

Hockey

North, South share top honors at tournament

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Williamsville North and Williamsville South made another strong case why Section VI has the best high school hockey in New York State with convincing wins over out of town competition over the weekend.

North and South defeated Section V's Penfield and Section VII's Seton Catholic in the Williamsville South Hockey Booster Tournament on the Amherst Pepsi Center Feature Rink.

On Friday, South beat Seton Catholic, 3-0, and North blanked Penfield, 5-0. On Saturday, South defeated Penfield, 4-1, and North dominated Seton Catholic, 7-1.

Goals from Tom Goehrig short-handed (Justin Kochan) and Kochan (Pat Mulvihill, Jake Newton) pushed North to a 2-0 first period lead over Penfield.

Mark Kadish (Andrew Saint, Mike Cusenz) and two Josh Little goals, (first from Kochan, Jamie VonHendy; second from Kochan) also scored for the Spartans.

Backup goalie Dan Green made 20 saves as North fired 37 shots.

The Spartans continued their great play against Seton Catholic, taking a 3-0 first period lead and 6-0 advantage after the second period.

John Walters recorded his first career hat trick with assists from Newton and Mark Capenhurst, Mark Smith, and Cam Sroda. Walters made the all-tournament team as did Green.

"He's been doing all of the little things right this year so I was happy that he made those types of



Williamsville North's Charlie Teal, right, gets tangled up with Seton Catholic's Shea Branon during the Spartans' 7-1 win on Saturday in the Williamsville South Hockey Booster Tournament on the Amherst Pepsi Center Feature Rink. North and South were co-champions.

Photo by Joe Eberle

contributions," said Rosen.

Mulvihill (Little, Newton), Cusenz (Kadish), Saint (Cusenz, Kadish), and VonHendy (Capenhurst, Sroda) all scored.

Seton Catholic's Joe Champagne scored his first career goal late in the third.

North outshot Seton Catholic 48-10. Taylor Gahagen picked up

the win in net.

If North wins the Division I state qualifying bid out of Section VI, they would play Seton Catholic in the state regional playoffs.

"Seton was missing six kids on the road trip," said Rosen. "They will be a different team down the road that's for sure."

South's Dustin Jones scored five goals in the tournament to earn MVP honors. He recorded the Billies' first two against Seton Catholic and a hat trick against Penfield.

Leo Schultz also scored for South against Seton Catholic as the Billies outshot them 39-19. Brian D'Angelo picked up the shutout.

Derek Caputi tallied a goal against Penfield. South goalie Matt Green made 22 saves. The Billies had 29 shots on goal.

Defenseman Kevin Cottrell and forward Greg Reed made the all-tournament team.

"The schedule didn't help us, opening with two games against Sweet Home and one versus Williamsville East," said South coach Sean Green. "We knew if we continued on, we would hopefully have some success, which we did. There were a lot of smiles and happy faces in the locker room. It was nice to finally get rewarded for all of the hard work."

North and South picked up league wins on Thursday. North defeated defending Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation champion, Kenmore West, 4-1, on Thursday on the Feature Rink. South won 8-2 over Amherst on the Olympic Rink (see Amherst hockey story).

Rosen said the Kenmore West victory was important.

"We felt we had something to prove and we knew we had to go in there and play well in order to win," he said.

North took a 1-0 lead with 4:53 left in the first period when Goehrig took a behind the net

pass from Ryan Geary and scored. Nick Angelo was also credited with an assist.

Kochan rifled in a shot from a bad angle to make it 2-0 2:03 later. Capenhurst picked up the assist.

Kenmore West's Nick Panepinto cut North's lead in half less than three minutes in the second from Brett Koepfel. It was the first power-play goal North allowed all season.

In the third, Mulvihill deflected in a Capenhurst shot and Kochan took a Smith pass off the boards and beat two Blue Devil defenders and the goalie.

Brandon Komm made 23 saves; North had 28 shots.

North (9-0, 3-0) hosts St. Joe's in a huge Division I match-up at 7 p.m. Thursday on the Feature Rink. In league play, St. Joe's has scored 28 goals and allowed five. North has scored 12 goals and given up two.

"They've been beating up everybody so we hope to go in and hold our own and make it a respectable game," said Rosen.

It doesn't get any easier for the large school state champions as they play Frontier at 1 p.m. Saturday on the Feature Rink then travel to the Morrisville Ice Classic for a showdown with small school state champion Clinton of Section III at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday. The winner plays Section III's Baldwinsville or Section II's Shenendehowa on Thursday.

South (1-3, 3-5) plays two games this week on the Olympic Rink. The Billies face Bishop Timon-St. Jude at 9 p.m. on Thursday and Kenmore East at 5 p.m. on Saturday.

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Williamsville East, Sweet Home on collision course

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

It's early in the Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation season but a Division II New York State qualifying spot could hang in the balance when Williamsville East faces Sweet Home at 7 p.m. Thursday on the Amherst Pepsi Center's Olympic

Rink. Whichever small school team has the best state qualifying record at the end of the season advances.

