



Photo by Heather Waldron

Loyalist Lancers women's volleyball players Chiara Van der Zalm (5), Taylor Baker (4) and their team celebrate a victorious 3-2 win. For more photos, see page 4.

Lancers volleyball teams take wins during final home games

By Heather Waldron

Both Lancers' Men and Women volleyball teams ended their home seasons on a high note.

The game ended with a rousing ovation as the women's team secured a 3-2 win and the men's team emerging with a 3-1 win.

The Lancers sports teams played four games last weekend, all of which were against George Brown. The Lancers won three of those four games. The basketball teams played in Toronto.

Back at Loyalist, the gym was filled with excitement with the crowd cheering on their favourite teams.

Despite losing the first two sets 18-25 and 14-25, the women's team

fought hard to come back on top, taking the final set 15-13.

"Our women's team got the upset. George Brown is ranked significantly higher than we were so for our women's team to go in and beat them was huge. It's one of the best games I've seen them play all year," said Loyalist athletic co-ordinator Amy Hoskins.

Sierra Scott and Alyssa Diemert, who are the team's top point-getters, dominated the game from the middle. Diemert made 14 kills, three aces and one block for 18 points and Scott made eight kills, two aces and two blocks for 12 points.

Hoskins says that it is unusual in women's volleyball to have a team that is so middle dominant and that they played outstandingly. She

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added that outside hitter Chiara Van der Zalm also played well with 12 points. The Lancers women's team is in seventh position, which should put them in a playoff position depending on the outcome of their final away games. Women's volleyball coach Ryan Stoness said the team had been struggling through the season but managed to bounce back

after some hard losses.

"This is a win against the top-seeded team that kind of pushed us into potential playoff contention, which is really exciting. It was awesome that the athletes were able to pull up their socks and take the next three games against a really good team."

Next up, the men's team started and ended strong, taking the first and final sets 25-18.

Outside hitter Owen Kemp led the game with nine kills, two aces and three blocks for 14 points while setter Pedro Casellatto took the court with 10 kills, one ace and two blocks for 13.

"I would say it was an amazing atmosphere and, although we might have dropped a set to them. We still kept our energy up. It was a lot to see

out of the guys and I was very proud of all of us, especially on our last home game," said middle hitter Angus Row.

With both teams emerging victorious, the crowd erupted into cheers and applause. The players from both teams celebrated and congratulated each other on their hard-fought matches. Although the men's team will not be making it to playoffs this year, they remained proud of their effort on the court.

Asked about the coaches' performance this past year, Hoskins praised their hard work. "Coaching in the OCAA is tough. It's a part-time job with full-time requirements. Our coaches put in a ton of hours. They're wonderful humans and they're good leaders."

Chilly blast brings homeless to shelter

Warming centre now open until March 31

By Nav Rahi

A blast of Arctic air late last week in the Quinte region, with frigid temperatures around -30° C and windchills into the -40° C range, meant dangerous conditions for the area's homeless population.

The City of Belleville has opened its overnight warming centre from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. until March 31 at the corner of Dundas Street East and South John Street. "Individuals are encouraged to utilize public facilities through daytime hours to keep warm," the City of Belleville posted on its Twitter feed.

"My last two days were rather cold," said Maxwell Gower, who said he has been homeless for the last two years.

"I've had good days and bad days. The last two days were windy, and yesterday was -34°. It was very cold," said Gower last Saturday. "People have been donating blankets, boots, extra toques, so I'm very fortunate everyone has been able to bundle up to wear those layers. It hasn't been that terrible," he added.

Gower said he has struggled with addiction. He added he was in the army 14 years as a vehicle technician. He worked in Cornwall, Ont., went through a divorce, was diagnosed



Photo by Nav Rahi

(From left) Ashley Whitesidi and Maxwell Gower waiting outside for security guards to let them inside the warming centre during the cold snap last week.

with PTSD and bipolar disorder, and was medically released and honourably discharged from the army. But when he landed in Belleville, he said he didn't feel an identity, so he went through an identity crisis.

Unfortunately, he said he went down the wrong road and got hooked on fentanyl. It started with crack cocaine, and it graduated to fentanyl quickly.

For the last two years, Gower said he has been homeless because he said family members can't house him because of his overdosing addiction.

"My goal right now is to try to get off the street within the next two months. That's my hope that I can save up some disability, from Veterans Affairs, use that towards a room, or become roommates with maybe four safe people. Make it a house. Or just go to rehab for the next three to six months. Logan Lindsay is the supervisor at the Belleville, Trenton and Bancroft warming centres.

"We had probably about 40 to 50 clients averaged on Thursday and Friday night with all their belongings and everything else," he said. "Most of the clients are good with us. We don't have any issues most of the time. The majority of them are grateful just to stay out of the cold," he added.

There was some relief from the cold later last Saturday, as the temperature increased to a high of 4° C and then a low of -3C on Sunday.