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## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"I feel really good,  
but most importantly,  
I'm proud of my team."*

See UNDEFEATED SEASON, Page 7



March 24, 2017 Vol. 52, Issue 09



## ENDEAVOUR



### RUNNING FOR A CAUSE

Annual run in the moonlight raises money for several initiatives.

By **TODD EAGLE CHILD** Page 2



### NO PLAYIN' AROUND

College hosts a Mario Smash Brothers tournament for gaming enthusiasts.

By **DECEMBER BURGESS** Page 5

### UNDEFEATED SEASON

Our hometown women landed a winning streak at the CCAA tournament.

By **KAYLA SARABUN** Page 7



### Victory after clean sweep



PHOTO BY KAYLA SARABUN

Emma Lowry hugs her teammate Logan Moncks after winning CCAA nationals. See pages 6-7 for more on the 27-0-0 CCAA champions - our one and only Kodiaks!

## New LCSA team voted in

NICK NIELSEN  
@nicknielsen

Lethbridge College Students' Association (LCSA) has a new president.

Business administration and international student Arthur Torres was elected earlier this month.

Torres is an immigrant from Brazil who came to the college originally to learn English, and decided to stay another year before running for president.

He says he has a lot of ideas for the college and can't wait to take

over next semester.

"I understand my duties as president and I look forward to making this institution a better place for its students."

Another business student, Taylor Noroski, will be taking over as the VP of Finance and Operations position, where she'll handle all the financial aspects of the events the LCSA hosts throughout the year.

As for the VP of Student Life, Dominique Charles, Digital Communications and Media student, will be handling a lot of planning for LCSA events

throughout the year.

Current VP of Student Life Storm Liversuch says these students do invaluable work.

"A lot of people kind of underestimate it, these people sit on so many different committees and they are involved with so many things that impact the college, whether it be meeting with provincial MLA's or the minister of advanced education."

Positions will be taken over next semester by the new candidates, but they'll begin learning about responsibilities as they finish the semester.

## Coaldale - green and clean

STEVE SETO  
@steveseto

The town of Coaldale will be doing its part in helping the community stay green.

A composting bin will be added to garbage and household plastics pickups this spring.

The carts come at no extra cost to residents and the goal is to divert 60 per cent of garbage from the landfill into composting and recycling bins.

Residents feel this is a step in the right direction.

"The composting bins will benefit our household and the town of Coaldale. There is a lot of waste that enters our landfill that can be utilized for other uses such as our own yards and helping our gardens and flower beds," said Stacey Doram who resides in Coaldale.

This was identified as a high priority item in the town's recycling program.

"This was the next logical step to try and save money in tipping fees, plus reducing waste that goes to the landfills," said Cindy

L'Hirondelle, Coaldale Environmental Services Manager.

The town will also be looking into other ventures to help make it more environmentally friendly.

"With our parks and stuff we're looking at automating all of our sprinklers to reduce water usage," added L'Hirondelle

Coaldale is planning on having bins on the street by May and will be available to commercial businesses as well. The hope is that more areas follow suit and do their part in reducing their carbon footprint.



PHOTOS BY TODD EAGLE CHILD

# Running for a cause

## Over the bridge, under the moon

TODD EAGLE CHILD  
@toddeaglechild

City runners have a wide variety of trails to choose from whether it's a light run around a lake, stairs and trails, along the coulee hills or down through the river valley.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Moonlight Run was held March 18 and had 2,800 participants.

Throughout the years the event has grown so popular that organizers needed to cap the event as it was drawing too many people.

Runners Soul hosted the run which started from Casa on 3rd avenue, down through Indian Battle Park and back to Casa, runners had a choice of a 6 km and a 10 km run.

Crowds were kept entertained by local singing and drumming groups as they ran the race. With a strong western chinook, the evening was just warm enough for a good run.

Each race division held cash prizes for the top

runners in both genders and the overall goal of donations from the run came in at \$180,000.

This year's community support recipients were the Southern Alberta Lions Walk for Dog Guides which helps disabled individuals in need of service dogs.

