

Squirt Minor 'AAA' comes back, ties 5-5

The Amherst Knights Squirt Minor "AAA" team played their second game of the week last Thursday night at the Depew Ice Rink. The Knights gained a 5-5 tie with the Depew Saints after coming back from a three-goal deficit.

The Knights struggled early, falling behind 2-0 in the first period as Elliott Crimmen and Patrick Stenzel scored for the Saints. The Knights could have fallen farther behind if not for a huge diving block by Knights defenseman Bradley Truel that broke up a Saints 2 on 1, as well as two solid saves, both stick side, by goaltender Mark O'Malley.

Midway through the second period, the Saints struck again when Crimmen scored his second goal to give the Saints a 3-0 lead. Thirty seconds later, Danny Tyczynski got the Knights on the board with a hard-working wrap-around goal he engineered from directly behind the Saints net. With seven minutes left in the second period, John Hazelet made a great rush up the right side boards through the neutral zone and forced the play into the Saints' zone. Knight MJ Bronsky set himself up slightly to the right of the Saints net, wound up and scorched the ice with a wrist shot sizzler that beat the Saints goaltender low to the stick side. The Knights comeback bid began to take form as the score now read 3-2.

Midway through the third period, Tyczynski kept up his torrid scoring pace by

producing his second wrap-around goal of the game that brought the Knights all the way back and into a 3-3 tie. Just a few minutes later, Matthew Ruggiero worked himself to the front of the Saints' net, took a feed from Bronsky and beat the Saints goalie to give his team their first lead of the game at 4-3. However, the Saints struck right back as both Jake Kaempf and Zachary Burdzy scored to give the Saints the lead once again, at 5-4.

With just two minutes left in the game, the Knights comeback seemed as though it may have been for nothing until Dante Todaro stepped onto the ice and had the look of a hockey player who was going to make sure this game did not end up in the loss column. Teaming with linemate Tyczynski, Todaro shattered his way through a congested Saints slot like a brick through glass, took a pass from Tyczynski, and in one motion, roofed the game-tying goal.

Amherst Squirt Minor 'AAA' defeats Bisons, 4-3

The Amherst Knights Squirt Minor "AAA" hockey team defeated the North Buffalo Bisons, 4-3, last Wednesday evening at the Amherst Pepsi Center. Despite out-shooting the Bisons 12-2, the Knights found themselves down 1-0 at the end of the first period.

Bison Johnny Liberti found Steven Dhillon in front of the Knights' net and Dhillon punched it in to give the Bisons the early lead.

The Bisons proved to be a very tenacious team and started to take the play to the Knights in the second period. Strong board battles in the neutral zone kept the swift Knight forwards tied up, until finally, David Grabenstatter found a small crease in front of the Knights' net and scored to give the Bisons a 2-0 lead. David Pfalzgraf and Nick Passifume assisted on the goal.

As the game neared its mid-point, the Knights needed more than just a goal. They needed a play that made a team statement. Defenseman Danny Brodzik along with forwards Owen Green and Danny Tyczynski gave them that play. The slick three-man passing play started when the smooth-skating Brodzik saw an opening and swiftly moved the puck up ice to a goal-hungry Green. Green accelerated up the left boards and broke toward the Bisons' net. Tyczynski engaged and stormed down the right side. With the entire arena preparing for a rocket wrist shot, Green fooled everyone when he blistered the ice with a selfless pinpoint pass that found the tape of Tyczynski's stick. Tyczynski scored to get the Knights on the board.

Green followed up that play with a nice goal from the high-slot that tied the game at 2-2. Ellie Smith produced this play with some great blue line work. Smith's skating was strong throughout the game and her quickness at the blue line frustrated some of the Bison forwards as she was able to

keep the puck active in the Bisons' zone and get the assist on Green's goal.

Not to be outdone, the Bisons' Grabenstatter remained unfazed by the latest developments and made his own statement. Grabenstatter parked himself in front of the Knights' goal and with a quick pass from Peter McGennis, pounded in his second goal of the game. The Bisons led 3-2.

