

Glens Falls trip brings Tigers' hockey together

The Amherst Central hockey team hit the road this week and accomplished their main goal.

"The purpose of this trip is to bring the boys together as a team," said Amherst coach Rich Crozier. "There is no doubt in my mind that we achieved that."

While the Tigers would have liked to come home undefeated, Crozier says that a 0-1-1 record on the Glens Falls trip will suffice.

"We played two very competitive hockey games up there and I'm satisfied with the way things panned out," he said. "While we would have loved to have come home winning both games, the trip has to be labeled an overall success again."

Last Wednesday night, the Tigers took on Section II's Glens Falls High School.

Although Glens Falls was a state quarterfinalist in 2005, the Tigers provided them with a very competitive hockey game.

The Tigers quickly fell to a 3-0 deficit, but roared back late in the first when junior Dan Hubbard scored his first goal of the year. Fellow junior Mike Gruttaduria found the puck and rifled a wrist shot on net. Hubbard crashed the net, picked up the rebound and slid into the open left hand side to get the Tigers on the board.

Early in the second, the Tigers struck again, cutting the Glens Falls' lead to 3-2. Gruttaduria fed junior Zach Willett in the slot and his quick wrist shot was stopped. However, senior Chris Scummura banged home the rebound.

Glens Falls scored two more goals before Gruttaduria capped things off for the Tigers, recording his third point of the night. Gruttaduria took the puck wide on the Glens Falls' defensemen, beating him with his speed to the outside and then let a quick shot go that went past the Glens Falls goalie's five-hole.

"Gruttaduria played his best game of the season," said Crozier. "He was determined to get it done. He played with grit and emotion. He was the best player on the ice."

Despite coming up short, 5-3, the Tigers outshot their opponent, 25-23.

On Thursday afternoon, the Tigers took on South Glens Falls of Section II.

After a scoreless first and second period, the Tigers fell to a 2-0 deficit.

Scummura then scored his second in as many games on the power-play with 7:26 remaining. Senior David Moore kept in a clearing attempt by the South Glens Falls penalty killers. Moore quickly turned and rifled a quick shot on

net. Scummura, similar to the night before, picked up the rebound and banged it home to make it 2-1.

"I can't underestimate how big a goal that was for us," said Crozier. "At that point, not a lot was going our way. We had just been stopped on a penalty shot and had some questionable calls against us. For us to fight through the adversity of that situation made the outcome much more satisfying."

The Tigers were not finished. With 20 seconds remaining and goalie Sean Smith pulled, Moore rushed the puck into the South Glens Falls zone. He took the puck wide and slammed on the brakes. Moore then saw senior defenseman Kevin Kelley breaking towards the net. Moore quickly passed the puck to Kelley who deflected it past the South Glens Falls goalie. For Kelley, it was his first goal of the season.

"What a way to end the game," said Crozier. "I was extremely proud of the way we battled back to tie that game. It feels like a win. This is exactly what we needed going into the second half of the season. It was a great feeling to head home with."

The Tigers start the second half of their season at 7 p.m. Thursday against Kenmore East on the Amherst Pepsi Center's Olympic Rink.

Wrestling

Sweet Home wins controversial meet, places two champions at Akron tourney

by PATRICK J. NAGY
Reporter

Chris Nadeau will always remember his first dual meet victory as coach of Sweet Home's wrestling team.

Down 29-24 at home against Tonawanda on Dec. 21, the Warriors were called for an illegal substitution which led to a 36-29 Panthers victory.

Tonawanda coaches attempted to put Kyle McGregor, who weighed in at 93 pounds, up two weight classes to compete at 112, and earn a forfeit win. (In high school, a wrestler can only bump up one weight class.)

After Nadeau found out what was going on, he immediately

called a timeout and informed the official, who in turn, declared the 112-weight class a double forfeit. The move cut Sweet Home's deficit to 29-24 instead of 35-24.

Sweet Home's Gates Bateman and Matt Danwin closed out the meet with pins at 119 (1:55 over Joe Massaro) and 125 (3:46 over Justin Bacon), respectively, to secure the win.

