

Shamrocks eye 5th state title in row

BY PAUL BEAUDRY
STAFF WRITER

Don't kid yourself. There isn't a player on the Redford-Detroit Catholic Central hockey team who isn't thinking about the team winning its fifth straight title.

This is a team, after all, whose senior class has ended every season celebrating on the ice at the Flint IMA Arena. And with the talent returning, there is every reason to believe the Shamrocks can win once again - if they can stop their potential biggest foe: themselves.

"We have the talent to be a really good team," said CC coach Todd Johnson, who leads the team along with long-time coach Gordie St. John. "The one thing we need to work on is the fact that there is one puck out there and only five guys on the ice at a time. We have to be sure to spread it around and respect each other and that they respect the coaches."

Nine players graduated off last year's 21-5-3 team, and eight seniors are back on the huge 28-player roster. How the seniors will be missed remains to be seen, but talent-wise, Johnson believes this group is better.

"Last year's senior class was basically the glue that held things together," said Johnson. "The underclassmen provided the skill, and those guys will be back. Hopefully, they'll mature over the course of the year to be leaders. There's no one to lead them, it's their show."

"We have a tremendous sen-

ior class in terms of skill level. A number of guys decided not to move away and play junior hockey and enjoy their senior year at home before continuing along with their hockey career. We have good players who want to play and be rewarded for hard work. It will be interesting to see how they handle sharing the duties."

Junior Jimmy Blanchard is back in goal for CC with fellow classmates John Garza and Andrew Godoshian backing him up.

The Shamrocks have five returning defensemen, led by seniors Andrew Eggert and co-captain Billy Burns. Juniors Mike Monterrey, Billy Makela and T.J. Quatlander are back, while sophomore Kevin Horak will contribute once football is done. Freshman Tim Buttery will play, and classmate Matt Flynn could contribute.

Where CC might be the strongest is up front, thanks to six senior forwards.

Tom Ullen is a two-year player, Bryan Genrich and Brandon Naurato are three-year players as is co-captain Pat Cauldron. Eric Giosa and Eric Reinhardt are four-year players on the squad, while Nathan Pehovitch, Dave McGorray and Harrison Niemann also return. First-year players Travis Hanway, Jason Lewarne and Drew Kahle round out the top 12 of a deep forward group.

"From a talent standpoint, we're as deep as we've been. What we have to do is make sure we respect our opponent and stay humble."

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FLYERS

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Hay and Hand are captains along with senior defenseman Jeff Tosolan. The alternate captain is junior forward Brett Laird, who will figure prominently in the offensive scheme, too.

Senior centers Marc Rauth and Louie Powell were key contributors last year and provide the Flyers with added depth and experience on the attacking lines.

Junior wing Ian Chornoby, who was persuaded to play high school hockey instead of midgeet AAA, will join Rauth and Laird on the second line.

Powell, who will center the third line, was Farmington's best player during the summer and fall, according to Vellucci.

"We have three solid lines," he said. "If one doesn't produce, another will come right out and score. We're loaded up front. The top three lines should score a goal a game at least."

"The fourth line is capable of going out there and creating some havoc. Each one is capable of holding its own."

The Flyers have added four first-year players and junior center-wing Chris Clark, who played for the unified team two years ago.

Sophomore center Phil Scott, junior wing Nick Hermiz, senior wing Michael Singer and junior wing Vince McKeon will have roles to play, also.

"All the players are capable of moving up or down," Vellucci said. "Because you're on the fourth line now doesn't mean you will be at the end of the year."

"If you work hard in practice and games, you can move up. You're fighting for a spot every week, every practice."

The Flyers return four veteran defenders in Tosolan, senior Matt Kjolhede, senior Chris Frayne and junior Sean Ellis. Tosolan will be a key member of the power-play unit, too.



SHARON LEKEUX | OBSERVER

Senior Jeff Tosolan (right) is an all-area defenseman and one of the top returning players on the Farmington Unified hockey team.

Senior defenseman Victor Calagius returns to the Flyers after a year of travel hockey. Senior Markus Burling (a transfer from CC who becomes eligible in the second semester), sophomore David Kennedy and juniors David Lajaj and Jon Noble are first-year defenders.

