

# Hatley decides time is right to quit coaching

By BRAD KNOX  
STAFF WRITER  
brad.knox@homer.com

Although just 30 years old, Livonia Churchill hockey coach Jeff Hatley believes the time is right to retire.

Hatley, who led Churchill to a 128-51-17 record in eight seasons, turned in his resignation to athletic director Marc Hage immediately after the Chargers were eliminated March 8 in the Division 1 quarterfinals by Redford Catholic Central (4-0).

The former Trenton High netminder led Churchill to its first regional crown since 1988 with a 2-1 upset of Trenton on March 4.

He also guided Churchill to a pair of Suburban High School Hockey League titles and the Western Lakes Activities Association crown in its inaugural year despite forfeiting its final four regular season games because of a Feb. 4 post-game incident with rival Livonia Stevenson.

The Chargers finished the year at 16-6-2 overall.

"After the Livonia Stevenson game, it removed all doubt," Hatley said. "But basically the decision was made for my children, both of whom are under the age of two. You'll never get that time back with them if you're doing other stuff."

"It's a year-round job now. You just can't show up in November. You no longer can make that kind of commitment, or you're going to be 600 and the program suffers. Now it involves summer league watching games, and

in the fall it's weeknight lifting." Hatley started his coaching career while he was a student at Western Michigan University. He spent three years as an assistant coach at Portage Central before getting the Churchill job.

"We feel the program has prospered and grown under Jeff's guidance," Hage said. "He'll be sorely missed. We had a good working relationship."

Hatley is an industrial technology instructor at Churchill. "It helped with him being in the building," Hage said. "He was also president of the Michigan High School Hockey Coaches Association and he matured quite a bit as coach and also kept our program at a top level."

One of Hatley's bittersweet memories came during the 1995-96 season amid tragedy when the Chargers, 20-4-1 overall, lost sophomore player Rick Laramore to leukemia.

"That group of players and parents understood what it was all about. It was an unselfish group," Hatley said. "We were fortunate we had some very good players."

During the last three seasons Churchill reached three straight regional finals. "Something I'll never forget," Hatley said.

"People don't realize how close we've been. It was the third year in a row we've been down to the wire with the state champ. And to get to the quarterfinals for only second time in Churchill's history was a big step for the team."

# It was business as usual for champs

By PAUL BEAUDRY  
STAFF WRITER  
pbeaudry@homer.com

They didn't go to Disney World, they went to Buddy's. No one talked about renegotiating a contract or signing an agent, they slept and did homework.

There wasn't a parade, but there was a pep assembly. After winning the Division 1 state championship with a 5-2 victory over Alpena in Flint on Saturday night, you might expect the members of Detroit Catholic Central's hockey team to cut loose a little bit.

Nope. After the initial celebration on Saturday night when the Shamrocks won their fourth state title in seven years and the 28th team championship for all sports, for the most part, things were as low key as could be for the next couple of days.

"We went out afterward with parents and fans and the other players, but for the most part, I don't think that many of us did anything special on Sunday," said junior forward Jim Spiewak. "I got extra rest and did homework."

Sunday's sloth was born out of Saturday's excitement. After the win, the Shamrocks celebrated

on and off the ice — in all cases reminiscing about the season just ended.

"The thing I'll remember most is being on the ice at the end of the game and how I couldn't believe we did it again," said senior captain Dave Moss. "Then I followed that by thinking that I just can't believe it was finally over and I'll never do this again."

There were adventures of being the captain and being on the ice at the end for Moss. "I got the game puck," Moss said. "I was skating off the ice and one of the (arena) attendants had it and said, 'Here you go, captain,' and flipped it to me."

After the final buzzer sounded and the players tore out on to the ice and mobbed junior goalie Ben Dunne, pinning him against the boards, it became a moment Dunne never wanted to forget and, alternately, didn't want to remember.

"I'm claustrophobic," Dunne said. "Last year they piled on me, this year they pinned me against the boards. It was worth it though."

Once they left the rink where they made memories, the Shamrocks went back to school to pick

up their cars, then to Buddy's Pizzeria in Livonia with — oh — 200 or so of their relatives, friends and fans.

"I think the parents ate, but we didn't eat much," said senior Brian Williams, who scored a pair of goals in the championship game. "People were coming up to us, congratulating us ... we just kind of talked."

From Buddy's, most of the team went over to Moss' house, where they relived the tape of the game and watched their newfound memories. After the party broke up and they found their way home, the Shamrocks found sleep was feast or famine. Some were still too keyed up to sleep; others couldn't fall asleep fast enough. They all slept in late the next day.

"My nerves were still running," said senior captain Brandon Kalenicki. "I got to bed about 3 or 4 a.m., but it was tough getting to sleep."

Sunday, they all went their separate ways. Some watched the tape again, others stayed home and alternated recovery with homework. If they went out of the house, to the mall or a golf show at the Novi Expo Center, a few people congratulated them.

Things picked up at school on Monday. Teachers and classmates alike congratulated the

Shamrocks on their win. And there was the obligatory pep rally at the school on Monday, recognizing not only the hockey team, but wrestler Matt Hancock and skier Matt Gable — both of whom had won individual titles in their respective sports in the past two weeks.

But the loudest cheers at Monday's pep assembly? With kids being kids, they came when principal Rev. John Monner announced the students would get to take March 30 off in honor of the win. The close second came when Kalenicki hung a "00" on the hockey placard of the gym wall to represent the state title.

"It was an overwhelming thing not only for me, but for everyone on the team because we worked so hard," said Spiewak. "It's kind of hard seeing the seniors leave because you know you'll never play hockey with them again. We told (coach) Gordie St. John that he should feel great leading a great group of guys. He tells us what to do and we go out and do it."