"The controversy took away from the win in a way," said Nadeau. "I wish it didn't come down to that. I know their coaches well. We still would have won by a point but it was nice to get a first win."

Panthers who won against Tonawanda included Zach Fumerelle (defeated Jim Schaff,

6-2), Nic Stella (140, 19-4 technical fall over Josh Choate), Ryan Murray (152, pinned Ton Waterhouse in 2:34), Paul Fazekas (171, defeated Colton Gilber, 12-1), and Archie Owrey (215, forfeit). At 103, Daiquann Burney lost in triple overtime to Scott McGregor in 2:11 to put Tonawanda ahead, 29-24. Then the controversy hit.

Earlier in that week, Sweet Home lost 46-15 at Lancaster. Murray and Stella won by pinfall. Fazekas won 7-1. Owrey (3-2), Danwin (6-5), Fumerelle (3-2) and Bateman (3-1) all lost close matches.

"I wanted us to show up there and I think we did," said Nadeau. "We had three or four matches with one or two points."

Sweet Home closed out the 2006 portion of its schedule with

a sixth place finish at the Akron Tournament on Friday. With only ten wrestlers, the Panthers finished with 102½ points, 8½ away from fifth place LeRoy. Most teams carried 15 wrestlers.

Stella and Owrey were crowned champions at 140 and 215, respectively. Stella, ranked sixth in New York State, went 3-0, beating Falconer's Alex Ognibene, a top wrestler in Section VI, in the semifinals, and Ripley's Sajen Hunt, 21-6, in the finals. Owrey was 4-0 at 215, defeating Batavia's Dylan Goodsell, 7-4.

Bateman and Danwin lost in the finals at 112 and 119, respectively. Bateman fell 3-1 to West Seneca East's Nick Vitale; Danwin was caught on his back to trail 5-0 against Ripley's Abram Rowe and lost 12-2.

Murray went 3-1 to finish third at 152. Fumerelle was 2-2 at 130.

Burney didn't win a match at 103 but lost two close matches, one in triple overtime, and another by a couple of points.

Balsom and Fazekas were 1-2 at 171 and 160, respectively.

"To put four guys in the finals is impressive," said Nadeau. "A couple breaks here or there, we're in the top two."

Sweet Home (1-3) returns to action at 6 p.m. Wednesday when they host Clarence before traveling Friday and Saturday to Niagara County Community College for the 26th annual Niagara Falls Officials Association Tournament.

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East hockey

(Continued from page 17)

East outshot New Hartford, 29-24, although Torrillo said his team held New Hartford to many shots from outside the blue line.

East came out flat in the Greece Tournament, losing 4-1 to Greece, but bounced back with a convincing 3-0 shutout over Irondequoit in the consolation.

"We controlled the game from the first period on," said Torrillo of his team's play against Irondequoit.

Toole broke a scoreless game against Irondequoit 14 seconds into the second from an Anthony Clair pass. On East's next shift, Eric Bogart put the Flames ahead, 2-0, from Mike DeStefano and Colin Lucey. Fabozzi closed out the scoring 1:23 later on the power play from Barrett and Smith.

"We finally put the puck in the net," said Torrillo. "We had been in a scoring drought. We've been averaging seven goals a game. Now we're fighting for three or four. Plus our defense played a lot better and Hall made the saves when we needed him to."

Charlton scored from Ross in the second against Greece.

Fabozzi made the all-tournament team.

East got back to Federation play with a 4-0 shutout over Kenmore East on Saturday.

The Flames scored three first period goals. Fabozzi started it off two minutes in from Barrett and Smith. Barrett answered 1:30 later from Fabozzi. With four minutes left in the period, Eric Charlton scored on the power play from Clair. Clair added a second period goal from Ross and Toole.

Hall recorded his second shutout ad East outshot Kenmore East, 36-15.

"It was one of our best all-around efforts offensively and defensively," said Torrillo.

East (9-3-1, 6-1) returns to action at 7 p.m. Thursday against Williamsville South on the Amherst Pepsi Center Feature Rink.

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