

Storm defeats Whalers, 6-3

Three third-period goals, two by Lou Dilkenson, lifted the Guelph Storm to a 6-3 victory over the Plymouth Whalers in an Ontario Hockey League game Friday in Guelph.

The loss left the Whalers at 8-5-1, second in the OHL's West Division. Guelph improved to 7-7-2-0, second in the Midwest Division.

The Whalers scored first, getting a first-period goal from Ryan Ramsay (from Chad LaRose). The Storm stormed back in the second, scoring three times in the first nine minutes of the period, the first two by Martin St. Pierre (the first one a power play). Andrew Brown, who assisted on the first two goals, gave Guelph a 3-1 lead with a short-handed goal at 9:08 of the second.

Plymouth rallied as well, getting goals from James Wisniewski (from Canton), assisted by Ramsay and Cole Jarrett, and from Jarrett, assisted by Wisniewski and Tim Sestito, to knot it a 3-all through two periods.

But Dilkenson's power-play

goal at 2:27 of the third — Brown got his third assist of the game — gave the Storm a lead it would not relinquish. Dilkenson scored again five minutes later, and Aaron Lobb clinched it with 1:48 to play.

Paul Drew started in goal for the Whalers but was replaced midway through the second period by Ryan Nix. Each gave up three goals. Andrew Penner had 26 saves for Guelph.

On Wednesday in St. Ste. Marie, LaRose scored two goals and assisted on another to lead the Whalers to a 6-2 victory over the Greyhounds.

The Whalers led 2-0 after one period, getting a power-play goal from Jarrett with assists from Ramsay and LaRose, and another from Wisniewski with assists from Jonas Fiedler and Mike Letizia. They increased their advantage to 4-0 before the second period was half over, with LaRose scoring both goals. Karl Stewart and Ramsay assisted

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on the second; the first was unassisted.

The Greyhounds made a serious challenge in the late stages of the second period and early in the third, getting a goal in the second from Trevor Daley and a short-handed marker in the third from Matt Hernstein. Rob Hisey assisted on both goals.

Jeff Weber was in goal for the Whalers, making 32 stops to get the win. Joey Biasucci made 23 saves for Sault Ste. Marie. The Greyhounds fell to 4-10-2-1 with the loss.

Powderpuff winners

The seniors emerged victorious in the first Farmington High School Powderpuff Football Game Oct. 23. Led by quarterback Kristie Buskey, the senior class prevailed over the juniors, 8-6. The seniors (above), some of whom make a zero and raise three fingers signifying Class of '03, celebrate their victory afterward. Senior running back Erica Ross (below) tries to get around the corner of the junior defense.



TOM HANLEY / OBSERVER

Clarenceville quarterback Josh Silvernail is chased out of the pocket by Highland Park's Josh Frye.

Shkreli TD. "Our strong safety blitzed and he should have picked up the guy in motion."

Clarenceville's defense then stiffened at its own 33, and the Trojans took the ball and kept its hopes alive with 6:16 left.

Helped by a 15-yard penalty (late hit) and a Fioretti 11-yard run, the Trojans had the ball first-and-10 at the Highland Park 20 with just under three minutes left.

But the Polar Bears, who have given up only 50 points all season, came up big, holding the Trojans to negative 3 yards in four plays, the last coming on a sack with 1:38 remaining.

"We don't have the big playmakers so we got to grind it out," Hudkins said. "Tonight we poor up front and our decision making was poor. But I'm the offensive coordinator and the head coach, so a lot of it is on me."

"Highland Park is an aggressive-type defense, they're quick. We let that beat us."

With Clarenceville having only one time out left, Highland Park was able to run out the clock.

"It's a huge win for our program," Dorch said. "We knocked on the door in the '70s and we were 8-1 in 1994 and didn't get in."

Meanwhile, Clarenceville's season ends a bit prematurely after going to the state semifinals in 2000 and the state finals in 2001.

"These kids faced adversity this season because of injuries, but we seemed to have a tough time getting motivated and getting up for certain games," said Hudkins, who is a remarkable 42-5 in four seasons with the Trojans. "Maybe we weren't as good as we thought. We kept teams in games. It happened all year and we never really put it together in a game for four all quarters."

"And that's what is frustrating," bemans@home.com.net | (734) 953-2223

TROJANS

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outside with Dunwoody, so we had to pound it inside," Dorch said. "Dennis (Stepter) has been a big back for us all year. He and Dunwoody have been a good one-two punch."

Junior tailback Jeff Fioretti, who led Clarenceville with 121 yards in 26 carries, got loose for a 33-yard run to put the Trojans in position to score in the second quarter. Clarenceville had the ball on the Highland Park 1 on first down, but came up empty after an illegal procedure penalty, an incomplete pass and runs of 2 yards each by Fioretti.

"No. 36 (Fioretti) is a big fella, he's a horse," Dorch said. "We figured we try and take him away and let the others beat us."

The Trojans trailed by only four at halftime, 6-2, as Dunwoody took an errant pitch and slipped to one knee in the end zone, giving Clarenceville a two-point safety with 3:17 to go.

Earlier in the quarter, Clarenceville senior Pete Shaw, making his first start after sitting out all nine regular season games with a broken collarbone suffered in a preseason scrimmage, had to leave the game after taking a hard hit while taking an unexpected pitch-out.

Shaw, who passed for 1,300 yards last year in Clarenceville's playoff run to the Pontiac Silverdome, was relieved by fellow senior Josh Silvernail, who resumed his season-long starting duty.

"Pete's shoulder was sore and we didn't want to take a chance," Hudkins said. "It was an option-pitch we haven't done all year. It boils down to inexperienced players making inexperienced decisions."

In its only drive of the third quarter, Clarenceville got to the Highland Park 35, but fumbled the ball away on fourth-and-1.

The Polar Bears' Catone Scott then recovered a Clarenceville fumble on the Trojans' 23 with 1:26 left in the game.

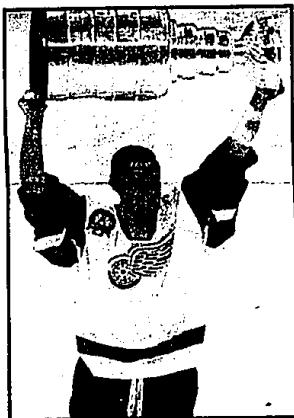
"That was a big turnover," Dorch said. "We're a plus 16 in takeaway-turnover ratio. We go after the football. We try and take that challenge week-in and week-out."

Highland Park took advantage of the miscue by scoring on third down when sophomore quarterback Juan Clark hit Ardel Smith out in the flat for a 31-yard TD pass. Dunwoody added the two-pointer to make it 14-2 with only 9:51 left. But Clarenceville would not quit as Silvernail connected with a wide-open Bruno Shkreli on a 61-yard pass. Clarenceville, however, remained down by six, 14-8, when the two-point try off the fake extra point attempt failed. "It was a blown coverage," Dorch said of the

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Dec. 12 Minnesota	7:30 PM
Dec. 14 Columbus	7:30 PM
Dec. 19 Dallas	8:00 PM
Dec. 21 NY Rangers	7:30 PM
Dec. 26 Columbus	7:30 PM
Dec. 31 St. Louis	7:00 PM

JANUARY	
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Jan. 13 Chicago	7:30 PM
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