

Defense sparkles in Whaler victories

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS				
East Division	W	L	T	Pts.
Ottawa 67's	29	12	7	65
Bellville Bulls	31	19	2	64
Kingston Frontenacs	27	17	3	57
Oshawa Generals	20	27	4	44
Peterborough Petes	17	27	8	39
Toronto St. Michaels	12	26	8	32
West Division				
	W	L	T	Pts.
Windsor Spitfires	33	14	5	71
Barrie Colts	31	14	4	66
Kitchener Rangers	20	21	7	47
Owen Sound Platers	20	26	3	43
Sudbury Wolves	17	30	5	39
North Bay Centennials	13	33	6	32
West Division				
	W	L	T	Pts.
London Knights	31	16	9	70
Windsor Spitfires	29	17	8	66
Windsor Jr. Spitfires	29	17	8	66
Sarnia Sting	22	18	5	54
Erie Otters	22	20	4	48
Windsor Spitfires	17	31	3	37
SSM Greyhounds	15	20	6	36

Multi-goal scorers like Andrew Taylor and Jesse Boulerice — they each had a two-goal game last weekend — will get their share of mention, but perhaps what should get the notice is the Plymouth Whalers' defense.

The Whalers, struggling at a .500 pace in the Ontario Hockey League for the last couple of weeks, got two much-needed victories at Cowiway Arena last weekend, and they did it by surrendering just one goal.

On Saturday, it was Boulerice's two goals that ensured Plymouth's 4-1 triumph over the Sarnia Sting. On Sunday, Taylor scored twice in the first period to propel the Whalers to a 5-0 shutout over the Kitchener Rangers.

Robert Esche was in goal for win over Sarnia; he made 18 saves. Robert Holsinger got the shutout against Kitchener, mak-

ing 16 saves.

Against Sarnia, David Legwand contributed a goal and an assist, Yuri Babenko scored a goal and both Sergei Fedotov and Taylor had two assists.

Taylor also had an assist to go with his two goals in the win over Kitchener. Paul Mara chipped in with a goal and an assist, and Eric Goody and Troy Smith each netted one goal. Harold Druken added two assists.

The two wins pushed Plymouth's record to 27-17-4 for 58 points in 48 games — seven behind the London Knights, who lead the OHL's West Division with a 31-16-3 mark in 60 games.

The Whalers face a tough weekend, too, with three games in three days, two of them against teams ranked among the OHL's best.

On Friday, Plymouth travels

to play the Central Division-leading Guelph Storm, who currently own the OHL's best record (33-14-5, 71 points). On Saturday, the Whalers play at Owen Sound (20-26-3, 43 points), then they return home to host the Kingston Frontenacs, who are third best in the East Division, at 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

WHLER NOTES: Ranked among the OHL scoring leaders is Whaler rookie David Legwand, who has 43 goals and 33 assists for 76 points, fourth in the league — even though he missed six games to compete in the World Junior Championships in December.

Legwand still has a commanding lead among rookie scorers, with Belleville's Jonathan Cheechoo second with 58 points. The Whalers' Yuri Babenko ranks fifth among rookie scorers (16 goals, 29 assists, 45 points).

Plymouth goalie Robert Esche is sixth in the OHL in goals-against average at 3.01. He has one shutout, an .895 saves percentage and a 21-10-2 record.

SWIMMING

FARMINGTON 95

BERKLEY 89

Feb. 3 at North Farmington
200 medley relay: Farmington (Devon Hopper, David Hartmann, Robbie Gundlach, Mike McCormick), 1:54.24; 200 freestyle: Pete Bosler (F), 1:52.27; 200 IM: Matt Beckelsohn (F), 2:18.05; 100 freestyle: Bosler (F), 51.40; 100 backstroke: Bosler (F), 57.52; 100 breaststroke: Beckelsohn (F), 1:08.35; 400 freestyle relay: Bosler, Hopper, Gundlach, Beckelsohn, 3:47.93.
Farmington best times: Hopper, backstroke: Steve Marone, 5:00 (6:17.9); Aaron Scheldies, 5:00 (6:11.69); Gundlach, backstroke (1:06.2) and butterfly (1:07.33).
Farmington's dual meet record: 2-4.

