

# Hard work lifts Tigers' hockey to competitive games

While their record, and at times even the scoreboard, may not resemble the makings of a successful season, Amherst Tigers varsity hockey coach Rich Crozier is proud of the efforts his hockey team continues to put in.

"I give these boys a lot of credit," said Crozier. "Despite our record and a few uneven scores, they continue to work hard and we continue to get better each game."

That hard work for Crozier's team paid off this week in a pair of competitive games against Williamsville South and Kenmore East.

Junior Matt Allwes scored his fourth goal of the season and freshman Sean Smith made 23 saves as the Tigers fell to South, 3-1, Thursday night on the Amherst Pepsi Center Olympic Rink.

After falling behind 1-0 late in the first period the Tigers responded very quickly. Junior Al McQuiggan fished the puck out of the corner and fed it back to sophomore Kevin Denny. Denny let a hard, low slap shot go on South goalie Thomas Tysowsky (16 saves). Allwes skated hard to the net, picked up the rebound and slid it past the Billie goaltender, tying the game at 1-1.

South answered with two goals of their own in the second period. Both came 11 seconds apart short-handed from strong Billie forechecking. Greg Reed scored unassisted at 6:46 followed by a tally from Kevin Winnert (Trevor Clark) at 6:35.

"That was a backbreaker for Amherst," said South coach Sean Green.



**Trevor Clark (12)** of Williamsville South flies over a shot on goal. The Billies won Thursday night, 3-1. *Photo by David F. Sherman*  
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Greg Potter scored unassisted with 1:22 left in the first period.

Despite numerous chances and plenty of hard work the Tigers were unable to get anything past the South goalie in the third.

After the game, Crozier was complimentary towards Allwes' play. "Matt is a very talented player with a lot of emotion," Crozier said. "We've worked on channeling that emotion a lot this season. It seems to be paying off lately. It's great to see him mature into an offensive threat for our team."

On Sunday afternoon, the Tigers took on Kenmore East at Buffalo State College. Allwes scored his team leading fifth goal of the season and McQuiggan and junior Dan Hubbard each recorded two points each.

After falling behind 3-0, the

Tigers showed a tremendous amount of heart and mounted a comeback. It all started on the Tigers power play. McQuiggan stole the puck from the Kenmore East defenseman and fed Hubbard on the left side of the ice. Hubbard held on to the puck and gave it back to McQuiggan, who one-timed the puck past the Kenmore East goalie, cutting the lead to 3-1.

Halfway through the third, the Tigers struck again on the power play when Allwes scored his second goal in as many games. The Tigers were peppering the Kenmore East goalie with shots. After a frenzy in front of the Kenmore East net, McQuiggan walked out and took a shot. After junior Blake Napierala's shot was denied, Allwes picked up the puck and slammed home the re-

bound.

"It was nice to see the power play start clicking again," added Crozier "We've been working on special teams a lot in practice and it seemed to pay off."

Late in the third, the Tigers pulled their goalie in a desperate attempt to try and tie up the game, but unfortunately it wasn't to be on this day. Despite a great effort, the Tigers fell short in a heartbreaker, 4-2.

"The schedule this year has been grueling for my hockey team," said Crozier. "Three games in four days is tough and we have to do it three times this season. That said, you would have thought that my team had been off for a week given the effort they put in today. At 3-0, I'd venture to say that a lot of teams might have packed it in, but not

this team. We were the better team on the ice for the second half of this game. We'll use that momentum this weekend in our tournament at Geneseo State College.

The Tigers travel to Geneseo for a series of games against Section V's Geneseo and Victor. The Tigers take on Geneseo at 8 p.m. on Friday and at 6 p.m. against Victor on Saturday.

"At times, it nice to get away from the Sweet Home's and Williamsville East's of the Federation and see how we really stack up in the small school state division," said Crozier. "We're excited about the opportunity to go there and win a tournament. These boys have worked hard in the last month and they deserve a reward for their efforts."

## Williamsville South

The Billies' other game this week was an exciting 1-1 overtime tie at Section V's Batavia on Saturday.

"It was an action-packed game that went back and forth," said Green. "For us, it was a great morale booster."

Potter scored South's only goal from Reed and Clark in the first period. Erin Pokoprowski tied it at 1-1 in the second on the power play.

The Billies outshot Batavia, 38-27. Matt Green was in net for South.

South plays Kenmore East at 9 p.m. Thursday on the Olympic Rink, Lancaster at 3 p.m. Saturday on the Feature Rink, and Canisius at 5 p.m. Sunday at Buffalo State College.

