

Churchill earns tie with No. 1 CC, 2-2

Matt Krug buried a shot from the point Saturday as Livonia Churchill earned a 2-2 tie with No. 1-ranked and two-time defending state champion Redford Catholic Central in a game played at the Redford Ice Arena.

The game-tying goal came with just 45 seconds to go after the No. 4-ranked Chargers pulled goalie Matt Williams. Aaron Jakubowski drew an assist.

"I don't think we won a face-off all night," said CC coach Todd Johnson. "That one cost us a lot. We lost that face-off in our own zone and he just buried that puck. We had a couple of power-play goals early in the period to get lead. It was a strange game. There were a lot of penalties on both sides, some real ticky-tacky stuff both ways that broke up the flow."

After a scoreless opening period, Churchill's Kevin Gessler scored unassisted at 13:06 of the second period.

CC (17-0-3) countered with a pair of third-period power-play goals — Sean Garrich from Eric Glosa and Jared

Ross at 0:42 and Brett John from Ross at 3:19. Williams made 18 saves in the Churchill (19-4-6) net, while counterpart Jimmy Blanchard stopped 16 shots.

"CC's power-play was unbelievable, but I thought we played them even-up at full strength," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni, whose team took eight penalties to CC's nine. "We were obviously concerned about defense. We did a good job. We didn't allow any breakaway. The game had a little bit of everything. It was a great game to be a part of and we hope we can use this as a confidence builder."

STEVENSON 1, MILFORD 2: With one of his lines suspended because of disciplinary reasons Saturday, Livonia Stevenson (10-1-4) settled the against host Milford in a non-league game played at the Lakeland Ice Arena.

Jon O'Neill tallied a first-period goal for the Spartans from Mark Black and Dave Bonello.

Milford tied it with just 12 seconds to go. Kevin Marlowe (14 saves) was in goal for the Spartans. Stevenson had 24 shots.

Whalers from page D1

Ontario Hockey League. Plymouth is 33-11-4-5 (76 points) in 63 games and remains first in the OHL's West Division; Erie is 36-9-9-0 (81 points) in 64 games, first in the Midwest Division.

The teams clash for the last time in the regular season at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Erie.

Brampton is 26-18-8-3 (63 points), in third place behind Erie and Guelph in the OHL's Midwest Division.

On Saturday at Compuware, the Battalion took the early lead when Aaron Van Leusen scored 4:56 into the second period. Kris Vernarsky knotted it at 1:11 for the Whalers with a power-play goal at 10:52 of the second

period; Preston Mizzi and Cole Jarrett assisted.

The lead didn't last. Raffi Torres put Brampton ahead 2-1 at the second-period buzzer, a lead the Battalion never lost. Rostislav Klesla added an insurance goal for Brampton with 5:53 left to play.

Topping made 15 saves in goal for the Battalion. Zepp turned away 19 shots for Plymouth.

On Sunday, power-play goals by Jay McClement and Lukas Havel in the second period boosted the Battalion.

Plymouth outshot Brampton, 32-24. But Topping was equal to the task, turning aside all 32 shots. Zepp made 22 saves for Plymouth.

Area fighters try to be tough enough

BY PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER
pbeaudry@ecce.com

The first thing Ken Krzyzanowski did after his bout was head for the beer line.

Danny Baski was still trying to get back to normal four days after his fight.

Tony Collino is still kicking himself after the one that got away.

These three took different paths leading up to the Original Toughman Contest Feb. 2-3 at Detroit's Cobo Arena. And they took three distinctly different paths afterward.

But during the contest, their goals were the same.

Win. Or if they couldn't win, survive without too much damage.

"I got a black eye — even through the head gear," laughed Livonia's Krzyzanowski. "The guy I fought was just a tank. I got knocked out in the first round and never saw it coming."

The four were among 40 fighters competing in the annual Toughman event — a mainstay at Cobo and getting national exposure on the FX cable network. There were two divisions — heavyweight and light-heavyweight and the division champ earns \$1,000. Each bout is comprised of three one-minute rounds where just about anything goes. It's not boxing, it's about being tough.

"I lost in the first round," lamented Baski, a dispatcher for the Redford Township Police Department. "My opponent kept wrestling me the whole time and it was pretty frustrating. I'd box and when I was doing good, he would wrestle me and try to throw me out of the ring. I think that they rewarded him for being aggressive. I positively think I would have won if I hadn't gotten tackled so many times. Getting up takes a lot of energy."

But he should feel lucky. His only physical reminder of the fight was a bad case of the snifles, courtesy of a cool arena.

"Somebody thing happened to me last year, too," said Baski.

Baski did get some small consolation in the loss.

"The first bout on Saturday, my buddy (Redford's Chris Williamsen) faced this guy and busted his nose wide open."

The most disappointed was

Westland's Collino, a utilityman on the assembly line at Ford's Michigan Truck plant in Wayne by trade and one of the favorites in the heavyweight division by reputation.

"They pretty much had me pegged as winning," said Collino, who lost in the semifinals to eventual runner-up Michael O'Brien. "I was disappointed and even Tommy Hearn stopped me when I got out of the ring."

Collino, a former state amateur and Toledo Golden Gloves champion, had the right to be disappointed. The 34-year-old lost in the semifinals in 1999 and in the finals in 2000, and cruised to wins in his first two bouts — "I broke the guy's ribs in the first fight and broke a guy's nose in the second," said Collino.

But, after dropping O'Brien in each of the first two rounds, he caught a haymaker and was

knocked to the canvas. He tried to get up too quickly; when his legs buckled, the referee stopped the fight.

"I had it won and ended up blowing it," said Collino. "I got caught by a shot I shouldn't have gotten caught by. I think I could have won it."

Krzyzanowski had no such illusions of winning it, even though he'd boxed a little bit at a Livonia fire station while attending Churchill High School. The 33-year-old carpet installer got into the ring on a summer dare from some bowling buddies and stuck to his word.

"And I stuck with it," said Krzyzanowski. "It was kind of like jumping out of a plane. It was a rush. I bought 56 seats for my family and friends and it was fun. It would have been more fun if I'd fought someone my size. It was like jumping in front of a bus."

The bus was light-heavyweight

winner Paul McLean.

"I'll never forget that name," said Krzyzanowski. "Between the head gear and the gloves in front of my face, I never saw it coming. I didn't mind the whole experience, but my wife didn't like it too much."

After Krzyzanowski was done, picking himself up off the canvas, he needed to do one thing before he got together with his group.

"I headed straight for the beer line," he said. "I had my work pants on and some money in my pocket and I went."

Some would do it again; others have no desire.

"It's like an addiction," said Collino. "You say you won't but when it rolls around, you end up trying again."

Krzyzanowski has no such pretension. "Never again, next year or the year after," he said. "I'll never do something stupid like that again."

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