The Knights' Brodzik, determined to get that one back, was looking to start another impact play. However, instead of starting it, Brodzik finished it. Matthew Steffan started the play with a nice pass to Mitchell Spring. Spring made a nice move in the left faceoff circle and moved right in on goal. Brodzik, demonstrating great hockey instinct, had already started anticipating the play and quickly moved in from his point position. Brodzik snagged Springs' rebound and rifled in the game-tying goal.

With the game tied at 3-3 and time running down in the third period, the Knights took their play to the next level and put some good shots on the Bison goaltender. Defenseman Luke Eberhard, Chris Winiecki, Bradley Truel, John Hazelet and Smith kept the Knights team focused and composed with some solid third period play. Finally, the Knights' Steffan drove hard to the right boards in a great effort to start an offensive forecheck. Steffan scored the game-winning goal with a smart quick shot from a tough angle that surprised the Bison goaltender.

White Sabres edge Stars

The White Sabres and Stars played an exciting first game of the season. The White Sabres won 5-4.

The first period was like a chess match with both teams playing solid defense and good offense. The first goal of the game was scored by the Sabres' James Bassett off of a nice pass from Dan Dirrigl.

The Stars came back 19 seconds later with a spectacular effort by Jim Kirkpatrick to tie the game up at 1-1. The Stars continued the pressure in the first half of the second period by scoring two goals. Justin Bystrak scored unassisted and Jim Kirkpatrick scored his second goal of the game thanks to the hard work of Jon Held.

The Sabres' Alex Jackson made some great saves to keep the score close until the Sabres were able to get their offense going. Dan Dirrigl struck for the Sabres assisted by James Bassett. James Bassett tied the game up off a rebound off his own shot. Dan Dirrigl scored off a pretty play from Ethan Evenson to give the Sabres the lead with five seconds left in the second period.

Stars goalie Christian Aichinger made great saves to keep the Stars close. The offensive pressure of the Stars paid off early in the third period as Ben Warda scored to tie the game up. Both teams had great play throughout the remaining third period.

The Sabres' Jamey Irish-Ryan, Samantha Johnson, Joe Philipps and Jacob DiStasio played outstanding defense. The Stars' AJ Aquilina, Ben Bataglia, Dan Bounds, Heather Casselman and Christian Cretella made many great plays. The Sabres' line of Jon Utech, Chris Comtois and Justin Lamonto were on the ice the last minute of the game and it was their determination that paid off as Jon Utech scored the game winner for the Sabres with 50 seconds left in the game.

The Sabres' George Korn, Jim Roberto, Dan Corosi and Alley Lillis were big contributors during the game. The Stars' Samantha Degan, Neil Greiner, Pat Irving, Craig McCabe and Steve Zaprowski put pressure on the Sabres all game.

SSPP

(Continued from page 31)

Evan Manna was SSPP's only winner in the 8-unders with a victory in the 50 free. Grace Galvin finished second in the 25 free for the team's only second place finish in the individual events. Third place finishes included Kurt Haumesser (100 IM), Nicholas Powell (25 free), Anna Maria Sauer (25 fly and 50 free), Jacob Barberio (25 back) and Charles Weimer (25 breast).

The meet did end on a bright note for the 8-unders with a win in the free relay by the team of Weimer, Haumesser, Galvin and Manna. The medley team of Galvin, Sauer, Haumesser and Manna finished third.

Squirt Grey Sabres beats Rangers

The Squirt Grey Sabres and the Squirt Rangers faced off at the Pepsi Center on Sunday, Nov. 5.

It was the season opener for both teams and the fans and players were anxious and excited. The Gray Sabres skated away with an 8-3 win after a hard fought and extremely well-played game.

The Gray Sabres had their skating legs as they peppered Ranger goalie Tim Fremming with shot after shot. Antonio Zendano found the back of the net for his first of three goals on a nice passing play with assists to Emma Hubert and Austin Maciok.

Three minutes later Justin, JB, Beck banged home a rebound with assists to Benjamin Lackner and Connor Koester. Two minutes later, it was Katelyn Koester finding the back of the net, assisted by Angelo Derossi and Peter Gossels. The Rangers rallied and by the end of the first period, the Sabres knew they were in for a game.

