

Whalers bash Knights, stay unbeaten at home

BY BRAD EMONS
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The Plymouth Whalers looked anything but short-handed Tuesday in a feisty 7-4 matinee victory over the London Knights, 7-4, before 4,223 fans at Compuware Arena.

Despite missing five players to the World Junior Championships in Winnipeg, Manitoba, the West Division-leading Whalers ran their record to 27-5-2 in the Ontario Hockey League.

More impressively, the Whalers are 14-0-1 at home.

"I'd never thought going into the season that we'd be undefeated at home — and it's almost halfway through the season," Whalers coach Pete DeBoer said. "It says a lot about our fans and the community support we get. We obviously feel comfortable here and it's given us an extra lift."

The Knights, who have produced NHL stars Brendan Shanahan and Dine Ciccarelli, dropped to 13-21-1 with the loss. Plymouth is 9-2 over the last 11 games.

Right winger Adam Colagiacomo, voted the first star of the game, had two goals and one assist for the Whalers. The

HOCKEY

OHL's third leading scorer now has 22 goals and 45 assists.

Plymouth jumped out to a 3-0 lead in a penalty-filled opening period in which there were five skirmishes.

"We only play one or one afternoon games a year and it's not what you're looking for when you have families and kids in the crowd," DeBoer said. "But it's a physical game and sometimes it can't be avoided. And it seems when we play London it's usually a physical kind of mess."

After two more fights in the second period, the teams settled down and played hockey.

London, which trailed 3-1 after the first 20 minutes, pulled even at 3-3 on Chris Kelly's goal, his 20th of the season.

The power-play goal completed a hat trick for Kelly with 6:21 left in the second period. (Kelly was named the second star.)

Colagiacomo, who was passed over for a tryout with the Canadian Juniors for the World Championships, answered just 18 seconds later on an assist from Rick Smith. The 6-foot-2, 203-pound Colagiacomo was acquired early in the season from Ottawa.

"Adam was just outstanding,

the best player on the ice for our team," DeBoer said. "What separates him is his worth ethic. I just can't say enough about what he's brought to the team."

"I feel bad for Adam because I think he deserved a look, but I understand since I've been on the other end picking teams myself."

Defenseman Kevin Holdridge, a Redford Catholic Central High product who was drafted in the third round by the NHL Carolina Hurricanes, then notched his first goal of the season from Julian Smith and Damian Surma. The power-play effort with 4:13 remaining in the second period proved to be the game-winner.

"We really don't need Kevin to score goals for us and when he scores it's a bonus," DeBoer said. "Kevin has been very good for us. This is his third year in the league and because of our strength on defense, he does not get as much playing time as number one defensemen, but he's accepted his role and done it well."

London's leading scorer Jay Legault cut the deficit to 5-4 with 15:14 to go in the game on a deflection from John Erskine and Peter Reynolds.

But Plymouth put it away

when Jamie Lalonde redirected a slap shot, his 10th of the year, from Shaun Fisher and Eric Goody.

Troy Smith then added an empty netter with seven seconds remaining.

The Whalers then headed Wednesday to Belleville, Ontario, for the first of a five-day, four-game road swing.

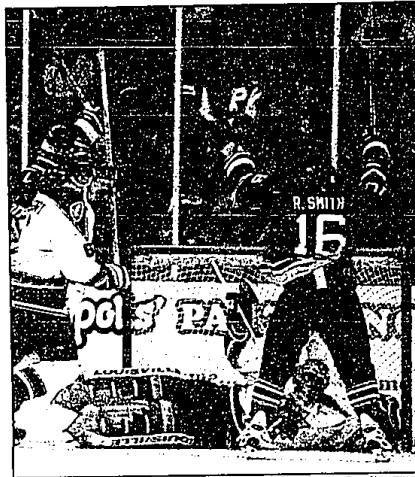
"The schedule didn't do us any favors," DeBoer said. "We have the five guys gone for eight games — seven on the road."

