

# Whalers

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Arena by a 1-0 margin.

The game's only goal was scored in the opening period. A Whaler turnover at center ice put the puck on Brad Yeo's stick; he slid a pass to Joe Guenther as the Otters broke in with a 2-on-1 on Whaler goalie Rob Zepp.

Guenther's slap shot from the top of the circle on the left wing got past Zepp and into the far corner, making it 1-0 with 2:16 left in the period.

Ironically, Plymouth had been dominating the action. The goal was Eric's fifth shot on net in the

period; at that juncture, the Whalers had 10. The period ended with Plymouth holding a 12-6 advantage in shots on goal.

"These were two pretty evenly-matched teams," said Whaler coach Pete DeBoer. "We just didn't do enough to score goals."

"I thought Stephen Weiss' line was dominant for the first 10 minutes. Then we played down to their level a bit. We made it easy on their goaltender."

The defeat left Plymouth with a 30-8-4 record and 69 points in 47 games. Eric is 31-8-0, with 71 points in 48 games. Plymouth still leads the OHL's West Division. Eric is first in the Midwest Division. The next closest team in the league is 10 points behind.

More importantly is the overall race for the top seed — and home-ice advantage that goes with it — in the OHL. At present the Otters lead, but they have played one more game than the Whalers. Should Plymouth and Eric finish the season tied, head-to-head results would be brought into play.

After last night, the season series couldn't be any closer.

Each team has won twice, with one tie. One game remains, at Erie Feb. 16.

Since Plymouth's 4-0 win over the Otters in the season opener, none of the game's has been decided by more than a goal.

So the closeness of last night's match was to be anticipated. However, getting blanked was something that had been foreign to the Whalers this season.

It wasn't that they didn't have their chances. They ended up with a 30-19 advantage in shots on goal. Problem was, none of them got past Otters' goalie J.F. Perras, who raised his record to 13-4-4 while earning his third shutout.

The loss was also the Whalers' fourth in the last five games. The previous three had come in overtime, which meant they at least got a point out of it.

"I'm shocked we didn't score any goals," said DeBoer. "But we've been having trouble lately putting the puck in the net. And you've got to pay the price in this league."

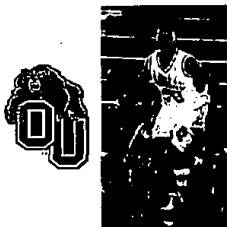
Against the Otters, the cost was all that high — just one goal — but it proved too lofty for the Whalers.

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## CC still has better team than Alpena

Some 1,400 people packed Alpena Ice Arena on Friday night with hopes of seeing the hometown Wildcats avenge a 5-2 loss to Redford Catholic Central in the Division 1 championship game in March.

They didn't. CC took a 2-1 lead in the first period and stayed ahead the rest of the way as the No. 1-ranked Shamrocks grabbed a four-goal win over the Wildcats, 5-1.

"It was tough," said co-coach Todd Johnson as the Shamrocks improved to 15-0-2 overall. "It's a hostile environment up there. They packed the place and when they scored, a foghorn went off and it sounded like a freighter was coming through the building."

But the only ship to sail was CC's as five different players scored. Ryan Lasacki (from Jim Spiewak) and Mike Rattigan (from Steve Nelson) scored in the first period for a 2-1 lead. Sean Genrich made it 3-1 in the second period with an assist from Jeff Davis.

Jared Ross (from Brian Genrich) and Spiewak (from Derek Genrich) closed out the scoring in the third period.

Goalie Andrew McCoy made 17 saves for CC, while Eric Parris made 27 saves for Alpena.

FARMINGTON 7, W.L. CENTRAL 2: Matt Lee scored a hat trick and the Flyers capitalized on early power-play opportunities Wednesday en route to a 7-2 win over visiting Walled Lake Central.

Lee knocked in two goals in the first period, helping Farmington to a 3-1 lead, and his last two came on

the power play.

He opened the scoring at 12:57 with an assist from Brian Marlon, but Central's Mike Stokoe tied it a little over four minutes later (8:43).

The Flyers finished the period with power-play goals by Lee at 4:30 (Brad Heraghty and Glen Heam) and Devin Baker at 2:53 (Heam and Preston Picard).

Farmington added three goals to its lead in the second period, starting with a Tim DePaula score at 13:08 with Mike Frayne and Karl Meus assisting.

The Flyers held a 4-1 lead until late in the period when Lee tallied his third goal at 4:04 after taking a pass from Picard.

Heraghty and Keith Hay set up the team's sixth goal, which Brett Ramsay scored at 2:20 with both squads at full strength.

Heraghty earned his third assist, making a pass that resulted in Nathan Pavash's goal with one second remaining in the game.

Farmington outshot Central by a 3-1 margin, which took the pressure off Flyers' goalie Greg Diven.

"The kids came ready to play," Flyers coach Mike Harris said. "We had outstanding performances by all three lines. We put a lot of pressure on (Central), which created a lot of turnovers."

Farmington was 5-5-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association and 8-6-2 overall prior to a game Friday night with Northville.

STEVENSON 6, W.L. WESTERN 2: Lakes Division champion Livonia Stevenson erupted for four goals in the final period to beat Walled Lake Western in a WLLAA game at Edgar Arena Wednesday.

Bret Vasey's hat trick lifted the Spartans. It was 0-0 after one period and 2-1 Stevenson after 30 minutes.

Vasey tallied the first two goals at 3:25 and 4:20, respectively. Western's Kyle Davis cut the deficit to 2-1 at 9:02 from Adam Jones and Scott Williams. The Warriors outshot the Spartans, 25-24.

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