

# Squirt Gray Sabres win 5-1, Burke's shutout streak ends

The Squirt Gray Sabres and the Red Wings met on March 4 in a preview of their playoff game. The Gray Sabres won 5-1.

Because these teams would see

each other as playoff opponents in two weeks, both coaches allowed players to swap roles. Having played goal for the Red Wings most of the year, Teresa Meosky

skated on a forward line. Peter Hillery took her place between the pipes and made a case for another start. He stood on his head as the Gray Sabres came at

him in waves.

Finally, after around eight minutes of end-to-end action, a tic-tac-toe passing play from Katelyn Koester to Mark Giangreco to Angelo Derossi found the back of the net.

The Red Wings battled back with Jamison Garvey, Cole Federiconi, Erin Jozwiak and Ella Frauenhofer shooting darts at the Gray Sabres' Joe Burke in goal. Burke continued his shutout streak to 48 minutes.

In the second period, the Red Wings continued their assault. Lillian Markley, Tristan Dougherty, Christian Baran, Marisa Notaro, Connor Lalime, Nathan D'Angelo and Motrowski peppered Burke but could not break his streak.

The Gray Sabres counter-punched with Jack Cooper starting the rush in his own end and chipping it off the boards to Brian Kowalski. Kowalski noticed a streaking Emma Hubert and fed her a perfect pass, which she

redirected under Hillery's pads for the second goal.

The Gray Sabres stretched their lead to three when Benjamin Lackner, dropping back to defense instead of playing wing, found Kowalski along the high boards. Kowalski skated into the Red Wings' zone and slid the puck to Austin Maciok. Maciok, playing center instead of defense, went upstairs to beat Hillery. Burke's streak ended at 65 minutes when Adam Herr beat Burke with an assist from Austin Hyer.

It looked like that would be the final score until Gabe Jewula and Peter Gossels cycled the puck to Giangreco, who beat Hillery to the stick side.

With less than 30 seconds in the game, Gossels and Maciok found Giangreco diving in from his point to push the puck past a surprised Hillery.

Connor Koester played a great game at forward, as did Joe Arias and J. B. Beck.

## Flyers post shutout victory

The Squirt Flyers played at a fever-pitch against the Gray Sabres early Sunday morning at the Amherst Pepsi Center.

The Flyers won 5-0 and sealed their third playoff game with exciting end-to-end action and tight defense.

The Flyers' Conor Mulvey set the offensive pace for his team when he lifted the puck up with an awesome wrist shot early in the first period. Mulvey's goal was helped with assists from James Mueller and Trevor Shaw. Two minutes later, Gregory Sibick scored the second goal for the Flyers when he blasted the puck past the Gray Sabres' goalie.

The second period saw a lot of bold moves from each team as the playoffs typically do. Sibick lit up the scoreboard again for the Flyers after he lobbed in a well-timed pass from teammate Amir Gulati.

The remainder of the second period had both teams working hard and ended with the Flyers retaining their 3-0 lead.

The third period had numerous offensive rushes from the Gray Sabres, which were skillfully handled by Flyers' goalie, Bryan Cowing. The Flyers fourth goal was scored by Mark Christy on a breakaway down the center of the ice.

Christy grabbed a pass from Sibick and skated past the competition. Peter Masters lit up the scoreboard for the Flyers' fifth goal with ten seconds to go on the clock. Masters spotted a pass from JP Williams and seized the opportunity to slam the puck in on the Gray Sabres' netminder.

Notable plays for the Flyers were made by Austin Gallagher, Anthony Macchia, Trevor Shaw, Austin Ballard and Eric Bailey.

## Hejmanowski, Raimondi lead Rangers to 6-2 win

A surging Squirt Rangers squad defeated the Stars, 6-2, on Sunday led by a four-point performance by Bradley Hejmanowski and three points from Jason Raimondi. The victory puts the Rangers in second place and holds a slim margin over four teams for a possible semifinal bid.