*(Patrick J. Nagy contributed to this article)*

## Boys basketball

# Confident Sweet Home hitting championship stride

by **PATRICK J. NAGY**  
Reporter

Sweet Home's run to the New York State Class A finals last year was sparked by a road win at Frontier in the middle of the regular season.

Fast forward a year later and the Panthers are hitting their stride in similar fashion.

Sweet Home outscored Frontier, 25-12, in the third quarter to open a 26-25 halftime lead en route to a 68-45 road win last Tuesday.

"It was eerily similar walking through that locker room at halftime," said Sweet Home coach Paul Schintzius. "We have so many guys on the team from last year so I looked at them and said, 'Do you remember a year ago? We were in a similar situation and we made the decision to play together unselfishly and communicate. It's up to you just like last year to do it again.'"

Schintzius said he personally

challenged his top scorer, Terrell Rankin, to decide what kind of game the rest of the Frontier contest would be.

"I said to him, 'what's it going to be? Do you want to hope to win another 26-25 type of game or exert your will on them and he said to the team, 'come on guys. Let's play harder on defense and communicate out there,'" said Schintzius. "Then the rest of the team chimed in."

Sweet Home hit five three-pointers in the third, two from Earl Jackson and another two from Eric Schnirel. Point guard Steven Roberts added seven points in the quarter.

"We opened up a close game with our defensive intensity feeding our offensive intensity," said Schintzius. "We made a concerted

effort to pressure the ball. We forced a couple turnovers right away and momentum got on our side."

Sweet Home also had great balanced scoring. Jackson, Roberts and Rankin each scored 14 each. Schnirel added 13. Glenroy Carr had nine.

An extremely confident Sweet Home team then marched into Clarence last Friday and used a stifling man-to-man defense to blow out the Red Devils, 83-33. Sweet Home led, 26-8, after the first quarter, 48-16, at halftime, and 68-29, after three quarters.

"It was really a team effort where defensively, our ball pressure and communication and rotation was so good I don't even think Clarence got any open looks at all in the first half," said

Schintzius. "It was like we had them bottled up beyond belief."

"It was the first time all year that the entire time played with confidence in a game," he added.

Getting a huge lead early ensured Schintzius the opportunity to play several players who wouldn't normally see the floor much.

"We tried to keep one or two starters with two or three role players and when they came out, we put in two other reserves," said Schintzius.

Eleven players scored led by Rankin's 29. He had 13 in the first quarter. Carr chipped in 12. Jackson scored 10.

It was also the first time all season Sweet Home got a total team effort for the entire game.

"We've had tendencies this season where we have blown people out in the first half and had leads whittle away in the second half," said Schintzius.

Sweet Home, winners of its last six, plays at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Jamestown. The winner has a good shot of winning ECIC Division I. Sweet Home won the first meeting in December.

Sweet Home is 7-1 in league play, Jamestown has two league losses. The Panthers are 10-3 overall.

"They're going to be sky-high and jacked so we're going to have to match their intensity, especially early in the game and hopefully maintain it throughout," said Schintzius.

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## UB to honor girls, women in sports

Celebrated nationally for 21 years, National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) will take place on Feb. 7.

In its 17th year participating in NGWSD festivities, the University at Buffalo Division of Athletics has organized activities in the month of February to help create awareness of the positive benefits of the participation of girls and women in sports.

Beginning Feb. 3, UB will hold an all-youth multisports clinic prior to the doubleheader basketball game (UB men vs. Northern Illinois, 2 p.m.; UB women vs. Ball State, 4 p.m.).

Student-athletes will also visit two local schools during the week of Feb. 5 to discuss the significance of NGWSD and the many benefits of women and girls actively participating in sports.

UB's official celebration of NGWSD will take place at 6 p.m. on Wed., Feb. 21 at Alumni Arena.

The celebration will continue through halftime of the women's basketball game vs. Ohio beginning at 7 p.m.

The theme "Lead like a Champion" will be highlighted with a "meet and greet" and autographs by Margot Page, coach of the

2006 gold medal Canadian national women's ice hockey team and current head coach of Niagara University's women's ice hockey team.

The event will also feature UB varsity and club sports' interacting with fans at video stations that will showcase award winners, season highlights and Title IX. Halftime will include the Bulls' honoring the UB Recognition Award recipient and a female youth basketball exhibition game.

For more information, visit [www.buffalobulls.com](http://www.buffalobulls.com) or call the Bulls' hotline at 645-6666.

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