

28th annual Fekula Basketball Classic a highlight for Bears

MURRAY MCCORMICK, REGINA LEADER-POST, REGINA LEADER-POST 12.08.2016 |



REGINA, SASK : December 8, 2016 -- Balfour Bears' Kylie Frass during senior girls game at the Balfour Classic in Regina. TROY FLEECE / Regina Leader-Post *TROY FLEECE / REGINA LEADER~POST*

Joy-Lyn Reimer and Kylie Frass have mixed feelings about their final year of high school.

Reimer and Frass are both enjoying the competition and camaraderie with the Balfour Bears senior girls basketball team as Grade 12s. They also realize that it's the last time they will play in the Fekula Basketball Classic, which has been part of Balfour athletics for 28 years.

"It's bittersweet because I have really looked forward to this tournament," Reimer said Thursday after the Bears beat the Winston Knoll Wolverines 50-43. "It has been my favourite tournament for all of my four years (at Balfour). Knowing that this was my very last first Classic game was hard to experience at times. Still I was looking forward to it."

Frass and Reimer have been on the Balfour senior team since Grade 10 and are familiar with the atmosphere at the first game of the tournament. The atmosphere is different than other games because the Balfour Collegiate gym is filled with students and parents. A Balfour tradition is the students are given a period off to allow them to attend the opening game of the tournament and that adds to the full house.

"It's nice having the whole school being able to cheer you on," Frass said after scoring 11 points on Thursday. "They all support you and your team gets all pumped up about everything. It really helps that the school is always there watching us."

Thursday's opening game allowed Frass to look back on her first appearance in the Classic.

"Playing as a Grade 10 was really an eye-opening experience because you were playing with older girls," Frass said. "I'm excited for my final year and I know that we're going to try really hard. It's a very emotional year, but we try to be positive and we're really hard workers."

Reimer, who scored eight points on Thursday, also reflected on her first game in the Classic.

"It's really cool to see the transition from me as a Grade 10 player who was really intimidated to come onto a senior team," Reimer said. "Now I'm in Grade 12 and I'm able to step into my role on the team and lead up to that."

Balfour head coach Claire Dore said Frass and Reimer are both leaders.

"They are quiet leaders and really hard workers," Dore said. "They are both unselfish and really put the team first all of the time."

Dore understands there are mixed feelings that accompany being a Grade 12 player on a senior basketball team.

"All of these things are the last time they will compete at the Fekula Classic," Dore said. "A win is extra special and a loss is extra tough. It's always nice to have a home crowd and cheering in our favour makes the event extra special."

The Classic, featuring six boys and six girls teams, runs through Saturday. The girls final is Saturday at 7 p.m., followed by the boys championship game at 9 p.m.

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GAME RECAP: Raptors 101, Celtics 94

Kyle Lowry scores a game high, 34 points, as the Toronto Raptors defeat the Boston Celtics.

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