

Buffalo Bisons U12 girls win state hockey title

The Buffalo Bisons girls U12 hockey team recently traveled to Syracuse, N.Y. and won a New York State championship.

The Bisons defeated the Rochester Edge, 3-1, in the finals, avenging a 6-0 loss in preliminaries.

Buffalo's confidence grew in the rematch. Alanna Herne broke a scoreless tie in the second period. Rochester forward Jenny Ryan went the length of the ice and tied the score at 1-1.

With 8:08 remaining in the third period, Julianna Iafallo intercepted a clearing pass and went in on a breakaway and buried a beautiful wrist shot in the top right corner of the net.

Moments later, Ana Orzechowski found herself in front of her own net with the puck and threaded a pass up the center to a streaking Allison Gasuik, who skated in on a breakaway and went top shelf.

Goalies Maddie Welch and Wesolowski were solid between the pipes all weekend. Defensemen Emily Burow, Justine Capuson, Teagan Faran, Rachel Grampp, Orzechowski, and Lizzy Viola were amazing, never relenting to the Edge's pressure.

Forwards Jill Battista, Gasuik, Natalie Goeddertz, Alanna Herne, Iafallo, Hannah Rice, Jordan Roetzer, Madison Sansone, and Kasey Thur provided timely goals, pin point passing, and a relentless forecheck all weekend long.

In other preliminary round games, the Bisons defeated Amherst, 8-0, and the Syracuse Stars, 5-3.

Iafallo's hat trick and Herne's goal and three assists, Grampp's goal and assist and a goal each by Gasuik, Rice and Goeddertz led the Bisons' offense versus Amherst.

The Bisons scored four times with over six minutes remaining in the third to come back and beat Syracuse. Sansone jumped on a rebound and tied the game. Justine Capuson scored the game-winning goal with two minutes remaining.

The Bisons will travel to Philadelphia, Pa. to represent New York in the Tier 1 National Championships.



The Buffalo Bisons U12 girls hockey team defeated the Rochester Edge, 3-1, to win a New York State Championship. The Bisons are one of 12 teams around the country to advance to the Tier 1 National Championships in Philadelphia, Pa. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: first row—Madison Sansone (Amherst), Allison Gasuik, Ana Orzechowski (Tonawanda), Madison Welch (Amherst), Courtney

Wesolowski (Cheektowaga), Casey Thur (Clarence), Julia Iafallo (West Seneca); second row - Teagan Faran (Amherst), Rachel Grampp (Amherst), coach Don Battista (Tonawanda), Natalie Goeddertz, Justine Capuson, Lizzy Viola (Amherst), Alanna Herne (Tonawanda), Jill Battista (Tonawanda), Hannah Rice (East Aurora), Emily Burow (Amherst), Jordan Roetzer (Amherst), and coach Kevin Orzechowski (Tonawanda).

Lions Club slates 10th annual girls basketball all-star games



Sweet Home's Nadia Durno (25) will play on the Justinettes at the 10th annual Senior High School Ladies Basketball Classic Saturday, March 15 at Cheektowaga Central High School. *File photo*

Some of the area's best female high school basketball players will have one last shot to dazzle the fans when the Cheektowaga Lions Club hosts its 10th annual Senior High School Ladies Basketball Classic Saturday, March 15.

The game, which will be played at Cheektowaga Central High School, 3600 Union Road, will feature players who were nominated by area high school coaches and then chosen to participate by a panel of school officials from the region.

The Father Justin Council Knights of Columbus is again a major sponsor of the Classic, which will pit the Lionesses against the Justinettes at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Lions and the Knights at approximately 8:30.

At the conclusion of each game, an MVP will be selected from each team. Later this year, a scholarship will be presented in the names of the MVPs to a deserving student from each of their schools.

Ticket prices are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students. Tickets can be bought before the games by calling 685-1422.

Participants for the games include the following:

Lionesses

Rachel Sluberski (Iroquois), Taylor Pagano (Cheektowaga), Shaniqua Ray (Cardinal O'Hara), Cheryl Hartinger (Kenmore East), Krissy Wesolowski (JFK), Nicole Calbi, Jessica Yee, Tori

Rebmann, Gina Moss and Elisha Darby. The Lionesses will be coached by Matt LaRoach (Sweet Home) and Chris Koselny (East Aurora).

