

Spiewak lifts CC to big win

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The satisfaction — earned, deserved — was palpable. Jim Spiewak didn't attempt to hide it. Didn't want to. No need to.

The Redford Central team captain slumped against the boards at Trenton's Kennedy Recreation Center, grinning, sweat streaming down his face. "Man," he remarked as he waved his turn to face the Fox News TV cameras, "I am so tired right now."

He went on to describe his third-period goal as "garbage," adding, "but I'll take it." So will his CC teammates, gladly. Because Spiewak's goal, scored from the slot with 2:23 to play, allowed the No. 1-ranked Shamrocks (17-0-2) to battle back from a one-goal deficit after two periods and beat No. 2-ranked Trenton (16-3) Wednesday, 6-5.

Whereas most games featuring the state's best rarely meet expectations, this one surpassed them. The packed house, estimated at more than 1,400 fans, was silenced early when CC put two goals on the board in the game's first minute.

Ryan Lasecki knocked in a rebound of a Spiewak shot following a mid-ice Trojan turnover right after the opening face-off. Andrew Eggert also assisted, giving CC a 1-0 lead 12 seconds into the game.

Then, from the left of Trenton goalie Tony Dreyer, the Shamrocks' Jared Ross knocked a shot into the upper right corner to make it 2-0 after just one minute. Brandon Naurato assisted; the overflow crowd sat in stunned silence.

There was good reason. Although CC has captured the last two state championships, it has not enjoyed any recent success on Trenton's ice.

"The seniors had never won here," noted Spiewak. That was motivation enough. "We are out flying," he said. "We had to take the crowd out of the game quick, and we did."

HOCKEY

The crowd might have been quieted, but the Trojans weren't to be silenced. "We're a confident team," said Trenton coach Mike Turco. "They put us in a hole (early), but we thought we could come back. Just one shot at a time."

Although the Shamrocks dominated early, they couldn't add to their total. The Trojan comeback was started by a picture-perfect deflection of a Nick Ouletto shot from the point by Buddy Morsello. Morsello's redirect from 12 feet in front of the net got past CC goalie Andrew McCoy to make a 2-1 game 6:55 left in the first period; Brandon Etlinger also assisted.

It took Trenton less than two minutes to knot it at 2-peace, and again it was a superior play, this time by John Hackett, who fought through a CC check and managed to keep both his balance and possession of the puck. Hackett's shot went between McCoy's pads, tying it with 6:03 left in the first.

But the Shamrocks rebounded. Tim Rybinski interceded, a Trojan clearing the ice from the zone and went high over Dreyer's shoulder to give CC a 3-2 lead with just :54 left in the first. Jacob Norwood assisted.

The Shamrocks increased their advantage to 4-2 with a power-play goal by Brett John, who slapped a rebound that trickled into the Trenton net with 9:24 to go in the second period.

But things were starting to go awry for CC. Penalties, which hadn't been a factor in the first period (just one by Trenton), became a major factor in the last two periods. The Shamrocks started taking silly penalties, including one for unsportsmanlike conduct right after John's goal, and it led to a shift in momentum.

Trenton scored three power-play goals in the second period, Don Springstead getting the first after pouncing on a deflection to

the left of McCoy with 8:11 left. With CC playing two men short, the Trojans' Matt Helka deflected a pass from Brad LaTarte into the CC-net to tie it at 4-4 with 5:28 remaining.

At 3:13 to go, Dan Ohlgrun bounced a rebound off of McCoy and into the goal to give the Trojans a 5-4 lead.

"We lost our composure a bit and took some penalties," said CC coach Gordie St. John. "But this is a real emotional game for us."

Defense, which had been absent for the Shamrocks (early on this season they shut Trenton out, 2-0) thus far, needed to be rediscovered.

"Between periods, our coaches told us we hadn't gone down to block any shots," said Spiewak. "We changed that in the third period. I have to give our guys credit — they really wanted this."

CC had taken the penalties that fueled the Trenton comeback in the second period; the Trojans returned the favor in the third, drawing three penalties in the first five minutes.

The Shamrocks capitalized on one, with John Trowie flipping the puck over Dreyer and into the net. Lasecki assisted on the power-play goal that tied it at 5-5 with 10:45 left.

"We can't give them three opportunities in a row like that," said Trenton's Turner. "We used a lot of energy killing those penalties."

"You can't give a team like that that many penalties and expect to keep them off the scoreboard."

The game-winner didn't come on the power play. Instead, it was Spiewak finishing a pass from John on a play started by Ross, who had three assists in the game.

And finally the CC seniors had something else to riliish — a win at Trenton. "They've stopped on our perfect record a couple of times, at least," recalled St. John.

Not this time.

Warriors overcome Flyers, 4-1

BY DAN O'MEARA
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Birmingham Brother Rice ended up a 4-1 winner over Farmington Unified in a non-league hockey game Friday, but it wasn't until late in the third period that it was finally decided.