REDFORD CC VS. UD JESUIT

Feb. 2 at Farmington Mercy

(official score unavailable)

200-yard medley relay: 2. Sean Killeen, Paul Connolly, Matt Tobkin, Dennis Sugue, 1:48.45; 200 freestyle: 2. Ryan Meekins, 1:49.27; 200 individual medley: 2. Nick Sosnowski, 2:07.51; 50 freestyle: 1. Dennis Sugue, 24.03; 100 butterfly: 2. Sosnowski, 56.55 (state qualifying time); 200 freestyle: Ryan Meekins, 49.25 (state qualifying time); 500 freestyle: 1. Matt Baran, 12:26.65; 200 freestyle relay: 1. Sugue, Chris LaFond, John LaRuffa, Erik Ruselowski, 1:38.08; 100 breaststroke: 1. Connolly, 1:04.07; 400 freestyle relay: 2. Meekins, Josh Markou, Baran, Sosnowski, 3:25.66.

Volleyball

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three points apiece as North expanded a 5-2 lead to 14-6.

After six sideouts and another Harrison point, the Raiders won it when DiVito dumped the ball over the net and the Hawks failed to make a return.

"We were moving; we were fired up," Weintraub said. "We were hitting hard and we had Chavez covered in that game."

"We made some key plays and covered all their tips and dumps. We were in the spots we needed to be; in the third game, they adjusted and found new spots."

Callahan was North's leading attacker in the match and played a key role in the second game, especially.

"I can't say enough good things about her," Weintraub said. "She hustled and was a leader on the floor. When she finds one, I wouldn't want to be on the receiving end."

"When the passes aren't there, it's not easy for the setter, but (Diana Gustkey) hustles and makes a play out of it."

"When the pass is on, she knows exactly what to do, how to draw the block so the hitter will have the advantage."

Harrison is 2-5 in the Western

Lakes Activities Association and North 0-7.

Blazers try to defend title
Saturday's 25th Annual Schoolcraft College Invitational girls volleyball tournament will once again feature some of the state's top-ranked teams, including defending champion Livonia Ladywood.

Thirty-one teams are scheduled to play in the all-day affair, which starts at 9 a.m.

And for the first time in recent memory, two sites will be used for pool play.

Among the teams expected to contend for the title are Western Lakes Activities Association favorites Plymouth Salem, Walled Lake Central and Livonia Stevenson; Birmingham Marian and Ladywood of the Catholic League; Midland, featuring the state's top hitter in Erin Hartley; Temperance Bedford, which won titles in 1994, '95 and '96; and East Kentwood.

The top two teams in each of the eight pools will advance to the championship elimination rounds, which start about 2 p.m.

Here is the lineup for pool play at Schoolcraft:

•Pool A (Court I): Midland, Walled

Lake Central, Ann Arbor Huron and Garden City.

•Pool B (Court II): Farmington Hills Mercy, Farmington High, Livonia Churchill and Dearborn;

•Pool C (Court III): East Kentwood, Birmingham Marian, Ypsilanti and Flint Powers;

•Pool D (Court IV): Temperance Bedford, Redford Thurston, North Farmington and Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley;

•Pool E (Court V): Farmington Hills Harrison, Fenton, Livonia Stevenson and Novi;

•Pool F (Court VI): Birmingham Seaholm, Plymouth Salem, Westland John Glenn and Livonia Ladywood.

Slated to play at Northville:

•Pool G: Livonia Clarenceville, Harper Woods Regins, Carleton-Airport and Northville;

•Pool H: Ferndale, Mount Clemens Dakota and Grand Blanc.

Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for students.

BEST SWIM TIMES

Following is a list of Observer/End boys best swimming times and diving scores. Coaches can report updates to Dan O'Mara by calling (313) 853-2141 or faxing the information to (313) 593-7279.

200-YARD MEDLEY RELAY

Livonia Stevenson 1:40.02
Plymouth Salem 1:43.04
Redford Catholic Central 1:44.38
Plymouth Canton 1:44.82
North Farmington 1:40.23

200 FREESTYLE

Keith Falk (Stevenson) 1:45.45
Nick Corden (Salem) 1:47.43
Ryan Meekins (Redford CC) 1:48.07
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 1:49.11
Steve Domin (Stevenson) 1:51.90
Pete Bosler (Farmington) 1:52.27
Matt Baran (Redford CC) 1:52.31
Jason Musson (Canton) 1:53.35
Brent Melia (Salem) 1:53.37
Brian Martens (Salem) 1:54.39

