

# North hockey beats Ken West, qualifies for states

## Spartans will host regional game on March 3

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

It wasn't easy but Williamsville North will have a chance to defend its New York State Division I hockey title in March.

The Spartans (19-2-3, 11-2-3) qualified after defeating Kenmore West, 3-2, Friday on the Amherst Pepsi Center's Rink No. 2.

North, who is seven for seven in qualifying for states, will host

Section VII's Seton Catholic in a regional game on March 3 at the Pepsi Center.

"We wanted to go back and defend our state title and this gives us the best path for doing it," said North coach Bob Rosen. "That was our whole focus. When you lose two hockey games all year, you think you would have a bigger cushion but the league is pretty tight. I think that helps prepare us."

Rosen said the play of the game came with seconds remaining. Ryan Geary took a hooking penalty with 46 seconds left and with 16 seconds to play, Tom Goehrig blocked a slap shot from the point.

"We always talk about the little things that make the difference in winning a hockey game and that was one of them," said Rosen. "Every kid on our team after the game acknowledged that play. As a coach, it made me feel good to know that everybody else realized how important of a play that was."

North took a 2-0 first period lead from goals by Nick Angelo (Geary) and Jake Newton. Newton's goal came with seven seconds remaining. The junior defenseman pinched in and backhanded a shot that hit a defenseman's stick and lofted like a rainbow over the goalie's head.

Kenmore West's Chris Povinelli (Nick Panepinto) sliced the Spartans' lead in half with a second period power-play goal but Geary answered 1:18 later, also on the power play, from Pat Mulvihill. Scott Moser rounded out the Ken West scoring with 2:14 remaining on the power play from Mike Vasquez and Panepinto.

Branden Komm made 26 saves for North. The Spartans had 34

shots on net.

North's other league game last week was a 4-4 tie with Williamsville South last Thursday on the Feature Rink.

North blew a 4-2 lead in the last 1:46 of regulation. South's Dustin Jones scored on the power play from Greg Reed with 1:46 remaining. Short-handed with 30 seconds to play, Reed shook off a North defenseman, took a shot from the ground that hit goalie Taylor Gahagen and bounced off Reed's chest into the net.

Reed opened the scoring at 12:12 of the first short-handed. Geary and Komm ran into each other behind the North net and Reed forechecked in front of the empty net and put home the puck. Reed tied it at 2-2 at the 12-minute mark of the second unassisted.

Angelo and Mulvihill scored first period goals for the Spartans. Mulvihill came off a rebound from a Mark Smith shot. Goehrig also assisted.

Geary (Justin Kochan, Angelo) scored at 1:50 of the second on the power play. Jamie VonHendy, short-handed, picked the puck from a South defenseman and beat Thomas Tysowsky (36 saves) on the glove side to make it 4-2 at 13:57 of the third.

"What an emotional lift for us,"

said South coach Sean Green. "It's a game we've been looking forward to. I think being close with them the whole game and getting a lead early helped our confidence as the game went on."

Komm made nine saves in the first period. Gahagen had 12 stops between the second and third.

North and South both played in first round games in the Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation playoffs on Tuesday at the Pepsi Center. North faced Amherst while South battled Lancaster, but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. The finals are at 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22 at Buffalo State College.

South closed out the season with a 3-2 win over St. Francis on Saturday. Matt Kwarta scored from Jon Sherman and Adam Baker. Reed assisted Leo Schultz and Jones on power-play goals.

Tysowsky made 24 saves. South had 29 shots on goal.

"It was a game where we fed off the emotion of the North game and played a sound game," Green said. "Thomas kept us in it and we buried our chances we when got them."

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com



Amherst Central's Jodi Battaglia, left, battles for a loose ball in a game Friday at Hamburg High School. Hamburg won 55-46 and won the ECIC Division II title.

Photo by John Normile  
Purchase photos at www.BeeNews.com

### Amherst can't spoil Hamburg's ECIC II title hopes

Amherst Central tried to spoil Hamburg's bid for the ECIC Division II girls basketball title last Friday but the Lady Bulldogs proved too tough at home.

The Lady Tigers led, 29-24, at halftime but Hamburg outscored Amherst, 12-4, in the third quarter to regain the lead and momentum for the remainder of the game to win 55-46. The win gave Hamburg the league title.

"Based on our first meeting with them in January where they beat us by 14 points, we made a few changes to our game plan to defend the fast break that they run so well," said Amherst coach JoAnna Fildes. "Overall, we played our best four quarters of basketball on Friday. We fought hard until the end even with being in foul trouble."

Amherst was led by Liz Reid and Jodi Battaglia with 11 points each. Jennifer Newhouse contributed 10 hard fought points and eight rebounds in the paint.

Hamburg was led by Katie Medina's 25 points.