The Warriors clung to a one-goal lead for most of the game until getting a couple of late scores by Jordan Ingram and Justin Kozik to clinch the win.

"Farmington has a very good team," Rice coach Barry Mills said. "They're a gritty team; they work hard and stay on you all the time. We had to grind it out with them to get the victory."

Kozik also scored his team's first goal at 8:36 in the first period with assists from Sean O'Brien and Pat Morrow.

Kozik skated to the near corner, moved the puck out front with a nice fake and put it in the wide-open far side.

"He's on a pace to average a point per game and, with the competition we're playing — CC, Cranbrook, Alpena, Marquette — that's a tremendous accomplishment," Mills said.

The Warriors have won nine of their last 18 games to put their overall record at 10-10. The Flyers, who were without their leading scorer, Matt Lee, due to an injury, are 8-9-3.

Lee took some hard hits in the previous two games with Northville and Livonia. Churchill, and Farmington coach Mike Harris decided to rest him Friday.

"We need Matt healthy for the state tournament more than we needed him for Rice," Harris said. "He's a young man with a bright future, and we don't need to jeopardize it."

HOCKEY

Farmington fought off a Rice power play early in the second period, but the Warriors took a two-goal lead.

Flyers goalie Greg Diven tapped away a shot, but the puck caromed too far in front for him to reach it.

Kyle Danaher, who later assisted on the last two goals, stepped up to chip the rebound over Diven's shoulder into the net.

"We cycled the puck real well tonight," Mills said, adding the Rice stats had the Warriors with a 25-11 advantage in shots. Their goalie played well. It took till the end to put them away, but they fought real hard."

Farmington had a 5-on-3 power play shortly thereafter and later a 5-on-4 opportunity in the third period, but the Rice defense held firm both times.

"Our power play needs to calm down, control the puck a little better and wait for an opportunity to put the puck in the net," Harris said.

"There's no excuse for not scoring on a 5-on-3. We're just moving the puck too quickly; we need to settle down and put the puck in the net."

"We've been working hard in practice on our power play and penalty killing," Mills said, "and tonight showed that hard work will pay off."

The Flyers still managed to make it a 2-1 game with Brad Horaghty's goal at 4:28 in the second period with assists from Tim Dupuis and Glenn Harrum.

Rice goalie Chris Harrumi stopped the puck in front, but it slipped past him and into the net before he could cover and control it.

Karrumi stopped four shots during Farmington's third-period power play, and it was a short time after that when Ingram (6:06) and Kozik (4:11) broke the game open.

Ingram took a centering pass and whipped an off-balance shot into the upper corner. After a save by Diven, Kozik was in the right spot again to lift the puck over the sprawling goalkeeper.

"In the third period, it seemed we were trying to force a pass, and a couple times we gave it right to a Rice player," Harris said.

"I don't know if we were panicking or were fatigued, but we need to be more careful with the puck in our own end."

"It was a very physical, fast-paced game. I was impressed by the play of both teams. Unfortunately, the third goal hurt us bad. It took the wind out of our sail."

Rice's Matt Petry, Chris Ebert, Doug Pickens and Brian Rice also had assists. The Flyers had eight penalties and the Warriors seven.

CHURCHILL 2, FARMINGTON 0: Livonia Churchill (12-44, 9-2-3) continued its winning ways with a shutout win Wednesday over Farmington Unified in a WAA game played at Farmington Hills Ice Arena.

Rory Ceszar tallied what proved to be the game-winner from Adam and Aaron Jakubowski at 12:58 of the second period.

John Maloy added an empty-netter from Brandon Thom with just six seconds to play.

Churchill goaltender Matt Williams stopped 14 shots to notch the win. Counterattacker Greg Diven of Farmington made 23 saves.

"(Diven) kept them in the game," Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said. "We did a good job of concentrating on defense and a nice job of bringing the puck out of our own end."

Whalers start slowly, bury Colts in 6-1 victory

Defense hasn't been a problem for the Plymouth Whalers. It's been producing goals.

Twice in a four-game span (during a five-day stretch) the Whalers were shut out. When they hosted the Harris Colts at Compuware Arena Friday, a scoreless first period seemed ominous.

No worries. Plymouth put two in the net in the second period, then scored three times in the

first seven minutes of the third on route to a 6-1 triumph.

The win boosted the Whalers' record to 33-9-4-5, first in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division. The Colts, who came into the game tied for first place in the OHL's Central Division, fell to 23-20-7-2.

Plymouth's Damian Surma scored two goals. Chad LaRose got the Whalers' first goal with 5:45 left in the second period;

Karl Stewart and Greg Campbell assisted. Surma scored his first goal less than two minutes later, assisted by Chad Wiseman.

Surma made it 3-0 early in the third, assisted by Tomas Kurka and Andre Robichaud. Preston Mizzi (4:38) and Stephen Weiss (6:2) assured the victory.

James Ramsay got Plymouth's last goal; he also had an assist. Campbell, Kurka and Stewart each had two assists.

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