

# Whalers got it backwards with 1-1-1 record

Hey, everyone hiccups once in a while.

That's the only way to explain what happened to the Plymouth Whalers last weekend.

They played three Ontario Hockey League games in three days, the first one at home against the Kingston Frontenacs (last place in the OHL's East Division), the next two on the road - at Erie (second in the Midwest) and Toronto (first in the Central).

Calculate all that information and try to figure when the Whalers would be the most physically and mentally fatigued. Sunday, their third game in three days, right? And on the road.

And when would they meet the toughest competition? Perhaps Saturday at Erie; the Otters have always been on the Whalers,

particularly at home.

So which game of the three did they win? Which did they tie? And which did they lose?

If you followed the above-listed information, you guessed wrong. The Whalers lost 3-2 to Kingston Friday at Plymouth's Compuware Arena; they tied Erie 2-2 Saturday at Erie; and they defeated the St. Michael's Majors 6-4 Sunday in Toronto.

Through Sunday, Plymouth remains first in the OHL's West Division with a 28-8-6-1 record (66 points). Kingston is 18-22-1-4 (41 points), fifth in the East; Erie is 20-19-3-2 (45 points), second in the Midwest; and Toronto is 21-16-4-2 (48 points), first in the Central.

Against Kingston Friday, the Frontenacs got a goal in each period to edge Plymouth. Danny McDonald

## HOCKEY

scored 1:21 into the game to give Kingston the lead; the Whalers tied it with a goal by Karl Stewart at 16:38 of the first period (assists by Chris Thorburn and John Mitchell).

Anthony Stewart's first goal of the game in the second period gave the Frontenacs the lead again; his second goal at 11:05 made it 3-1. Chad LaRose scored on the power play (from Cole Jarrett and James Wisniewski) at 12:22 of the third, but the Whalers could not get the equalizer.

Paul Drew had 27 shots in goal for Plymouth. Peter Haamerik had 29 for Kingston.

At Erie Saturday, the Whalers took the early lead on a Thorburn first-

period goal, but they couldn't hold it. The Otters scored twice in the first five minutes of the second, goals by Carlo Colton and Mike Rice; Plymouth tied it with a goal by Stewart (from Thorburn) with 3:15 left in the period.

Drew was outstanding with 32 stops in goal for the Whalers. T.J. Aceti had 15 saves for Erie.

And at Toronto Sunday, a scoreless first period was followed by an offensive second and third. Sean Thompson scored twice for the Whalers, his second giving them the lead for good.

Jarrett's power-play score (from Stewart and LaRose) in the second period came less than a minute after Rynn Rurabeck had given St.

Michael's a 1-0 lead. Thompson scored the next two for Plymouth

(Mitchell and Jonas Fiedler assisted on the first, Thorburn and Mike Nelson on the second) to make it 3-1 for the Whalers.

Rorabeck's second goal late in the second period narrowed the gap to 3-2, but two straight Whaler goals in the third period boosted their lead to 5-2. Stewart got the first (from Martin Cizek); Wisniewski got the second (from Mitchell and Fiedler).

Shane O'Brien and Andrey Mikhnov got goals for Toronto in the third, sandwiched around a score by LaRose (from Thorburn and Fiedler). Jeff Weber had 24 saves for Plymouth; Justin Peters made 24 stops for St. Michael's.

The Whalers play at Sault Ste. Marie Friday, then host Windsor (second in the West Division) at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

## MHSAA NEWS

**Scholar-Athlete Award Applicants Announced** - The applicants for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2002-03 school year have been announced. The program, which has been recognizing student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year, honors 24 individuals, one in each sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a post-season tournament. Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the Scholar-Athlete Award, and presents a \$10,000 scholarship in each sport.

This year, 2,554 applicants were received from 442 schools in the last year that application materials were distributed exclusively on the MHSAA Web site and a CD-ROM sent to school athletics administrators in the fall. All will be presented with certificates commensurate their achievement. A complete list of the applicants may be viewed on the MHSAA Web site at the following address: <http://www.mhsaa.com/services/sahome.html>. Every MHSAA member high school is allowed to select one student-athlete to represent it in each sport, and an individual may be nominated in more than one sport. Livonia Stevenson led the way in participation this year with 21 nominees. Livonia Churchill,

Midland Dow and Canton were next with 19 each. Birmingham and Grand Haven had 18 applicants; Birmingham Groves and Algonac each had 17. Ann Arbor Huron, Flint Powers Catholic, Grosse Pointe North, Jackson Lansing Beverly and Spring Lake each had 16, and Goodrich, Grosse Ile, Macomb L'Anse au Loup, North Farmington and Redford Union each had 15 applicants.

The applications will be judged next week by a 70-member committee of school coaches, counselors, faculty members, administrators and board members from MHSAA member schools, from which the 14 finalists and 24 scholarship recipients will be selected. Finalists will be announced on January 15, fall sports scholarship recipients will be announced on February 1, winter sports recipients on February 11, and spring sports winners will be announced on February 18. All announcements will be made on the MHSAA Web site.

To honor the 24 Scholar-Athlete Award recipients, a ceremony will take place during halftime of the Class C Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Stadium Events Center in East Lansing on March 23.

