

Changing Conferences Debate

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Abstract

Lloydminster Comprehensive High School (LCHS) has been open since the early 1950s. Early in the history of LCHS, nicknamed the Barons, a decision was made to compete in the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) instead of the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA). The city of Lloydminster is unique because it sits directly on the border of the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. The student enrollment at LCHS fluctuates between 800 and 1,000 students each year. The reason for the fluctuation stems from three primary reasons. Many young families move into Lloydminster that have kids of different ages, which affects the school enrollments at various schools. The dependability of the oil and gas sector has seen great rises and dramatic setbacks in recent years. This has seen Lloydminster drop and swell in population numbers based on employment opportunities. Last, a third middle school to house students was opened in 2014. College Park School opened up as a kindergarten to Grade 9 school and has over 600 students in attendance. LCHS draws students from three schools in the public school division, but also has students who come from rural Saskatchewan and Alberta for the advanced placement programs in math and English, trades programming with technology advancements to prepare the students for the workforce, and over 140 course offerings. The writer of this paper hopes to show that a move to the SHSAA is necessary for the success of student athletes now and in

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the future. This essay highlights football, volleyball, and basketball as the primary sports of discussion.

The schools with which Lloydminster Comprehensive High School (LCHS) is forced to compete within the Alberta Schools' Athletic Association (ASAA) are from major centers in Alberta with bigger population bases, which allows the schools more potential athletes to fill their rosters. The centers and schools with which LCHS would compete within the Saskatchewan High Schools Athletic Association (SHSAA) are closer to the size of Lloydminster and closer to the size of LCHS. Students have many sports options to consider when attending LCHS including badminton, basketball, cross-country running, curling, football, golf, football, rugby, track and field, and volleyball. All of these sports would transition easily into the SHSAA fold of programs. The only school sport not recognized under the sporting organization of the SHSAA is rugby. A decision would need to be made either to offer rugby as a club program and compete with other programs in the Saskatchewan Rugby Union or to stay in Alberta to compete within the ASAA. The neighboring school to LCHS in Lloydminster is Holy Rosary High School. This school is part of the Lloydminster Catholic School Division. Holy Rosary offers all of its extracurricular programs in Alberta, with the exception of soccer. Soccer is not recognized as a sport within the ASAA, so a concession was made to allow Holy Rosary to compete in soccer under the SHSAA.

Football

Football has had some success, but very inconsistent results when competing in the ASAA. The Barons football team competes in the Wheatland Football League with nine other schools. The Barons regularly dominate the Wheatland Football League because of the much weaker competition. Teams from Athabasca, Westlock, Vermilion, and Vegreville struggle to play 12-man football and often send traveling rosters to road games or host home games with 18–30 players. This makes it difficult to compete with teams with rosters of 45–60, which the Barons and Holy Rosary field on a yearly basis. Games against these teams are often over by halftime, and veteran players sometimes only play a quarter or two before sitting on the bench for the remainder of the game because teams do not want to

run up the score on the opposition. Teams from Bonnyville, St. Paul, Wainwright, and Cold Lake make up the rest of the league. These teams can have competitive rosters one year and then struggle for a few years, depending on the cycle of youth to come through their systems. LCHS is the biggest school within the league, with the other schools smaller in different discrepancies. Football Alberta ranks schools based on school population, with Tier IV coming in at 449 students or fewer; Tier III at 450–749 students; Tier II at 750–1,249 students; and Tier I at 1,250 students or more. LCHS will always be in Tier II through Football Alberta's system. For the purpose of this paper, the writer will analyze results based on provincial showings since 2012 to outline the discrepancies and flaws that the Barons football team faces yearly.

In the 2012 provincial bracket, the Barons faced off against the McNally Tigers and dropped a 31–21 decision. The Tigers went on to lose the North final 48–0 to Austin O'Brien Crusaders, who were in the midst of a 3-year repeat (2011, 2012, 2013) and won provincials in 2012 with a 44–3 victory over Catholic Central Cougars. McNally and Austin O'Brien are in Edmonton, and Catholic Central is in Lethbridge, both much bigger centers than Lloydminster and able to have senior (Grade 11–12) and junior (Grade 9–10) football programs within their schools. In 2013, the Barons drew Austin O'Brien in Round 1 and dropped a 35–7 decision. The Crusaders defeated Paul Kane 32–0 before beating Foothills 28–7 in the provincial final. Based on the scores, the Barons, if they were able to get through their first game of provincial play with a victory, would have struggled mightily to get further in the provincial playdown. Paul Kane is a school in St. Albert, a bedroom community north of Edmonton, and Foothills is located in Okotoks, a bedroom community south of Calgary. In 2014, the team dropped their opener to Austin O'Brien 35–4. The Crusaders then went on to lose to St. Joseph's Celtics from Grande Prairie 31–12, ending their 3-year reign, and the Celtics took the provincial final with a 13–4 victory over Medicine Hat. In 2015, the Barons avenged years of Crusader victories when they finally defeated Austin O'Brien 30–2. A matchup with the Celtics followed, and the season ended abruptly with a 53–13 beating at the hands of St. Joseph's. St. Joseph's reign as provincial champions ended with a 69–15 loss to Foothills from Okotoks. Table 1 depicts the demo-

