JOE TURCOTTE
SPECIAL PROJECTS EDITOR

For a school that has historically been known for its athletic accomplishments, it’s usually the men’s varsity football team that receives most of the attention and fanfare. However, every year, the Laurier campus plays home to another group of dedicated pigskin players, as the Lettermen Club’s annual Powderpuff football tournament takes over Varsity Stadium.

Powderpuff includes two tournaments a year, one involving strictly teams from WLUSU, and another, which sees teams from across Ontario coming to the school to take part.

"It’s competitive and we’re all here for a good cause; we’re trying to raise money for breast cancer," says fourth-year player and biology student Andrea Wylie, explaining her reasons for playing.

The first event of Laurier’s Powderpuff competition took place this past weekend, as a record number of teams competed against one another. Perennial favourites Diesel eagle, the Wonderbroadz and the Tight Endz, the tournament leaves many strong allegiances between its players, coaches and organizers, some of the team names can be perceived in a controversial way. With team names like the Spread Eagles, the Wonderbroadz and the Tint Endz, the tournament leaves itself prone to criticism that it represents women in a negative light. For his part, Williams says that the Lettermen Club and Powderpuff in general are sensitive to these concerns, saying, “These girls are representing Powderpuff and ultimately Lettermen when they’re walking around wearing their sweaters.”

Note that some team names that have been deemed too controversial have been changed, he adds, “If you look at the names they push boundaries, but they’re not as bad as some of the other names from other schools.”

The quarterback for Femme Fatales tosses to her running back during their game against the Wonderbroadz on Saturday morning. They won the game 7-0.

"Lettermen started it just under 10 years ago and it’s been getting bigger and bigger ever since," explains club president Steve Williams.

"It started with three or four teams and now we’ve got 13 Laurier teams; it’s the most we’ve ever had."

Part of the growing process for Powderpuff has been the recent commitment of the Lettermen Club and the players involved to raise money for breast cancer. The group has set a goal of $20,000, says Williams.

In order to reach their goal, the players and organizers have been fundraising, as well as selling pink Powderpuff tickets, which will be sold in the Concourse on January 28 and 29.

The event’s charitable aspect adds another reason for players and organizers to get involved.

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