

# Shamrocks complete sweep of regional tourney foes, 7-2

Defending state hockey champion Redford Catholic Central completed an impressive Division 1 regional sweep Saturday with a 7-2 triumph over Livonia Stevenson at Redford Ice Arena.

Seven different players scored goals for the Shamrocks, who improved to 23-2 overall.

In three regional wins, CC outscored its opponents 29-4, including two mercy-rule victories.

Stevenson, which had to forfeit its final five regular season games because of a post-game incident Feb. 4 with rival Livonia Churchill, finished the season at 13-6-2 overall.

CC led 2-1 after one period and 5-1 after two periods. The Shamrocks had a wide advantage in shots on goal, 52-16.

"They played a respectable game and Stevenson should be commended," CC coach Gordie St. John said. "To do as well as they did after spending nearly a month off is difficult."

"Give credit to their coach Mike Harris. They played a clean, super game and I appreciate that. He was a real gentleman about the whole situation."

Fifteen penalties were whistled, eight against CC and seven against Stevenson.

Junior Jared Ross led the Shamrocks with one goal and two assists. Jim Spiewak and Mike Ratigan each added a goal and assist. Ryan Yost, Rick Buttery, Joe Moreau and Jason MacDonald also scored goals for CC.

Dave Moss and Brian Williams each collected two assists, while Andrew Eggert, Jeff Davis, John Perkovich and goaltender Ben Dunne contributed two apiece.

Bobby Zagata scored a short-handed goal for Stevenson at 9:36 of the opening period from Matt Galus for a 1-0 lead, but CC countered with goals at 12:14 and 14:43 to take a 2-1 advantage.

It was beneficial to get off to a

had to beat Trenton (in the regional final) and CC to get to Flint and they were the top two teams in the state.

And after Chargers' junior forward Rory Cesarz slammed a pass past Shamrocks goalie Ben Dunne with 4:28 left in the second period to cut CC's lead to 3-2, it looked like Churchill might just have a shot at the real state title.

Instead, CC took the wind out of Churchill's sails by playing solid defense and not giving the Chargers many, if any, strong scoring chances down the stretch.

"We closed up (the defense) after that," said CC coach Gordie St. John. "We had an awful lot of pressure in the third period and they had a hard time sustaining offensive momentum in the third. Their game was to push the puck up and hope for a couple of breakaways. It made sense."

CC provided a lot of offensive pressure too, and wore it out for Churchill junior goalie Ryan McBroom, it could have been a repeat of the regional, where the Shamrocks outscored its three foes, 29-4. McBroom made 21 saves in the game -- to nine for Dunne -- and stopped a key first-period flurry where CC could have taken command of the score and the flow.

"For him to come back after not playing for four weeks and beat Trenton and have this kind of game says a lot," said Hatley. "There's not two tougher teams to stop."

But the Shamrocks' version of patient defense managed to clinch the win. They kept the play deep enough in the final minutes to keep McBroom in net, when Churchill tried to pull him for an extra attacker.

He finally managed to get to the bench with 43 seconds left but, seconds later, CC's Brandon Kaleniecki cleared the puck out of the zone. Spiewak and senior forward Dave Moss slipped out on a 2-on-1 and Spiewak's backhander into the empty net with 28 seconds iced the game.

"We didn't panic. We just kept calm and kept plugging away," said Spiewak. "The defense clamped down."

CC led 2-0 after the first period, despite McBroom's efforts on goals by senior defenseman Ryan Yost and Spiewak.

"We needed a game like this," said St. John. "We needed a tough, tough challenge to get back into the trenches."

And to step back up to the dinner table.

## HOCKEY

fast start and we had an outstanding first period," Harris said. "We kind of had an unconventional game plan. We kept a guy high in the neutral zone."

"We were fortunate to capitalize on the short-handed goal. To score the first goal in their building kept us energized. It was a big emotional lift for us."

"We were pretty excited to be

in the game because CC has had a track record of eliminating opponents in the second period."

CC then scored a short-handed, even-strength and power-play goal in the second period to take a commanding four-goal lead.

With 1:28 left in the second period, Stevenson's starting net-minder Kevin Marlowe received a concussion in a collision after taking an elbow to the head with 1:28 remaining in the second

period. Marlowe did not return for the final period and was replaced by sophomore Rob Griusis.

CC's Moreau, a senior, received a four-minute penalty for charging.

"The truth of the matter is that you never want to argue with a call, but maybe he (Moreau) got knocked into the goal and couldn't avoid it," St. John said. "We certainly don't make it a practice of running goalies."

CC scored two more insurance goals in the final period, while Stevenson's Sal Perri added a goal for the Spartans from Mark Nebus at the 4:50 mark.

"We at least got to the third period," Harris said. "Rob (Griusis) performed as well as he could under the circumstances. They (CC) kept the pressure up and they're an outstanding team. They have no weak links. They just come at you with one wave after another."

Harris said he has no regrets about the way season ended.

"They finished with class and dignity," Harris said. "They should be proud of their performance even though we had a short amount of time to play after the (four-game) suspension."

"We played with a lot of heart and discipline even though we had a short amount of time to play after (the five-game) suspension. They prepared as well they could."

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