

Shamrocks defeat Chargers

When No. 1 plays No. 3, the higher rated team should win. Redford Catholic Central, the top-rated high school hockey team in the state, defeated No. 3 Elvonia Churchill Saturday night at Redford Ice Arena, 6-2.

"I would say this year's CC team is better than their state championship team of a year ago," Coach Jeff Hatley of the Chargers said.

The turning point came roughly midway through the second period, with the Shamrocks holding a 3-2 lead but the Chargers pressing hard in front of the Catholic Central net.

The red light went on when the puck either clanged off the goal post or went in the net. Nobody could say for sure and that was the crux of the argument.

"There was a big discussion," Hatley said, "but nobody saw the play clearly. It was disallowed after a long discussion."

Even afterward, opinion was split on whether the play was a goal or not.

Catholic Central more or less settled the argument when Brian Williams scored with 10 seconds left in the second period, assisted by Brandon Kalenicki

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and Ryan Yost. Dave Moss scored 36 seconds into the third period assisted by Joe Hillebrand and Joe Moreau to assure Catholic Central of its fourth win in as many tries this season.

The Shamrocks held a 32-19 edge in shots on goal. Catholic Central was whistled for two penalties and Churchill for only three.

"It was a hard-fought but cleanly played game," Hatley said. "They really dominated the play in the first period. They out-shot us, 17-7."

"We were a little tight in the first period. We didn't play very well in our zone. Our goalie, Matt Williams, made some big saves to keep us in there. In the second period we kind of pulled it together."

Churchill lost its first game of the season in part because it couldn't keep Catholic Central off the scoreboard early or late in each period.

The Shamrocks scored 2:09 into the game, Kalenicki getting the goal from Rick Buttery and Williams. They took a 2-0

lead at 6:58 on a goal by Jim Spiwak, assisted by Moreau and Moss.

Sean Smith drew Churchill within a goal at 9:09. Ryan McDonnell and Aaron Jakubowski assisted.

CC expended its lead to 3-1 just 27 seconds into the second period, Moss putting the puck in the net and Hillebrand assisting. Ike Andes got the Chargers back within one off a feed by Aaron Jakubowski and Smith but the controversial goal/ao-goal, the Shamrocks' score with 10 seconds to go in the period and early third-period marker decided the game.

"One thing I learned," Hatley said, "is that I can't be worried about matching lines. Just roll out three lines and let our guys play."

"They're hard to match because they have so much talent. You really have to be impressed with the job they do. They've brought in a lot of players from the AAA ranks. That's good for high school hockey."

The Shamrocks, 3-1 overall, host Park Tudor from Indianapolis, Ind. at 8 p.m. Saturday at Redford Arena.

OT goal extends Whaler streak

Thomas Kurka extended the Plymouth Whalers winning streak another game by scoring a goal 1:03 into overtime, giving the Whalers a 3-2 triumph over the host Owen Sound Platers in an Ontario Hockey League game played Sunday.

Kurka's goal, his 14th of the season, came on assists from Justin Williams and Andre Robichaud. It made a winner out of goalie Rob Zepp, who had 19 saves in net to improve his record to 11-7-2. Curtis Sanford took the loss in goal for Owen Sound, despite making 36 stops.

The win improved Plymouth's record to 14-13-3 (32 points); the Whalers are in third place in the OHL's West Division. Owen Sound fell to 8-17-2 (22 points), last in the Midwest Division. The win was the Whalers' sec-

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ond-straight; for the Platers, the defeat was their third in a row.

Owen Sound took the early lead, getting a goal from Joel Ward just 1:09 into the game. Damian Surma knotted it for the Whalers with his first goal of the game at the 16:17 mark of the second period; Williams got the assist.

Surma's second goal of the game, and his 13th of the season, put Plymouth up 2-1 with 6:35 left in the third period. Eric Goody assisted. The Platers tied it at 2-2 when Was Goldie scored his 21st goal of the season with 2:45 left in regulation.

Last Saturday, Kurka scored twice in an 11-second span of the first period and Surma collected

three assists to lead Plymouth to a 4-1 victory over the London Knights at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

The Knights have lost four straight and are 7-14-5 overall, last in the West Division.

Kurka's first goal came at the 1:10 mark of the first period, assisted by Surma and Goody. His second came at the 1:21 mark, assisted by Surma and Kevin Hadrige.

Randy Fitzgerald's sixth goal of the season, assisted by Nate Kiser and Williams, 4:16 into the second period pushed the Whaler lead to 3-0. Krys Burch put the Knights on the board 1:15 later with a power-play goal, trimming the Whaler lead to 3-1.

Goody restored Plymouth's three-goal cushion with 4:20 remaining in the second period.



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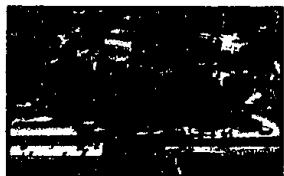
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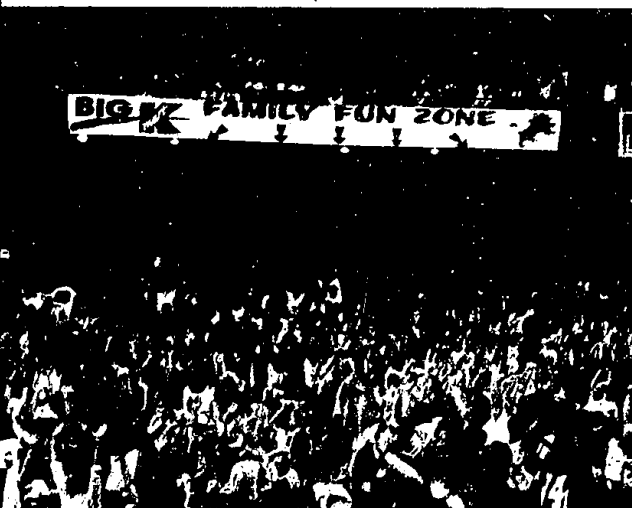
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