

# Whalers sweep Spitfires

By Ed Waugh  
Staff Writer

It's too flimsy to blast snapshots and too skinny to wrap as a goalie blocker, but the broom is quickly becoming an appropriate symbol for the Plymouth Whalers as they stamped through the 2001 Ontario Hockey League playoffs.

Bolstered by solid defense and two empty-net goals, the Whalers completed their second consecutive 4-0 series sweep Thursday night when they shot down the Windsor Spitfires, 5-2, in unfriendly Windsor Arena.

Plymouth, which broomed Sarnia 4-0 in an opening-round series two weeks ago, earned some valuable rest before it faces off in the OHL Western Conference finals against the winner of the still ongoing Brampton-Eric series.

The conference finals are slated to begin sometime next weekend.

Speaking of brooms, members of the Spitfires' maintenance crew put them to good use with 38 seconds left in the game.

They had to clear the ice of nearly 50 half-filled pop cans, water bottles and plastic beverage containers hurled at the Whalers' bench and Plymouth players by angry Windsor fans. The game was stopped for approximately 20 minutes until the clean-up was completed.

Whaler coach Pete DeBoer was the target of many of the albino items as well as verbal assaults directed at him by dejected Spitfire fans as they headed for the exits.

"I've had things thrown at me so often in this building that I kind of expect it now,"

## HOCKEY

DeBoer halfjoked a few minutes after the game. "The air team was getting beat and that's how they let out their frustration — by throwing things at us."

If the Whalers continue the crisp passing, suffocating defense and solid goal-tending they've displayed the past month, the frustration levels will be rising throughout ice rinks in Ontario well into May.

"I like the way we're working as a team right now," DeBoer said. "Defensively, we're not giving up many easy chances and offensively I expect this team to score four or five goals every night."

Windsor jumped out to an early lead for the third straight game when left winger Frank Sinaacort took a criss-cross pass from Steve Ott and flipped a high wristed pass to Whaler goalie Rob Zepp just 57 seconds into the game.

Unfortunately for Windsor, the goal seemed to energize Plymouth's defensemen, who proceeded to clamp down on any Spitfire who carried the puck within shooting range of Zepp.

Plymouth left winger Chad Wiseman evaded the game at 1-1 with 6:09 left in the first period when he laid the puck past Spitfire goalie Michael Leighton.

Wiseman's sixth goal of the playoffs was assisted by Stephen Weiss and Tomas Kurka.

The Whalers took the lead, 2-1, in the second period when Stephen Weiss produced one of the most entertaining goals of the season.

After controlling a pass from James Wisniewski (Canton) just outside the blue-line, Weiss skated through and around three Spitfire defenders, faked a shot to Leighton's glove side before depositing a backhander past his blocker and into the back of the net.

"When you get into the play-offs, you need a player or two to step up," DeBoer said. "Stephen showed on that goal that he is our go-to guy. That was a great play and a big goal."

Weiss's goal subdued the 3,000-plus Windsor supporters, but it was Whaler center Kris Vernarsky who silenced the once-thriving crowd minutes later when positioned himself just outside the crease and jammed the puck past Leighton to make it 3-1. Vernarsky was assisted by Damian Surma.

Zepp preserved the two-goal lead at the 9:25 mark of the second period when he stoned Spitfire 50-goal scorer Steve Ott, who had broken feisty past the Whalers' defensemen.

Windsor defenseman Tim Gleason restored life in the home team when he deposited his own rebound into the net with 3:44 left in the game.

However, Tomas Kurka iced the Whaler sweep when he rifled a mid-rink, unassisted slapshot into the heart of an open net with 1:02 remaining. Cole Jarrott closed out the scoring when he flicked in another empty-netter from the opposite blue line.

Plymouth outshot Windsor, 29-26. The Whalers' penalty-killing unit was stellar, shutting out the Spitfires on eight of their nine power-play opportunities.

# Farmington streak at 5 games

## LACROSSE

Farmington Unified went into spring break with a 6-1 record and a five-game winning streak in boys lacrosse after it defeated host Uica Wednesday, 13-6.

Brian Koznecki scored six goals, Eric Kelly, Jeff Poesolan and Matt Snyder chipped in two apiece, and Jason Close added one.

The unsung heroes of the game were the defenders, according to coach John Fillion.

"Our defense really played a good game," he said. "We had fantastic games by Paul Hart, Mike Kloosterman, Brian Doughty and Krishna Reid. If they're not playing well, more shots are being taken (by the opponent)."

Farmington goalkeeper Francois Berranen "had at least 10 good saves" and "another great game," Fillion added.

Close also had three assists, Tsoianin two, Nate Miller and Koznecki one each. Farmington led at halftime, 10-2.

"I just think we're going to come back strong (after spring break)," Fillion said. "We have a few tough games right after break, and that will really put us to the test."

"All the guys are doing the job; we have no particular standout. We're pulling together as a team, and I think that's what our strength is."

"I can go to anyone on the bench and expect something to happen when they get on the field."

**Girls are winners, too**

The Farmington Unified girls team has a more modest, two-game winning streak at this point in the season after whipping host Macomb on Wednesday, 12-2.

Coach Mike Mehall's team is 3-2 overall and 3-1 in Division B of the Michigan Women's Scholastic Lacrosse Association.

Macomb scored a quick goal in the game played at Mount Clemens L'Anse Cresse High School, but Farmington roared back with six goals for a 6-1 halftime lead.

"They played the best defen-

sive game I've seen them play," Mehall said of his players. "The last few days we worked on defense during practice, and it definitely paid off."

Stephanie Yacoub scored four goals and Stephanie Ford two Wednesday. Lindsey Hirszel, Jenny Adams, Chrissy Baker, Sarah Lash, Laurane Walker and Casey Haapaniemi had one apiece.

Farmington had 34 shots on goal compared to eight for Macomb. Haapaniemi and Christy Hague had one assist each.

The most valuable players for Farmington were Yacoub, Ford and Baker, according to Mehall.

"(Farmington) played well and executed the defensive game, depriving Macomb of a strong shot selection," he said.

"The field was muddy and difficult to play on, but all the girls on the team played with strength and worked to accomplish a good win."

"It was difficult to make MVP choices, because all the girls played well."

## PUBLIC NOTICE BUDGET HEARING ON PROPOSED 2001-2002 BUDGET OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE FISCAL YEAR July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 23, 2001 at 6:00 P.M. in room T8 of the Advanced Technology Building at the Auburn Hills Campus, 2900 Featherstone Rd. (East Entrance), Auburn Hills, Michigan, the Board of Trustees of Oakland Community will hold a public hearing to consider the College's proposed 2001-2002 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2001-2002 budget until after the public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2001-2002 budget including the proposed property tax millage rate is available for public inspection during normal business hours at 2480 Opdyke Rd., Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

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## Baseball from BI

the Raiders, giving up seven hits, striking out four and walking three. O'Connell worked last two innings.

**FARMINGTON 6, CHURCHILL 0:** Farmington remained perfect in the young season Wednesday with a 5-0 record.

Andy Brown pitched 6 1/3 innings, holding the Chargers to three hits while striking out three.

Preston Picard, Bob Houchins and Ian Pardonnet had two hits and one RBI apiece. All three scored a run, too. Picard's hits included a triple.

The Falcons are 2-0 in the WLA, 1-0 in the Lakes Division.

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