

I'm like a little child.

Lisa Kurylowicz of Manotick, Ont., finished sixth while Kristi Richards of Summerland, B.C., was eighth and Vancouver's Tami Bradley finished ninth.

In the men's event, Stephane Rochon of St-Sauveur, Que., was the lone Canadian to make the final, finishing seventh with 26.24 points.

Finland's Mikko Ronkainen finished first with 28.09 points while Americans Jeremy Bloom and Toby Dawson were second and third with scores of 27.33 and 27.22 points, respectively.

"I feel I never skied the middle section that nicely in my career but my bottom jump was the main problem," said Rochon after his seventh top-10 finish at the world championships since 1995.



— MIKE RIDWOOD, CP

Lancers have winning recipe

By JOHN SMITH
Calgary Sun

Some say winning is contagious.

That's certainly the case at Dr. E.P. Scarlett high school, where the senior girls basketball team has reeled off a decade of dominance.

Not only have the Lancers won seven of the last nine city championships, they've captured four of the last five provincial titles.

The team is 8-2 this season.

"When you come in here, you know the expectations," said head coach Bryce Tolley.

"There is a legacy, you say, from the players who went on before. The first thing we always ask these girls is, 'What can I bring to this program and to this team?'"

New faces each year strengthen the program, says Tolley.

"The new players understand what they are going to have to give to the program because of the players who have gone through before them. They don't want to do any worse than the team before them, so

in the end, these girls play their hearts out."

Tolley is in his 12th season. He believes good offensive basketball is the key to winning.

"These girls have been taught to play full pressure, in-your-face basketball. We identify the strongest part of each student's game and we help them focus totally on that task."

Tolley's philosophy and the expectations brought about by history make for a formidable combination.

"The high expectations we have of the kids about attending practices and how to play games has a big impact on how we play. I don't coach these girls any differently than I coach the boys, or anyone else for that matter. They have to work hard if they want to win and that's what we teach them."

Competitors are aware of Scarlett's track record but arch rivals such as Sir Winston Churchill don't let it throw off their focus.

"Their defensive intensity, up-tempo play and their winning attitude makes them a very skilled team," said Rick Frey, head coach of Churchill's senior girl's team. "We've been training hard and

have made some changes to our game. We are more than ready to play them."

This year could shape up to be one of the most competitive Scarlett has ever seen.

"Our style of basketball is being seen more and more in the league as the season progresses. It's hard to play against if our defensive game is not at its best," said Tolley.

"Even with our record of 8-2, we have not played our best basketball yet.

"Another point about our program is we try and bring our team along all year so even if we are winning games, we prepare so we are playing our best basketball when we hit the playoffs. If we are playing our best, it is going to take a really good team to beat us."

Scarlett still has a long road ahead as it travels that familiar path to glory. City championships begin on March 15, shortly after the season ends.

Rest assured, it'll take a hard-fought effort to win this year's city championship. Just don't be surprised if Scarlett is left standing alone at the top when all is said and done.