

Clarkston fails to halt CC win streak

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It's been nearly a full calendar year since Redford-Detroit Catholic Central's hockey team has lost a game. Fifth-ranked Clarkston could not end that streak when the two teams clashed Wednesday night.

The Shamrocks converted on their scoring chances, like most championship teams do, in a 4-1 non-league win over the Wolves at the Lapeer Polar Palace. CC, ranked No. 1 in the state in Division I, has a record to 13-0-2 while Clarkston slipped to 12-4-1.

Last year, the two teams played a thrilling contest, won by CC with 12 seconds left, 3-2. Although this game didn't have those kind of dramatics, the teams played each other tough, especially in the first two periods.

"Clarkston played with intensity and played very hard against us," said CC coach Gordy St. John. "They put up a good battle."

A "good battle" isn't as much as Clarkston was hoping to give the Shamrocks, but that's what

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the Wolves had to settle for. CC's penalty killing unit was outstanding, limiting Clarkston to just one shot on four power-play chances.

"We've worked hard on our penalty kill," St. John said. "We have guys who do it the way that we want. Our special teams were tough for both sides tonight, because the ice would get so wet."

Clarkston coach Bryan Krygier said the power play just didn't come together the way he hoped. "But there just isn't anything out there and didn't give our guys room to set anything up," he said. "Then we couldn't get any shots, even when we did get the play set up in their zone."

Although the Shamrocks held a clear territorial edge in the first period, the score was tied 1-1. Senior forward Mike Ratigan got the scoring started just 1:47 into the game when he one-timed a pass from senior center Ryan Lasecki.

Clarkston knotted the score with 3:12 left in the first when senior captain Steve Janowiak

slapped a rebound past CC goaltender Jim Blanchard. The play was set up when sophomore forward Myles Purdy split the defense perfectly on a 3-on-2 rush, and took a shot on goal. Janowiak scooped up the rebound and tied the game.

Just seconds after Clarkston's Andy Florike was stopped on a breakout, the Shamrocks took the lead for good when sophomore forward Brandon Neuman slipped in a shot through the five-hole. He was set up perfectly on a pass from senior center Jared Ross after he came out of the corner with the puck.

CC's third goal was the kind that can shift momentum, as Ratigan scored his second of the game in a way he probably never imagined. A Clarkston clearing pass didn't get out of the zone.

Ratigan picked up the loose puck, whirled and fired a shot towards the net. The puck deflected off a Clarkston defenseman and past befuddled Wolves goaltender Jordan Conley, giving the Shamrocks a 3-1 advantage.

"It was kind of a fluky goal," St. John admitted. "But we'll take every break we can get."

Krygier said his team can't

make mistakes against a team of CC's caliber.

"We gave up the puck along the boards, and they made us pay for that turnover," Krygier said of the third goal. "You can't take anything away from CC. They are number one in the state and they showed everyone why."

Senior forward Jim Spiewak added a goal with 19 seconds left in the game for CC. Conley suffered his third loss in goal for the Wolves, but still played well, stopping 24 shots. Blanchard was rarely tested, and only needed to make 11 saves.

FRANKLIN B. SALEM: O Livonia Franklin's hockey team is covering teams like a blanket these days. Livonia Salem was the Patriots' latest victim Wednesday at Edgar Arena.

Goaltender Chris Garbutt, who made 24 saves, notched his fourth consecutive shutout and the sixth in his last eight games as Franklin, started in Division II. Improved to 8-1-5 overall and 6-4-4 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

"Chris continues to play excellent hockey, and our team continues to play strong defense," Franklin coach Terry Jobitt said. "Tonight we finally got our offensive punch going. Our special teams were exciting."

HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

Salem takes win over Farmington

Farmington scored 18 consecutive points in four weight classes Thursday, but those were the only points the Falcons could muster in a 44-18 loss to visiting Plymouth Salem.

Mike Murtland (160) won by pin, Nick Belsky (152) and Brett Brown (171) by decision and Stephen Wayne (189) by void.

Salem had just three pins out of 10 individual wins, and Farmington coach Al Boyar saw that as a sign of progress for his young team.

"The Falcons' score is not in the 60s anymore, so we're closing the gap," he said. "We're happy with their effort and their fight."

"Any pin (Salem) had was n't given. There were no free rides there."

Being a freshman, Belsky's overtime win was a good victory for him, Boyar added.

