

Advantage switches to Whalers vs. Rangers

BY C.J. BRESK
STAFF WRITER

Make that two straight. At least against the Kitchener Rangers, an Ontario Hockey League's Plymouth Whalers couldn't beat last season. They made it two straight Tuesday with a 3-2 win in Kitchener, getting the game-winning goal from Chad LaRose with 45 seconds remaining. For LaRose, it capped a superb game. He scored two of the Whalers' goals and assisted on the third, netted by Karl Stewart on the power play with 34 seconds left in the first period. Stewart's goal allowed Plymouth to take a 1-1 tie into the second period.

LaRose's first goal of the game, scored at 12:52 of the second period, gave the Whalers a 2-1 lead. Kitchener, which got a first-period goal from David Clutkoff, tied it with a power-play score by Mike Richards midway through the third period. LaRose's game-winner was assisted by Ryan Ramsay; Ramsay and Cole Jarrett each had two assists in the game for Plymouth. Paul Drew backstopped the Whaler win by making 35 saves in goal. Scott Dickie had 26 stops in goal for the Rangers. Plymouth improved to 25-7-1 (58 points), first in the OHL's West Division. Kitchener is 27-9-1 (59 points), first in the Midwest Division.

WHALERS MAKE TRADE
The potential may have been there, but the Plymouth Whalers were in need of immediate returns and a bit more experience. That's why on Monday they sent right wing Taylor Raszka, a native of Petersburg and the Whalers' No. 1 choice in the Ontario Hockey League's entry draft last spring, to the Saginaw Spirit for center Chris Thornburn and the Oshawa Generals' second-round draft pick this year. "Sometimes you have to give up quality to get quality," said Whalers' coach/general manager Mike Vellucci. "Taylor is a player who has the potential to be a star player in the league. Chris is a player who is already at that level and will make an immediate impact for us. He brings size to the table and is a play-maker. He will give us a lot of depth at the forward position." In terms of production, this deal would seem rather lopsided. Thornburn is 6-foot-3, 218 pounds and scored 19 goals and assisted on 38 others (37 points) for the Spirit; he was their leading scorer. Raszka, a 6-1, 175-pound right wing, had limited playing time, with three goals and four assists in 34 games. The reason for the Spirit to make the trade: Raszka is 16-years-old and in his first OHL season. Thornburn is 19; he'll turn 20 in June. He will play this season and could conceivably play next year as an over-ager (if he does, the Whalers will surrender a conditional fifth-round draft choice next season). Thornburn was drafted by the Buffalo Sabres in the third round in 2001. In his last two seasons with the North Bay Centennials (who have since become the Saginaw Spirit), he scored 37 goals and assisted on 75 others. Before the trade, the Whalers were one of the youngest teams in the OHL.

WIN STREAK ENDS
On Sunday at London, the Whalers finally got a lead in a game — their first since defeating Kitchener the previous Monday. But they couldn't hold it. Plymouth bounced back from a 2-0 deficit with a pair of short-handed goals in the second period, then went ahead 3-2 on a power-play goal by Chad LaRose just 17 seconds into the third period (David Liftton assisted). The Knights earned a 3-3 draw with a goal by Kyle Piwowarczyk with 8:57 remaining, the Whalers second-straight tie. London had the early lead on first-period goals by Matt Weir and Dennis Wideman. Plymouth closed the gap to 2-1 on Jonas Fiedler's unassisted short-handed goal at 13:40 of the second period, then tied it 13 seconds later on Tim Sestilo's score (from Sean Thompson). Both Whaler goals came with Jimmy Gagnon in the penalty box for charging. Paul Drew stopped 32 shots in goal for Plymouth. Gerald Coleman had 34 saves for the Knights (15-20-4-1, 35 points in the Midwest Division). On Saturday, the Whalers had to come from behind twice to get a 2-2 tie with Guelph at Plymouth. Niko Tuomi put Guelph ahead 1-0 3:49 into the opening period; the Whalers

led it on LaRose's goal (from John Mitchell and Martin Clark) 8:17 into the second period. It didn't stay tied for long. The Storm went back in front 37 seconds later on a Ryan Callahan marker. The Whalers tied it again on a Karl Stewart power-play goal (from Cole Jarrett and Ryan Ramsay) with 4:47 left in the second period. Jeff Weber made 20 saves in goal for the Whalers. Guelph, through Sunday, was third in the Midwest Division with a 16-16-1 mark (53 points). On Friday at Sarnia, Plymouth saw its 18-game unbeaten streak come to an end with a 4-1 loss. The score was tied at 1-1 all going into the third period, but the Sting scored three times in the last eight minutes to get the victory. Dave Pzenyzny gave Sarnia the lead on the power play just 1:23 into the first period. LaRose knotted it with an unassisted goal at 12:15 of the first, also on the power play. Daniel Carcillo (at 12:14), Kris Newbury (16:48) and Chance Fitzpatrick (19:43) got the Sting's third-period scores. Drew was in goal for Plymouth. Ryan Munce was in the net for the Sting, who were within four points of the Whalers after Sunday with a 23-11-5-1 record (52 points).

