

Whalers have plenty of offense in 3 straight wins

Offense, offense, offense.

Three games, 24 goals. With scoring like that, losses will be few and far between.

The Plymouth Whalers haven't succeeded on scoring alone. Their defense has been outstanding. But on a weekend that saw them play three games in three days, it was scoring that carried them.

The Whalers posted a win over the host Kitchener Rangers by a 7-3 count Friday, then defeated the Mississauga Ice Dogs 10-2 Saturday and the Midwest Division-leading Erie Otters 7-2 Sunday, both at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

The three wins solidified Plymouth's place atop the Ontario Hockey League's West Division, stretched its current win streak to six games with nine victories in its last 10 games. The Whalers are 32-17-4 and have 69 points, four more than the slumping Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds (3-7 in their last 10).

It hasn't been a single player who's been hot and carrying the

HOCKEY

Whalers; rather, several have gotten into the act.

Against Erie, Tomas Kurka had a goal and three assists, Stephen Weiss had two goals and an assist, Justin Williams, Damian Surma, and Jamie Lalonde each had a goal and an assist, Shaun Fisher had three assists, and George Nistas scored a goal.

Surma totaled six goals and two assists for the weekend, while Williams had three goals and seven assists.

A power-play goal by the Otters' Shane Nash 6:08 into the second period of Sunday's game, played in front of a crowd of 2,001, had given Erie a 2-1 lead, but a minute later Surma re-tied it for the Whalers, and they dominated after that.

Weiss' power-play goal with 3:12 left in the second period put Plymouth up for good. Four unanswered goals in the third

period made certain the Whalers stayed there.

Rob Zepp made 15 saves in goal for Plymouth. J.J. Ferras faced 29 shots for the Otters.

Their overwhelming offense was again the difference in their victories Friday and Saturday.

The outburst began with their 7-3 rampage at Kitchener Friday. It was a seesaw battle until midway through the second period, when team captain Randy Fitzgerald took command for Plymouth.

Whaler first-period goals by Surma, Lalonde and Fisher had been offset by the Rangers' Ryan Held and Mike Amodeo; John Dunphy's goal 2:29 into the second period tied it at 3-3 for the Rangers.

Fitzgerald put the Whalers in control with goals scored at 13:18 and 17:05 of the second; another by Jon Billy with 1:03 remaining in the period put Plymouth up 6-3.

Surma got his second goal of the game in the third period.

Williams had three assists in the win, while Fisher had two.

Zepp stopped 20 of 23 shots on goal for Plymouth. Reg Bourcier faced 46 shots in goal for Kitchener.

Saturday's game at Compuware Arena, which attracted 2,512 fans, featured one of the OHL's hottest teams against the league's worst. The results were predictable.

Plymouth scored four goals before the opening period was half over and had a 6-0 lead after one. Surma scored three goals and assisted on two others in the game, while Williams had two goals and three assists.

Stephen Weiss and Fisher netted two goals apiece (Fisher also had an assist), with Kurka, Eric Goody and Fitzgerald getting two assists each. Rob McBride also scored a goal.

Bill Ruggiero was in goal for the win for Plymouth, making 20 saves. For Mississauga, Michael Mole and Nick Foley divided time in the net.

Ambassadors on a roll

The Grand Rapids Rockets leads in both of their games against the Compuware Ambassadors last weekend at Compuware Arena. Both times, the Ambassadors rallied to gain the victory.

On Friday, Compuware overcame an early Rocket lead by scoring five straight goals en route to a 6-2 win.

Saturday's game was even

harder for the Rockets to bear.

Going into the third period, Grand Rapids had a 3-0 lead, but it was gone after a three-goal Ambassador surge in just 2:09.

Mike Smith's goal 1:56 into overtime gave Compuware a 4-3 win, raising its record to 28-11-3 (8-1-1 in its last 10 games).

The Ambassadors' 61 points ties it with the Texas Tornado for first overall in the North American Hockey League.

CC skaters rebound to beat Brother Rice

Redford Catholic Central's hockey team was able to right the ship after its loss last week to Trenton by rolling over Birmingham Brother Rice, 6-2, Saturday at Redford Ice Arena.

The Shamrocks are now 18-2 in the quest for their second state hockey title in a row.

"It was not a very good game," coach Gordie St. John of the

Shamrocks said. "We're in kind of a lull and we're working to get out of it."

CC has scored virtually all the opening faceoff in several games this season and did so again Saturday night when Brandon Kaleniecki scored 14 seconds into the game. Dave Moss and Joe Hillbrand assisted.

