



Doug Smith (12) found the upper left corner for a Stevenson goal in the George Gee hockey tournament.

Livonia Churchill massacres Southfield

By TOM BAER

When Southfield High's hockey team plays Livonia Churchill on Livonia ice, the result probably will be bad news for the Blue Jays.

If Southfield goes into the above game minus six key players, the result is "a massacre," in the words of Blue Jay coach Art Carinci. That was the story last Friday as Churchill blasted Southfield, 9-0, in a George Gee holiday hockey tournament game at the Ford rink.

"It was a massacre," Carinci said. "We were short six players because of vacations and other things, but Churchill is definitely the strongest team in the (Suburban Hockey) League."

Coach Adam Mitchell's Churchill team made it seven straight this season with Friday's easy win. The Chargers opened the scoring at

1:36 of the first period when Brian Veasey fired a shot past Jay netminder Dennis O'Connor. Jeff Truax, Steve Ursitti and Todd Bond followed suit, and Churchill led 4-0 after one period.

The middle stanza saw Fred Korte, Kevin Kardos, Todd Bond and Ursitti raise the score to 8-0. Kardos goal was his 19th in seven games this season. The 5-9 senior notched two assists against Southfield, making it 19 for the year.

Obviously, Churchill is a powerhouse in the SHL this season. But Southfield would have been in the game with those six absentees, according to Carinci.

The noshows include: team captain Dana Bonino, who had to work; Tim Textor, who was visiting relatives in Illinois; Brad Mastro, who was skiing in Colorado;

Gary Stewart, vacationing in northern Michigan; Gary Mertz, missing with no excuse; and Jerry Guttman, missing with no excuse.

Carinci had another reason for the Jays' poor showing. "I think the inactivity hurt us," he said. "We didn't have any practice time between our last game and this tournament."

"That was a bumper too. We're running out of money, and they schedule the vacation ice time at the (Beechwood) rink with us out of ice time. We could have scheduled time, but we're running out of money. I've already expired my allotment, and now we have to try to raise money for ice time. It's a sad situation."

Southfield took only nine shots against Churchill. The Jays managed just two in the second period. (O'Connor faced 46 Churchill shots.)

Stevenson star wrecks Lathrup

McDonald's lucky day

Livonia Stevenson's Jeff McDonald wasn't afraid to wear uniform number 18 when his team took on Southfield-Lathrup in the opening game of the George Gee hockey tournament last Friday at Livonia's Ford Ice Arena.

McDonald had lots of luck — all of it good — as Stevenson bested Lathrup, 5-3. McDonald, a senior who doesn't normally start for the Spartans, came off the bench to score three goals and do a real wrecking job on coach Dave Butler's Chargers.

McDonald scored a goal in the first period, then added two more in the second. Linemate Jerry DiRusso assisted on all three markers. Jerry Zilch opened the scoring at 5:53 with the assist going to Doug Smith.

Lathrup captain Mike Lax scored with just three seconds left in the first period. Ken Isaacson received an assist on the play. McDonald's two second-period

goals sandwiched an unassisted marker by Lathrup's Ken Isaacson at 5:36.

Smith scored a goal of his own at 8:46 of the third period. Greg Mullin received an assist. Lathrup's final tally came at 9:41 when Mike McCullough found the range on a play set up by Bob Kelly.

Butler was pleased with the game, even though his team is winless in three starts.

"We didn't do as well as we hoped to do, but we still played a respectable game," he said.

Butler praised the play of sophomore goalie Jim Darmer, who made his first start ever against Stevenson. Darmer faced 24 Stevenson shots. Lathrup responded with 17 shots.

"We were getting good shots, but we weren't getting them on net," Butler said. "For much of the game, we were peppering their net, but the shot would end up hitting a leg or something like that. It got to be very frustrating."

Lathrup plays next on Thursday (Jan. 2) against city-rival Southfield High School. The game is scheduled for 8 p.m. at Southfield's Beechwood Arena, Beech Road south of Nine Mile.

First Period

Scoring: Stevenson — Jerry Zilch (Doug Smith) 5:53. Stevenson — Jeff McDonald (Ken Isaacson) 8:46. Lathrup — Mike Lax (Ken Isaacson) 9:41. Penalties: Finn (LS) hooking 2:04.

Second Period

Scoring: Stevenson — McDonald (DiRusso, Bob Gammeter) 2:27. Lathrup — Ken Isaacson (unassisted) 5:36. McDonald (DiRusso) 9:59. Penalties: Imger (SL) elbowing 8:53. Krig (LS) interference 9:13. McDonald (LS) tripping 10:36. Ken Isaacson (SL) tripping and misconduct 11:03.

Third Period

Scoring: Stevenson — Smith (Mullin) 8:46. Lathrup — Mike McCullough (Bob Kelly) 9:41. Penalties: Smith (LS) 5:59. McDonald (LS) hooking 8:51. Finn (LS) elbowing 10:25. Lewis (SL) slashing 15:00. McDonald (LS) hooking 15:00.

STEVENSON 5 2 1-5
LATHRUP 3 1 1-3

Southfield plays next on Jan. 3 against Southfield-Lathrup. The game begins at 8 p.m. at the Beechwood Arena.

First Period

Scoring: Churchill — Veasey (Ursitti) 1:36. Churchill — Truax (Ursitti) 6:24. Churchill — Ursitti (Bardwell) 11:02. Churchill — Bond (Kardos) 14:26. Penalties:

None. Second Period

Scoring: Churchill — Korte (unassisted) 1:47. Churchill — Kardos (Bond, Miller) 8:21. Churchill — Bond (Kardos, Miller) 8:59. Churchill — Ursitti (unassisted) 10:32. Penalties: Doyle (Southfield) interference 2:41. Ward (Churchill) high sticking

2:41. Veasey (C) slashing 9:17. Brunder (S) interference 13:28.

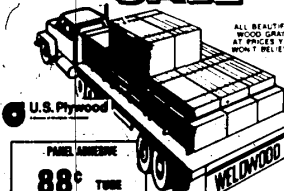
Third Period

Scoring: Churchill — Bird (Veasey) 2:26. Penalties: Bond (C) interference 3:14. LaBell (S) interference 5:50. Bird (C) high sticking 5:40. Romolino (S) high sticking 5:40. Cornacchini (S) interference 7:40. Doyle (S) hooking 9:28.

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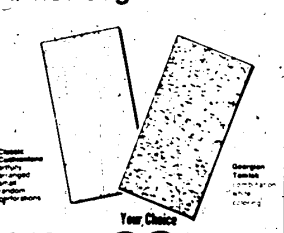
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