The second period began like the first with the Sabres scoring 25 seconds into the period. Antonio Zendano scored his second goal with assists to Marc Giangreco and Brian Kowalski.

The Rangers roared back on fantastic individual effort by Bradley Hejmanowski who roofed a shot over Sabres goalie Joe Burke. The Rangers second goal followed about two minutes later as Jason

Raymondi scored with assists going to David Hnat and Alex Morris. Raymondi controlled play and had numerous opportunities from his defensive position.

The Rangers brought the score to within one as Mickey Evans beat Burke to the stick side with assists to Stephen Swiatek and Ryan Mikulec. Momentum shifted to the Sabres just before the end of the period as Joe Arias beat the goalie cleanly with assists to Katelyn Koester and Gabe Jewula. That goal was followed 40 seconds later by a goal from JB Beck with assists from Benjamin Lackner and Emma Hubert.

The Sabres continued to pressure the Rangers in the third period. Both goalies stood on their head making save after save. Austin Maciok scored on a fantastic play as he deked the goalie and buried a shot. He was assisted by Kowalski and Gossels. Antonio Zendano completed his hat trick with assists from Gossels and Arias. Jack Cooper, while not on the score sheet, kept the Rangers forwards in check all afternoon and cleared any stray rubber from in front of Burke.

The Rangers played with a lot of pride. Darren Geska, Michael Battaglia, Matthew Soos, Nicholas Molnar, Jake Fuzak, and John Tomczak played hard and extremely well in the loss. No Ranger player quit and all gave their best efforts.

Red Wings fly past Bruins

The Red Wings defeated the Bruins, 7-3, in Squirt hockey action Sunday afternoon at the Pepsi Center.

The scoring was opened by a nice shot from the Red Wings' Adam Herr. The Red Wings increased their lead to three goals during the first period from goals scored by Conor Laline and Erin Jozwiak, assisted by Lilly Markley.

The Bruins' Frankie Bodami put his team on the board at the end of the first, assisted by linemate Tommy Heyden.

During the second period, the teams scored two goals apiece, with the Bruins hustling hard to eliminate the score gap.

The Red Wings' goals were scored by Jozwiak, assisted by Laline and Jamison Garvey, and Herr, unassisted.

Stevie Vukelic scored twice for the Bruins, assisted by Peter Muffoletto twice and Andrew Goss. Defense on

both sides was fantastic, with numerous key saves made by Theresa Meosky of the Wings and the Bruins' Jeremy Schwab.

The two teams, though neck-and-neck during the second, separated toward the end of the game as the Red Wings put two more pucks in the net during the third period. These goals were scored by Laline and Herr to complete his hat trick, assisted by Austin Hyer, Cole Federiconi, and Jozwiak. Tyler Lisicki, Gianni Bordonaro, Luke Rehbaum, Andrew Goss, Matthew Lesinski, Adam Arsenault, Richard Bruno, Joseph Durkin, and Billy Christ all played outstanding games for the Bruins. Ella Frauenhofer and Marissa Notaro played great defensive games for the Red Wings.

The Red Wings couldn't have won without the hustle of Peter Hillery, Christian Baran, and Nathan D'Angelo to keep the team moving.

Pee Wee Red Wings' offense shines again

The Amherst Pee Wee Red Wings' Nicholas Noe exploded for three first period goals to put the Red Wings ahead of the Sharks, 3-0, in a 6-2 win on Sunday. Assists for Noe's goals came from William Tunkey on the first goal and Matthew Hyer on the second and third.

The second period had Michael States scoring to bring the Sharks within two, but the Red Wings answered right back with a pass from Andrew Kreppel to Hyer. Shaun Baranyi added an insurance

goal to end the period 5-1.

Outstanding play by Red Wings goalie Jake Griebner and defensemen Nate May, Will Tunkey, Frank Menza and Josh Gidwitz. Sharks goalie Joe Brady and Mike Hillery also played well.

The third period had Matthew O'Dwyer scoring his first goal of the season after a mad dash in front of the Sharks net with Kevin Annese and Josh Gidwitz getting the assists. The Sharks' Michotek rounded out the scoring late in the third period.

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