

WEEK AHEAD

POST HOCKEY
 Thursday, Jan. 6
 Huron Valley at Michigan Tech, 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, Jan. 7
 Harper Woods at Litchfield, 7 p.m.
 Chubbuck at St. Ignace, 7 p.m.
 Franken at W.L. Central, 7 p.m.
 Northville at John Dwyer, 7 p.m.
 Wayne at Ypsilanti, 7 p.m.
 Garden City at Wyandotte, 7 p.m.
 Lincoln Park at Redford Union, 7 p.m.
 Allen Park at Thornton, 7 p.m.
 Plymouth at St. Ignace, 7 p.m.
 W.L. Central at St. Ignace, 7 p.m.
 Harrison at Farmington, 7 p.m.
 Redford CC at St. Ignace, 7:30 p.m.
 Clarendonville at Litchfield, 7:30 p.m.
POST HOCKEY
 Thursday, Jan. 6
 Huron Valley at Michigan Tech, 6 p.m.
 P.A. at A.A. Greenfield, 6:15 p.m.
 Clarendonville at Chubbuck, 6:30 p.m.
 Litchfield at Litchfield, 6:30 p.m.
 Doncaster at St. Ignace, 7 p.m.
 Friday, Jan. 7
 Salem Christian at Agate, 6:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Jan. 8
 U.M. Dearborn Invitational, 8 a.m.
 A.A. Pioneer Invitational, 8 a.m.
 Salem Invitational, 8 a.m.
 W.L. Western Invitational, 8 a.m.
 Plymouth Christian Journey, TBA.
POST HOCKEY
 Friday, Jan. 7
 Midland vs. St. Ignace
 at Edgar, 6 p.m.
 Franklin at Novi, 7 p.m.
 Chubbuck vs. Farmington
 at Farmington Hills Arena, 7:30 p.m.
 W.L. Central vs. Corkin
 at Plymouth Cultural Center, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, Jan. 8
 Stevenson vs. Salem
 at Plymouth Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m.
 Agate (Ontario) vs. Redford CC
 at Redford Ice Arena, 8 p.m.
 Farmington vs. W.L. Central
 at Litchfield Ice Arena, 8:30 p.m.
POST HOCKEY
 Friday, Jan. 7
 Plymouth at Litchfield, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, Jan. 8
 Plymouth vs. Redford
 at Compuserve Arena, 7:30 p.m.

Whalers finish '99 on 4-game streak

Now, if only the new year can start the way the last century ended, at least for the Plymouth Whalers.

A four-game winning streak, eight wins in the last 10 games, and a total of 44 points, which made their third-place standing in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division more palatable.

The Whalers' 6-4 victory over the Kitchener Rangers Thursday at Compuware Arena pushed their record to 20-14-3, their 44 points were sixth-best in the 20-team OHL, entering this week's play. Through last weekend, Kitchener was 12-19-4 (31 points).

Damian Surma collected two goals, giving him 17 for the season, and two assists. Justin Williams had two goals and an assist, and Randy Fitzgerald had a goal and three assists to lead Plymouth offensively.

Kitchener started quickly, getting a goal from Alan Rourke — the first of two for him in the game, giving him 29 for the season — with the game just 23 seconds old. John Dunphy, who also had two goals for the Rangers, made it 2-0 with his first goal at the 6:16 mark of the first period.

But the Whalers were pressuring, evidenced by their 25-4 shot advantage in the opening period alone. Surma's first goal, at the 9:55 mark, trimmed Kitchener's lead to 2-1; Williams' first goal

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knotted it at 2-2 with 39 seconds left in the opening period.

Surma and Tomas Kurka gave Plymouth a 4-2 lead after 14:02 of the second period, but Kitchener re-tied it on scores by Rourke and Dunphy, the latter coming with 1:25 left in the period.

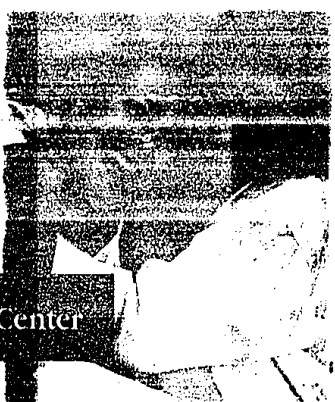
Williams got what proved to be the game-winner, his 18th goal of the season, with 1:51 elapsed in the third period. Fitzgerald's ninth goal, with 6:38 remaining in the game, tied the win for the Whalers.

Rob Zepp stopped 19 of 23 shots on goal for Plymouth. Reg Bourcier faced 50 shots in net for Kitchener, turning away 44.

Ambassadors stall

The final North American Hockey League game of 1999 wasn't exactly a memorable one for the Compuware Ambassadors. A goal and two assists from Nick Prush and three assists by Jon Jepson boosted the Grand Rapids BearCats to a 6-2 triumph in Grand Rapids last Thursday.

Compuware still leads the NAHL's East Division with a 21-9-1 record (43 points). The Ambassadors play back-to-back games, on Friday and Saturday, at the Chicago Freeze this weekend.



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Gymnastics from page C1

counting on some of them to contribute immediately.

One of the top newcomers is Clara Seymour, who is a high Level 8 club gymnast, as is Keesling. Seymour is capable of earning nines in every event, Dwyer said.

Natalie Olesko and Nicole White have the ability to score eights on each event. The other freshmen are Taben Fisher, Rachel Richardson, Alaina Perry, Kristen Wolff, Jessie

Thiel, Jayne Sharples and Jarah Hargitt.

"I have three strong all-arounders, and it's going to depend how I fill in my fourth, fifth and sixth positions," Dwyer said, adding what his team needs most is experience.

"They need to turn it up a notch. They're working hard, but you just can't slow down in this sport. If you want to beat some of the better teams, you have to work harder than they do.

"Judges always say the better teams are ones that appear as a team, that will cheer each other on, that have a common goal. That's what we're trying to develop now."

"There are teams out there like Brighton and Hartland we're not going to touch. If we stay healthy, we hope to be competitive with the teams in the mid 130s."

Farmington's next competition is Friday at Berkley.

Entertaining Ideas

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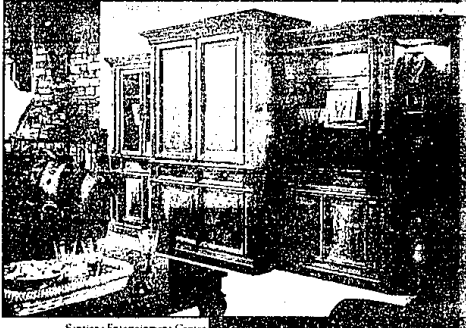


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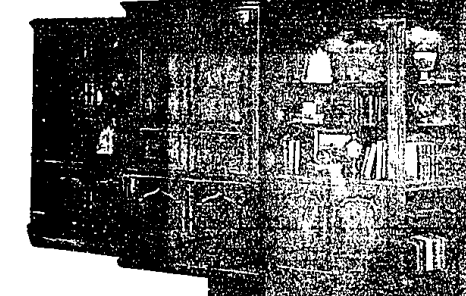


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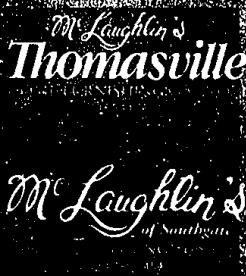
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