"We repeated and that's a huge accomplishment. But it's back to the gym, back to school and back to work. You have to keep working for next year."

In other words, it was back to business as usual.

# Whalers have 2nd-longest OHL win streak

Seventeen — a number with a special meaning for the Plymouth Whalers.

That's how many they've won in a row. The most recent in that string was Sunday's 3-2 victory over the Owen Sound Platers at Plymouth's Compuware Arena, with a crowd of 2,335 in attendance.

What they witnessed was something considered completely

improbable just a couple weeks earlier: a changing of the guard, if you will.

Just the first time since early in the season the Ottawa 67s did not have the Ontario Hockey League's best record. That honor belonged to the Whalers, who are currently 43-17-4, with 91

points in 64 games. Ottawa is 43-20-3 for 90 points in 66 games.

The 17-straight wins extends the team record for most wins in a row (the former mark of 12 belonged to the Detroit Junior Wings, set in '95) and brings the Whalers closer to the OHL record of 25, established by the Oshawa Generals. The Whalers' current string is second longest in OHL history.

In the win over Owen Sound, Plymouth overcame a 2-1 deficit after the first period with a pair of second-period goals by Eric Gooldy, both assisted by Stephen Weiss and Jared Newman. Justin Williams' 35th goal of the season in the opening period (from Damien Surma and Jamie Lalonde) had tied the game at 1-1.

Rob Zepp stopped 17 of 19

shots in earning the victory in goal for the Whalers. Corey Roberts turned away 37 of 40 Whaler shots for the Platers (19-39-6).

On Saturday at Compuware, second-period goal by Stephen Morris and Shaun Fisher propelled the Whalers to a 6-2 victory over the London Knights, with a crowd of 2,998 watching.

Williams scored two goals and assisted on two others for the Whalers. Lalonde and Fisher each added a goal and two assists, and Tomas Kurka also had a goal. Surma and Cole Jarrett also had two assists apiece. Bill Ruggiero made 17 saves to get the win in goal for the Whalers. Aaron Molnar had 33 saves in goal for London.

Adam Saffer and Chris Osborne scored for the Knights (20-36-7).

# Shamrocks from page C1

end, Williams got the puck and started to shoot, but an Alpena defenseman slid in front to block the shot. Williams pulled the puck back as the defender slid past, reloaded and fired past Pernie for a 3-1 lead.

"We knew we had to get more of a lead," said Williams. "I wanted to one-time the puck, but saw him starting to slide. I faked the shot, went round him and went low on the opposite side."

The Shamrocks made it 4-1 at the 7:24 mark when Joe Moreau knocked home a rebound off of Brett John's shot, but Alpena pulled within 4-2 exactly two minutes later when Karl Skiba fired past Dunne.

However, any momentum the Wildcats might have earned by the goal was snuffed out 27 seconds later. With Yost off for roughing, Moss took advantage of a loose puck at center ice, skated in and shot past Pernie.

"They were still on the power play, but I think that broke their

## Walter's HOME APPLIANCES

SAVE AT ALL FOUR WALTER'S LOCATIONS

# SAVING OF THE GREEN

ONE DAY ONLY SAT. MAR 18TH 10AM-8:30PM

**4 Head Hi Fi Stereo VCR**  
• Remote Control  
• VHS-60 — LIMIT 1

**25" Microwave Oven**  
• Turntable  
• 100 Watts  
• 600Watts — LIMIT 1

**25" Stereo Color TV**  
• Remote Control  
• VHS-60 — LIMIT 1

**32" Color Stereo TV**  
• Remote Control  
• VHS-60 — LIMIT 1

**1 YEAR**  
no interest financing available  
Get details at Walter's

**ATTENTION**  
New Home Builders & Kitchen Remodelers  
Walter's has one of the lowest prices on all appliances in the area

**ASKO BOSCH REFRIGERATORS**  
• Microwave  
• Dishwasher  
• Freezer  
• 100 Watts  
• 600Watts — LIMIT 1

**SPECIAL PACKAGE PRICE SATURDAY ONLY**

**TOSHIBA**  
• Microwave  
• Dishwasher  
• Freezer  
• 100 Watts  
• 600Watts — LIMIT 1

**FRIGIDAIRE**  
• Microwave  
• Dishwasher  
• Freezer  
• 100 Watts  
• 600Watts — LIMIT 1

what you're looking for in a home appliance is here

### CITY OF WESTLAND INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the City of Westland Purchasing Division, 36601 Ford Road, Westland, Michigan, 48185-2296, on March 20, 2000, at 10:00 a.m., for the following:

**TWO MILL PLASTIC TRASH BAGS**

Complete specifications and pertinent information may be obtained from the Purchasing Office. The City of Westland reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Bid Item: DPG-033000  
Publish: March 16, 2000

JILL B. THOMAS  
Purchasing Agent  
City of Westland

Motorhome • Camper • Real Life • Save \$ • Forest River • Salem • Jayco

## The RV Shows Are Over Except At Lloyd Bridges Traveland.

We have the biggest show going on right now thru April 1st!

• We represent seven of the top ten manufacturers

• Over 250 RVs on seven acres to choose from

• Motorhomes, travel trailers, fifth wheels, truck campers, fold downs and campers

• \$225,000 in manufacturer factory rebates on select inventory

• If it's better than what you're getting elsewhere

• Save thousands of \$\$\$ on the RV of your choice

• We have negotiated special low interest rates to save you even more money

• \$1800 of free camping at Michigan's finest RV resorts with any RV purchase

• NADA appraiser on hand to give you top dollar for your trade

**WE WILL BEAT ANY DEALER'S PRICE ON A COMPARABLE UNIT!**

## Lloyd Bridges Traveland

1600 S. Main Street • Chelsea, MI 48118  
800/475-1347