

Football

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"If you can't stop them, then they're going to keep pounding it at you," said Gordon. "They have a plan, they have a philosophy, they're good at it and they're going to stick to it."

The Shamrocks scored on long drives, quick drives and no drives. Brooks opened the scoring in the first quarter, capping a 79-yard drive with a 20-yard run — taking a 7-0 lead after the first of five Jason Gingell extra points.

Wroblewski made it 14-0 in the second quarter after finding a seam in coverage and taking a De'Anthony Granberry punt back 64 yards for a touchdown. After Glenn's next drive stalled, CC came right back — alternating between Brooks and Banaszak in a five-play, 83-yard drive capped with a 9-yard touchdown and a 21-0 lead.

To add insult to injury, CC made it 28-0 before the half with Jakacki, rolling to his right and throwing across his body off the wrong foot, found Wroblewski alone at the 5, hit him with the pass and Wroblewski walked in for the score.

"It was supposed to go to Ryan Rogowski," said Wroblewski, who wound up with four catches for 136 yards. "Tom rolled out, ad-libbed, saw me open and threw." CC wasn't done yet. Five plays after Rogowski picked off a Brandon Aljourni halfback pass at the CC 29, the Shamrocks showed a little garter as Brooks took the ball on a halfback option, fluttered a pass out to Wroblewski, who ran in for the 68-yard touchdown, gave his team a 35-0 lead and started the running clock.

The Shamrocks had one more

drive in the third quarter, that actually stalled at the Glenn 46 on the first play of the fourth quarter, allowing the Rockets to take over.

With good field position, Glenn should have been able to score. But no one would have guessed at what was coming next.

"I'm still shell-shocked," said CC coach Tom Mach. "It's my mistake for putting the second unit on defense in too soon. What they did is amazing."

What they did was hold the ball for 10 minutes, 24-straight plays, score three touchdowns, recover three inside kicks and scare the bejeesbers out of the Shamrocks.

"The odds are pretty big about getting one inside kick, but three in a row?" asked Mach. "Once they get one, momentum starts building and building."

Ceckiewicz drove the Rockets down to the CC 30 in six plays and connected with Granberry on the seventh for a touchdown pass — cutting the lead to 35-6 but, more importantly, stopping the running clock.

Will Kennedy's inside kick was recovered at the Glenn 49 and again Ceckiewicz went to work, hitting Andrew Peiffer with a 41-yard TD pass that cut the lead to 35-12. Anthony Harrell recovered the second inside

kick at the CC 44 and three plays later, Glenn scored again with Ceckiewicz and Granberry clicking on a 28-yard TD.

Once again, Kennedy's inside kick was recovered — this time by Peiffer. Glenn drove to the CC 14 with a first down, but this time the magic ran out as the drive stalled.

"You just kept looking up at the clock and it seemed like it never moved," said Rogowski. "You start getting scared. It

seems like five minutes took an hour."

Ceckiewicz wound up completing 12-of-24 passes for 162 yards — 11-of-18 for 155 in the second half.

Glenn also had just 24 yards rushing for the game, while Peiffer caught five balls for 83 yards and Granberry had three for 64. Brooks ended up with 130 yards on 15 carries, while Banaszak had 79 yards on 13 carries as CC had 388 yards in total offense.

Whalers stay unbeaten at home

By Ed Wright
STAFF WRITER

The same thought must have been going through the minds of all 25 Soo Greyhounds as they trudged off the Compuware Arena ice following Friday night's Ontario Hockey League game against the Plymouth Whalers: "We drove five hours for this?"

The red-hot Whalers put on a clinic for the crowd of 2,811, dominating the travel-weary Greyhounds, 4-0.

Plymouth, which is now 9-0-1 at home this season, improved its record to 15-2-1 — good for first place in the OHL Western Conference's West Division. In fact, it's the best record in the OHL. The second-place Soo dropped to 10-8-4-0.

"It wasn't our best game of the year, but I thought we played really well," first-year Whaler coach Mike Vellucci said. "The last few games we had been playing too much as individuals and not as a team. Tonight, we played as a team. Our wingers were picking up our back-checkers and we played as one unit."

The crowd was entertained on several occasions by the acrobatic efforts of goaltender Jason Bacashihua, who turned away all 18 shots he faced. The first-year Whaler, who is property of the NHL's Dallas Stars, stuffed at least four shots that appeared headed for the back of the net. It was his second shutout of the season.

"He's as quick as a cat," Vel-

lucci said, praising his goalie. "The key to Jason is that his composure is outstanding. Nothing gets him rattled and he doesn't make mistakes. He doesn't beat himself. And the thing is, he makes it look easy. He's definitely a future NHL goalie."

Bacashihua's most spectacular save came with just over 12 minutes left in the game when he knocked aside a scizzling shot by Soo winger Dean Byvoda, who had broken free from the Whaler defense with the puck at mid-ice.

Left-wing Damian Surma accounted for the first two Plymouth goals — his second and third of the season — when he bent Soo goalie Ray Emery with a 20-foot slapshot at the 3:28 mark of the first period and with a back-handed power-play goal just over five minutes into the second period.

Brad Yeo assisted on Surma's first tally while Canton's James Wieniewski and Cole Jarrett assisted on the second.

"Damian's been working hard all season, but he had a hard time scoring before tonight," Vellucci said. "But when you see a goal scorer like he is, you find ways to get it done like he did tonight when he found their goalie's five hole on the second goal."

Plymouth upped its lead to 3-0 with only three ties left on the second-period clock when Yeo got just enough of his stick on the puck to make it trickle past an out-of-position Emery. Kris Vernarsky and Jarrett were

credited with assists on the goal. Stephen Weiss notched the Whalers' final goal when, with Plymouth short-handed, he stole the puck at mid-ice, skated in on Emery, faked to his stick side then slid it past his glove hand to make it 4-0.

The Whalers outshot the Greyhounds, 31-18. Sixteen of the shots came in the second period when Emery was forced to match Bacashihua's heroics just to keep his team within breathing distance of the Whalers.

Whalers win, tie

The final score Sunday indicated an easy three-goal win over Windsor for Plymouth, but don't believe it: The 6-3 win included two empty-net goals by the Whalers in the final 51 seconds.

Brad Yeo, playing in his second game with the Whalers after being obtained in a trade with North Bay, started well by scoring twice and assisting on another. Yeo's first-period goal put Plymouth up 1-0, with Kris Vernarsky getting the first of two assists.

On Saturday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena, George Nistas scored a goal in the first period to give the Whalers a 1-0 lead.

Barrie's Shayne Fryja knotted it with a short-handed goal with 7:23 left in the second period.

And that's the way it stayed, thanks to standout goaltending by Plymouth's Bacashihua and the Colts' David Chant.

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