



Williamsville East's Brian Wallden shoots over Riverside's Sheldon Williams during first round action of the Clarence Booster Club Tournament on Thursday. Wallden, an all-tournament team selection, had 18 points, 20 rebounds and six blocks. The next night in a win against Niagara-Wheatfield, he scored 20 points, tied a school record in rebounds with 35, and added six blocks.

Photo by Joe Eberle

## East boys throw away tournament win

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Up 66-62 over Riverside with 40 seconds to play, all Williamsville East had had to do was make some free throws and hold onto the basketball to advance to the Clarence Booster Club Tournament finals.

Instead, the opposite happened.

Brian Wallden and Andy Heim missed two free throws a piece and the Flames threw away the ball which led to two Nick Hesson free throws with 3.1 seconds remaining to clinch a 67-66 Riverside first round win on Thursday.

East shot 4-of-10 from the foul line in the fourth. They were 7-of-11 heading into the fourth.

After Wallden missed two free throws, Riverside's Dejvan Hardy hit a three-pointer to cut the Flames' lead to 66-65. After Heim missed two free throws, a scramble on Riverside's next possession led to an East player throwing the ball to Hesson who hit the game-winning free throws. The Flames inbounded and got a shot off but it hit the front of the rim.

East got off to a terrible start, down 17-11 after the first quarter, but took a one-point lead at halftime, 28-27, and trailed, 47-46, at the end of the third quarter.

"We didn't come through during crunch times and made terrible decisions on the court," said East coach Dennis Belote.

Wallden led East with 20 points, tied Dan Milbrand's rebounding record from Feb. 3, 2004 against Williamsville North with 35, and added six blocks.

Nick Kanutsu scored a career-high 15 points, 12 coming in the fourth. He also had four assists and two steals.

"Our four-point lead was built up from his last two efforts, a three and a layup," said Belote.

Rick Silvestri (12 points) and Heim (10 points) also scored in double figures for East.

East started out slow also against Niagara-Wheatfield, who they beat in the consolation game of the Sweet Home Tip-off Tournament, trailing, 13-10, after the first quarter. But the Flames bounced back, taking a 26-24 halftime advantage and 43-36 third quarter lead in a 63-44 win. East had no problems from the line in this one, shooting 15-of-20.

Wallden, an all-tournament selection, had 18 points, 20 rebounds and six blocks. Heim added 13 points, five assists and three steals. Adam Kausch scored nine in the fourth and finished with 12. He hit two three's.

"We got out of this tournament that we have got to close the deal," said Belote. "We depend upon our seniors and hopefully they will get back to where they were (before the tournament)."

East (6-3) travels to Williamsville South at 7 p.m. Friday for a key ECIC Division II match-up. Both are 3-1 in league play.

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## Hockey

# North battles, wins Morrisville tourney

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Williamsville North has won the Morrisville Ice Plex Tournament three out of the last four years but arguably its greatest victory in the event came on Thursday.

Trailing Section II's Shenendehowa, 2-1, in the third period, the Spartans (12-1, 4-1) scored four unanswered goals to win the final, 5-2.

"The win was huge because they're a good hockey team and we were down," said North coach Bob Rosen. "As well as we played a day before, we weren't playing as well but found a way to grind out a win. Some days when everything isn't going your way and you're able to fight through everything, those wins will lead to bigger things down the road."

North, last year's Division I New York State champion, dominated Division II state champ Clinton of Section III, 6-0, last Wednesday.

Ryan Geary scored twice in the third period against Shenendehowa. His first goal, at 5:19 short-handed from Nick Fronczak, turned out to be the game-winner. Geary added an empty-netter with 57 seconds left to play. Cam Sroda tied the game at 2-2 with his first varsity goal after Andrew Saint won a faceoff.

Justin Kochan also scored from Geary in the third and tied the game at 1-1 with an unassisted second period tally.

Adam Hitchko (Steve Carruso) and Jesse Elliott (A.J. Mangino) scored for Shenendehowa, who lost to North, 5-1, in their tournament in early December.

Taylor Gahagen made 25 saves as North outshot Shenendehowa, 38-27.

North pounded Clinton, scoring five goals by the four-minute mark of the second.

John Walters (Saint), Geary (Nick Angelo), Tom Goehrig (Angelo), Kochan (Dan Conover) and Saint (Walters) scored for the Spartans. Geary added a

third period goal from Pat Mulvihill.

"The kids were pretty excited," said Rosen. "There was a lot of trash talking after we won and they won (state titles), how Clinton was the best team, small school or large school. It didn't matter to me. But we moved the puck extremely well and they couldn't handle our speed. We played with a lot of pride."

All-tournament selection Brandon Komm made 25 saves for the shutout. North had 42 shots on net. Goehrig also made the all-tournament team.

Before the trip to Morrisville, North defeated Frontier, 5-2, on Dec. 23 on the Amherst Pepsi Center's Feature Rink.

Josh Little scored his first high school hat trick. His first came on a wrist shot on the second shift of the game from Conover and Mulvihill. He tied it at 2-2 on another wrist shot from Goehrig with three minutes to go in the second. Both came from drop passes in the slot, said Rosen.

Little's third was a one-timer on the power play with nine seconds left in the game from Goehrig and Jake Newton.

Fronczak scored the game-winner with 3:46 left in the third.

