

August 1, 2012 – News Release:
The Bethany College Connection:



Written by Leanne Thiessen, Bethany College Sports Camp 2012 coach

Photos by Austin Gagne, Summer Admissions Counsellor

Bethany College Basketball Camp 2012 . . . a success on and off the court!

This year's **Above the Rim Basketball Camp** was a success, both on and off the court. The camp is open to players from grade 7 to 12; this year's registrants included students from Saskatoon and surrounding area and several from out of province. Our enrollment was the highest yet, at **48 campers!** This number was an experimental increase from our previous cap of 36 campers and was handled easily as staff continued to provide quality instruction and leadership to all campers.



Coaches' Corner in Bethany Chapel

Our camp staff leaders were: **Program Director, Tasha Fehr** (former Briercrest College athlete); **Assistant Program Director,**

Alvin Thielmann (current Bethany College Athletics Director); and **Head Instructor, Kelly Linnell** (former U of S Huskie athlete). Coaches came from both the local area and Alberta, and included many current and former college and university athletes: *Krista Barkey, Chad Braun, Cory Braun, Phil Braun, Tasha Fehr, Braydon Jordheim, Tony Martens, Leanne Thiessen, Kayla Wharton, Erin Bader, and Kendell Wiens.* A huge thank you to the support staff that helped with behind-the-scenes details to ensure camp ran smoothly and was lots of fun, as well as the *Bethany kitchen staff* who served amazing meals all week – a real highlight for campers and staff!



Warming up in Bethany Place

Kelly Linnell, our Head Instructor, focused on **basic skills being the foundation of our game, just as Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith.** The campers were led through 3 on-court skill sessions a day and had the opportunity to put those skills into practice at the end of each day with round-robin team play. This culminated in 2 finals played Thursday evening which provided *every* camper with the opportunity to play in a final game.

The off-court session this year was called, **"The Upper Edge—Reaching the Top of Your God-Given Potential."** Though there are many aspects that

contribute to an athlete's ability to perform at their maximum potential, this year's sessions focused on: **Balance/Agility**, led by Brad Boehm (physiotherapist and former WHL and U of S Huskie Athlete); **Strength Training Basics**, led by Erica Gavel (current U of S Huskie Women's Basketball team player and U of S Kinesiology student); **Core Strength**, led by Leanne Thiessen (former U of S Huskie Women's Basketball team player, fitness enthusiast and local mom/coach); and **Flexibility**, led by Judith Andres (physiotherapist, fitness enthusiast, and local mom/coach). The players were put through active demonstrations of each area of focus, trying some of the exercises and gaining knowledge through both trial and error and the instruction of our presenters. They were able to take home information regarding specifics in each of the areas, tips for training at home and charts to record their progress. Each day contained a spiritual focus as well, including **"Coaches' Corner"**—coaches sharing their faith stories, and **"Courtside"**—Bethany staff member and former youth pastor, Paul Morgun, sharing and challenging the campers in how we are called to "Live, Move and Be" based on Acts 17:28. This discussion was followed up every evening in dorms with small group time led by our staff.

Campers enjoyed times of recreation including a trip to *Redberry Bible Camp* for swimming and other activities offered by the camp. A highlight happened during the trip home on the bus, when good-old camp songs were led by one of our enthusiastic campers!

Nurturing Disciples and Training Leaders To Serve

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Friday activities capped off an awesome week, and included fun basketball competitions such as a Team Shooting Challenge, an Outdoor 3 on 3 Tournament and an All-Stars vs Coaches game. The week ended with the Closing Program that parents were invited to attend. Awards were handed out to the following campers for their efforts throughout the week:

- Christian Leadership Awards: *Madison Bugler* (Female - North Battleford, SK); *Jesse Sly* (Male - Tofield, AB)
- Most Improved Players: *Beth Springer* (Junior - Foam Lake, SK); *Josh Williams* (Senior - Blaine Lake, SK)
- Most Valuable Players: *Brooke Vanderkooi* (Junior - Saskatoon, SK); *Teilhard Volk* (Senior - North Battleford, SK)

Our camp has been a success if, as we have hoped and prayed, each camper has gone home with additional skills on the basketball court, but more importantly, with the confidence in the knowledge that there is a loving and forgiving God who desires a relationship with them – no matter where they are at in their life. We look forward to another wonderful week of camp at **Above the Rim 2013!** See you there!



Outdoor competition in community

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