Hejmanowski opened the scoring with an unassisted tally midway through the first period. A minute later, Hejmanowski gave the Rangers a two-goal lead when Stars goalie Christian Aichinger stopped Raimondi but Hejmanowski was there for the rebound. Darin Geska also assisted.

The Stars got themselves back into the game when Christian Cretella teamed up with Jimmy Kirkpatrick to steal the puck in the Rangers end and Cretella beat sprawling Rangers goalie Nick Molnar with a high shot, Kirkpatrick was credited with the assist.

In the last minute of the first period, Hejmanowski returned the favor by feeding Raimondi, who beat Aichinger with a nice move in close.

The Stars came out flying in the second period. Justin Bystrak put his team back to within one goal with an unassisted goal that beat Molnar low.

The score remained 3-2 until Matthew Soos broke free from a pack of players and banged one in underneath Aichinger. David Hnat earned an assist on the play while applying heavy pressure in the Stars' end.

The Rangers pulled ahead 5-2 when Rangers rookie left winger Alex Morris pounded in a rebound of a Hejmanowski blast. This was Morris' first career goal and Hejmanowski's fourth point of the game.

The Stars' Ben Battaglia, Samantha Degen, Steve Zaprows-

ki and Kirkpatrick continued relentless pressure on the Rangers but could not figure out how to beat Molnar.

Ranger defenseman, Raimondi, John Tomczak, Alex Touma and Mickey Evans and forwards Jake Fuzak, Steven Swaintek and Ryan Mikulec all made great plays to stop the Stars the rest of the way. Raimondi completed his three-point night midway through the third with a blistering shot after a Touma pass.

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## Knights Squirt Minor 'AAA' close season with victory

The Amherst Knights Squirt Minor "AAA" hockey team ended their season with a solid 3-1 victory on Saturday over a powerful West Seneca Wings team at the Amherst Pepsi Center.

The strong showing was testimony to the progressive improvement the Knights demonstrated throughout the year.

The Amherst defense of John Hazelet, Chris Winiacki, Ellis Smith, Owen Green and Dylan Lock used solid positional play to keep the dangerous West Seneca forwards from penetrating the deep center slot for much of the game. Still, the West Seneca team remained tenacious and ultimately generated a few high quality scoring chances. In these instances, Amherst goaltenders Mark O'Malley and Max Battistoni, splitting duties, were up to the task, making the tough saves to bolster team and game confidence.

The Amherst line of Danny Tyczynski-Danny Brodzik-MJ Bronsky demonstrated some tenacity of its own. Bronsky and Brodzik forced the play in the deep offensive corners, gained puck control and applied sustained pressure to generate multiple scoring opportunities. Dante Todaro, centering for Alex Dimitroff and Matthew Ruggiero, broke out of their zone cleanly on a number of odd man rushes. Ruggiero was workman-like in front of the net, using his strength to force the play to the crease.

Dimitroff, breaking free, just missed on some close-in setups off Todaro's stick. Luke Eberhard, playing on a line with Mitchell Spring and Matthew Steffan, skated hard throughout the game. Eberhard was in close battling in the center slot, then back-checked hard to help the Knights defense thwart some quick breakout rushes by the Wings forwards.

Amherst opened the scoring first when Steffan broke in free and hit the back of the net with a well-placed low stick-side wrist to give his team a 1-0 lead. Tyczynski laced a picture perfect pass through center ice traffic that launched Todaro on a clean breakaway.

Todaro used a right to left deke to score and open a 2-0 lead for the Knights. Amherst took a comfortable 3-0 lead when Spring made a nifty left to right move through the slot and let go a wrist shot. A hustling Steffan followed the play in and pounded home the rebound to score his second goal of the game.

West Seneca applied some strong pressure and scored to get within 3-1.

Late in the game, with Amherst still leading 3-1 and in penalty trouble, West Seneca pulled their goaltender. The Wings stormed the net but Amherst never stopped skating and held on for the victory.

The Knights' coaching staff consists of head coach Jim Steffan and assistants, Joe Todaro and Tom Hazelet.

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