LaRose knotted it with an unassisted goal at 12:15 of the first, also on the power play. Daniel Carcillo (at 12:14), Kris Newbury (16:48) and Chance Fitzpatrick (19:43) got the Sting's third-period scores. Drew was in goal for Plymouth. Ryan Munce was in the net for the Sting, who were within four points of the Whalers after Sunday with a 23-11-5-1 record (52 points).

One Weekend - Two Shows

COMPUTER SHOW
JANUARY 10-11-12
FRI: 12-9 • SAT: 10-9 • SUN: 10-6
SAVE UP TO 70% ON COMPUTER SOFTWARE, HARDWARE & ACCESSORIES NEW & USED - BUY! TRADE! SELL!
FRIDAY IS SETUP DAY, NOT ALL DEALERS PARTICIPATE
OVER 180 TABLES
SAVE 50% - BUILD YOUR OWN COMPUTER
COMPUTER GURU OF INC. (274) 429-1100
Decide what system to build. Purchase hardware. SELF-BUILD Class from 11PM - 8PM. READY-TO-BUILD Class from 11PM - 8PM. OTHER CLASSES AVAILABLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 248-436-9358

ANTIQUE SHOW
JANUARY 10-11-12
FRI: 12-9 • SAT: 10-9 • SUN: 10-6
ANTIQUES, SELECT COLLECTIBLES, FINE VINTAGE AND NOSTALGIA ITEMS
Old & Rare Books, Victorian Period Furniture, Pattern Glass, Porcelain, Toys, Movie Items, China, Pottery, Primitives, Silver & Much More!
Admission only \$2.00 per carload
FREE FRIDAY ADMISSION (FRIDAY JAN. 10TH ONLY)

Gibraltar
TRADE CENTER, INC.
16225 BACHNO RD. #100
TAYLOR, MI 48181-3600
248-287-2000
COURTESY: TAYLOR, MI 48181-3600

WIN STREAK ENDS
On Sunday at London, the Whalers

You're Invited!
Country Ridge Animal Hospital
Invites You to an
Open House
Sun., Jan. 19, 2003 • 1-3pm
• Tour our facility & meet our staff
• See demonstrations of laser surgery, dental care & flea control
• FREE raffle & giveaways
• FREE refreshments
Bring a friend! We hope to see you there...
Country Ridge Animal Hospital
248-661-3480
31178 Haggerty Road • Farmington Hills

Now You Can **Design it Your Way!**
THE ORIGINAL **BERNE** FURNITURE
Hand Made Furniture Built With Forever in Mind
Why settle for anything less than "just your style?"
BEST SELLING 100% COTTON
• Nine Different Arm Styles
• Four Seating Lengths
• Three Matching Chair
• Skirted, or Three Leg Styles
• Two Wood-Trim Bases
• Plush or Supportive Seating Comfort
• Pillow or Pullover Back Styles
• Seasonal or Seasonal Available
Plus, choose from over 450 imaginative styles and over 1,000 distinctive fabrics to perfectly complement your decor.
NOW WINTER SALE PRICED!
FINANCING AVAILABLE
Since 1832 **Walker/Buzenberg** fine furniture
240 North Main Street • PLYMOUTH • 734-459-1300
Mon., Thurs., Fri. 10-9 • Tues., Wed., Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 1-5
Hurry, Sale Ends 1/27/03 • Available With Credit Approval
www.walkerbuzenberg.com

further reductions
winter sale & clearance!
33 to 50% OFF
original prices on all winter fashions for men and women
KLEINS LIVONIA
NEWBURGH PLAZA 57205 W. SIX MILE IN NEWBURGH
HOURS: MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 10-6 SATURDAY 10-5
ALTERATIONS AT COST • NO CASH • NO CREDIT
SPRING 2003 GOLF AND CRUISEWEAR ARRIVING DAILY