The next was the Dragon Boat Association of Southern Alberta and Victoria Park High School's Math Canoe Program where students build canoes for additional credit in Career and Technology Studies.

The Moonlight Run has evolved over the years from its start in 1987 where there were only a few hundred runners who met up at the Lethbridge Lodge in February in minus 20-degree weather to run the river valley, then meet up for beer, a fun affair. Now there are thousands of participants, mostly families.

"It's a totally different event now because there are so many more people in it. I don't remember the families in the original runs, but now it's a real family event," said Joyce Thibert who has run every race since its beginning.

So what drives someone into the windswept chill of a Southern Albertan street or trail to test their ability to

endure the stress of a good run?


According to a study by the Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise, running has the benefits of reducing depression, stress and anxiety. It also causes after burn where your body constantly burns fat even when you're not running.

A study published in Physiological & Behavior Running says running has many benefits as it causes the same neurochemical adaptations in the brain shared with those who do drugs, so it actually does get you high.

"It's relaxing, it's therapeutic. I feel it helps me learn how to cope with things in life in general just pushing through things that are difficult and I feel good after," said Adria Snowden who took the top overall spot in the women's 10 km.

The Moonlight Run has now become one of the annual main events in Lethbridge and comes to show that a lot of people enjoy a good run for a cause who aren't afraid of a 1,600 m climb up the final hill, the height of the train bridge.





## FOOD COURT


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Culinary students work hard to bring their fellow students the delicacy at the Food Court.

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students serving students

## Student gets Global opportunity

STEVE SETO  
@stevseto

One lucky student has been chosen as the recipient of this year's Troy Reeb Internship and will spend time at Global Toronto to get a first-hand experience in a national news station.

Stephanie Savage won this year's opportunity after an interview with Reeb, Senior Vice President of News at Corus Entertainment. Her first reactions to finding out she was selected took her back for a moment.

"I feel like I'm a little bit less prepared than previous years' winners. But the more time I took to think about it, the more it turned into an excitement thing

versus a nervous thing," said Savage.

The nerves of getting such a sought after internship will help Savage once she gets into the media industry.

"It gets used as a launching point for their entire career. Having Troy's name on your resume is certainly something special and certainly opens a lot of doors and windows," said Pete Gingras, Digital Communications and Media Instructor who has worked with Reeb in the past.

Gingras says Savage will have to be ready to work while she's out east.

"She will be seated next to some of the top journalists in the country on a daily basis," said Gingras.

Savage is excited about Parliament Hill, since she is a political enthusiast.



PHOTO BY DECEMBER BURGESS

As the weather gets warmer across southern Alberta, Matt Baerg checks out the SLP Skate Park on Tuesday.

## Word to your mother, ice-ice safety

COLE PARKINSON  
@coleparkinson4

While the temperatures are rising, frozen waters in Lethbridge have become unsafe.

The lakes in Lethbridge have a considerable amount of danger due to melting ice.

More people are doing activities outside and the city has to take precaution to keep people off the ice.

“We monitor the ice conditions in three of our water bodies, so once a week we measure the thickness and then we can announce to the public if the ice is safe or not,” said David Ellis, Parks Manager for the City of Lethbridge.

The city of Lethbridge has many strategies to keep people off the ice including press releases and using the media to announce how safe the ice really is.

“The ice hasn’t met the criteria yet to allow people on, even though it feels like a long winter. We do have signs posted, so if the signs say stay off, it means it’s not safe,” said Ellis.

Ellis hopes that with the warmer temperatures approaching, they hope people use common sense.

Lots of ice on the main bodies of water in Lethbridge have already melted and the city hopes that it’s apparent there could be danger if people attempt to walk on the lakes.

“This time of year when the ice is soft it’s starting to melt around the edges. It should be pretty obvious that people should stay off because it’s not just unsafe its hazardous right now,” said Ellis.

Lethbridge standards for ice thickness safe enough to walk on is 12 inches and so far this winter it hasn’t reached that and it’s even further away now.

Parents also now have an extra worry while their kids go outside to play in the plus temperatures.

Shana Sanrgret is a parent as well as a day care owner, so she makes sure to inform the kids about ice safety.