Farmington returns both goalies and will carry a third. Senior Aaron Allor was the starter last season, and senior R.J. Ulrich filled in and played well late in the season when Allor was hurt. The third netminder is junior Leslei Levran.

"All three have been pretty equal throughout the summer and fall," Vellucci said. "We'll give each one a chance, and I figure by halfway through the year we'll have a good idea."

"R.J. lost 20 pounds and is in really good shape. All three are looking good. It will probably be the toughest decision I have - who to sit out every game?"

"They all know they're going to have to sit out one game or another. It won't be like last year when Aaron started a lot of games and R.J. came in."

The Flyers, who defeated Plymouth Salem in a scrimmage game Saturday, 6-2, play defending Division III state champion Dearborn Divine Child in a tournament 6 p.m. Friday at Novi Ice Arena. The winner plays either Livonia Churchill or Novi in the final at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Farmington will compete in the Oakland Activities Association Division I against other unified teams from Troy,

Birmingham and Royal Oak, as well as Clarkston, West Bloomfield and Waterford.

"Everyone on the team knows how good we can be," Vellucci said, "so we have to go out and play. We can't just show up and go through the motions."

"If everything comes together and everyone plays the way he's capable of playing, I don't know why we can't go all the way. (Assistant coach) Jay (Johnson) and I are very confident."

"We're going to have the boys as ready as possible for the games. We're going to play our systems, and it will be up to them to be ready to do it."

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Whalers skate past Soo, Sudbury

All things considered, it was a good weekend series on the road for the Plymouth Whalers.

True, they wasted a 3-0 lead Thursday at Barrie and had to settle for a 3-3 draw.

But at least they didn't repeat that mistake in their next two games.

Friday in Sault Ste. Marie, the Whalers (13-6-2-1) scored three times in the first two periods, which was more than enough for goalie Paul Drew, who stopped 21 shots en route to getting the shutout in the 3-0 Ontario Hockey League vic-

tory. Ryan Ramsay was the key offensive force in the victory, scoring two goals and assisting on the third.

Chad LaRose was nearly as effective, assisting on all three goals, and Cole Jarrett had two assists for Plymouth.

Karl Stewart also scored a goal for the Whalers, who led 1-0 after one period and 3-0 after two.

On Sunday at Sudbury, third-period goals by Taylor Raszka, Nate Kiser and LaRose elevated the Whalers to a 5-3 triumph.

LaRose finished with two goals in the game, and John Vigilante got another. Jarrett again was instrumental with three assists and Jimmy Gagnon had two. Sean Langdon, Craig Voukes and J.F. Seguin scored goals for the Wolves.

The game was tied at 2-2 entering the third period. Raszka broke the tie with his goal at 7:55; Kiser's power-play goal at 10:10 increased Plymouth's lead to 4-2.

After the Wolves' Seguin narrowed the deficit to 4-3 with

his goal at 18:43, LaRose iced it with an empty-netter with three seconds left.

Jeff Weber was in goal to get the win for Plymouth; he made 27 saves. Joel Whitmarsh had 29 saves for Sudbury.

The Whalers play tonight against the Spirit in Saginaw, then return Friday to Compuware Arena in Plymouth to host Sault Ste. Marie.

Plymouth is home again Saturday against Peterborough. Both home games start at 7:30 p.m.

**VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN
COUNTY OF OAKLAND
STATE OF MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE #2002-07**

AN ORDINANCE TO ADD CHAPTER 1026, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TO PART TEN, TITLE TWO, OF THE COMPILLED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, TO COMPLY WITH THE METROPOLITAN COMMUNICATIONS RIGHTS-OF-WAY OVERSIGHT ACT (2002 PA 48), REGULATE ACCESS TO AND USE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY BY TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDERS FOR THEIR TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, AND PRESCRIBE A PENALTY FOR VIOLATIONS.

A true copy of Ordinance No. 2002-07 is kept at the Village of Franklin Clerk's Office, 32329 Franklin Road, Franklin, Michigan 48026, and may be reviewed, inspected, and/or a copy obtained during normal business hours.

EILEEN H. PULKER,
Village Clerk

Published: November 21, 2002
ID: 060607774

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