

March 25, 2007

LASALLE COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

It has been a busy time for our LaSalle Spirit Sports Club since our January newsletter. I would like to thank all of our dedicated coaches, volunteers, and parents, who continue to promote a positive image for our club. Speaking of coaches ... how many organizations do you know that have such a high number of coaches in comparison to the athletes. Some nights our coaches wander around, somewhat bored, but they still keep coming back. I know our athletes love to see each of you out there!

We have two new athletes to our club. Please welcome Serena Mejalli and Jason Rowden to our LaSalle Spirit family.

Friday, February 16th, saw our athletes and volunteers participating at the NHL Oldtimers hockey game. They sold pucks, programs, and 50/50 tickets, then went out onto the ice to pick up the pucks after the puck toss. Andrew Cyr had the honour of dropping the puck at center ice to start the game. Although the crowd was down from last year, we still netted over \$1,800, which will be used for our meets and tournaments. Great job team!

On Saturday, February 24th, our competitive basketball team traveled to St. Thomas where they competed in the D division. Although our team had problems sinking baskets and lost the first three games, they never gave up.

Guelph won the first game by a score of 23-13. Dan Morton led our team with nine points, and Stephanie Meloche added four.

The second game saw St. Thomas #1 win by a margin of 18-11, with their top scorer obtaining 15 points himself. LaSalle Spirit athletes had a balanced attack with Stephanie Meloche with 4 points, Dan Morton with 3 points, and Matt Tolmie and John Kukucka each with 2 points. I apologize for not having the stats for the third game. Our 4th game was an exhibition game because one of the team failed to show up for the tournament. St. Thomas had entered two teams, so we took some players from the one team, and played against the balance of the St. Thomas players. With the pressure off, our players were now sinking baskets. Our combined team lost by a narrow margin. The athletes still went home winners, with each player receiving a nice basketball trophy.

On Saturday, March 3rd, another group of athletes traveled to Guelph where there competed in a 3 on 3 tournament. Our athletes were mixed with the Guelph athletes to form the teams. In a special skills competition, the athletes went through a timed power shooting drill, and shot free throws in their respective divisions.

Miles Buress was 3rd in free throws and 2nd in power shooting

Fred Carpio was 2nd in free throws and 4th in power shooting
Cody Crease was 2nd in free throws and 2nd in power shooting
Andrew Cyr was 2nd in free throws and 4th in power shooting
Dan Martynse was 6th in free throws and 3rd in power shooting
John McCourt was 4th in free throws and 3rd in power shooting
All of the athletes were winners that day, going home with a nice basketball metal to go with their ribbons.

After a relaxing March break, our D Division team traveled to Aurora for the Mary Matthews Basketball tournament. The first game was against the same Guelph team they had played two weeks prior, and the outcome was similar. Guelph won by a score of 22-12. Dan Morton led the LaSalle team with 10 points.

Our LaSalle Spirit athletes showed their spirit and determination in winning their first game of the season, beating Clarksburg 16-12. Dan Morton led the team with 10 points, while Matt Cormier, Matt Tolmie, and Stephanie Meloche each had 2 points.

In a lopsided affair, the LaSalle Spirit won their second game of the tournament by beating Durham 22-6. Seven LaSalle players shared in the scoring in what was truly a team effort! Matt Cormier and Stephanie Meloche had 6 points apiece. John Kukucka, Vanessa Malott, Cody Crease, Matt Tolmie, and Dan Morton each had 2 points.

As a result of our 2-1 record, our team finished 2nd in our division. Congratulations gang!

I hope to enter us in a D Division tournament in April as a tune-up for the Provincial qualifier in London on May 12th.

Having said that... we will be transitioning to track and field starting March 26th. We may run some combination basketball/ track practices, depending on the weather and the wants of the athletes.

We will be participating in the "Toonies for Torches" campaign again this year at Zehrs on **April 20th and 21st**; therefore I will be looking for athletes and volunteers to help out. Speaking of Torch Run activities... the torch Run for Special Olympics will take place on Thursday, May 3rd. The cost of the T-shirts this year is \$25. The shirt is long-sleeved and navy blue, with an embroidered crest.

In our last newsletter, I indicated that our LaSalle Community Council elections would be in May. **We will be having the elections on Wednesday, April 11th, 7:00pm at the Windsor Family Credit Union Community room, on Malden Road, in LaSalle.** Bonnie McCourt will be stepping down from her position at that time.

Bonnie and her family will be preparing for a move up to the Bruce Peninsula where Rob has accepted a new job offer. I have greatly appreciated Bonnie's work on the executive and as a volunteer for our various events. We will miss John's presence at practice... he has the highest attendance of all athletes! I hope David will find a new coaching position in their new community. We wish them well as they enter another phase of their life.

Reminder: No practice on Easter Monday, April 9th.

Lastly, if your athlete has not received their new gold LaSalle Spirit T-shirt, please see Bonnie McCourt.