“We’re lucky my husband works for the city, he’s one that tests the ice. We go through ice safety quite often with them, when it’s good to be on it and when it’s not,” said Sanrgret.



PHOTO BY COLE PARKINSON

Snow and ice is melting away with the warmer temperatures reaching Lethbridge. The melting ice on lakes presents a danger to the public as its not stable enough to hold people.

She says that kids aren’t the only ones who need to be careful when around the soft ice, adults need to be just as cautious.

While the bigger bodies of water are a big concern, the spring weather brings other safety hazards as well.

“With some of the bigger melts we have had and the hazards that come with it. It’s very important to teach them to stay off rocks,” said Sanrgret.

For ice conditions on the lakes in Lethbridge, keep an eye on Lethbridge.ca

## Waterton flexes mussels

COLE PARKINSON  
@coleparkinson4

Waterton Lakes National Park have banned motorized water vehicles like to try and combat an invasive mussel species.

Parks Canada made the decision after large Aquatic Mussels larvae were found in the Tiber Reservoir in Montana last November.

Once the species are found in an ecosystem they are almost impossible to get rid of and they also have a big detriment to the surrounding environment.

“Given the huge risk associated with an infestation of these mussels, I wholeheartedly support the decision of Parks Canada to ban motorized and trailer-launched watercraft in Waterton Lakes National Park,” said Foothills MP John Barlow in a recent press release.

Tiber Reservoir and Waterton are relatively close to each other and Parks Canada deems the ban will be an effective way to keep the mussels out of the park.

The mussels can attach to boats and loading equipment, transferring from bodies of water, microscopic larvae making detection incredibly hard.

Meghan Cox has worked in the park and she says protecting the environment should be a main priority.

“I am all for protecting the environment and believe that parks provide a great way to both put money into the economy and showcase the beauty we are lucky to live so close to for travelers and Canadians,” said Cox.

Waterton looks to be a busy tourist destination this year due to Parks Canada offering free Discovery passes to all parks for Canada’s 150th birthday.

The park itself will be doing its best to keep motorized boats out of the water by placing barricades.

Fines for launching boats could reach up to \$25,000.

The mussels were first found in North America in the 1980s after coming from Europe and so far they have been found in Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and 34 states.



# OPINION

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Submissions to Letters to the Editor should be exclusive to The Endeavour. To submit a letter, include name, address and daytime phone number. Keep letters under 250 words. The Endeavour reserves the right to edit for length, taste and clarity.

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# Canada aiding the world

The Canadian government has announced the country will provide \$119 million to countries in the midst of a food crisis.

This includes \$27 million to Nigeria, \$21 million to Somalia, \$37 million to South Sudan and \$34 million to Yemen.

These four countries have been identified as the most in need right now.

Canada provided over \$100 million to these countries in 2016.

As a well-developed country, Canada should be providing aid to help people in dire need.

The United Nations have described this as the largest humanitarian crisis since the end of the Second World War.

The conditions in these countries is appalling and many of the people living in them have barely enough food to survive.

Around 10.3 million Yemenis require life-saving assistance according to aid organizations.

It does not get any better for the three other countries as around 8.5 million people in Nigeria are in need of humanitarian assistance while 5.1 million of them face extreme food insecurity.

Roughly half of Somalia, which is over six million people, require humanitarian assistance. Sudan is in a famine that is affecting an estimated 100,000 people, while around one million are at risk of starvation according to Global Affairs Canada.

Providing aid to the most vulnerable in these countries is something that needs to be done. They should not suffer due to inept governments.

The problem lies in the fact the governments in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen are expecting a bail out from humanitarian aid.

The money going across needs to find the people that need it, not the governments who caused the problem in the first place.

Canada's support will be given through UN agencies and non-governmental humanitarian

agencies and the hope is it will go directly to provision of food, health-care services, clean water and sanitation facilities and to protect livelihoods.

Ahmed Hussen, Canada's Immigration Minister, says the Canadian government is urging the "power players" in the four countries to allow aid to be delivered.

Hussen also said that the majority of the

food insecurity has been caused by conflict and displacement from conflict zones.

