



Photo by James Paddle-Grant

Erie Otters forward Connor McDavid, is stopped by Kingston Frontenacs goaltender Lucas Peressini with two Frontenacs trailing behind the play. McDavid who had multiple scoring chances, finished the 3-2 Otters victory with an assist. McDavid now has 72 points in only 28 games with the Otters this year.

# Hockey phenom plays Kingston

*Projected first-round pick  
Connor McDavid  
on the ice  
at K-Rock Centre*

**By James Paddle-Grant**

The Rogers K-Rock Centre was sold out Friday for the rare appearance of the National Hockey League's projected first-round pick, Connor McDavid.

McDavid and the Erie Otters travelled to Kingston to take on the Frontenacs in game four of their five-game road trip.

The Otters came out on top and although the home team was not victorious, the majority of the arena seemed satisfied with the Fronts' 3-2 loss.

Erie came out of the gates strongly, with a goal scored by Dylan Strome along

with many scoring chances by McDavid and the Otters.

As the game went on, both teams became frustrated with each other which resulted in coincidental penalties by Erie's Darren Raddysh and Kingston's Cody Caron. The penalties led to a fight between Zack Dorval and Darren Raddysh in the Otters' defensive corner.

The Otters came out of the fight with the advantage as Cody Caron found himself back in the penalty box with an unsportsmanlike-conduct penalty.

Strome, who played a large role in the Otters' victory, added a second goal only nine seconds into the power play on a one-timer assisted by Nicholas Baptiste and McDavid.

With less than two minutes to go in the second period, newly-acquired forward Remi Ellie put one in the back of the net, giving the Otters a 3-0 lead.

**'He's unbelievable. He's such a great player and it's an honour to be with him. I'm glad to be his teammate.'**

*Remi Ellie*

With the Frontenacs trailing, they gave it all they could in the final frame, outshooting the Otters 22-3 in the third period.

A fight between Kingston's Cody Caron and Erie's Quenten Maksimovich broke out in front of both teams' benches. Both players threw punches at full tilt as the packed arena came to life with fans cheering for both teams.

The Frontenacs, who had been strug-

gling to score all game, finally found the back of the net minutes after the tussle. Corey Pawley sniped one past the Otters' goaltender, Devin Williams.

In need of two goals, the Frontenacs pulled their netminder. Erie had multiple chances by Ellie and Strome to put the game away, although neither could hit the empty net, keeping the Frontenacs' chances alive.

Kingston's Conor McGlynn scored for the Frontenacs, putting it top-shelf in a scrum in front of Erie's net. But it wasn't enough to prevent the loss.

Erie's Jake Marchment and Ellie had been part of the trade that sent the players from Belleville to Erie in exchange for Trent Fox, Jesse Saban and six draft picks. The forwards have excelled since the relocation, as Ellie has scored 16 points in just 10 games while playing alongside McDavid.

"He's unbelievable. He's such a great player and it's an honour to be with him. I'm glad to be his teammate," Ellie said of his captain, McDavid.

Marchment, who was previously the captain of the Belleville Bulls, has made an adjustment since the departure to the Otters. The second-year veteran has gone from playing as one of the top six forwards and playing on the power play to playing as one of the grinding lines and killing penalties.

"The letter thing is not a big deal. Just because you don't have a letter doesn't mean you can't lead. I'm still trying to play the same and hopefully I can improve my game here," added Marchment.

The Otters' next game is the first of a five-game home stretch as they take on the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. The Otters have no more regular-season games in Belleville.

# Basketball dream becomes coaching one

**By Giovanni Capriotti**

It was a late September Saturday afternoon, when a scream of pain drowned out the squeaking on a basketball court in Germany. In a matter of seconds, all the dreams of a 22-year-old Belleville boy were shattered. The memories of his short but successful career as a baller were all in front of his eyes. His knee was blown during a pre-season practice. He always wanted to be a professional basketball player. That is what he told his parents in Grade 9.

**'It's been a season of up and downs. Sometimes we played like the best team in the league, other times we had embarrassing losses.'**

*Coach Ryan Barbeau*

It took Barbeau roughly a week to emotionally cope with the reality of the injury and only a trip to Ireland to visit his grandmother helped him to heal a bit.

"At Western, I was posting great numbers each game, still the only proposal I received was the one to play in Germany. I could hardly believe everything had gone in three months," Barbeau said, looking surprisingly at peace with himself.

His knee suffered a bad injury, but a comeback was realistic. Maybe something was no longer the same in terms of priorities.

Shortly after his trip to Ireland, Barbeau flew back to Belleville.

"I found myself in the right place at the right time. The coach from Loyalist was being let go and I took over," he recounted with a smile.

At the time, Barbeau still had the desire to keep playing, but in the back of his mind, he always wanted to be a coach. He did not hesitate when such an inviting chance was presented.

At age 26, he has been the head coach of the Lancers for almost three years and this season, for the first time, the team is almost certain to make the playoffs.

"It's been a season of up and downs. Sometimes we played like the best team in the league, other times we had embarrassing losses," Barbeau said confidently.

His group management is kind of rare. Having been on the court allows him to be a great listener with his players. It is not uncommon to see the guys in the squad make suggestions to improve the execution of a game or a defensive system.

"Coaching and playing are two different aspects of



By Giovanni Capriotti

Ryan Barbeau watches his players practicing at Loyalist College on Jan. 29. Barbeau is at the third season as head coach of the Loyalist Lancers.

the game, however, having been a point-guard often made me the coach on the floor. That is why I need to let my players talk their mind. If I think that the suggestion will benefit the team, I'll take it. If not, we'll find another way," he said energetically.

In their game on Jan. 30, the Lancers took on St. Lawrence in Kingston and coach Barbeau was eager to erase the disappointing loss at the Peterborough's Sir Sandford Fleming College on Jan. 24.

"It was quite an embarrassing defeat. We lost against the last one so we still need to work hard on

our mental approach," Barbeau whispered with a disappointed expression.

St. Lawrence is third in the OCAA East Division and an away game is never an easy one. The pre-practice shoot around had already started and Barbeau spent some time mentoring Jordan Marlowe, his point-guard. The way he looked at him suggested Marlowe is his extension on the court. He is the one in charge of delivering the Barbeau "credo" and his leadership. Barbeau's commitment and love for the game dates back to his childhood. It is

now irrelevant if he is on the floor or the courtside yelling at his players. The most important thing is to succeed.

"He has a novel way of doing things, a different way to lead practice and interesting offensive ideas. He doesn't know I use some of his games, but I do," Jim Barbeau, coach of the Nicholson Catholic College and Ryan's father, said proudly.

The Barbeaus' basketball legacy appears to be well secured in Belleville for the next generation of young players.