

71st LIT Day 3 Recap

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Saturday, February 8th marks the end of the 71st annual Luther Invitational Tournament. As the third and final day of the tournament has come to a close, we are feeling the bitter sweet emotions of the end of an era. For many students, this was their last experience at LIT as a high school student and for some, as players. However, despite the tired haze that was engulfing all coaches, students, parents, teachers, and other participants there was not a lack of spirit or enthusiasm at all, in fact, excitement was at a high. The games sprang to a start at 12:15pm with the 7th place game between Lions' very own Luther senior boys and Miles Macdonell. The game had fans perched on the edge of their seats, as both teams continuously stole the lead position multiple times. Ultimately, the Miles Macdonell Buckeyes took the win, with a close final score of 68-70. An impressive 39 points was scored by Luther Lion, Nathan Matebekwane, making him the highest scoring player of the whole tournament. The Lions senior girls team put up quite a fight in their 7th place game against the Centennial Charges, with a score of 27-31 at halftime, both teams were pushing to come out on top, but with a final score of 53-72, the Charges came out victorious. The mid-afternoon was filled with battles between Saskatchewan and Manitoba teams as the Walter Murray Marauders took on the Garden City Gophers in an exciting game, which resulted in a win for the Gophers with a final score of 62-55 (females). Fans then got to view the Garden City Gopher boys in a game against the Riffel Royals, the half time score suggested a possible win for the Garden City Gophers as they led with a score of 36-40, however, the final score would suggest otherwise with a score of 83-78 and a win for the Royals. At 4pm, the Cardston Cougars and Ernest Manning Griffins went head to head for the title of 3rd place champions and with a solid performance from both teams, the Cougars successfully gained

the third place title, with a final score of 96-86 (males). The females third place game was a match up between Regina's Miller Marauders and Regina's Leboldus Suns. With an outstanding 30 points scored by Sun's #12 Nicola Meban, and a final score of 66-81, the Sun's managed to outshine the Marauders and win the third place game. After a full day of great basketball and spirit, there is not much more anyone could ask for, however, the championship game teams made sure not to leave a dull moment, with a riveting game between the LCI Clippers and the Dakota Lancers, which resulted in a final score of 67-81 and a win for LCI. Congratulations Clippers! To end off the 71st annual, LIT the audience witnessed two Saskatchewan teams fight for the crown, with a game between Regina's Martin Monarchs and Saskatoon's Walter Murray Marauders. The bleachers were packed with local staff, students, parents, and other basketball fans all nervous to see which Saskatchewan team would claim this year's first place spot in the tournament. The stakes were high as neither team had claimed the LIT championship in the past. With a lead from the Monarchs at halftime and a score of 42-39, the Marauders came back with passion and power and earned their spot as the first place winners for the male division of LIT, with a final score of 73-88. Congratulations to the Walter Murray Marauders! That's a wrap for the 71st annual Luther Invitation Basketball Tournament. A huge thank you is extended to everyone who contributed to the success of the tournament: players, coaches, fans, organizers, sponsors, officials, and more; your efforts are seen and appreciated. This was another memorable LIT, and we look forward to many more. See you next year!