The lack of liability when it comes to governments who have citizens in need of life-saving help is something that needs to be addressed.

They rely on Western financial help and then do not place it in the right areas to help their people who really need it.

Hopefully this contribution from Canada can correct some wrongs that got these countries into this horrible situation and the money goes into helping the people who are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance.

*"They rely on Western Financial help and then do not place it in the right areas to help their people who really need it..."*



# eLIFE

## No Latter-Day gays

DARASHEA GREGSON  
@darasheagregson

Coming out can be hard for someone who is gay but even harder when adding in the pressure of religious condemnation.

In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) or the Mormon church, they believe that same sex attraction is wrong.

“Most people have inclinations of one kind or another at various times. If they do not act upon these inclinations, then they can go forward as do all other members of the Church,” according to LDS.org.

For Rob Clifton, a regular attender of the Mormon faith, has made the decision to act upon his same-sex attraction

Coming out for Clifton was not the hardest thing, it was not being able to anticipate other people’s reactions.

“My LDS friends want nothing to do with the fact I am gay now, but my non-religious friends seem to want to do nothing but talk about it,” said Clifton.

Clifton still plans to attend church for as long as he is allowed.

“I don’t believe that this church is wrong. I could never see myself as a part of any other faith,” said Clifton

In the Mormon faith, if a member acts upon the same sex attraction they will most likely be excommunicated, according to LDS.org

This will also include the records of Clifton being a Mormon to be removed from the church.

They will no longer be able to pray in church, partake of the sacrament, pay his tithing or even teach the doctrine.

On the LDS website it says that through church discipline, which is designed to help believers return to fellowship within the church, they will also receive full blessings.

Lexi Rasmussen has attended church with Clifton since coming to Lethbridge.

“I honestly didn’t expect it, (Clifton coming out),” said Rasmussen.

Rasmussen goes on to say that it does not change the way she thinks about Clifton.

“There is a distinction between immoral thoughts and feelings and participating in immoral homosexual behavior. If you do not act on temptations, you have not transgressed,” as is stated by the first presidency of the LDS church.

Rasmussen says there is always an opportunity for Clifton to return to the faith, but he would have to repent.

## Skate or fly



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE SAVAGE

Jeff Rau takes advantage of the warm spring temperatures by perfecting his skateboard tricks at the SLP Skate Park March 21.

## No playin’ around when gaming is life

DECEMBER BURGESS  
@decemberburgess

The atmosphere was bouncing between the lines of boisterous and intense at the Lethbridge College Super Smash Bros Tournament.

There was no match more suspenseful than the semi-finals where players Brendon Levandoski and Bread Jones duked it out.

They were friends, turned enemies, as they met each other for the match.

Both competitors are in the Super Smash Bros club at the University of Lethbridge and had prior history in competitions.

“Approximately, I have attended about a hundred [tournaments],” said Jones.

Smash Bros means the world to Levandoski, who fought his way up the ranks of the tournament valiantly.

Before the semi-finals, he had defeated a competitor that he had never won against before.

“I beat two of the four that I was really scared of and I wasn’t expecting that, so that was a really amazing feeling,” said Levandoski.

This marked the emotional high of the night for the red headed competitor.



PHOTO BY DECEMBER BURGESS

Brendon Levandoski (right) cries after losing the semi-finals to Bread Jones (left) in the Super Smash Brothers Tournament at Lethbridge College on March 2.

With a high, however, comes the contrasting low and some players find it hard to balance between the two.

Upon losing to Jones in the first round of the semi-finals, Levandoski was overcome with emotion.

“When I had that negative dip, it was

because I had been fighting that player for two years and he beat me with the same thing he always beats me with over and over again,” said Levandoski.

The young man looked at his opponent with red, puffy eyes and said he was no longer playing.

Levandoski quit with two rounds to go, but got placed in third for past efforts.

“After two years, I would’ve expected myself to adapt. It sucks to lose to something you know will beat you but you can’t fight...I froze,” said Levandoski.

Jones went on to the finals where he claimed first prize, beating out fellow club member, Jaren Richards.

Jones said his success comes from being a competitor for a long time.

