

# Snowhawks beat The Lakeland Times in season opener

**Brett LaBore**  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

It was a hot opening day at Snowshoe Park in Lake Tomahawk as the Snowshoe baseball season began. *The Lakeland Times*, undoubtedly aided by this intrepid reporter, had the first chance to play the Snowhawks this season in what turned out to be a fun game.

Similar to last year, the Snowhawks beat *The Times* 19-15. After a rough start, we did make a little bit of a comeback late in the game.

"Felt really good (to be back out there)," Snowhawks coach Jeff Smith said. "Seems like it was a long year off and everybody anticipates June coming around the corner.

Waiting three weeks in June is kind of tough. Felt good once we kind of got there and the weather cooperated. A little hot, but cooled off a little bit."

The Snowhawks jumped all over us in the first two innings, scoring the maximum five runs in each inning. Jeff Smith and Derek Young reached base and scored both innings. In fact, I was the only one to record an out in the first inning on a pop-up in foul territory near third base.

It felt like a carousel in the second inning. As I played from third base, the Snowhawks kept rounding the bases, one after another. Everyone came to bat in the inning aside from Paul Miller.



DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

Walker Hartman reaches out to try to make a catch in front of Chad Metzger in a game against the Snowhawks Monday, June 20 at Snowshoe Park in Lake Tomahawk.



DEAN HALL/LAKELAND TIMES

Jake Schexnaydre runs the basepaths in a game against the Snowhawks Monday, June 20 at Snowshoe Park in Lake Tomahawk.

"We did have a couple practices beforehand, but we weren't hitting real good in the practices. All of a sudden balls were dropping in the right spots and runs were coming across," Smith said. "Yeah, I think it was a good overall game by our guys and yours."

Meanwhile, we weren't doing a good job at getting guys on base. The first five batters all got out. We didn't get our first hit until Gregg Walker reached first with a base knock.

Down 10-0, we would outscore the Snowhawks 15-9 the rest of the game. It started with a home run by Walker

Hartman. I waved him home from third as he easily scored for our first run.

The Snowhawks led 12-1 after four innings.

In the fifth inning, *The Times* really started to string some runs together. Walker reached with his second straight hit. Trevor Green, playing in his first Snowshoe baseball game, also reached with a hit. Jeremy Mayo picked up a hit to load the bases.

The bases were loaded as I came to the plate. I really wanted to do some damage to get some runs home. I hit it right back to pitcher Nick Mercks. He threw to first to

record the out. I did get one run home.

Next up, Jake Schexnaydre, also in his first Snowshoe game, got his first hit of the ballgame to score some runs.

It ended up being a positive inning for *The Times*. We scored three times and did not allow the Snowhawks to score. Still, the Snowhawks led 12-4 after five innings.

"It was a little slow start from the team, but man you guys came on," Smith said. "You put a lot of balls where we weren't and you were back in the ballgame. It was a fun game... to start the season

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# Lakeland girls' hoops working on skills in summer league

**Brett LaBore**  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

One of the ways the Lakeland girls' basketball team practices their skills is by playing in the D.C. Everest summer league. The Thunderbirds won two games Tuesday night.

"The main goal is to get the girls minutes on the court in game-like situations, getting them playing," coach Melissa Ouimette said. "To get them to gel as a team and to take what they're learning in skills... and to see if they can take those skills (we're) teaching and putting them into game-like situations and I'm starting to see them do that."

Lakeland beat SPASH (Stevens Point Area Senior High) 51-

34 in their first game. Later, Lakeland beat Wisconsin Rapids.

"I thought we had a nice game against SPASH. I thought our offense did well. We're working on some new things for offense. Either look to score or take a dribble to make a pass," coach Ouimette said. "Doing more man-to-man (defense). It helps us at practice to scrimmage man-to-man."

Crashing the glass is something the Thunderbirds are working on this summer. It paid off in their first game against SPASH.

Cassidy Cleveland grabbed an offensive rebound to assist Julianna Ouimette for two points. Then, Julianna Ouimette grabbed an offensive

board to score two more.

Another offensive rebound led to a Kristina Ouimette 3-pointer at the top of the key.

"Just different concepts and I'm really trying to crash the boards more cause I always feel like that's been our weakness," coach Ouimette said.

It was 7-7 six minutes into the game.

Kristina Ouimette got hot from the outside. She knocked down two straight triples from the wings. Ali Timmerman assisted the second off another offensive rebound.

The Thunderbirds kept the ball moving. Julianna Ouimette found Lily Fortier in the paint for two points. Later on, Ju-

lianna Ouimette kicked it out to Charley Cleveland who made a 3-pointer from the corner.

"You want to move the ball. I don't like when we hold onto the ball forever," coach Ouimette said. "I like my shooters to try and shoot it or drive. If they get stopped, pass it to the open person. If the open person has a shot they love, take it. If it's a shot you don't love, try to create a better pass. I thought it moved around nicely."

Lakeland continued to take advantage of second chance points. Kristina Ouimette scored two and the foul on an offensive



BRETT LABORE/LAKELAND TIMES

Charley Cleveland knocks down a shot from the corner in a game against SPASH during summer league play Tuesday, June 21 at D.C. Everest Senior High School in Schofield.

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