



Jan. 26, 2009 – Athletics News Release:

Straight from the Bethany College Eagles' Nest

A Three-Tournament Weekend

This past weekend was really busy for the Bethany College Eagles' Athletics, with all of our athletic teams taking part in tournaments; indoor soccer at Bethany Place, hockey across the street at the Hepburn Arena and basketball at Taylor University College in Edmonton!

Bethany Campus had an enjoyable and exhausting weekend as the Alumni hockey and soccer tournaments were held. It was a great time of competition, but more importantly of re-connecting with old friends.

The alumni hockey tournament involved three alumni teams, and the Bethany College Eagle's team. Once again, much thanks goes out to Rod and Janelle Loewen for organizing the Alumni Tournament coordinators. There were about 33 alumni and friends participating in the weekend, from as far back as the 1975-78 class to recent alumni from last year. The first four round robin games looked like the first team to score 9 would win each game, with the Bethany Eagles defeating the two older alumni teams by scores of 9-2 and 9-3 and the youngest alumni team defeating the same older teams 9-5 and 9-3. This meant that the final two round robin games became the Championship and Consolation Finals and were extended to three, -20minute stop time periods. The best game of the tournament turned out to be the tournament final with the Bethany College Eagles and the youngest Alumni team fighting hard, exchanging goals and the lead. The Bethany College Eagle's found themselves in a 5-3 hole after two periods and fought back to make it a one goal game with 10 minutes left in the third period. The youngest alumni team was able to hold on to the lead after extending it with an empty net insurance goal with 45 seconds left in the game. Congratulations Alumni!

The Alumni soccer was a great success, with some great organizing coming from a great group of volunteers. Thank-you to Sheldon Mathies, Jeff Peters, Theresa Shantz, and Colleen Ruten. There were two alumni teams for each gender, along with the Bethany College Eagles' teams. After a hard fought round robin, both Bethany Eagle's teams found themselves in the semi-final against the youngest alumni team. In the women's competition, the youngest alumni team demonstrated the experience by defeating the Bethany Eagles 6-1. The oldest alumni team then defeated the youngest alumni team in the final 5-2. Congratulations to the veteran women's team. In men's competition, the Bethany Eagles' team were defeated by the eldest alumni team in the final by a score of 4-1. Congratulations to the veteran men's team. The weekend was a good tune-up for the soccer season and the second half of the hockey season, after a long Christmas break.

A Bethany College alumni tournament tradition is to acknowledge an alumnus with an Alumni Appreciation Award for making an outstanding contribution to the sport and

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Bethany College over an extended period of time. This year, during the Friday night coffee house, Colleen Ruten was recognized for the amazing impact that she has had at Bethany College through her many years of coaching the women's soccer teams and the presentation was made by Theresa Shantz, who coached with Colleen for three years. Craig Glen was recognized by Rod Loewen for his contribution to hockey, during Saturday's Alumni brunch. Craig was very involved in Bethany College Athletics, from volleyball to hockey and has had a huge impact through his leadership on the team as well as through volunteer organization of the alumni tournament for several years.

The Bethany College Eagles; basketball teams had their first taste of competition this weekend, competing in the Hoopfest tournament, hosted by Taylor University College in Edmonton. At press time, statistics were very limited. The women's team went through the round robin with a record of 0-2 against strong competition of Taylor University and Olds College, before losing in the C final to Ambrose University College by 17 points. The other teams in the tournament had been practicing since early fall, whereas the Eagles had only had two organized practices since tryouts, so the team was really encouraged to see improvement throughout the weekend. The Bethany College Eagles' men's basketball team finished round robin play with a 1-1 record after defeating Taylor and then losing to Olds. They were then defeated by a much bigger PRBI in the B final. The team was missing two players to the third year missions trip in Peru, and had injuries and sickness hitting the team throughout the weekend, so there is much potential to be encouraged by from the weekend.

The next Bethany College athletic event is the men's hockey team facing 1st E at the Schroh Arena in Saskatoon on Friday, January 30th and then the Wolfpack the following evening at the Hepburn Arena. Game times are 9:15 pm and 8:00 pm respectively.

Submitted by Jadon Frank,
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