“I kind of know what people do and I know what works, I’ve had my time playing against people who are much better than me and when someone is so much better, you can’t even fathom how good they are – well, it helps you improve,” Jones explained.

Richards who has been playing competitively for two years, says he is still improving.

“You probably won’t do as well as you want to; I still don’t do as well as I want to sometimes. If you learn how to deal with that, improving becomes very easy,” said Richards, as a tip for new players.

To find out more information about competitive Super Smash Bros, join The AB Smash Group on Facebook.

# LETHBRIDGE COLLEGE KODIAKS

## TAKE GOLD!



AMY ARBON WAS NAMED PLAYER OF THE GAME AFTER THE GOLD MEDAL MATCH.



EMMA LOWRY GOES IN FOR THE LAYUP.



FOLLOWING THEIR NATIONAL WIN, THE KODIAKS LIFTED UP GUARD SHANTAYA STREBEL'S SISTER, HANNA UP INTO THE AIR.

PHOTOS BY KAYLA SARABUN

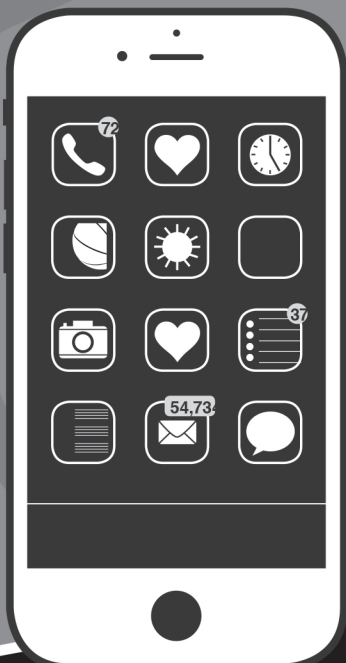


AMY ARBON BRINGS THE BALL DOWN THE COURT.



EMMA LOWRY HUGS LOGAN MONCKS FOLLOWING THE GOLD MEDAL WIN.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES



**Bridging Cultures March 29.** A day to celebrate our college's diversity. Food fair, cultural entertainment and activities in the Val Matteotti gymnasium. Get your \$5 ticket at the LCSA or the ELC Office (AN 2730) by March 27.  
**We're asking because we care.** Students can expect a survey from Lethbridge College. Check your college email for your survey link. We want to hear about your student experience and how we can improve our programs and services. Survey closes March 29.  
For more information on what's happening on campus to support your academic, social, emotional, and physical wellness visit the Student Activities Calendar at: [lethbridgecollege.ca/studentcalendar](http://lethbridgecollege.ca/studentcalendar). **Check it often for our weekly prize giveaway.**

# eSPORTS



## Undefeated season for Kodiaks women

PHOTO BY KAYLA SARABUN

The bench storms the floor of the NAIT Ooks gymnasium as time runs out and the Kodiaks win CCAA gold.

KAYLA SARABUN  
@kayla9614

A new banner will soon be added to the rafters of the Val Matteotti gymnasium at Lethbridge College.

The Women's Kodiaks team claimed the national title on March 18 after defeating the Dawson College Blues 81-57.

The Kodiaks finished the regular season undefeated and carried that to the Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association's (CCAA) National Championships.

With the nail biter of a game on Friday to make it into the finals, the Kodiaks knew they had to keep relaxed heading into the gold medal game.

"Our preparation is good. I took them out go-karting and stuff like that, so we've got to be staying loose as usual" said Brad Karren, Kodiaks head coach.

The Kodiaks were on fire starting off the first quarter, doubling the Dawson Blues in points, 16-7.

By the half, the Kodiaks were up 32-16, and ready to keep fighting to secure the gold medal.

The Dawson Blues were also determined, coming out of the half and claiming 24 points in the third quarter.

Going into the fourth and final quarter, the Kodiaks were up with 62 with Dawson trailing behind with 40.

With gold lingering on their minds the women were determined to keep up their 22 point lead.

Not letting anything get past them, the Kodiaks played a tight defense and offense, with Amy Arbon leading the way with five steals in the final game.