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY

Keith Falk (Stevenson) 2:00.73
Nick Corden (Redford CC) 2:01.07
Steve Domin (Stevenson) 2:05.49
Brent Melia (Salem) 2:05.73
Joe Buchan (Stevenson) 2:06.18
Dan Gabriel (N. Farmington) 2:07.36
James McPartlin (John Glenn) 2:07.44
Nick Corden (Salem) 2:07.49
Mike Malik (Stevenson) 2:08.58
Brian Martens (Salem) 2:11.51

50 FREESTYLE

Steve Domin (Stevenson) 22.11
Nick Corden (Salem) 22.14
Andrew Locke (Salem) 22.44
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 22.95
Keith Falk (Stevenson) 23.05
Dan Kelly (Salem) 23.10
Jacob Vary (Stevenson) 23.21
Matt Zaid (N. Farmington) 23.29
Kurtis Horneck (Canton) 23.30
Matt Baran (Redford CC) 23.70

DIVING

Chris Totten (Garden City) 250.55
Joe Labovici (N. Farmington) 243.40
J.T. Smoke (Harrison) 237.10
Jeff Phillips (John Glenn) 231.00
Chris Cameron (Salem) 223.00
John Lowy (Farmington) 221.00
Mike Belvitch (Salem) 189.40
Dave Sutton (Redford Union) 183.60
Jerome Lucas (Churchill) 182.55
Mike Orlikowski (Franklin) 182.00
Greg Dziurzynski (Redford CC) 174.90
Ryan Cunningham (Canton) 172.45

100 BUTTERFLY

Steve Domin (Stevenson) 53.10
Mark Scriccia (Stevenson) 53.86
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 55.34

Keith Falk (Stevenson) 55.50
James McPartlin (John Glenn) 55.75
Nick Sosnowski (Redford CC) 55.60
Paul Pezer (Salem) 56.80
Brent Melia (Salem) 58.38
Joe Buchan (Stevenson) 58.43
Matt Tobkin (Redford CC) 58.45

100 FREESTYLE

Nick Corden (Salem) 48.47
Keith Falk (Stevenson) 49.02
Ryan Meekins (Redford CC) 49.80
Steve Domin (Stevenson) 49.84
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 50.00
Andrew Locke (Salem) 51.14
Matt Baran (Redford CC) 51.40
Pete Bosler (Farmington) 51.40
James McPartlin (John Glenn) 51.17
Ryan Zamboni (John Glenn) 51.60

500 FREESTYLE

Keith Falk (Stevenson) 4:48.78
Nick Sosnowski (Redford CC) 4:49.30
Steve Domin (Stevenson) 4:57.05
Brian Martens (Salem) 5:01.37
Tim Buchanan (Salem) 5:03.41
Brent Melia (Salem) 5:03.43
Mike Malik (Stevenson) 5:05.84
Kurtis Horneck (Canton) 5:09.05
Paul Pezer (Salem) 5:11.80
Anton Bringer (Harrison) 5:14.21

200 FREESTYLE RELAY

Plymouth Salem 1:29.70
Livonia Stevenson 1:34.30
North Farmington 1:35.90
Plymouth Canton 1:38.10
Redford Catholic Central 1:38.54

100 BACKSTROKE

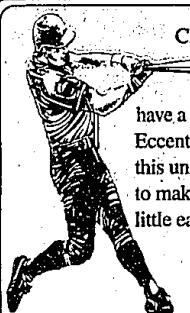
Dan Gabriel (H. Farmington) 55.23
Nick Sosnowski (Redford CC) 56.03
Nick Corden (Salem) 56.53
Joe Buchan (Stevenson) 57.23
Mark Scriccia (Stevenson) 57.23
Devon Hopper (Farmington) 57.52
Brent Melia (Salem) 57.53
Aaron Reeder (Canton) 58.74
Josh Doff (Harrison) 58.91
Jim Gabriel (H. Farmington) 59.39

100 BREASTSTROKE

Matt Walker (Harrison) 1:03.34
Keith Falk (Stevenson) 1:03.94
Ryan Zamboni (John Glenn) 1:04.05
Jody Gomez (Franklin) 1:04.87
Paul Connolly (Redford CC) 1:05.57
Andrew Locke (Salem) 1:05.60
Matt Heiss (Canton) 1:06.27
Adam Faber (N. Farmington) 1:07.31
Kevin VanHorn (Stevenson) 1:07.42
Mike Heimer (Stevenson) 1:07.67

400 FREESTYLE RELAY

Plymouth Salem 3:20.38
Livonia Stevenson 3:21.07
Redford Catholic Central 3:26.34
North Farmington 3:33.32
Plymouth Canton 3:34.18



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