graphics for some of the Alberta centers against which Lloydminster schools compete.

Table 1

Demographics of Alberta Centers Against Which Lloydminster Schools Compete

School	Population	Year
Grande Prairie	68,556	2016
Okotoks	28,016	2015
Medicine Hat	63,018	2015
St. Albert	64,645	2015
Lloydminster	31,377	2015

The population numbers of Edmonton and Calgary were ignored because of the size of Alberta's two biggest centers. There are multiple high schools in Grande Prairie, Medicine Hat, St. Albert, and Okotoks, so the students have multiple options for schooling.

The goal for the move to the SHSAA is to join the Saskatoon High School Football League. The team would require fundraising more dollars, as having to bus 2.5 hours to Saskatoon and Prince Albert and 1.5 hours to North Battleford for games would increase the transportation budget portfolio for football. But more advantages exist, despite the increase in dollars. The Saskatoon team has an artificial turf field and plays in a complex that has undergone major renovations including a new clubhouse, lights, scoreboard, and bleacher seating additions. All games would have six- or seven-man officiating crews. Some of the games in the Wheatland Football League have four-man crews, which is a shame for high school football. Hired statisticians are present at all the games and statistics are updated promptly on the league website for the Saskatoon league. At times in the Wheatland Football League, statistics or game film is not updated by teams until a week after a game. The teams in the Saskatoon league field competitive rosters, so the worry about pulling seniors after having a 30-point lead likely will not happen. Saskatoon has many high schools, and the enrollment numbers for the schools for 2015 are more comparable to that of LCHS compared to that of the ASAA. Appendix B addresses the population numbers based on the Alberta and Saskatchewan schools. A move to the Saskatoon league

would benefit the student athletes and football coaches at LCHS. The higher quality of football and playing games that are more competitive on a weekly basis instead of every other week will improve the level of play within the players and coaches. The schedule makers in Saskatoon will try to accommodate by scheduling games against North Battleford (city population 14,000 in 2014) and Prince Albert's (city population 35,132 in 2011) two high schools, Carlton and St. Mary's, to reduce costs for teams that reside outside of Saskatoon.

The populations of North Battleford and Prince Albert are much closer to that of Lloydminster than that of other Alberta centers that LCHS would have to compete against. The Saskatoon teams would provide formidable competition and the chances of competing for a provincial championship would be difficult, but playing meaningful and competitive games on a weekly basis would greatly benefit the program.

Volleyball

Volleyball provides similar statistics for Alberta and Saskatchewan competition at the provincial level, as well. The senior volleyball teams are unique in Lloydminster because they do not have an official league in which to compete. Teams practice two to three times per week and then leave on Thursdays or Fridays for tournaments. The teams travel to competitions across Alberta and Saskatchewan weekly, to get more exposure for athletes and better competition. The teams split between tournaments in both provinces not only to get a feel for the competition in each province, but also to see new teams on a weekly basis. The writer will use provincial results from the past four seasons, as well as early season results from the 2016 season, for the Senior Girls team before making similar comparisons for the Senior Boys team.

In 2012, the Senior Girls team traveled to Lethbridge, approximately 7 hours away, for the provincial tournament. Costs for travel have been a sticking point for the debate between Saskatchewan and Alberta athletics. The Alberta provincial tournament is a 12-team tournament with the top four teams playing off, teams seeded 5 through 8 playing in a pool, followed by teams seeded 9 through 12 playing in a pool. After the initial three-game round-robins within the pools, teams are ranked 1–12 and the top four teams get byes into the quarterfinals. The remaining eight teams play games against

each other (5 vs. 12, 6 vs. 11, 7 vs. 10, and 8 vs. 9) to see which teams advance to the championship bracket and which teams move to the consolation side.

