### Falcons win hoop tourney



Victorious: St. Fabian's sixth-grade girls basketball A team concluded its sea-Victorious: St. Fabian's sixth-grade girls basketball A team concluded its scason by winning the St. Valentine Post-Season Metro Tournament. The girls earned victories over St. Genevieve (24-10) and Taylor Catholic (35-21) to advance to the championship game against Holy Name of Birmingham. St. Fabian won the title with a 23-18 win in that game. The members of the St. Fabian team are (front row, left to right) Amanda Bryant, Jayme Kelmigian, Emma Petersen and Erica Hayworth; (second row) Jackie Faranso, Kate McDowell, Kelly Harbron, Kaitlin Myszkowski, Ashley Jwad, Laura Berry and Mackenzie Tyler; (third row) head coach Steve Hayworth and assistant coach Janet Kelmigian. coach Janet Kelmigian.

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# Back to back

## Whalers salvage pair of draws

It wasn't the best way to end the regular season, but there was something positive to be derived from the Plymouth Whalers back-to-back draws. At least they buttled back in both to earn the ties. On Friday, it required two third-period goals for Plymouth to the Kitchener Rangers 2-2 in Kitchener. On Saturday, they had to go one better and score three times in the final period to pall out a 3-3 tie with the Winders Splitfres at Plymouth's Compuware Arana.

The draws allowed Plymouth to finish the season with the best record in the Onitario Hockey Legues at 39-16-12-2 (92 points). Kitchener is 36-22-10-1 (81 points), third in the OHL's Midwest Division, while Winders onded with a 33-24-65 mark (77 points), third in the West Division.

Against Ritchener, the Whalers Glowed a scoreless first period by surrendering two second-period goals to the Rangers' John Obserno and Derek Roy. However, Plymouth countered with a strong third period, getting a goal by Brad Yeo with 638 left to narrow the gap to 2-1 (left Campbell and Damian Surma assisted).

Then, with just 17 seconds left, Chad Larose get the game-tying score, with Surma (and Colo Jarvett) assisting.

Jason Baccabihua and Paul Drew teamed in goal of Plymouth, making 41 saves between them.

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On Saturday against the Splitfires, the Whalers (Control of the part of the

Shots.

On Saturday against the Spitfires, the Whalers again found themselves in a hole, allowing first-

### OHL HOCKEY

period goals by John Scott Dickson, Steve Hilden-brand and Mike James. It stayed that way until the third period.

■ On Friday, it required two third-period goals for Plymouth to tie the Kitchener Rangers 2-2 in Kitchener. Kitchener Rangers 2-2 in Kitchener.
On Saturday, they had to go one better and score three times in the final period to pull out a 3-3 tie with the Windsor Spitfires at Plymouth's Compuware Arena.

Surma, who had assisted on both goals the previous night, got two of his own this time around. His short-handed goal 1:17 into the third period (from Kris Vernarsky) cut the deficit to 3-1.

With 6:39 remaining, Vernarsky made it a 3-2 game (assisted by Larose and Libor Ustrnul). The tying goal came from Surma with 2:41 to play on the power play (with assists from Stephen Weiss and Larose).

The Whalers outshot Windsor 42-15 in the game, including a 19-1 advantage in the third period. Drew had 12 saves in goal for Plymouth; Cory Campbell had 39 stops for the Spitifres.

### Whalers from page D1

team-best 70 points this season despite playing just 46 of 68

team-uest 70 points this season despite playing just 46 of 68 games.
Chad Larose was next on the scoring list for Plymouth with 59 points, including a team-high 32 goals to go with 27 assists. Danian Surma had 28 goals and 27 assists (65 points), two of the goals coming in last Saturday's come-from-behind 3-3 tie against Windsor, and Kris Vernarsky collected 19 goals and 36 assists (55 points). Greg Campbell also had a standout season with 17 goals and 36 assists (55 points). In fact, the Whalers had 11 players score 10 or more goals, four of them with 20 or more.
The defense, which allowed just 2.39 goals per game, was led by Cole Jarrett, Wisniewski and Libor Ustrnul. All three had a plus/minus rating of plus-32 or higher.
Jarrett led Plymouth's

Jarrett led Plymouth's defensemen with 14 goals and 24 assists (38 points) and a plus-32

rating, Wisniewski was next best with 11 goals and 25 assists (36 points); he also had one of the top ratings in the OHL at plus-39. Ustraul, who played in just 43 games, finished with a plus-35 rating, getting one goal and eight assists (nine points). The Knights gave up 3.66 goals a game, but goalie Chris Houle had a 13-11-5 record with a 2.84 goals-against average and a .910 save percentage. And there's no doubting they can score.

there's no doubting they can score.

Mike Stathopulos led London with 28 goals and 62 assists (69 points), one of five Knights to score 24 or more goals. Rick Nash was the team's top goal-scorer with 32, to go with 40 assists (72 points), while defenseman Dennis Wideman had 27 goals and 42 assists (69 points), Corey Perry totaled 28 goals and 31 assists (69 points) and Charlie Stephens finished with 24 goals and 35 assists (69

points).

A factor that could favor the Whalers: the power play. Plymouth was 5-of-28 in its manadvantage situations against the Knights (17.9 percent), which may not be outstanding, but it's far better than London's 1-of-40 against the Whalers (2.5 per

weiss was Plymouth's leading scorer against London with three goals and four assists. Campbell had one goal and five ished with three goals and two assists.

Perry scored three goals and

assisted on three others to lead the Knights in scoring against

Still, while those figures may be impressive, remember how this story began: Come Friday's playoff opener, everyone starts at zero.



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