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## Russell returns home due to family commitments



Darnellia Russell

THUNDER BAY, Ont. - Lakehead Thunderwolves Women's Basketball Head Coach Jon Kreiner regrets to announce that recruit Darnellia Russell has decided to return home to Seattle and not play for the Thunderwolves this season.

Kreiner said Russell wanted to return home as she found being separated from her two daughters was much more difficult than she had anticipated.

Russell said it was not an easy decision. "I am really sorry for letting everyone down. I knew it was going to be very difficult leaving my kids but this was way more difficult than I can put into words. I want to thank everyone who worked so hard to get me to Thunder Bay; the Lakehead University Athletics

Department, coaching staff, players, friends in Seattle, my Seattle coach and all the media who have been so kind to me. This was a tremendous opportunity for me and my decision to leave had nothing to do with the coaching staff or players. I miss my kids and need to be with them."

Coach Kreiner said he was disappointed but was sympathetic to Russell's choice. "Darnellia's decision to go back home is an understandable one but also a disappointing one. I had hoped that she would take a little more time to give it more of a chance but we are very happy to have provided her the best opportunity and situation we could for her to achieve her degree while playing at Lakehead University. Darnellia has brought great international media attention to our program and I am honoured that she decided to play for us."

Lakehead Athletics Director Tom Warden said he understood Darnellia's decision. "I understand about commitment to family and we're very sorry it didn't work out for her here at Lakehead. We wish her the best of luck in the future."

Source:

Mke Aylward  
Lakehead University