Justinettes

Joey Ruderman (Maryvale), Melissa Schultz (JFK), Holly Travis (Clarence), Margo Pagano (Cheektowaga), Sarah Tarrantino (East Aurora), Nadia Durno (Sweet Home), Jen Hare, Mallory Griffiths, Rachel Lowry, Jasmine Ball and Hope Newton. The Justinettes will be coached by Keith Junik (St. Mary's of Lancaster), Frank Martin and Debra Stanczyk.

Knights

Grace Cunningham (Iroquois), Kate Kapanek (St. Mary's), Jessie Tarrantino (East Aurora), Samantha Arena (Sacred Heart), Gleniesha Ferby (Sweet Home), Krystal Watson (Sacred Heart), Katie Lancellotti (Clarence), Ashley Gallagher (East Aurora), Nikki Frederickson, Brianna Lee and Erin Asquith. The Knights will be coached by Dean Ramirez (Maryvale) and Carole Zirkle.

Lions

Breanna Harris (Cheektowaga), Brianna Nemmer (Clarence), Jazmine Bell (Kenmore East), Toni Caruso (Maryvale), Jill Fairchild (Orchard Park), Joelle Connelly (Pioneer), Anne Wapshare, Meghan Dougherty, Jordyn Eckman, Katie Medina, Jordan Meheran and Amie Stuitje. The Lions will be coached by Rachel Martin and Ken Ricker.

Buffalo In-Line Hockey Group action heats up

Freezing cold and a snowstorm did not deter Buffalo In-line Hockey League Group players from playing exciting hockey on Saturday.

Major division

Blackhawks 7, Warriors 2

The division-leading Blackhawks cruised to another win. Justin Swan (Tonawanda) scored five times.

Vikings 8, Firestorm 5

The Vikings put on another passing clinic in this one. David Campuzano had five assists and scored a short-handed goal. Chad Loughran (Amherst) tallied five times.

Killer Pandas 4, Mulecats 3

Zac Robinson's (Amherst) goal with 2:49 left proved to be the game winner. It was a well-played game with strong goaltending from Ron Carslisle and Alex Wark.

Crush 9, Snipers 3

David Schlandt (Tonawanda) opened the scoring for the Snipers at 6:45 of the first period

and Kevin Eberth (Cheektowaga) and Rob Russell (Tonawanda) led the rest of the way.

Red Snappers 9, Stealth 7 (shootout)

Major division points leader Taylor Setlock (Tonawanda) and Austin Newman's shootout goals got the win for the Reds.

Nick Durante was very strong for the Stealth.

Junior division

Orangemen 7, Capitals 6 (shootout)

The Orange got a Dave Millbrand goal in the shootout to pick up the victory.

Jimmy Basil (Clarence) had a hat trick for the Capitals.

Knights 4, Devils 3

Kevin Krawczyk's shootout goal earned the win for the division-leading Knights. It was the third such victory for the Knights this season.

Ryan Owarczyk was outstanding for the Devils.

Sharks 7, Penguins 2

Tim Whelan continued his fine

play as of late with a hat trick. Matt Grichen played strong defensively and chipped in two assists for the Sharks.

Maroons 5, Gladiators 3

Brandon Fox and PJ Anders were the stars for the Maroons and division leading goals scorer Ben Speyer (Amherst) had two

more goals for the Gladiators.

Buffalo In-line Hockey Group is the premier not-for-profit youth in-line hockey organization in Western New York playing out of the EPIC Center on Wehrle Drive in Lancaster.

For more information, including information about tourna-

ment play, call Rich at 689-4090 or 773-1188 or visit bihg.org.

Alterio breaks track record at Oneonta State

Amherst Central graduate and Amherst resident Celia Alterio, a freshman on the Oneonta State College women's indoor track and field team, broke the first school record of the season at the Kane Invitational on Feb. 23 at Cornell University.

Alterio covered 3,000 meters in 10:45.35, bettering Kim Davey's former record of 11:06.46 set back in February of 2005 at New York's Armory. It was over a 30-second personal best for Alterio, as she placed 11th and qualified for the ECAC Championships in three weeks at Harvard University.

Her success continued at the New York University Fast Track Invitational on Feb. 29, running double personal best times in the mile (5:17.07; 17th place) and 800 (2:24.27; 35th). Alterio's time in the mile missed the ECAC qualifying mark by .03 seconds.

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