby in Stirling last Saturday. Pedersen came in third place, while Cole placed fourth. The two challengers smashed with eight other vehicles during the mini-heat. Both vehicles were contenders in the feature heat at the end of the derby. Go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34435>

Snowmobiles race at weekend event

By Melyssa Gloude

On Saturday, an otherwise quiet lake in the country was abuzz with the roaring of engines and the zip of snowmobiles making their way down a homemade ice track.

Close to 1,500 spectators, sponsors and snowmobile racers gathered on the frozen Moira Lake for the second annual installment of Madoc's snowmobile Ice Drags. The non-profit event was hosted by the Centre Hastings Snowmobile Club, with all entry and registry fee proceeds donated to the Lions Club in partnership with other organizations such as O'Hara Mill Homestead & Conservation, the Madoc District Agricultural Society and the Madoc Kiwanis Club.

"The snowmobile club is the driving force,"

said Tom Simpson, deputy mayor and president of the Madoc Lions.

"Each club has different projects - for instance, the Lions club, we give to the food bank, and this year we did a Philippine disaster relief fund with last year's donations."

Last year's Ice Drags raised \$3,000, which was split up by the groups.

"Most of the money stays local," said Simpson.

"And it's a great time, especially for a little rural community. It's always nice to have some activity here."

The event was geared towards all levels of racers, with highlights such as the King of the Ice race, in which racers reached speeds more than 120 miles-per-hour on a 660 foot track.

People gathered standing along both sides of the track, while some, in true Canadian fashion, opted for makeshift seats in the snowbanks left over from the plowing of the lake. Though most spectators attended to watch friends or family members compete, some were just excited first-timers out for some winter fun.

"We didn't know from the poster that there was going to be food here, or that there was an admission price," said Harry Quart, who was attending the event for the first time.

"But all the money is going to a good cause, so that's great."

"There's been some technical difficulties," said Quart, referring to the malfunctioning professional software meant for recording racers, times and entries. After a few hours of attempt-

ing to fix the software, the technicians decided to use the old-fashioned way and used flags instead.

"It's definitely been nice to finally watch some races," Quart said.

MP Daryl Kramp was also at the event, however this year he could not compete in the highly anticipated celebrity race due to an unrelated injury.

"It was great last year and I'm really glad to see all of the organizers bringing it back," said Kramp, who participated in the 2013 Celebrity Ice Drags.

"It's just a phenomenal event, and so Canada. I love it!"

For a multi-media look at the snowmobile event, go to: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34453>

Men's basketball team dominates in weekend action

By Brianne Ste Marie Lacroix

The Loyalist Lancers men's basketball dominated in their first game of the weekend against the Fleming Knights, winning 102-51.

After having defeated the Sir Sandford Fleming Knights 101-74 on Dec. 4, in Peterborough, the Lancers were prepared to play well and get another victory, and this time on their home court.

The Lancers were able to stay ahead on the scoreboard throughout the entire game. They never got complacent playing a team that hasn't yet won a game, but rather kept up their intensity, working together and continued scoring points.

First-year guard Kinkay Smith said that his first year has been going really well. They've had some tough games and tough losses but just have to fight through it to earn a playoff spot, explained Smith.

"The team worked really well together tonight. We called each other for help and switched on the ball so we could pressure the ball a lot and that got us points. We played good defence and we saw the ball and that's how we got a good lead on the game from the start," said Smith.

Lancers head coach Ryan Barbeau was pleased with the way the team played.

"We played pretty well. We did some things that were kind of stupid towards

the end of the game but I thought overall we competed for 40 minutes. Everyone got in the game and everyone played well," said Barbeau.

According to Barbeau, the team isn't quite where it needs to be defensively, and has been struggling in the half-court when teams move the ball and their rotations aren't crisp enough yet - but they're getting there.

"We're working at it and getting better at

the little things defensively," said Barbeau.

The Lancers also dominated on the court with five minutes left in their Sunday game after losing the first three quarters against the Georgian Grizzlies. The fans roared as the Lancers were able to pick up points in the final minutes and won the game 67-62. They now stand in fifth place in the Eastern division.

Their next game is Feb. 14 against Algonquin College, at 8 p.m. in Ottawa.

Women's team gets a big victory

By Victoria Thoms

The Loyalist Lancers women's basketball team was victorious this weekend in both their games against Fleming College Friday and Georgian College Sunday.

Winning 59-27 against the Fleming Knights on Friday, the Lancers showed Fleming that they could beat them once again, just as they did on Dec. 4. The Lancers beat the Knights 42-35 in December, making it their first win of the season.

After winning their game against Georgian College this Sunday, the ladies brought their total wins for the season up to three. Having earned two of those wins in the same weekend, the ladies have gained some confidence.

"Our coaches always told us that we need to hate losing more than we love winning," said Mikayla Brennan, a forward for the Lancers from Shannonville.

Standing in eighth place in the league, the Lancers have only one more game to try to make an impact.

"It may have taken a little while to sink in, but I think it finally has. It was good to win both games at home, with the support of all our fans," said Brennan.

Playing eight games on their home court this season has given the Lancers eight games to show their Loyalist fans what they are made of. Parents, siblings and classmates come out to Loyalist games to cheer on their teams. Residence assistant Justin Bulman



Photo by Taylor Hermiston

Loyalist Lancer, Brandi Akey (left), dives in to help her teammate, Courtney Bennett, for the advantage against Fleming Knights guard, Michelle Boyer, during third quarter game action Friday at Loyalist College. The Lancers fought for a hard win, defeating Fleming 59-27, for the second time this season. It is also their second win of the season.

has attended all of the women's basketball home games, as he works for the school recording the games.

"I'm like a super-fan. I'm at every

one of their games," said Bulman.

Coming to cheer on one of his good friends from school, Elesia Younie of the Lancers, Bulman made posters to

show his support.

The Lancers women's team will play their final game of the season at Algonquin College in Ottawa on Feb. 14.

Hard-working roller derby team takes part in practice

By Christopher King

Once a week on Friday nights, the Belleville Roller Derby team gathers at school gymnasiums to practice. Warm ups, suicide drills and pushups are part of any regular practice. However, the athletes have to stop every now and then to solve a dispute.

One of their kids fell and injured themselves, or lost their favourite toy.

The mothers are the athletes and the fathers and partners are coaching and the kids are chasing each other or playing video games on portable devices.

Roller derby has developed an image of women on wheels, skimpily dressed, bashing each other's skulls in. This image comes from the origins of the sport which began in the entertainment industry. Decades later, roller derby has transformed into a competitive sport with teams and leagues. They retain the image with bright costumes and customized skates but the game has changed.

View the video link to see a fresh angle on roller derby in today's world: <http://www.qnetnews.ca/?p=34438>