To be eligible for the award, students must have a cumulative grade-point average of

3.50 (on a 4.0 scale), and have previously won a varsity letter in the sport in which they are applying. Students were also asked to show involvement in other school and community activities, submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

**Early Bird Ticket Sales Underway for LP Individual Wrestling Finals** - Fans wishing to purchase advance tickets for the 2003 Michigan High School Athletic Association Lower Peninsula Individual Wrestling Finals, March 6-8, at the Palace of Auburn Hills, may now do so by mail order only through the MHSAA.

The "early bird" ticket sales program allows the discounted purchase of all tournament tickets, giving the bearer admission to all live sessions of the event, reserving the same seat. All tournament tickets are \$40 each, and a purchase order may be used to purchase up to 10 tickets per division for each mail order form submitted. The ticket price includes in and out parking privileges at the Palace. All tickets will be mailed by Feb. 24, unless special handling is requested at a charge of \$6 per order.

Specialists ordering tickets by mail must designate the wrestling division they prefer to

watch, which will result in their ticket assignment being in view of the mats being used for that competition. Orders must be postmarked no earlier than January 6, and no later than January 31 to qualify for the early bird purchase plan.

Early bird tickets are available by mail order only through the MHSAA office - no telephone or fax orders will be accepted. Checks or money orders must be made payable to MHSAA, and must accompany the order form.

An order form can be found on the MHSAA Web site - [www.mhsaa.com](http://www.mhsaa.com). Single-session tickets will go on sale beginning Feb. 10 through the Palace of Auburn Hills Box Office. Single-session tickets are priced at \$9 each, and all tournament tickets are available for \$45, which include in and out parking privileges.

Advance tickets purchased through the Palace of Auburn Hills Box Office will also be assessed a service fee. Upper bowl general admission tickets will also be available at the Palace of Auburn Hills Box Office only on the days of the event. General admission tickets will be priced at \$7 per session, which includes in and out parking privileges.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

BOYS BASKETBALL		WRESTLING	
Friday, Jan. 24	Harrison at N. Farmington, 7 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 25	Observerland at Liv. Churchville, 9 a.m.
	Farmington at Stoney Creek, 7 p.m.	<b>BOYS HOCKEY</b>	
	Catholic Central at Notre Dame, 7:30 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 25	Troy United at Farmington Unified, 8 p.m.
<b>GIRLS VOLLEYBALL</b>		Saturday, Jan. 25	G.P. North vs. CC (Redford Arena), 8 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 23	Farmington at Troy, 7:30 p.m.	<b>GIRLS GYMNASTICS</b>	
N. Farmington at Berkley, 7 p.m.	Kettering at Harrison, 7 p.m.	Thursday, Jan. 23	Troy Athens at Farmington, 6 p.m.
Cranbrook at Clarksville, 7 p.m.		Saturday, Jan. 25	Farmington Invitational, 9 a.m.
Saturday, Jan. 25	N. Farmington at Woodhaven, 8:30 a.m.	<b>ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE</b>	
<b>BOYS SWIMMING</b>		Friday, Jan. 24	Whalers at Sault Ste. Marie, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 23	Groves at N. Farmington, 6:30 p.m.	Saturday, Jan. 25	Whalers vs. Windsor (Compuware), 7:30 p.m.
Farmington/Harrison at Clarkson, 6:30 p.m.			

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

### RUGBY TRAINING

The search is on for high school boys (grades 9-12) interested in learning rugby football and participating in the Michigan Youth Rugby Association's spring season.

Rugby is a rugged contact sport enjoyed around the world. The Michigan Youth Rugby Association plays against clubs from Brighton, Berkley, Howell, Dearborn, Livonia and Northville.

The team features a "no cuts" policy. Everyone who practices will play. No experience is necessary.

The sport of rugby football features 15 players to a side with limited substitution; no blocking or padding, which makes it safer; continuous play, like ice hockey, basketball and soccer; a sport in which fitness, brains and brawn come together. Everyone is a ball-handler, scorer and defender. There are no play-books; players make on-the-field decisions.

Those seeking a spring sport emphasizing team play, physical fitness and should consider rugby football. Winter (indoor) training will be 6:30-7 p.m. every Monday evening beginning Jan. 27 at the University of Michigan Coliseum (located on the corner of Fifth & Hill streets), with the possibility of additional sessions being scheduled.

Call (734) 761-1988 or e-mail [mngnet@umich.edu](mailto:mngnet@umich.edu).

### TWO-DAY CLINIC

As part of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Women in Sports

Leadership Conference, the MHSAA will conduct a six-hour rookie official training program, Saturday, Feb. 1, at DeWitt High School, which is located between Clark and Heribson roads, west off Exit 85 (off the 27-69 expressway which connects US 127 and I 96, north of Lansing).

Two-Dae, which stands for Trained Women Officials, Dedicated, Accomplished, Educated, provides entry level training for all 12 MHSAA sponsored sports including baseball, basketball, competitive cheer, cross


country, football, gymnastics, ice hockey, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, track and field, volleyball and wrestling. Check-in starts at 8 a.m. The program concludes at 4:30 p.m. Registration is required by Friday, Jan. 24. Included in the \$30 cost is Continental Breakfast, lunch and a gift. A registration voucher toward registration in one sport for the 2003-04 school year is also included.

For more information, call (417) 332-6046 or visit [mhsaa.com](http://mhsaa.com). You can also e-mail: [register@mhsaa.com](mailto:register@mhsaa.com).

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