In 2012, the Barons were seeded 12th despite a successful regular season of play. The girls played ninth seeded St. Francis from Calgary and lost 25–18, 15–25, 5–15, followed by a loss to 10th seeded Bow Valley from Cochrane, 18–25, 16–25, and concluded the round-robin with a three-set loss to 11th seeded Catholic Central from Lethbridge, 25–21, 13–25, 5–15. Following round-robin, teams are seeded 1 through 12. Losing all three games, the Senior Girls team faced fifth seeded Ross Sheppard from Edmonton (originally seeded 4th) with scores of 25–19, 25–14, and 25–4. The team moved to the consolation side of the draw and followed with losses to Catholic Central, 25–19, 25–22, and Grande Prairie Composite, 25–21, 25–20. The Grande Prairie team was originally seeded eighth, but finished 11th overall, and LCHS finished 12th place overall at provincials.

The 2013 tournament was hosted in Edmonton and again the Barons were seeded 12th going into the tournament. Results for round-robin included losses to the ninth seeded Holy Trinity from Edmonton, 14–25, 20–25; 10th seeded Harry Ainlay from Edmonton, 15–25, 25–16, 4–15; and 11th seeded Bishop Carroll from Calgary, 14–25, 22–25. The playoffs showed similar scores and results, with losses to fifth seeded William Aberhart from Calgary, 20–25, 14–25, 11–25; seventh seeded Lindsay Thurber from Red Deer, 12–25, 13–25; and sixth seeded Grande Prairie Composite, 18–25, 13–25.

The 2014 tournament was hosted in Lloydminster, an exciting year for the squad because the team did not have a long travel and family and friends had a chance to follow the team. For the first time in recent years, the team was seeded 11th going into provincials. The primary reason was the zone was granted a second berth at provincials and the Barons defeated the Bonnyville Notre Dame team at zone playdowns, so the Bonnyville team was seeded 12th. Round-robin results had the girls losing to ninth seeded Winston Churchill from Calgary 19–25, 21–25; defeating 10th seeded Foothills from Okotoks 25–19, 25–18; and defeating 12th seeded Bonnyville Notre Dame 25–23, 25–22. Finishing the round-robin ranked 10th out of all the teams, the Barons played a playoff match with Hunting

Hills from Red Deer (seeded seventh), ending with a 3–1 loss in sets. This moved the squad to the consolation side with losses to Foothills, 2–1, and Bonnyville Notre Dame, 2–1. The team finished last in the provincial tournament for the third consecutive year.

The 2015 tournament yielded similar results with pretournament seeding of 12th, and the girls won their final game of the tournament for the first time in 4 years to finish 11th overall to improve their ranking. The problem that comes up on a regular basis for the Senior Girls team is playing schools that are must bigger than LCHS. The level of competition is so much greater that coaches and players question the Baron athletes about being at the tournament, despite their winning games and tournaments through their season, and they do not come close in some games at provincials to a victory by the scores. Despite individual players and the team as a whole meeting goals through the years, provincials are a difficult weekend for the program. By moving to Saskatchewan, the team would be facing schools with similar population numbers, as evidenced in Appendix B. Table 2 shows the different competition categories in volleyball for Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Table 2
Alberta and Saskatchewan Competition Categories by School Enrollment

Category	Alberta	Saskatchewan
1A	1–99	1–20
2A	100–299	21–30
3A	300–799	31–50
4A	800+	51–150
5A	N/A	151+

As Table 2 illustrates, there is a clear discrepancy between the two provinces. Alberta uses the total school population for Grades 10–12, and Saskatchewan uses the total female or male student population for Grades 10–12. If Alberta had a separate 5A category for the bigger centers such as Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, and Lethbridge, the level of competitiveness would be higher for those centers and allow more teams to compete for a 5A category. When the final rankings are submitted for the provincial tourna-