"Geary won a faceoff to the boards, Mulvihill moved it back to the point and Nick took a screen shot and scored in the upper right hand corner," said Rosen.

Geary's assist moved him past Kenny Joseph into second place all-time at North in league scoring (76 points, 36 goals, 40 assists).

Goehrig also scored from Conover.

Greg Zitnik (Nick Battista) and Marc Zoyhofski (Ryan Ventura, Battista) scored for Frontier.

Komm made 22 saves on 24 shots. Frontier's Andy Williams had 32 saves.

A game write-up of North's 6-1 win over Orchard Park on Sunday, plus the Spartans' match-ups with Canisius at 9 p.m. Thursday on the Feature Rink and at 5 p.m. Saturday versus Frontier on the Olympic Rink, will appear in the Jan. 10 edition.

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— North hockey coach Bob Rosen

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR

### Wednesday, Jan. 3

**Boys Basketball:** Clarence at Amherst, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls Basketball:** Mt. St. Mary's at Sacred Heart, 6:30 p.m. (Villa Maria)  
**Boys Bowling:** Amherst at Depew, 4:30 p.m. (Broadway Sports Center), East vs. Iroquois, 4:30 p.m. (Transit), Orchard Park at North, 3:30 p.m. (Transit), South at Sweet Home, 4 p.m. (Manor II Lanes)  
**Girls Bowling:** Amherst at Depew, 4:30 p.m. (Broadway Sports Center), East vs. Iroquois, 4:30 p.m. (Transit), Orchard Park at North, 3:30 p.m. (Transit), South at Sweet Home, 4 p.m. (Manor II Lanes)  
**Boys Swimming:** South at Starpoint, 4:30 p.m.  
**Wrestling:** Amherst at St. Joe's, 7 p.m., Clarence at Sweet Home, 6 p.m.

### Thursday, Jan. 4

**Girls Basketball:** Sweet Home at Lancaster, 7:30 p.m., East at Lake Shore, 7:30 p.m., Orchard Park at North, 7:30 p.m., South at W.S. East, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls Bowling:** Sacred Heart vs. St. Mary's of Lancaster, 3:45 p.m. (Thruway)  
**Hockey:** Amherst vs. Ken. East, 7 p.m. (Olympic), East vs. South, 7 p.m. (Feature), North vs. Canisius, 9 p.m. (Feature)

### Friday, Jan. 5

**Boys Basketball:** Iroquois at Amherst, 7:30 p.m., North at Sweet Home, 7:30 p.m., East at South, 7:30 p.m.  
**Boys Swimming:** Amherst at Cleveland Hill, 4:30 p.m., East at Clarence, 6 p.m., Lake Shore at North, 5 p.m., South at Eden, 4:30 p.m.  
**Hockey: Oswego Tourn.** — Sweet Home vs. Oswego, TBA  
**Indoor Track:** South at Dartmouth Relays, TBA  
**Wrestling:** Amherst at Cheektowaga, 6 p.m., East at Canisius, 6 p.m., South at Lackawanna, 6 p.m., Sweet Home, North. South at 26th annual NCCC Niagara Frontier Officials Tournament, TBA

### Saturday, Jan. 6

**Girls Basketball:** Maryvale at North, 1:30 p.m.  
**Hockey:** Amherst vs. Bishop-Timon St. Jude, 3 p.m. (Olympic), East vs. St. Francis, 3 p.m. (Feature), North vs. Frontier, 5 p.m. (Olympic), Oswego Tourn. — Sweet Home vs. TBA  
**Indoor Track:** Amherst at Cornell, TBA, South at Dartmouth Relays, TBA  
**Wrestling:** Sweet Home, North, South at 26th annual NCCC Niagara Frontier Officials Tournament, TBA

### Sunday, Jan. 7

**Hockey:** Amherst vs. St. Francis, 1 p.m. (Buffalo State College)  
**Indoor Track:** South at Dartmouth Relays, TBA

### Monday, Jan. 8

**Girls Basketball:** Sacred Heart at Nichols, 6 p.m.  
**Boys Bowling:** Cheektowaga at Amherst, 4:30 p.m. (Airport), East at Sweet Home, 4 p.m. (Manor II Lanes), W.S. East at South, 4 p.m. (Transit)  
**Girls Bowling:** Cheektowaga at Amherst, 4:30 p.m. (Airport), East at Sweet Home, 4 p.m. (Manor II Lanes), W.S. East at South, 4 p.m. (Transit)

### Tuesday, Jan. 9

**Boys Basketball:** Amherst at Hamburg, 7:30 p.m., Clarence at South, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls Basketball:** Sweet Home at Frontier, 7:30 p.m., Depew at East, 7:30 p.m., Lancaster at North, 7:30 p.m., South at Iroquois, 6:30 p.m.  
**Boys Bowling:** North at Lancaster, 3:30 p.m. (Lancaster)  
**Girls Bowling:** North at Lancaster, 3:30 p.m. (Lancaster), Sacred Heart vs. Mt. Mercy, 3:45 p.m. (Thruway)  
**Boys Swimming:** Cheektowaga at Amherst, 5 p.m., Jamestown at East, 6 p.m. (Transit Middle), Sweet Home at Lake Shore, 4:30 p.m., North at Lancaster, 4:45 p.m., Tonawanda at South, 4:30 p.m.