



Photo by Heather Waldron

Loyalist Lancers women's soccer players (from left) Jenna-Mae Oickle, Hannah Cole, Erin Cassibo, Kelsey Lawrence, Gabrielle Boucher, Emily Postma and Brooke Balsion celebrate the end of their season with a photograph on Oct. 16. The Lancers secured their last win of the season with a 3-1 score.

Loyalist soccer team wraps up season

By Heather Waldron

The Loyalist Lancers women's soccer team defeated the Sault Cougars 3-1 during their last game of the regular season.

Lancers Kennedy Bardawill scored two goals and Kelsey Lawrence scored one against the Cougars.

"The girls played really well, definitely their best of the season and it was great for them to end on such a positive note. There were nine graduating athletes, so it was an even more exciting thing for them to be able to win their final game," says Amy Hoskins,

the Loyalist athletics co-ordinator.

Emily Osmond joined the team as head coach partway through the season.

"She played university before she came and played at Loyalist and she's an incredible soccer player and has turned into a really amazing coach. I know that there's going to be a lot of recruiting happening in the next while just because of how many graduating athletes we have. So we're looking forward to having a strong season next year," says Hoskins.

Osmond is also looking forward to recruiting and retaining players who are

going to give their 100 per cent on the field. For the future, Osmond says that she would like to see the culture shift to a fun but competitive environment and for the team to consistently be in the top 10 teams of the league.

"The last game was definitely an exciting one. I think that we definitely saved our best performance for last and made sure that when we had opportunities in front of the net, we capitalized on them. I think that, as a whole, every player on the field gave their 100 per cent and worked really hard to secure that win. It was cool to see just how con-

ected everybody was, and how they trusted each other completely, when they were on the field versus the beginning of the season where they didn't know each other as well."

Osmond appreciates that they didn't stop at one goal and that they pushed hard through all 90 minutes to make sure that they fully secured the win.

"We've been working really hard the whole season, so it was nice that each game got a little better and it was really exciting to end with a bang. Everyone was really hungry for the win," says team captain Kelsey Lawrence.

Lawrence says that she quickly learned that it was about the little victories and that she enjoyed watching the players evolve into the soccer team that they wanted it to become.

Team captain Emily Postma adds that if they had done more team building outside of practice, it would have made a huge difference to the team's performance.

"The results in the score didn't showcase our team at all. We're better than it looks. I think, if we had played our best the whole season, the results would have been a lot better. We could have made the playoffs for sure," says Postma.

Bench donated in memory of photoj grad

By Shelby Holmes

The Tweed and Area Heritage Centre revealed a memorial bench in honour of Christie Leja, a photojournalism student at Loyalist College who passed away suddenly last spring.

Friends and family gathered at the Heritage Centre to see the bench. People had a chance to speak to each other beforehand and some gave speeches after the bench was revealed, sharing stories about Leja and honouring her memory. Everyone was then invited into the Heritage Centre to enjoy lunch and continue to visit.

The Heritage Centre had been designated to receive memorial donations, but some people would send them to Leja's parents, George and Lisa. They wanted something to be a permanent reminder of her and asked if the Heritage Centre would be willing to have a bench in memory of her.

Evan Morton, who works at the Heritage Centre, was happy to have the bench there.

"I'm delighted, absolutely delighted," said Morton, when asked how he felt about the bench being at The Heritage Centre.

Leja did her placement at the Heritage Centre and the Heritage Centre and heritage itself was something that was important to Leja. The bench was put under the tree where she would sit and enjoy a coffee break. While at her placement, Leja would document artifacts, posters, make Facebook posts, and work with the public.

Leja impacted many people's lives in positive ways, whether it was fellow students, teachers, or visitors at the Heritage Centre.

Leja's father, George, said the articles she wrote for the Loyalist College Pioneer were mainly about helping people, and many of the stories that were shared at the Heritage Centre were about how she impacted their lives and what kind of person she was.



Photo by Shelby Holmes

George and Lisa, Christie Leja's parents, stand at Christie's memorial bench at the Tweed and Area Heritage Centre.

One story was when the Tweedsmuir Hotel burnt down. Leja's parents had been staying at her apartment in Tweed, and had gotten up before her that morning. When they noticed Tweedsmuir

Hotel was on fire, they thought it would be something she might want to take pictures of for school. Her mother, Lisa, went and whispered in her ear and told her what was happening. Despite not being a

morning person, Leja was out of her bed and getting her camera to take pictures.

"She touched the lives of everybody she interacted with here, volunteers and visitors alike" said Morton, who said her joy

and enthusiasm for life was contagious.

Many people are delighted that the memorial bench has been put up for her and are glad her memory will be honoured at a place that meant a lot to her.