

January 26, 2019

MacEwan student-athlete passes away

Edmonton – MacEwan University is heartbroken to learn that one of our student athletes, 23-year-old Nakehko (NA - KAY - KO) Lamothe, a member of the Griffins men's hockey team has passed away. After playing a game in Calgary last night, Nakehko became unwell, and was rushed to Foothills Hospital. Sadly, just before midnight, Nakehko passed away.

Dr. Deborah Saucier, president, MacEwan University, has spoken to family members to share condolences and offer support. "It's difficult to comprehend the pain Nakehko's family is going through right now. We will do whatever we can to assist them during this tragic time."

A student in the Bachelor of Science program, Nakehko was in his third-year with the Griffins after joining the program out of the Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League's La Ronge Ice Wolves in 2016. He played a vital role with the Griffins, helping the team to win back-to-back Alberta Colleges Athletic Conference (ACAC) titles in 2017 and 2018.

Nakehko grew up in the Bigstone Cree Nation in Calling Lake. Nakehko was extremely proud of his Indigenous heritage and took the same passion and enthusiasm he demonstrated as a player and applied them to becoming a role model for Indigenous youth.

Saucier said that Nakehko considered his fellow players as family, not just as teammates. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and teammates. The university is putting support services in place to help them through this difficult time."

The Griffins' hockey game scheduled for this evening has been cancelled.

This is an extremely sad time for Nakehko's family and the MacEwan University community. We ask that the media respect the family's privacy and direct any questions to MacEwan's media relations advisor, David Beharry. The university will not be making any further statements at this time.

For more information, please contact:

David Beharry, Media Relations Advisor

780-497-5586 Cell: 780- 231-5954 Email: beharryd@macewan.ca

Get MacEwan University news delivered to your inbox. [Sign up for our weekly e-newsletter.](#)