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Heather Pickett Lacombe Globe
Blackfalds Wranglers netminder Layne Swier keeps an eye on the faceoff to his right, as Swier's solid performance between the pipes helped his team to a 6-0 win over the Red Deer Vipers in a divisional finals matchup last week.

Lesher leading the charge

➤ Lacombe native helps Briercrest to silver in ACAC championships

Amy Robertson
Special to the Globe

Some spectators are confused when they see the Briercrest Clippers, a team from a little Saskatchewan school playing in an Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) match.

The Clippers are the only non-Albertan member of the ACAC, Canada's top college league, because none of the other teams in the Saskatchewan division—even the ones with far larger student bodies—can compete with them.

And Scott Lesher of Lacombe is a big part of that.

He's been playing volleyball for seven years, playing on varsity and club teams through high school and for

Team Saskatchewan in 2009's Canada Games, and now, in his second season of college ball, he's close to the top of his division in digs and kills, and he's the youngest captain his team has had in six years.

As one of the Clippers' best players, he epitomizes coach Nigel Mullan's vision for the team.

"He sets the culture on and off the floor," said Mullan. "We talk about being better at the end of the day than the beginning. [Scott] is living that. He won't settle for average."

And Lesher's weekend was anything than average, as his drive and determination helped spur his club to the ACAC volleyball championships, where the Clippers earned a berth in the finals against the SAIT Trojans.

Despite strong play from the Clippers, who took the first game 25-22, the Trojans' drive to put an end to a 25-year drought gave them enough edge to pull out a 3-1

match win.

The Clippers have been ACAC bridesmaids three times now, after previously appearing in the provincial final in 2007-08 and 1999-2000.

Despite the silver, Lesher was recognized for his golden play by being named as a first team all-star, as selected by conference coaches.

"Often, there is a moment when the [captain] has an opportunity to stand up and be accounted for or fade into the background," said Mullan. "Scott has stepped up and delivered in those moments."

But Lesher's leadership skills go way beyond the floor.

Faith has always been important to Lesher, which is why he was hesitant to pursue a spot on other college or university teams closer to home.

Joel Dyck, his teammate, roommate, best friend, and fellow team leader is proud to be on the line with Lesher.



Lesher

"As one of the best players on the team, it's easy to look up to him," said Dyck. "He's not the most vocal leader—but he's a great leader by example."

As captain, even when it's hard for him, Lesher keeps his teammates accountable, whether the situation involves homework, workouts, or conduct.

But for all he contributes to the team, Lesher says the program is doing just as much for him. It's making him into the man and the player he's supposed to be.

"I love it," he said.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

- The Petite AA Central Alberta Sting were golden at ringette provincials over the weekend, posting a perfect 5-0 record to bring home the gold.

- The Co-operator's Petite C Synergy ringette team captured their playoff series against Red Deer Kraze over the weekend, netting a 8-5 win Saturday, followed up with a 6-4 win Sunday. The win sends the team to pro-

vincials as Zone 4 Champions.

- The Pee Wee B Rockets finished their regular season over the weekend with an 11-0 win against Ponoka Saturday, followed by a 3-3 tie with Blackfalds Sunday. The Lacombe Pee Wee A Curbease Rockets were also successful over the weekend, skating to a 2-2 tie with Leduc Friday night and a 3-1 win Saturday over Beaumont.

- The Lacombe Ford Atom A Rockets wrapped up their regular season in the north central minor hockey league with a 10-2 trouncing of Wetaskiwin Sunday morning. The win gave the Rockets first place bragging rights in the tier 1 AA division as the team went undefeated in league action, posting an impressive 19-0-2 record.

- Things are starting to get

crowded atop the leader board in the the Kelly McCullough Superleague. The CAPS rink continues to hold a two point lead over Lionel's No Frills, who has the Don Gullekson foursome nipping at his heels only two points back.

- In other curling news, it was Lacombe Kevin Broderon who captured the glory in the A final of the men's curling bonspiel

held over the weekend.

- The Bentley Generals continue their playoff quest Wednesday night when they take on the Fort Saskatchewan Chiefs at 8:30 p.m. in Bentley. The Generals won the first two games with the Chiefs before falling 4-3 on Saturday.

*Compiled by
Heather Pickett*