ment, Edmonton and Calgary dominate the top 10 rankings as well as the honorable mentions for the 4A category. With a 5A bracket, more teams could compete for a provincial title and not have their regular season end early. Saskatchewan has two reps from Saskatoon and two reps from Regina and then host a North Rural regional playdown and South Rural regional playdown that add three teams from each for the 5A provincial category. At times, only two North and South teams would qualify if the provincial tournament were in Saskatoon or Regina. This makes the level of competitiveness higher for teams to get to provincials, and they do not get an automatic berth like LCHS does in Alberta, unless a team opts up to challenge the Barons for the Northeast 4A representation. This has pros and cons. Pro is the ability to compete at provincials, get the experience, and end up seeded 12th. Based on the results, success at the provincial level is hard to attain in Alberta. Cons include not winning a way to provincials like other teams do and having extended weekends while other teams compete in championships and zone playdowns. The Barons end their tournament play in October and are left with two to three weekends when they do not have tournaments or zone playdowns. By competing in Saskatchewan, the Senior Girls team may not qualify for provincials every year. But the chance to win a way to the provincial tournament would be more gratifying than going with an automatic bye. The Senior Girls team would have to work and win its way to the tournament. Based on results against Saskatchewan teams in recent years, the coaches and athletes feel they would have a great chance at winning a medal in Saskatchewan than finishing in last place in Alberta, whereas in Alberta the team has been finishing in last place. Winning the TCU Cup in Saskatoon for two straight years, defeating an undefeated team in Saskatoon in October 2016, and defeating teams the girls would face in the North regional playdown at tournaments in Saskatchewan mean a more competitive opportunity exists in Saskatchewan than in Alberta.

The Senior Boys volleyball team has had similar results from 2012 to 2015. The 2012 provincials were hosted in Lethbridge with the team heading in seeded 12th and losing round-robin games to ninth seeded Foothills from Okotoks 19–25, 17–25; 10th seeded Bishop Carroll from Calgary 18–25, 17–25; and 11th seeded Medicine Hat High School 18–25, 27–25, 14–16. The playoff round started with

a loss to fourth seeded Hunting Hills from Red Deer, 8–25, 12–25, 19–25, and then losses to Grande Prairie Composite, 10–25, 12–25, and Medicine Hat, 17–25, 22–25. Grande Prairie was seeded sixth heading into the tournament.

The 2013 provincials were held in Edmonton, and the Barons went in seeded 12th. The squad dropped round-robin matches to ninth seeded William Aberhart from Calgary, 16–25, 18–25; 10th seeded Western Canada High School from Calgary, 24–26, 14–25; and 11th seeded Foothills from Okotoks, 17–25, 13–25. The playoffs started with a matchup against fourth seeded Chinook High School from Lethbridge and resulted in a sweep with scores of 11–25, 8–25, and 18–25. The boys would go on to lose to sixth seeded Notre Dame from Red Deer 24–26, 20–25, and to Western Canada 16–25, 18–25, to finish 12th overall. As the results indicate, there are some wide gaps between the teams at the tournament. Some games were played against top four teams and some against mid-ranked teams. The results indicate an uphill battle to improve overall ranking at the Alberta provincials.

The 2014 event was hosted in Lloydminster, and the team was seeded 10th going into provincials, the highest seed in recent years. Part was due to the zone gaining an extra berth and a better team acting as the host squad for provincials. Round-robin results included a loss to ninth seeded George McDougall from Airdrie, 21–25, 26–24, 14–16; a loss to 11th seed Charles Spencer from Grande Prairie, 15–25, 15–25; and a victory over 12th seed Cold Lake, 25–9, 25–13. The playoffs started with a loss to fifth seeded E.P. Scarlett from Calgary by score of 3–0 in sets played. The loss moved them to the consolation side, where they again lost to George McDougall 2–0 and defeated Cold Lake 2–0, to finish 11th overall in the provincial tournament.

Finally, the 2015 event was held in Edmonton. The team was seeded 12th again and lost all three round-robin games to ninth seeded Foothills from Okotoks, 18–25, 23–25; 10th seeded Western Canada from Calgary, 29–27, 18–25, 5–15; and 11th seeded Bev Facey, 22–25, 18–25. The playoffs started with a sweep to E.P. Scarlett from Calgary, loss in three sets to Foothills, and a sweep at the hands of Bev Facey to remain locked in to the 12th seed, where they started the tournament. The results are similar to those on the girls' side:

some competitive games, but a large gap between the top-ranked teams and bottom four teams. As mentioned, having an additional category for larger centered schools with higher student populations is needed in Alberta to prevent lopsided losses at provincials. If the volleyball teams were to compete in Saskatchewan, the competition would be teams from Prince Albert, Yorkton, North Battleford, and Meadow Lake on the boys' side and Prince Albert, Martensville, Warman, Melfort, North Battleford, and Meadow Lake on the girls' side. All of these schools have student populations similar to LCHS (see Appendix B for exact student numbers). The volleyball season should not rest on the ability to not compete at provincials. Having to play a rural qualifying tournament to compete against the Saskatoon and Regina schools would force the student athletes into pressure situations and elevate their level of play. It would pose unique challenges for the athletes and coaches if the teams played in Saskatchewan, but a change is needed for the culture of the volleyball programs at LCHS.

