Laurier Brantford’s Women’s Hockey Tournament Rescheduled One Week Earlier

Include your byline here

Laurier Brantford’s women’s extramural hockey team played their third and final tournament on Feb. 7 at the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre in Brantford, one week earlier than their original scheduled date.

The women’s home tournament was originally scheduled for Feb. 14, but there were several issues with the Valentine’s Day tournament, which also marked the start of Laurier Brantford’s winter reading week.

Summer Belanco, the captain of the women’s team, and forward? defence? goalie? Megan Thring, said the team had to reschedule the tournament because some players had early reading week plans. That meant Laurier Brantford wouldn’t have enough players and risk forfeiting their games.

“There are some of us who play in an Intermediate A league outside of school, and there is a tournament on that day, so some of us need to be at that as well,” said Thring.

However, when the tournament? league? organizers were asked about the change, they had a different reason for why the tournament was being played a week earlier.

“The rescheduling of the tournament was due to scheduling conflicts with other attending schools and was required in order to meet OCR hosting standards,” said Megan Jacklin, coordinator of Recreation and Student Life at Laurier Brantford. I think we also need more context here. What are the hosting standards? What were the conflicts with other schools?

Regardless of the reschedule, the tournament went off without a hitch, and the Golden Hawks played a solid tournament and made it to the semifinals before they were eliminated in a tight game against Fanshawe College.

The women played their first game of the day against the University of Toronto Mississauga, where they came out of with a 5-1 victory. Megan Thring scored four goals on the way to their win. They came up short in their second game against Fanshawe College with a 4-0 loss. They met Fanshawe again in the semifinals, where the Golden Hawks lost 3-0 to a fast offence and a sharp goalie.

“I think we played really well offensively, we drove to the net really hard, and our practicing of cycling the puck in corners in training allowed us to execute it here today,” said Thring. “I do think we need to play more defensive hockey. We’re letting them break up through the middle, as well as protecting our goalie a little more.”

“[Communication] is definitely one of our bigger weaknesses and that’s the problem with facing teams like this, we don't practice as consistently,” said Belanco.

Scores do not always show the full story of a sporting event and it is difficult to capture the energy and effort put in by both teams. While there is always room for improvement, both players and coaches were very impressed with the level of determination displayed in each game throughout the tournament.

“Everyone played really good and we’re starting to gel as a team more,” said Belanco. “Everyone played hard and we were able to capitalize on [our opponent’s] flaws.”

The men’s team also played their final home tournament on the same day and were also successful in making it to the semifinals where they were eliminated. This marked the end of the season for both teams for 2019-2020. They will begin playing again in the fall semester later this year.

Brendan,

I can tell that you like writing about sports. This is a good piece. But there are parts of it that seem incomplete to me as a reader. I still have a few questions about the reschedule (see my notes above). As a reader, I should have those questions answered by the end. There were some really long sentences (lots of “ands”). Try to make your sentences shorter for readability. If you have more than two “ands” in a sentence, it should probably be two sentences.

For your next assignment:

* Really work on writing in the active voice. I’ve added some helpful resources on this to MyLS because you’re not the only one who struggles with active voice.
* Remember to follow CP Style
* Don’t stack quotes on top of each other. Add context in between for the reader. Sometimes it’s confusing to read back to back quotes because it’s not clear at first who’s “speaking.” I think I mentioned this in your last piece as well.

Story pitch: 3.5/5

I’d like to see a strong angle for your next story pitch, rather than a topic. Think about what you would write in your lead and pitch that first, followed by context and specific sources.

Written: 3/5

Digital: 4/5

There were a few choppy transitions but overall I thought this was a fun way to introduce sports (and hockey) to a non-sport audience. Well done!