The emotion could be seen by everyone in the NAIT gymnasium even before the final buzzer.

With that final ear splitting sound, the Kodiaks rushed the floor to congratulate each other on becoming

the gold medalists at the national level.

Tears welled up in the players eyes as they lined up for the player of the game announcements.

Second-year Kodiak Amy Arbon claimed the player of the game title for the gold medal game with 15 points, five steals and four rebounds over the course of the matchup against the Blues.

Third-year player, Sunder West, had a stellar weekend with the Kodiaks and claimed the title of CCAA Tournament's Most Valuable Player.

"I feel really good, but most importantly I'm proud of my team and how they played this weekend," said West.

Not only was West named tournament MVP, but both Logan Moncks and Emma Lowry made CCAA tournament first team all-star.

The Kodiaks completed their season with a perfect 27-0 record.

## Coach Karren wins national coaching award



PHOTO BY KAYLA SARABUN  
Brad Karren chokes up as he gives an acceptance speech for his award.

KAYLA SARABUN  
@kayla9614

From being the Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) Coach of the Year and an undefeated season, Brad Karren has achieved a lot this season.

Another title Karren can add to his list is Canadian Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) Coach of the Year.

At the CCAA banquet hosted March 15, Karren was up against four other coaches from different colleges across Canada. Teams waited to hear if their coach won the prestigious award. Finally, the words left the emcee's mouth.

"And the 2017 Coach of the Year is... Brad Karren."

The Kodiaks roared with excitement as they watched their coach walk to the

stage to accept his award.

The emotion spread across Karren's face on why he's so close to the team.

"To become a good coach, it's in how we recruit," said Karren alluding to how much he values every one of his players.

The recruiting process pays off for Karren, as you can see the team chemistry both on and off the court.

"Our girls are light, they're happy, they sing, they dance, they seem to take it not so serious, but once they start playing, they get very serious in a hurry," said Karren.

The coach of the year wasn't the only award to be handed out that evening.

There was also the Player of the Year and awards for All-Canadians. Ten women were named for All-Canadians, one of those women was Logan Moncks.

Moncks was also nominated for player of the year.

Ultimately, Moncks didn't win the award, it went to Ceejay Nofuente of Humber College.

"I want to thank the CCAA for the opportunity for giving me this award," said Nofuente, who won it for the second year in a row. Not only were awards given out, but words of wisdom from the assistant coach for the Canadian women's national basketball team were shared.

"I ask you to play and pursue this passion as well as you can, for as long as you can," said Smith.

Smith is a member of the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame and the Women's Basketball Hall of fame.

As for the Coach and Player of the Year, they'll receive custom made rings.

# Men's Kodiaks clinch fifth place finish

STEVE SETO  
@steveseto

The Lethbridge College Kodiaks men's basketball team tipped off against the toughest teams across Canada last weekend. The men took over Prince Edward Island to compete in the CCAA championships.

After upsetting the nationally second-ranked Medicine Hat Rattlers in the ACAC finals, the Kodiaks earned a spot to take on the best.

"We went in to compete and didn't want to lose, so we left it all out onto the court every game," said fifth year guard Robert Myles III.

The men unfortunately were not able to bring home a title out east after losing to the eventual champions by two points in the first game. The team went in with the right mindset, but ran into tough competition.

"Our hope was to go in and win the whole thing, but we came up just short," added Myles.

After looking back at how the weekend played out, the coaching staff was confident anything was possible.

"There was no team out there that we didn't think we could beat," said head coach Ryan Heggie.

Travel has been a big part of the regular season Kodiaks played 21 games outside of the Val Matteotti gymnasium. Heggie wanted to make sure his players were relaxed and able to enjoy playing on a national level.

"We're a team where as the coaching staff we allow the guys some freedom on the road. We have a strict schedule where the team meets for breakfast," added Heggie who understands the players have additional priorities in their lives other than basketball.

A few player's families made the trip out to PEI to watch the Kodiaks try to be the first men's team to win a national championship.

International guard Cory Richardson's father even made the two-day trip from Australia to watch his son



PHOTO BY JAMIN HELLER

The team crowds around Robert Myles III to congratulate him after being named second team all-star for the CCAA national tournament.

play on the national level.