Both teams are undefeated so far in Federation play. East is 5-0, 6-0-1 overall, including a 6-1 win over Kenmore East last Thursday. Sweet Home is 4-0, 6-1 overall, with a 4-2 win over St. Francis on Sunday at Buffalo State College.

The Panthers lost a 4-1 non-league decision to Ithaca on the Olympic Rink.

"They're tough," said East coach Mike Torrillo of Sweet Home. "We're not going to take them lightly. They have a pretty balanced team... We want to shut down (Ryan) Marko and (Alex) Esposito plus we have to get a lot of shots on them. We have nothing but respect for (goalie Derek) Mohny. Both teams know it's a big game."

"We're right where we want to be," said Sweet Home coach Dave Gerspach. "We know each other real well. I'm looking for a real good game."

East scored four goals in a four-minute span in the second period to blow open a 2-1 lead against Kenmore East.

Mike DeStefano scored at 11:39 from Anthony Clair and Eric Charlton. Jamie Turchiarelli added a power-play goal from Kyle Smith at 9:29. Seventeen seconds later, Clair had his second of the day from Charlton and Max Fogel. Spencer Barrett made it 6-1 from Chris Fabozzi at 7:04.

Fabozzi scored in the third from Barrett and Smith.

Clair (DeStefano) and Barrett (Smith, Turchiarelli) scored East first period goals.

Kenmore East's Matt Meyer scored short-handed from Brett Marcotte.

Jay Hall made 13 saves for the Flames. East had 25 shots.

"We had a strong game again

from everybody," said Torrillo. "We got a lot of kids into the game. Everybody played well."

"We took it to them in the first period but couldn't score," he added. "We were playing in their end a lot. Then we had a good forecheck, our goalie made a couple of big saves and the puck finally started to go into the net."

Gerspach said his team did not capitalize on its scoring opportunities against Ithaca, a top-ranked large school from Section IV.

"We had some real good chances on a power play with four minutes left in the game and couldn't connect," said Gerspach.

The Little Red scored two early second-period goals Alex Yale-Loehr and Sean Seyler to lead 3-1. Gabe French scored an empty-netter with 41 seconds left.

Ithaca's A.J. Fiore made it 1-0 5:30 into the first period. Sweet Home's Mike Campise tied it at 1-1 on the power play from Ryan Marko three minutes later.

Ithaca outshot Sweet Home, 30-23.

The Panthers bounced back with a great first period against St. Francis. Dan Martino scored on the power play from Paul Campise and Alex Esposito at 5:42 of the first. Marko netted his second from Esposito and Martino 19 seconds later.

"Dan freed the puck up to Alex behind the net and he made a pass to Ryan who one-timed it into the roof of the net," said Gerspach.

Two goals from St. Francis' Tyler Underhill and a Marko power-play goal from Esposito and Paul Campise made it 3-2 Panthers after two.

Marko closed out his hat trick on the power play at 9:28 of the third from Esposito and Matt Stewart.

Derek Mohny made 23 saves for the Panthers.

"For the first 20 minutes and the first five minutes of the second, we played our game, up and down, lots of chances, but hit some goal posts and cross bars," said Gerspach. "In the second, we took some penalties that put us down five on three so it was hard to get things going. In the third, we killed off a five on three, Marko scored and we played a trap that didn't allow them any pressure for the last eight minutes."

"We need to play at a more consistent level," he added. "We haven't gotten that breathing room where we score three or four goals."

After Sweet Home, East will play its next four games in two tournaments, traveling to face New Hartford at 3 p.m. Friday and Solvay or Batavia on Saturday in the Batavia Tournament and Greece at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 27 and either Irondequoit or Kenmore West at 6 or 8 p.m. in the Greece Tournament. Sweet Home plays Amherst at 3 p.m. Saturday on the Olympic Rink.

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Sacred Heart

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Williamsville North

North was on both sides of a big win and loss last week, falling at Orchard Park, 56-33, last Tuesday then defeating West Seneca West, 56-35, at home on Thursday.

Lady Spartans coach Mike DeValle said Orchard Park's height and pressure was too much for his team to handle.

Orchard Park's Mandy Sahhaar scored 15 points as the Lady Quakers jumped out to a 35-17 halftime lead.

"We had no answer for her," said DeValle. "We played right at them with a man to man defense and we had no match-up for her. We couldn't pass or beat her off the dribble."

Mary Ellen Elie added 13 points for Orchard Park.

Allie Ahern and Katie Kubala scored eight points each to lead North.

North bounced back against West Seneca West thanks to a 21-8 first quarter highlighted by two early three's from eighth grade point guard Corrin Genovese. She hit three three's in the first half, four overall, and scored 15 points. She also had 11 steals and single-handedly beat West's pressure, said DeValle.

Kubala added 17 points and eight rebounds for North, who led 26-11 at halftime and 37-25 after the third quarter.

Eighth grader Jen Piaggione added nine points.

North (2-3, 3-4) faced Holy Angels, who DeValle coached to 13 league titles in 16 years with league record of 213-24 through 2002, on Monday and squares off at Sweet Home at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

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