Amherst (6-10, 4-6) played at West Seneca East on Tuesday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. They host Lake Shore at 6 p.m. on Thursday and close out the regular season on Friday with a non-league game with Niagara Catholic.

## East splits games against large schools

by PATRICK J. NAGY  
Reporter

Whoever said a Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation small school hockey team could not beat a large school team should have checked out Williamsville East's win over St. Joe's last Thursday.

The Flames (14-6-3, 10-4-2) received goals from their goal scorers, played aggressive all game and left the Amherst Pepsi Center Olympic Rink with a 5-3 win over the Marauders, one of the top Division I teams in the Federation and in New York State.

"It shows we can play with anybody if our team comes to play," said East coach Mike Torrillo.

Jon Toole scored twice for the Flames. Toole opened the scoring from Anthony Clair and Kyle Smith in the first period and gave East a 4-3 advantage in the second period from Clair and Eric Charlton.

Chris Fabozzi (Spencer Bar-

rett), Smith (Barrett) and Charlton (Fabozzi) also tallied for the Flames in a game where East never trailed.

"We felt we've been playing a little complacent so we had more traffic in front of their goalie," said Torrillo. "Plus our big scorers who scored in the past scored."

Cole Schneider (Ron Femia), Femia (Mark Gramza II), and Kris Raepple (Mike Hatton) on the power play, tallied for St. Joe's who outshot the Flames, 29-22.

Matt Bradley stopped all 12 St. Joe's shots in the third. Jay Hall played the first two periods.

Unfortunately, East didn't play as aggressive against Kenmore West and were behind 6-2 after the second period.

Clair (Charlton and Toole), Clair (Mike Terryberry) on the power play, and Mike DeStefano (Smith) rallied East in the third but Kenmore West's Michael Vasquez scored an empty-netter

with 25 seconds remaining.

Clair opened the scoring 34 seconds into the game with a slapshot from the blue line. The Blue Devils answered with three first period goals and another two in the second before Toole scored on the power play from Barrett and Clair.

Vasquez (Scott Moser), Moser (Vasquez) on the power play, Kyle Whipple (Anthony Farah, Nick Panepinto), Michael Boice (Chris Povinelli, Jared Passman) and Vasquez (Patrick Fisher) scored for Kenmore West. Panepinto scored again with a power-play goal in the third from Moser and Robert Whelan.

East's first round game Section VI Western New York Varsity Hockey Federation playoff game with Frontier on Tuesday was postponed. A makeup date was yet to be announced when The Bee went to press.

e-mail: pnagy@beenews.com

## North gets jump on Sweet Home

Williamsville North jumped out to a 22-4 first quarter lead and never looked back in a 55-32 home win over Sweet Home on Feb. 6.

"We came out extremely flat," said Sweet Home coach Matt LaRoach. "Will North came out flying as they made their shots and got into a rhythm. To be trailing 22-4 after the first quarter was disappointing. Overall, we simply could not recover from going down early and struggled the rest of the game to get back in it."

North led 33-14 at halftime and 45-24 after the third quarter.

Point guard Corrin Genovese led North with 23 points. The eighth grader scored North's first 11 points of the game and finished the first quarter with 13, including three three-pointers. She hit 5-of-7 three-point attempts.

"Her game has really improved a lot," said North coach Mike DeValle. "She's able to control the ball, pass, go get a screen and get it back. She has an uncanny ability to see the floor, get the long pass, and hit them in stride. She's playing way above an eighth grader."

Genovese's teammate Allie Ahern added 12 points in the second and third quarters.

Ellie Allen scored eight points to lead Sweet Home. Coretta Davis had seven points and 11 rebounds and Laura Nerber added six points and eight rebounds.

"We knew they had good shooting guards and that they would play man to man defense and we just struggled," said LaRoach. "A couple of bright spots were efforts by Coretta Davis and Laura Nerber," he added. "Both went hard for four quarters, played good defense, and rebounded the ball well."

Sweet Home (5-9, 6-12) hosted Frontier on Tuesday but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press. They close out the regular season Friday at Kenmore West.

"We need to answer the call," said LaRoach. "It's February and we need to get better and make our push for this final week of the regular season and sectionals next week. We have so much potential and capabilities and now is the time to start maximizing them."

North (6-13, 4-9) closed out its regular season on Tuesday at Lancaster but results were unavailable before The Bee went to press.

(Reporter Patrick J. Nagy contributed to this article)

### Connie Mack Little League

#### OPEN REGISTRATION

#### Baseball and Softball

#### Boys and Girls Ages 4-18

February 17  
12-2PM  
Garnet  
Field House  
834-2992



February 24  
12-4PM  
Dick's  
Sporting Goods  
Maple Rd., Amherst

Deadline For Registration is March 1, 2007  
www.conniemacklittleleague.com