Basketball

The Senior Basketball teams face similar challenges to the volleyball teams. The ASAA provincial draw for basketball consists of 16 teams with three teams coming from the Calgary zone, three from the Edmonton zone, one each from Northeast, Northwest, Central, South Central, and Host School. There are two representatives from the South zone and three wildcard berths allocated through the province with no more than five representatives per zone. LCHS heralds from the Northeast zone, and as with volleyball, in basketball there are no other 4A category teams to challenge them in the zone. The Barons receive an automatic berth to provincials on a yearly basis, unless a team from Fort McMurray or smaller town in the zone opts up to challenge the Barons for the berth. Most often, the team from the Northeast zone is ranked 15th or 16th, which results in a stacked opponent for Game 1 of provincials. The following results outline the 2012 to 2015 seasons for the Barons Senior Basketball teams at provincials and show a large margin of defeat in the games played within provincials.

The Senior Boys team traveled to Lethbridge in 2012 for provincials. The squad went into the tournament as the 16th seed and faced off with number one seed Harry Ainlay from Edmonton and

dropped the opener 83–51; Game 2 was against the host squad from Raymond, which went into the tournament seeded ninth. The boys lost a close 74–62 decision. This dropped the team to the consolation bracket, where the boys faced Bert Church from Airdrie, which went into the tournament 12th ranked. The last game yielded a 108–75 loss to the Airdrie team. The team lost three games with an average of 26 points less than their opponents.

The 2013 affair was held in Calgary, and a team from Fort McMurray, Westwood Community School, which is traditionally a 3A school, opted up and defeated the Barons to be the Northeast zone rep. The Trojans from Westwood saw similar results to the Barons, losing to the number one seed from Lethbridge 104–41 and then dropped their second game to Notre Dame Red Deer 98–54.

The 2014 event was back in Lethbridge at a different school this time. The Barons went in as the 15th seed and faced off with Archbishop O’Leary from Edmonton, ranked as the number two seed. A 101–33 result opened up the tournament for the Barons. The next two games the team lost 88–46 to Father Lacombe, which was ranked seventh, and 85–48 to Hunting Hills, seeded 14th. Three losses by an average score of 49 points should not happen at a provincial tournament.

In 2015, the event moved to Jasper Place in Edmonton, which hosted both the Senior Boys and Senior Girls tournaments. The Barons boys team went into the tournament seeded 15th and faced off against Lethbridge Collegiate Institute, which was seeded second. The boys dropped an 83–63 decision to the number two ranked Rams. Up next, the boys faced number seven ranked Sir Winston Churchill from Lethbridge and fell 75–51 before losing their last game to 14th ranked Foothills from Okotoks 88–67.

The team has managed to have success against teams with similar population sizes in Saskatchewan, including Prince Albert St. Mary’s, Prince Albert Carlton, North Battleford Comprehensive High School, John Paul II Collegiate from North Battleford, and Melfort. All of the schools are similar in size to LCHS. The basketball teams follow a similar path to the volleyball teams in Saskatchewan where they would compete in an eight- or nine-team tournament and have to finish top two or three to qualify for the provincial basketball tournament.

Another difference is the formatting of the provincial tournament. The 4A category in Alberta qualifies 16 teams, whereas the 5A category, within which LCHS would compete, has two or three teams from Saskatoon and Regina and two or three rural teams, depending on the rotational host sites for each year. Although the road to provincials for the basketball teams becomes a grind by moving to Saskatchewan, the feeling of winning the way to a provincial tournament compared to being “given” a berth would be more satisfying and rewarding and would show the Barons players that their hard work and perseverance through the season pays off with a berth to provincials. The idea of competing in provincials versus not competing in provincials is also a topic for discussion. Does not competing in the provincial tournament every year in Saskatchewan make a season successful or unsuccessful? Do wins and losses matter or not matter at the provincial tournament? Winning a regional tournament to get to a provincial tournament is what every team should need to do, and right now, the Barons do not have to do that by competing in Alberta. As a result, medals are much tougher to capture at the provincial level for volleyball and basketball.