"Delano (Turner) and Wayne are good additions to the team, and they're going to come along," he said.

"Delano is 275 and, as soon as he learns to use his weight, he'll be a force; he's strong. He has to pay his dues like everybody else."

The Falcons are 1-3 in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association and 4-10 overall.

"We're happy with the progress of the young team," Boyar said. "The intensity in the (practice) room has moved

up a notch, and it's showing with the intensity in the mats, too."

PLYMOUTH SALEM vs FARMINGTON 28
Jan. 25 at Farmington High
103 pounds: Brian Mervyn (PS) pinned Lance Dawson, 3:44; 132: Pete Bobee (PS) pin, Jeff Turk, 1:12; 152: Mike Goethe (PS) won by technical fall (21-5) over Jon Schwartz, 6:53; 158: Nate Dillard (PS) declared Rob East-erday, 13-3; 170: Brandon Sammut (PS) pin, Bryan Proven, 1:02; 182: Tony Kennard (PS) dec, Aaron Turk, 8-2; 140: Tony Stott (PS) dec, Mike Kian, 20-12; 148: Adam Schaefer (PS) dec, Cam Murtland, 9-0; 152: Nick Belsky (PS) dec, Craig Bieri, 8-5 in overtime; 160: Mike Murtland (PS) pin, Phil Portak-los, 1:28; 171: Brett Brown (PS) dec, Quentin Arndt, 10-9; 180: Stephen Wayne (PS) won by void; 285: Zack Jensen (PS) dec, Blake Belsky, 9-0; 278: Jeremy Walker (PS) dec, Delano Turner, 3-0.

LIVONIA STEVENSON vs WALLED LAKE CENTRAL 27
Jan. 25 at W.L. Central
103 pounds: Roy Stevius (WLC) declared Dan McQuillan, 5-0; 132: Charlie Rabut (LS) pinned Chris Fer-ri, 1:59; 152: Greg Ryan (WLC) pin by void; 126: Craig Aubry (PS) p. Dan Munn, 1:43; 170: Ryan Drobieski (WLC) dec, Sean O'Halloran, 8-5; 182: Doug Novack (LS) dec, Jason Beste, 12-0; 140: Matt Redley (PS) p. Dan Chick, 1:31; 148: Mark Stewart (PS) p. Griffin Schaefer, 3-0; 160: Joe Jamieson (PS) p. Chris Zayid, 3:56; 180: Imad Khairbush (PS) p. John Young, 1:17; 171: Tim Gaston (PS) p. Ed Sawyer, 0-2; 188: Tim McCarty (LS) won by void; 218: Josh McFarland (WLC) dec, Mike Robinson, 7-5 (0-1) p. Brent Lange, 3:27.
Stevius' dual meet record: 15-0 overall, 4-0 WLLA.

Storm slips past Whalers in overtime, 2-1

The tension of a tight game spilled over into overtime for the Plymouth Whalers Friday night when they played the Guelph Storm, the Ontario Hockey League's third-best team, in Guelph.

With the game knotted at 1-1 and the game in its final minute of regulation, Whaler defenseman Libor Ustrnul was called for a four-minute penalty. The Whalers killed the penalty through regulation, but it carried over into OT, and that

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proved too big a task.

Despite the efforts of Plymouth goalie Rob Zopp, Guelph Kevin Dallman scored a shot just under the crossing 2:22 into the extra period to give the Storm a 2-1 win. It was the Whalers' second-straight OT loss; it was also Dallman's second goal of the game.

His first came just 3:26 into the game, putting Plymouth into

a 1-0 hole in front of a Guelph contingent of 4,911. The puck countered before the period was through, with Chad Wiseman poking in a rebound with 4:48 left in the first.

The play was started by Preston Mizzi, who kept the puck in the Storm offensive zone and fired a shot on goal. Guelph goalie Craig Anderson made the save but couldn't smother the rebound - which Wiseman found and deposited into the Storm net.

The rest of regulation belonged to the goals. Zopp stopped 32 of 34 shots on goal, while Anderson turned away 33 of 34.

The Whalers travel to Windsor tonight for a game against the Spitfires, second in the OHL's West Division behind the Whalers.

On Wednesday, another battle of major proportions looms: Plymouth hosts the Erie Otters, the team that shared the OHL's overall lead with the Whalers going into the weekend.



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