

# Wolverines roll, Wildcats rally in playoffs

By Dan O'Meara  
staff writer

Wolverines coach Dave Cyplik seized the opportunity to turn a negative into a positive Monday in the Metro Summer Hockey League semifinals.

Cyplik used his team's underdog status to gain a psychological edge, and his team responded with a 9-3 victory over the Broncos at the Plymouth Ice Arena.

The Wolverines, who had the worst regular-season record in the eight-team loop at 1-9-1, attempted to complete their amazing turnaround Wednesday in the championship game against the Wildcats.

In the second half of Monday's doubleheader, Tim Olschanski accounted for six third-period points as the Wildcats rallied to beat the Spartans for the Eagle Conference crown, 13-10.

Cyplik's team, winless until its last regular-season game and riding a three-game winning streak going into the finale, was clinging to a 4-3 lead after two periods.

THE COACH made an emotional appeal between periods, taking the liberty of stretching the truth a little bit.

"I told them the other coach said they were lucky to be here," said Cyplik, admitting that wasn't really the case.

"That was a little white lie on my part. A little extra always helps." The Wolverines, pressing the attack and going on the offensive, responded with five unanswered goals to seal the outcome and keep their Cinderella hopes alive.

Tim Pietila had two goals in the third period for the winners and finished with a hat trick.

Leaf Gustafson, who also played for the Spartans in the late game, took Sean Skinner's centering pass and drilled a slap shot between the pads of goalie Andy Tormala, who fought off plenty of challenges earlier, to begin the last-period onslaught.

"I FINALLY got them playing my way," said Cyplik, addressing the reasons for his team's surge at playoff time. "They're picking up my style of game."

The addition of Gustafson, who plays for Michigan State, and Neil Carnes, who was recently drafted by the Montreal Canadiens, are other factors.

Carnes was originally supposed to play for the Wildcats, who are coached by his brother, Alan Carnes, but knee surgery caused him to sit out much of the season. However, he recuperated quickly and hooked up with the Wolverines since that team had need for replacement players.

"Penalty killing has been a big thing for our team," Cyplik said. "We're nearly 100 percent on that."

"The rest is basic hockey, keeping the wingers on the boards and having the center come back all the time and back-check."

Cyplik, who is just 21 years old and coached the Michigan Mustangs

to a 14-2 record at the Midget Major AAA level last winter, isn't surprised to see the Wolverines doing so well.

"NOT AT ALL. I'm pretty confident in my coaching ability, and the team had the talent to begin with," he said. "We needed to get rid of some players, some dead weight."

"In a short season with no practices, it's hard to take a group of players and have them skate well. It took until the end of the season to have our main line gel."

Michael Krygiel broke a 1-1 tie and gave the Broncos a temporary lead early in the second period, but the Wolverines came back with consecutive goals by Pietila, Corey Almas and Chris Berger to build a 4-2 advantage.

Jim Storm, Ed Shepler, Keith

Pietila and Nick Mariani also scored goals for the Wolverines. Dennis Ryan, Mike Freeman and Krygiel had a goal and one assist apiece for the Broncos.

The Wildcats-Spartans shootout was a wild affair in which the teams surpassed, in the first period, the number of goals scored in the previous game.

With five minutes gone, the Wildcats had stunned the Spartans by grabbing a 5-1 lead. But the Spartans regrouped to score six of the next seven goals and tied 7-6 after the first 15 minutes.

GUSTAFSON HAD three of his game-high four goals and Ken Chaput two as the Spartans rallied in the second half of the period. Chaput, a 5-foot-4, 150-pound forward

who plays for the University of Michigan-Dearborn, figured in two textbook-perfect plays.

Tim Pilot, who chalked up an amazing seven assists and eight points in the game, drew the attention of Wildcats goalie Shawn Sarkisian, then passed across to Chaput, who dumped the puck in from the other side. That tied the score 6-6 with 47 seconds left in the period.

Chaput was on the other end just 30 seconds later when Gustafson put the Spartans in front. On the same kind of play, Chaput skated in with the puck and slid it across to a hard-charging Gustafson.

Pilot scored the only goal of the second period, and the Wildcats, having lost all of their momentum, appeared unable to get back on their feet in the face of the Spartans'

comeback.

But that changed quickly in the last period, beginning with Olschanski's first goal at 10:47. That opened the floodgates, and the Wildcats once again became the team that dominated in the opening minutes.

"THAT'S WHAT happens," said Olschanski, an '87 graduate of Livonia Franklin who played last season for the Livonia Junior B team.

"It's been that way all season. We take the lead and letdown, and then we get that urge."

Mike Jorgensen, who also had three goals and five points, scored the next one, and Charlie Olschanski, Tim's brother, scored the go-ahead goal.

The Spartans' Wayne Macklin knotted the score at 9-11, but the

Wildcats had another three-goal surge (Jorgensen, Tim Olschanski and Sean Flynn) to decide the issue. Olschanski, enjoying the best single period of his hockey career, added an empty-net goal with 46 seconds left.

"I was kinda worried after the second period," he said. "I was upset because I wasn't playing my best game, and the team was just watching things."

"We said: 'Hey, let's get together and start playing.' We got some quick goals, and that just set us on our way."

Olschanski's line accounted for 16 points. In addition to he and Jorgensen, Flynn and Carnes, who alternate at the other forward, had a goal and three points as did Mark Issei and Scott Lock.

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The Under-19 Michigan Hawks girls soccer team captured its second tournament of the summer, winning the Bluewater Invitational in Sarnia, Ont.

Also for the second time in a tournament final this summer, the Hawks' victim was the Livonia Crusaders. The final score in the championship was 3-1, with Shannon Meath scoring the game-winner at the 65-minute mark. Margaret Kopmeyer and Jenny Schuerman also scored for the Hawks.

In the semifinals, Meath again scored the game-winner, as the Hawks edged St. Catharines, Ont., 3-2. Carrie Maier and Schuerman recorded the other tallies.

The Hawks had to win three preliminary round games to reach the semifinal round. They defeated Brampton, Ont., 4-1; St. Charles, Ill., 3-1 and Sarnia, Ont., 3-1.

Paul Dugan is the Hawks coach and the team manager is Mike Yderstadt.

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