For the Senior Girls basketball team, some background information needs to be presented before continuing the results breakdown discussion. The Senior Girls team at LCHS competes head to head with club volleyball for athletes. It is a frustrating venture for current coach Natalie Wiebe, as well as former coaches who still teach at LCHS or who have left the school division. The students are becoming one-sport specialists instead of representing their school in multiple sports. This is different for the Senior Boys basketball team at LCHS, which does not compete with the volleyball team for athletes. Girls volleyball has exploded within the Lloydminster region, and students are coming out in droves to compete for the Rustlers Volleyball Club. Boys volleyball is not as prominent, and the boys are choosing to play hockey and basketball during the winter. Some boys are becoming sport specialists by training instead of playing in the off-season.

In 2012, the Barons entered the tournament after a competitive season with a 14th seed for the ASAA provincials. The Barons dropped a game to Centennial from Calgary by a score of 83–37. The team from Calgary was seeded third for the tournament and ended

up losing the provincial final that year. The girls went on to lose their next two games to Cardston (sixth seed) 76–52 and Paul Kane (10th seed) 59–43. Three games with a combined losing score of 86 points would be frustrating for many teams, but that is the occurrence for the Lady Barons basketball team.

The 2013 season culminated with provincials in Calgary, where the Barons entered as the 16th seed team, going up against the number one team from Sir Winston Churchill in Calgary. The girls came out on the wrong end of a 101–10 decision. They dropped the next game to Harry Ainlay from Edmonton by a score of 76–21. Lopsided losses like these hurt team programs. Teams can have all the success through a regular season, but ultimately look at provincials as a difficult battle and uphill climb to achieve any success. Season goals ultimately need to be modified and kept realistic. Coaches always want their teams to win the final game of the season; sometimes this is possible, and at other times it is not attainable.

The championships for the 2014 season saw the tournament hosted in Lethbridge again. The Lady Barons did not qualify for this tournament.

Finally, the 2015 championship in Edmonton was held at Jasper Place. The Lady Barons lost to Westwood Community High School, a 3A team from Fort McMurray and thus did not qualify for the tournament. The Westwood team lost games by scores of 72–41, 85–46, and 50–32.

Conclusion

This essay demonstrates some of the insufficiencies with the high school sport system in Alberta and Saskatchewan. There are pros and cons with staying in either provincial high school athletic association body. The point that writer hopes to make clear is that Saskatchewan provides the Barons athletes with prime opportunities to compete against schools of similar sizes and cities with similar population numbers. Travel is a challenge that Lloydminster faces no matter which association it sides with. Table 3 shows the distance from Lloydminster to some of the major centres in Alberta and Saskatchewan against which its teams would compete.

Table 3
Distance Chart Outlining Travel

Alberta cities			Saskatchewan cities		
City	City	Distance (km)	City	City	Distance (km)
Lloydminster	Edmonton	251	Lloydminster	Prince Albert	344
Lloydminster	Fort McMurray	569	Lloydminster	North Battleford	139
Lloydminster	Grande Prairie	699	Lloydminster	Saskatoon	275
Lloydminster	Red Deer	360	Lloydminster	Regina	532
Lloydminster	Calgary	506	Lloydminster	Moose Jaw	499
Lloydminster	Lethbridge	445	Lloydminster	Swift Current	438
Lloydminster	Medicine Hat	583	Lloydminster	Yorkton	602
Total km		3413	Total km		2829

Other sports at the school such as curling, badminton, rugby, golf, cross-country running, and track and field have proven to have success at the Alberta level. Many athletes have medaled in their individual track events, mixed curling, boys curling, and various doubles events for badminton. It would be interesting to see how those results would compare if competing against their Saskatchewan counterparts. A decision needs to be made sooner rather than later about future successes for the student athletes at LCHS. Philosophies, competitiveness, travel costs, provincial vs. regional/zone championships, and student-athlete concerns are questions that need to be discussed and analyzed with great detail. The other factor that has not been highlighted is that the three public schools (Bishop Lloyd, College Park, and E.S. Laird) compete under the SHSAA umbrella. Bishop Lloyd, where the writer currently teaches, is a Grade 7–9 school, along with E.S. Laird. College Park, as mentioned, is a Kindergarten to Grade 9 school. Having all the public schools competing within the same provincial athletic association body would make scouting for current and future talent easier for coaches and athletes. Hopefully, this essay and Appendices A, B, and C provide in-depth detail as to why Saskatchewan is a better fit for a school the size of LCHS than is Alberta.