"They still have that life outside of basketball. I couldn't make the decision to be strict with every schedule, but that's not who I am. So I give them some freedom," said Heggie.

The mens coach makes sure the team is prepared before each game by being diligent about watching the game film and showing up to practice.

The Kodiaks will now head into the off-season with a lot of work to do after coming so close to adding more hardware to the trophy case. Looking for more players will be on the list for Heggie and he will try and leverage the team's success as a key point in making sure the team

reaches their goals next year.

"Our program has been to get to nationals two out of the last three years. In the recruitment process I'll let kids know how my style of coaching is and what we expect from them and that we are a successful program," said Heggie.

The men's head coach won't have to go far to get a little advice and may already have someone in mind who could help.

"[I'll be] getting some tips from our women's coach on recruiting and winning national titles," joked Heggie.

The men's squad now takes a much deserved break after a hard-fought season.

# Rule change causes headache for hockey players

COLE PARKINSON  
@coleparkinson4

A recent study has revealed that a rule change is beneficial to peewee hockey players.

Since the removal of hitting in the peewee league in 2013, concussions have dropped 64 per cent according to a University of Calgary study.

Though the numbers are down, those involved in minor hockey are still not 100 per cent convinced the rule change is a good thing.

"In my mind, atom is the way to go because they are all the same height. If you can teach young kids the proper way, they'll have more respect for hitting and a lot better understanding on how to hit as well as the point of hitting in hockey," said Colby Stone, a minor hockey coach in Coaldale.

Brain injuries have been a big topic in the sporting

world especially in hockey and there have been attempts to control the amount of game injuries.

Many in the hockey community say pushing the age limit for hitting down to younger ages would lead to players getting more experience in body checking.

A big factor of that is getting coaches who can properly teach the art of checking.

"I've always been old school, I would like to see it [the rule change] go opposite right down to initiation, but I think the biggest thing is to have proper instructors to instruct how to hit properly," said Marty Palechuk, Athletic Therapist for the Lethbridge Hurricanes.

Even though there are stricter rules on and off the ice when dealing with concussions, the proper protocols have to be followed before players can return to the ice.

"You have to take them behind the scenes and go through the proper testing to make sure they are ready to go. If there are any signs [of a concussion], you have

to get the medical staff involved," said Palechuk.

While the injury numbers are down in peewee, many minor hockey members are concerned with the step up to bantam where body checking is allowed.

The University of Calgary says there is no evidence of a jump in injuries for first year bantam players, even though players enter into a whole new game with bigger players.

"I felt it was pretty unsafe for kids considering how much of a size difference there is between peewee and bantam. Kids aren't going to learn how to hit properly and how to take a hit properly at that age," said Stone.

The one year of checking that second year players have over the players coming up from peewee is a big advantage when it comes to in-game experience.

The average number of concussions in peewee have dropped by more than 4,800 across Canada since the ban came into effect.

# Hurricanes make playoffs for the second year in a row

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The Lethbridge Hurricanes are on their way to the playoffs for the second year in row. There are many factors that can aid such a turn for the team.

New found success for the Hurricanes has come as the result of major changes to the team. One of those changes is head coach Brent Kisio.

Now in his second year with the team, Lethbridge's squad is about to begin the it's second consecutive

appearance in the Western Hockey League playoffs.

"We added some new people to the roster and they have really taken a leadership role with the team," said coach Kisio.

Forward Giorgio Estephan was with the team when times weren't so good. He says that it was hard years ago just to get the motivation to get on the ice.

"It is exciting to play games where they might be tight instead of getting blown out," said Estephan.

He continued by saying that even through the dark times, it helped that the team was able to see the light.

The team believes there are a number of factors contributing to the Hurricanes' success over the last two seasons.

"It was a real combination of a lot of things. The coaching staff has really done a nice job. And the players have really begun to work well together," said Dustin Forbes

The Hurricanes played the last two games against long time rivals Medicine Hat in a home and home series. Medicine Hat won both games.

The Hurricanes play their next home game Saturday.