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TO: The Lakeland Foundation Board, Alumni, and Friends

FROM: Greg Sanders

DATE: February 23, 2024

SUBJ: The Lakeland Foundation Friday Update

Happy Friday!

The typical focus of Lakeland's Board of Trustees meetings is to address college business, but there is also a wonderful tradition observed at least twice a year – visits from Lakeland's athletic teams. This is one of my favorite aspects of college board meetings and always leaves me so impressed. Each student-athlete introduces themselves to the board and talks briefly about their sport, their field of study, and their future aspirations. Recently, the trustees received a visit from the men's and women's Laker basketball teams.

And how are the Lakers doing on the hardwoods this year, you ask? I'm excited to tell you that they are doing very well, thank you. Here's a brief update on their most recent games:

**Lakeland Men's Basketball**, currently ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association), recently played host to the Niagara County Community College's Thunderwolves in non-league action. The Lakers improved their record to 20-3 as they downed Niagara County by a final score of 75-70. The Lakers presented a balanced attack, as 10 different players scored. Jareon Mayo led the charge with 22 points, while Brandon Lane finished his night with 16 points. Justin Covington was the next high scorer with 7 points, while both Dondi Harper and Ansoumane Oulare finished with 6 points. Nate Houston and Bishop Thomas scored 5 points each in the win.

**Lakeland Women's Basketball** is hitting its stride in the second half of the season. Showing steady improvement over the past few weeks, the Lakers hosted the NJCAA's 16<sup>th</sup> ranked Niagara County Thunderwolves on February 16<sup>th</sup> and handed the T-Wolves only their second loss of the season. The Lakers came away with a well-played 78-71 victory and improved to 11-8 overall, with a season-high five players finishing the game in double digits. Lauren Perry was high scorer with 24 points; Trinity Jackson picked up 16 points; Mya James contributed 15 points. Monica Devine finished her evening with 11 points, while Batoul Khaleefah scored 10 points to seal the Lakers' win.

With March Madness just around the corner, it looks like we may have yet another exciting postseason in the works for Lakers Basketball – which, like the visits from student-athletes to the college Board of Trustees, has become an annual tradition that I thoroughly enjoy. Congratulations to both teams and coaching staffs for another thrilling season of Lakers basketball.

While athletic success is a key to opportunity for many student-athletes, the same level of hard work and dedication is required to drive their academic success. Each semester, the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC) recognizes student-athletes with All-Academic certificates for achieving a 3.30 GPA or higher with 12 completed credit hours. Last semester, Lakeland student-athletes across all eight of our athletic programs earned 26 certificates from the OCCAC. [Click here](#) to read more about these doubly accomplished Lakers.

(continued)

All of Lakeland's student-athletes work so hard both in their respective sports and in academics that it's very easy to imagine a bright future for every one of them on whatever path they choose. **Go, Lakers!**

Wishing you a wonderful weekend and, as always, thank you for all do for our community college.

Sincerely,

Greg

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