References

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Appendix A

Projection of Competing Schools Through SHSAA

Table A1

Schools That LCHS Would Be Competing Against in Specific Sports

Soccer 3A: 201 or more male or female students

- North Boys: P.A. Carlton, P.A. St. Mary's, Moose Jaw Peacock, Swift Current
- South Boys: Yorkton Regional, Balgonie, Estevan, Weyburn
- Regina Boys: Balfour, Campbell, LeBoldus, Miller, O'Neill, Thom, Winston Knoll
- Saskatoon Boys: Aden Bowman, Centennial, Evan Hardy, Holy Cross, St. Joseph, Walter Murray
- North Girls: P.A. Carlton, P.A. St. Mary's
- South Girls: Yorkton Regional, Estevan, Swift Current

Volleyball 5A: 151 or more male or female students

- North Boys: North Battleford John Paul II, North Battleford Comprehensive, Yorkton Sacred Heart, Yorkton Regional, P.A. Carlton, P.A. St. Mary's, Meadow Lake
- South Boys: Balgonie, Moose Jaw Central, Moose Jaw Peacock, Moose Jaw Vanier, Estevan, Weyburn, Swift Current
- Regina Boys: Balfour, Campbell, LeBoldus, Martin, Miller, O'Neill, Riffel, Sheldon-Williams, Winston Knoll
- Saskatoon Boys: Aden Bowman, Bethlehem, Centennial, Evan Hardy, Holy Cross, Marion Graham, Mount Royal, St. Joseph, Tommy Douglas, Walter Murray
- North Girls: North Battleford John Paul II, North Battleford Comprehensive, Martensville, Warman, P.A. Carlton, P.A. St. Mary's, Melfort, Meadow Lake
- South Girls: Yorkton Regional, Balgonie, Moose Jaw Central, Moose Jaw Peacock, Estevan, Weyburn, Swift Current
- Regina Girls: Balfour, Campbell, Johnson, LeBoldus, Luther, Miller, O'Neill, Riffel, Sheldon-Williams, Thom, Winston Knoll
- Saskatoon Boys: Aden Bowman, Bethlehem, Bishop Mahoney, Centennial, Evan Hardy, Holy Cross, Marion Graham, St. Joseph, Tommy Douglas, Walter Murray

Table A1 (cont.)

Basketball 5A: 251 or more male or female students (from May 2016)

- Rural Boys: North Battleford Comprehensive, Yorkton Regional, P.A. Carlton, P.A. St. Mary's, Balgonie, Estevan, Swift Current
 - Regina Boys: Campbell, LeBoldus, Miller, O'Neill, Thom, Winston Knoll
 - Saskatoon Boys: Aden Bowman, Bethlehem, Centennial, Evan Hardy, Holy Cross, Marion Graham, Mount Royal, St. Joseph, Tommy Douglas, Walter Murray
 - Rural Girls: Yorkton Regional, P.A. Carlton, P.A. St. Mary's, Estevan, Swift Current
 - Regina Girls: Balfour, Campbell, LeBoldus, Luther, Miller, O'Neill, Riffel, Winston Knoll
 - Saskatoon Girls: Aden Bowman, Bethlehem, Centennial, Holy Cross, St. Joseph, Tommy Douglas, Walter Murray
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Football 4A 12-Man: 326 male students or more

- Saskatoon League: P.A. Carlton, P.A. St. Mary's, Bethlehem, Centennial, Holy Cross, Mount Royal, St. Joseph, Walter Murray
 - Regina League: Campbell, LeBoldus, Miller, Winston Knoll, O'Neill, Riffel
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Note. There are other teams in the Saskatoon and Regina League, but those teams compete in the 3A category because of their population being under 325 and would fall under a different category when determining provincial berths.

Appendix B

Competing Schools' Population

Table B1

School Population Numbers for 2016 School Year for the Eligible Schools in Football, Volleyball, Soccer, and Basketball