David Legwand, the first pick overall in the 1998 NHL Draft (by Nashville), was playing for Team USA in the World Juniors along with defensemen Paul Mara, a first-round pick from Tampa Bay, and Niko Tielis, a first-round pick of Carolina.

Also gone is the OHL's second leading scorer, center Harold Bruken, a second-round pick by Vancouver, and right winger Tomek Valtonen, a second-round pick of Detroit. Bruken is playing for Canada, while Valtonen is representing Finland.

Backup goaltender Rob Zepp was sharp when he had to be, stopping 22 of 26 shots to improve personally to 9-2-2.

Before 2,482 fans Saturday in Brampton, the Whalers earned a 5-3 victory, Plymouth outshot the host team, 50-17.



Score one for Whalers: Plymouth's Rick Smith (16) celebrates an early goal in the 7-4 win. London's Alex Henry (6) and goalie Gene Chiarello are spectators.

CC Shamrocks have Moore (points) than Hughes

BY BRAD EMONS
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BASKETBALL

Nick Moore is a throwback. Make that an "old school" basketball player.

The 6-foot-2 senior point-guard for Redford Catholic Central poured in a game-high 25 points Monday, leading the Shamrocks (4-0) to a 54-50 win over Cincinnati Hughes in the opening round of the Motor City Roundball Classic at the University of Detroit-Jesuit.

Moore, headed for the University of Toledo, wasn't the quickest or flashiest guard on the floor. But he plays with a lot of

court savvy and is considered fundamentally sound.

Instead of dashing and slashing to the basket, Moore relies on short pull-up jump shots while using the backboard, a rarity in basketball today.

He scored CC's final 10 points, including a pair of key three-pointers and made two free throws with 24.7 seconds remaining to put the game away.

"When I was a freshman I played a lot of one-on-one with Chris Misiak — he played that

way," Moore said. "I kind of caught on to it and it works. And since I'm not the biggest guy to take it to the basket, I'll pull up and use the glass."

Despite some holiday rust and some fatigue, Moore was CC's glue.

"I was a little tired," Moore admitted. "We had two days off, then came back one day. I felt a little sluggish."

Hughes (4-3) was without the services of 6-7, 230-pound junior center LeDetres Stallworth, considered one of Ohio's top players.

But rebounding or inside scoring wasn't Hughes' problem.

Against CC's second-half zone

defense, Hughes made just nine of 36 shots from the floor.

"We played good man-to-man defense the first half, but Matt Lorida got in foul trouble and we had to protect him a bit so that's why we went to a zone," CC coach Rick Coratti said. "We didn't think they could shoot too well from the outside, so we went with the zone."

CC led 17-15 after one quarter, but Hughes pulled even at halftime, knocking the count at 30-30.

A three-pointer by Rob Sparks (12 points) with just under 18 seconds left in the third quarter gave CC a 43-39 advantage.

But Hughes took the lead, 45-44, with 6:19 left on a baseline drive by Terry Smiley.

CC then took the lead for keeps on one of Moore's patented 10-foot pull-up jumpers.

"This is our third loss and it's poor outside shooting that has typically kept us from winning the game," Hughes third-year coach Fred Tudor said. "We just have to go and get it, keep playing, play hard and good things will happen."

"Overall I was pretty pleased,"

CC also overcame some shaky shooting (19 of 56 from the floor).

"We hung in there even though we didn't shoot well," Coratti

said. "It was a great win over a very athletic team."

Thomas Roberts and Will Grimes each had 10 points to lead Hughes.

BORGESS 78, DOUGLASS 36: Four players scored in double figures sophomore Marcus Young scored 14 points Tuesday as Redford Bishop Borgess (2-2) routed Detroit Douglass (0-5) in the first round of the Motor City Roundball Classic.