Kaleniecki had three goals

plus an assist while Jim Spiewak scored twice and added one assist.

The host Shamrocks got their second goal at 12:28 of the opening period, Kaleniecki scoring from Brett John and Joe Moreau on a power play.

In the second period, at 10:19, Spiewak scored from Ryan Yost and Jared Ross. At 4:20 of the

third period, Spiewak, assisted by Yost and Kaleniecki, notched CC's fourth score.

Moreau scored at 7:02 of the third period, assisted by Spiewak and Ryan Lasecki. The Shamrocks wrapped up their scoring at the 11-minute mark when Kaleniecki completed his hat trick, assisted by Brett Regulski and Moss.

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REGIONALS

DIVISION I REGIONAL HOCKEY DRAWS at REDFORD ICE ARENA

Monday, Feb. 28: (A) Redford United vs. (B) Farmington United, 5:30 p.m.; (C) Livonia Franklin vs. (D) Redford Catholic Central, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 1: Livonia Stevenson vs. Allen Park, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 2: A-B winner vs. C-D winner, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 4: Championship final, 8 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals Wednesday, March 8 at Redford Ice Arena vs. Dearborn Kilpatrick Arena regional champion.)

at DEARBORN'S KILPATRICK ARENA
Monday, Feb. 28: (A) Dearborn United vs. (B) Trenton, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 29: (C) Ann Arbor Huron vs. (D) Ann Arbor Pioneer, 5:30 p.m.; (E) Livonia Churchill vs. (F) Plymouth Canton, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 2: Plymouth Salem vs. A-B winner, 5:30 p.m.; C-D winner vs. E-F winner, 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 4: Championship final, 7:30 p.m. (Winner advances to the state quarterfinals Wednesday, March 8 at Redford Ice Arena vs. Redford Ice Arena regional champion.)

WINGS ALUMNI

The Detroit Red Wings Alumni Association will play the Redford Union alumni in a benefit hockey game 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18, at the Redford Ice Arena.

Tickets are \$5 apiece and can be obtained at the school or the ice arena.

Members of the Red Wings team, which also includes former members of other NHL teams, are Gary Bergman, Alex Delvecchio, Nick Libett, Leo Norwood, John Ogradowick, Dennis Hestall, Mike Krushelnyski, Eddie Mio, Mark Hamway (Islanders), Paul MacKinnon (Capitals), Pat Ribble (Maple Leafs), Dave Shand (Flames), Rob Palmer (Kings), Dave Debol (Whalers), Pat Hughes (Oilers), Tom Williams (Kings), Dan Newman (Rangers), Tommy Ross (Michigan State/Kalamazoo Wings) and Gerry Abel, son of the late Red Wings great Sid Abel who played briefly in the NHL himself.

Not all of the Wings alumni players are certain to participate, however.

VOLLEYBALL

27TH ANNUAL SCHOOLCRAFT

VOLLEYBALL INVITATIONAL

Feb. 5 at 5:00 CC/Northville H.S.
 Championship final: East Kentwood defeated Temperance Bedford, 15-12, 15-15, 15-9.

Semifinals: East Kentwood def. Livonia Ladywood, 15-10, 15-7; Bedford def. Livonia Franklin, 15-10, 15-8.

Quarterfinals: East Kentwood def. Birmingham Seaholm, 15-8, 13-15, 15-6; Bedford def. Dearborn, 15-8, 15-11; Ladywood def. Madison Heights Bishop Foley, 15-5, 11-15, 15-7; Franklin def. Northville, 15-5, 15-6.

Round of 16: East Kentwood def. Holly, 15-5, 15-9; Bedford def. Birmingham Marian, 15-9, 15-6; Ladywood def. Wallied Lake Central, 15-13, 15-12; Franklin def. Harper Woods Regina, 9-15, 15-7, 15-6; Northville def. Livonia Churchill, 15-2, 15-9; Dearborn def. Ypsilanti, 15-12, 15-4; Bishop Foley def. Harper Woods, 15-6, 15-4; Seaholm def. Grand Blanc, 14-16, 15-10, 15-13.

All-Tournament Team: Katie Evenden (MVP), Susan Poir, Crystal Weaver, East Kentwood; Valerie Lyczkowski, and Nicole Salisbury, Bedford; Jessica Tison, Ladywood; Katie Leschinsky and Lauren Ban, Dearborn; Tiffany Van Hemen, Bishop Foley.

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