



The John McInnis Royals ran with the Duchess Park Condors in the final of the Grade 9 tournament at Duchess. The Condors won 44-28.

JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

Erricson feeling heat of Scott room crunch

Although the Duchess Park Condors finished fifth at a senior girls' basketball tournament, coach Al Erricson feels it won't affect their B.C. high school AA No. 1 ranking.

After a 66-47 loss to Maple Ridge, Duchess beat Port Alberni 75-45 and Walnut Grove 62-49 to win the consolation side. Maple Ridge is the fifth-ranked team among AAA schools, which have more students than AA ones.

"We led most of the first half" against Maple Ridge, Erricson says. "We did well."

The Condors are still adjusting to the absence of high-scoring and play-making point guard Erika Johnson, who is out with pulled ankle tendons.

Erricson expects good competition at a 10-team Prince George Secondary School tournament that begins today. The Vanderhoof Viqueens, ranked third in B.C., will be there, although No. 10 Correlieu of Quesnel will not. The championship game is scheduled for Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

"We get to continue to make adjustments without Erika," says her coach, who estimates a 50-50 chance of her returning for the zone playoff February 24 to 26.

That brings Erricson an even bigger problem than missing his point guard.

The Scott Tournament of Hearts has helped eat up all the accommodation in Prince George that weekend, leaving five out-of-town basketball teams fighting over a manger.

The B.C. Winter Games are in Quesnel that weekend, blocking off gym time and ruling out the option of moving the basketball zone playoff there.

With all this, Erricson is trying not to forget the B.C. championship March 8 to 11 in Kamloops.

Junior action

In junior girls' play, Blackburn won its own Thunder Classic tournament with a 55-26 win over Duchess in the final. John McInnis finished third by beating D.P. Todd 55-50 and Hazelton downed Prince George Secondary School 51-29 in the consolation final.

In a Grade 9 girls' tournament at Duchess, the hosts won the final 44-28 over John McInnis. Kelly Road took third place by beating Blackburn 37-31.

Kings back at home

The Prince George Spruce Kings are hoping the Coliseum is home sweet home.

After playing five games on the road, and compiling a 2-3 record, the Kings play host to Burnaby on Friday and Powell River on Saturday.

The Kings lost 8-6 to Penticton and 6-5 to Vernon. But despite the two-game losing streak, the Kings remain in the hunt for top spot.

Currently sitting in fourth spot, the Kings are two points behind Merritt and eight points out of first.



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