Sophomore Marcus Bennett and senior Justin Gleason each added 13 points for the Spartans, who outscored the Hurricanes, 53-15 in the second half.

Junior Justin McClain contributed 10 for the winners.

Rocks finish up strong in a victory over Jay Hawks

BY NEAL ZIPPER
STAFF WRITER

If you had to find a negative in Plymouth Salem's 3-0 start to the boys basketball season, it may have been that the Rocks were able to build big leads but

BASKETBALL

let the other team make a late charge.

Salem broke that habit Monday by putting away Detroit

Northern 76-62 at University of Detroit-Jesuit Feature Game.

The Rocks (4-0) led 58-44 entering the final quarter, but the Jay Hawks scored the first six points of the quarter. Salem regrouped and went on a 9-2 run

to take control of the game.

"We simply had to go back to fundamentals," Salem coach Bob Brodie said. "We had to take better control of the ball and look for better shots. We began to get better movement and looking for better opportunities."

Salem, which had been averaging 57 points a game in its first three games, had its offense hit top gear Monday. Salem shot 61 percent from the floor (33-of-54) and was three-point arc. Northern shot 43 percent from the field (25-of-58) and made only one-of-11 three-point tries.

Senior forward Rob Jones, who was named the game's MVP, finished with a game-high 25 points and seven rebounds. Senior guard Aaron Rypkowski netted 20 points.

The Rocks also received a big game from senior forward Mike Korduba, who came off the bench to score 17 points. Senior guard Adam Wilson added 10 points, four steals and six rebounds. Senior center Tony Jancevski was held to just two points.

Northern (3-3) received 19 points from Gary Solomon and 18 from Brynneil Jones. Tony White added 13 points.

With the exception of the first two minutes of the fourth quarter, the Rocks played extremely well in a fast-paced, athletic game. The biggest negative for Salem was its free throw shooting, as the Rocks made only seven-of-18 attempts. The Jay Hawks shot even worse from the stripe, hitting only 11-of-26 tries.

With Salem trailing 8-5 midway through the first quarter,

Korduba entered the game to give the Rocks a spark. The senior, who had scored only two points in Salem's first three games, scored on consecutive layups to ignite an 8-0 rally.

The Rocks held a slim 18-17 lead early in the second quarter when Korduba converted on three consecutive baskets to give Salem a seven point lead, and a lead it never squandered.

"Mike (Korduba) has been working extremely hard to get himself ready," Brodie said. "We expect games like this from him and from all the seniors."

Jones and Rypkowski each scored seven points in the quarter to help the Rocks build a 35-27 halftime advantage.

Jones tallied nine more points in the third quarter and Korduba came off the bench again with seven points to give Salem a 58-44 lead after three quarters.

"That was an extremely fast pace and a tough pace to keep up with for four quarters," Brodie said. "We'll face tough pressure like that in our league so it's good to face that now. We have played some very tough opponents who are giving us good defensive looks and who have great athletic ability."

Northern held a 32-28 rebounding edge as Solomon and Hones ripped down seven boards apiece for the Jay Hawks.

"We let up on defense a couple of times and gave up too many second chances," said Brodie about the 20 Northern offensive boards.

There were quite a few offensive rebounding chances for Northern, which relied on points underneath to stay in the game.

"Our chemistry is off right now," Northern coach Mike Banks said. "Our guard play was awful. I think we made only one shot from the perimeter. And their play took our big men out of the game, because they got frustrated, came out and tried to play guard."

"I have to give credit to Salem which executed extremely well and took us out of what we wanted to do. They had an answer to everything we did. They set great picks; they executed plays like the back-door well and they had no problem with our press."

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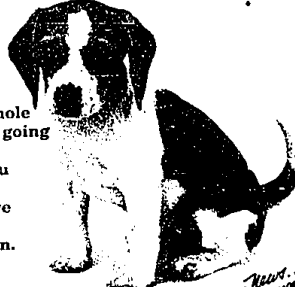


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