School name	City or town	Male	Female	Total
Greenall	Balgonie	274	224	498
Estevan Comp	Estevan	264	280	544
Lloyd Comp	Lloydminster			
Martensville	Martensville	179	149	328
Carpenter	Meadow Lake	236	195	431
Melfort	Melfort	143	153	296
Peacock	Moose Jaw	235	207	442
Central	Moose Jaw	183	194	377
Vanier	Moose Jaw	157	135	292
N.B. Comp	North Battleford	270	244	514
John Paul II	North Battleford	199	186	385
Carlton	Prince Albert	576	471	1047
St. Mary's	Prince Albert	354	332	686
Balfour	Regina	257	331	588
Campbell	Regina	592	569	1161
Johnson	Regina	233	172	405
LeBoldus	Regina	321	307	628
Luther	Regina	149	175	324
Martin	Regina	225	181	406
Miller	Regina	316	274	590
O'Neill	Regina	293	330	623
Riffel	Regina	260	249	509
Sheldon Williams	Regina	205	210	415
Thom	Regina	294	272	566
Winston Knoll	Regina	395	355	750
Aden Bowman	Saskatoon	274	298	572
Bethlehem	Saskatoon	427	359	786
Centennial	Saskatoon	404	437	841

Table B1 (cont.)

School name	City or town	Male	Female	Total
Evan Hardy	Saskatoon	320	249	569
Holy Cross	Saskatoon	415	418	833
Marion Graham	Saskatoon	290	246	536
Mount Royal	Saskatoon	351	306	657
St. Joseph	Saskatoon	392	355	747
Tommy Douglas	Saskatoon	284	388	672
Walter Murray	Saskatoon	555	471	1026
S.C. Comp	Swift Current	406	339	745
Warman	Warman	245	217	462
Weyburn Comp	Weyburn	250	249	499
Yorkton Regional	Yorkton	289	280	569

Appendix C

Financial Information

Table C1
Financial Comparisons of Games

Game 1: Road Game in Saskatoon		Game 2: Home Game in Lloyd	
Bus to Saskatoon	\$600	1/2 Bus from Saskatoon to Lloyd	\$600
1/2 Field Rental in Saskatoon	\$150	Field Rental in Lloyd	\$0
1/2 Drs/Physio in Saskatoon	\$125	ALL Drs/Physio in Lloyd	\$250
1/2 Officials in Saskatoon	\$180	ALL Officials in Lloyd	\$300
Total	\$1055	Total	\$1210
Game 3: Home Game in Lloyd		Game 4: Road Game in Saskatoon	
1/2 Bus From Saskatoon to Lloyd	\$600	Bus to Saskatoon	\$600
Field Rental in Lloyd	\$0	1/2 Field Rental in Saskatoon	\$150
ALL Drs/Physio in Lloyd	\$250	1/2 Drs/Physio in Saskatoon	\$125
ALL Officials in Lloyd	\$300	1/2 Officials in Saskatoon	\$180
Total	\$1210	Total	\$1055
Game 5: Road Game in Saskatoon		Game 6: Home Game in Lloyd	
Bus to Saskatoon	\$600	1/2 Bus From Saskatoon to Lloyd	\$600
1/2 Field Rental in Saskatoon	\$150	Field Rental in Lloyd	\$0
1/2 Drs/Physio in Saskatoon	\$125	ALL Drs/Physio in Lloyd	\$250
1/2 Officials in Saskatoon	\$180	ALL Officials in Lloyd	\$300
Total	\$1055	Total	\$1210
Game 7: Road Game in Saskatoon		Game 8: Home Game in Lloyd	
Bus to Saskatoon	\$600	1/2 Bus from Saskatoon to Lloyd	\$600
1/2 Field Rental in Saskatoon	\$150	Field Rental in Lloyd	\$0
1/2 Drs/Physio in Saskatoon	\$125	ALL Drs/Physio in Lloyd	\$250
1/2 Officials in Saskatoon	\$180	ALL Officials in Lloyd	\$300
Total	\$1055	Total	\$1210
Sum of Games 1,3,5,7	\$4375	Sum of Games 2,4,6,8	\$4685
GRAND TOTAL			\$9060

Factors to Consider:

- Home games might be P.A. Carlton, P.A. St. Mary's, NB Comp coming to Lloyd
- Officials costs factored as 6 officials × \$60 each for Lloyd and Saskatoon games
- Road-game costs might be different to Prince Albert and North Battleford
- No league fees like Wheatland League (there is a \$10/player cost, however)
- Many changeable variables to consider
- No team has tried to get into the Saskatoon League for 15–20 years
- Regular season consists of 7 or 8 games (4H/3A or 4A/3H)
- Playoff games are never hosted in Prince Albert or North Battleford, no matter the seeding
- Playoff games will be hosted in Prince Albert or North Battleford if it involves 2 of those 3 teams
- Game times are Thursday/Friday 3:00, 5:15, & 7:30. Prince Albert/North Battleford are 6:30 p.m.
- They just held their year-end meeting, have a spring meeting in March–April