

Weekend woes

Whalers suffer pair of setbacks on road

HOCKEY

for the season.

Erie fought back to tie it, and it was Alexeev who played the pivotal role in the Otters' offense, scoring one goal and assisting on the other three. The Otters outshot Plymouth 23-5 in the second period.

Joe Guenther got Erie's first, at 11:08 of the second period, assisted by Alexeev and Jason Baird. Pecker's first goal of the game, on the power play at 16:39 of the second, knotted it at 2-2 (Alexeev and Brad Yeo assisting).

It didn't stay tied for long. O'Keefe scored 55 seconds after Pecker's goal to put the Whalers up 3-2 with 3:26 left in the period (Kurka and Weiss assisting).

Plymouth had the advantage in the shot column in the third period, 11-8, but it was Alexeev who scored the only goal of the period (Pecker, Baird assisting). Alexeev then assisted on Pecker's overtime winner.

J.F. Perras made 21 saves in goal for the Otters. Rob Zepp faced 44 shots, stopping 40 of them, for Plymouth.

On Friday at Kitchener, Derek Roy scored a set-handed goal in the second period and picked

up three assists to propel the Rangers past the Whalers. Josh Bennett scored twice in the third period for Kitchener (assisted by Roy and Matt Peasfield), and Vasily Bliznyev and Chris Brannen got first period goals.

The Whalers only goal came from Steacy Britstone, his 17th, on a power play at 8:51 of the second period, trimming the Rangers advantage to 3-1. Bryan Thompson and Jared Newman assisted.

Zepp absorbed the loss, making 25 saves. Scott Dickie turned away 33 shots on goal for Kitchener.

The Whalers have a pair of home games this weekend, hosting Mississauga at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Windsor at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Whaler all-stars

The Plymouth Whalers will have a fair share of berths on the Ontario Hockey League's Western Conference all-star team at this year's Canadian Hockey League All-Star Cup.

The Western Conference team, which will be coached by the Whalers' Pete DeBoer, will have forwards Stephen Weiss, Damian Surma and Chad Wiseman, and goalie Rob Zepp.

Weiss, projected as one of the top three picks in this year's

NHL Entry Draft, currently ranks third in the OHL in scoring with 26 goals and 33 assists (59 points). Surma, a sixth-round pick of the Carolina Hurricanes in 1999, has been limited to 25 games this season but still has 15 goals and 15 assists (30 points).

Wiseman was acquired in a trade last week from Mississauga. He is second in scoring on the Whalers with 18 goals and 30 assists (48 points).

Zepp, selected in the fourth round of the 1999 entry draft by the Atlanta Thrashers, leads the OHL with a 2.37 goals-against average; he also has three shutouts and a 21-8-2 record.

DeBoer was chosen based on the Whalers' performance in last year's OHL Championship Series, the Whalers losing in the seventh game to Barrie. DeBoer has been selected as the Coach of the Year the past two seasons.

The CHL All-Star Cup is a three-game interlocking series involving the OHL, the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and the Western Hockey League. The OHL's Western Conference stars will face the WHL's Eastern Conference all-stars Jan. 24 at the Guelph Sports and Entertainment Centre.

Ambassadors split O'T games

The Compuware Ambassadors visited the Danville Wings, first in the North American Hockey League's West Division, last weekend and gave the fans in attendance all they could ask for, taking both games to overtime.

On Friday, the Wings won 3-2 in a shootout after Justin Johnson tied the game with 12:40 left in the third period. Johnson, Jason Tejchma and Adam Wallace scored in the shootout.

Compuware's regulation goals came from Steve Brudzewski and Mark Norrington. Chad Davis stopped 19 of 21 shots.

On Saturday, Compuware battled back from a 4-0 deficit after one period to beat Danville 6-5 in OT. Ryan Lesman provided the heroics, tying the game with 28 seconds left in regulation, then getting the game-winner 1:43 into OT.

The Ambassadors remain second in the NAHL's East Division with an 18-11-2 record (38 points). Danville is 22-8-4 (48 points) in the West.

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HOCKEY

Spiewak had a goal and two assists, Derek Genrich had a goal and an assist, Mike Ryan and Brian Genrich had a goal each and Andrew Eggert, Rick Buttery, Billy Burns and John Perkovich had assists.

Andrew McCoy and Jim Blanchard combined for 15 saves, while CC mounted 28 shots on goal.

Ross, Perkovich, Tim Rybinski, Sean Genrich and Buttery all had goals against Marquette, as

Buttery, Brandon Naurato, Mike Ratigan, Ryan Lasecki, Genrich, Jeff Davis, Brett John, Ross and Perkovich all had assists.

Chargers down Norsemen

Livonia Churchill capped a strong weekend Saturday in the Michigan High School Hockey Showcase at the Troy Center by handing Grosse Pointe North (6-1-1), the No. 1-ranked team in Division II, a 3-0 setback.

"We did a nice job of playing team defense and limited their shots and quality chances," said Churchill first-year coach Pete

Mazzoni, whose team outshot the Norsemen, 20-13.

Goalkeeper Ryan McBroom was solid in the nets for the second straight day for Churchill (6-2-3). He was also in goal in a 3-1 win Friday over Brother Rice.

Churchill scored a goal in each period. Rory Cesarz tallied the first, just 38 seconds into the game. Jeff Andes added a power-play goal at the 14-minute mark of the second, and Aaron Jakubowski capped the scoring with 6:30 left in the third. North took 12 penalties to Churchill's seven.

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