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King Wild ride big second period to beat depleted Storm squad, 4-3

By Jon Yanoff

The Storm wasn't strong Saturday night, so the Wild were able to clear a path to victory.

That is, the Deseronto Storm weren't strong. They only had 12 players dressed, as opposed to 19 suiting up for the King Wild.

As a result, the Wild, with the combination of stellar goaltending and the strength of a four-goal second period (on only 10 shots), escaped their home arena on the winning-end of a 4-3 nail-bitter.

The Wild exploded for four goals in the second period, after trailing 1-0, on a goal from Storm captain Brad Clark (assisted by Andrew Bobas and Tommy Salt) in the first.

"We weren't doing the little things in the first," said Wild Coach Sheldon Friske. "But I talked to them (the players) in between periods and we came into the second period playing our game."

King's massive goal outburst in the second was mostly produced from the Matt Marchese, Anthony Simone, Jon Adams line, in which the trio combined for nine points. This performance resulted in Marchese (first) and Simone (third) being named stars of the game.

Marchese began the goal-scoring frenzy by notching the Wild's first marker, tying the game on the powerplay at the nine-minute mark of the second period (assisted by Brandon Beadow and Keylan Marchant).

Simone tallied the next two Wild goals, the first (from Marchese and Beadow) to take the lead and the second (from Marchese and Adams) after the crafty Wild forward was left wide open in front of the net. He easily



Deseronto's Kole Abbott was trying to chase down Wild forward Steve Wicklum late in Saturday's match.

slapped the puck past Storm netminder Brandon Blaskie into the empty cage.

Marchese then finished what he started in the second, by potting his second goal of the game with about one-minute left in the

period (assisted by Simone and Adams) to give the Wild a 4-1 advantage heading into the third.

"You never know whose line is going to come to play," said Friske, of his team.

"Next week it could be (Marc) Fortin's line or (Chris) Martella's line, so it's nice and if one player picks up the score then I'm happy. We don't just have one guy like Deseronto's Clark and you know they're

going to him, where with us they can't watch just one player."

Clark leads the Greater Metro Junior A League in scoring with 83 points (43 goals and 40 assists) in 35 games this season.

Cody Roy (assisted by Todd Munden and Clark) and Bobas (assisted by Clark and Munden) helped Deseronto get the game close in the third after a chewing out of the team could be heard from the Storm dressing room between periods. Clark's three-point effort (one goal, two assists) earned him the second star of the game.

King goalie Craig Byford set aside 39 of 42 Deseronto shots to record the victory, while Blaskie stopped 19 of 23 pucks he faced in the game.

The Wild win catapults them ahead of the South Muskoka Shield, with 39 points, into seventh place with 40. The Richmond Hill Rams are in sixth with 44. This puts the Wild at the elusive .500 mark with a 19-19-2 record.

King has played four more games than the Rams and two more than Muskoka, and the Wild will have to fare well in their last two regular season games to remain close in the final standings going into the playoffs.

The Wild close their regular season with a home game Feb. 16 at 8:30 p.m. against the 10th place Espanola Kings and Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. against the Bradford Rattlers, who are in first place with 65 points.

Minor bantam Knights frustrated by Innisfil foes

The NobleKing minor bantam Knights started their first series of post-season play Jan. 13, working to prove that they should move on to the OHMA division.

In this series, the Knights drew the Innisfil Eagles for opponents. The Eagles, who ended up placing third in regular season play, were a team that would prove to be difficult to defeat.

In first period of the opening game was scoreless, but early in the second, the Eagles scored the first goal of the series. Five minutes later, the Knights responded with a breakaway goal from forward Michael Noblegreen. The Eagles scored again in the second to take the 2-1 lead, and in the third there were two more goals against the Knights, who were only able to muster up one more goal while on a two-man advantage, compliments of Thomas Martin. The game ended 4-2 in favor of the Eagles. Good goal tending

by Ben Rossetto kept the Knights in the game and their hopes alive all three periods.

The second game of the series was at King City Arena, and it was filled with action. Those who came out to watch were treated by some dominating play by the Knights.

The forward line of Martin, Mussato and Perruzza were on fire and scored the first two goals of the game. The first was scored by Marco Mussato off a nice pass from Mathew Perruzza, and the second goal was scored by Martin, who had won the face off and buried one in the Eagles' net. Early in the third, a combined effort from Christine Shortill and Martin gave the Knights a 3-0 lead.

The last goal of the game for the Knights was scored by Martin again, off a nice backhand while short handed. The Knights ended up winning 4-2 and tied the series at one game apiece. Great goal tending was

provided by John Salome to secure the win.

The Knights were back up to Innisfil for the third game, but lost after a bad second period when the Eagles scored four times. The Knights' lone goal of the game came from Perruzza in the third period.

The series' fourth match was back in the Knights' home arena in Nobleton, and what a game it was! The Eagles started off the scoring in the first, but early in the second Perruzza worked his way around the back of the net and found Martin out front to tie things up. The Eagles responded with their second of the night, but that lead wouldn't last long, as Martin's pass found Perruzza this time, and he hammered one in to tie things up. Martin scored again in the second, with only minutes on the clock, but the Eagles would respond with another to tie the game at three apiece.

The third period was full of opportunities for the

Knights and the Eagles, but in the last minute of the game Perruzza found Noblegreen's stick off a beautiful pass in front of the Innisfil goalie and Noblegreen one timed it off his backhand. The crowd went crazy.

The Knights won by a score of 4-3. Ben Rossetto stood on his head between the pipes and helped

Kinsmen Canadian Pond Hockey Championship gets major sponsorship

The Kinsmen Club of Bolton has announced that Molson Breweries and Crabby Joe's have signed on as sponsors for the Kinsmen Canadian Pond Hockey Championship tournament, slated for the Albion Conservation Area Family Day weekend (Feb. 16 -17).

Molson and Crabby Joe's will be active participants in the event, manning the rink-side beer tent with Crabby Joe's Bolton staff and The Molson Girls. The co-sponsors will also host a party for the participants at

NobleKing tie the series at two games a piece.

Game five was played at the Nottawasaga ice complex and ended up being a fantastic game to watch. Goal tender John Salome played very all game to keep the Knights in it, but in the last minute of play, down by one and with the Knights goalie pulled the Eagles put one in the empty net and

ended the best-of-five series in three games.

The coaching staff and parents were very proud of how well the boys played the series, and congratulations and good luck go out as the Knights head into the York-Simcoe playoff series, with hopes to bring home the championship to NobleKing.

Crabby Joe's in Bolton on the Saturday evening after play, with prizes, giveaways and entertainment.

This will be the second year for the tournament, with many more teams expected to participate than last year and more sheets of ice to be groomed. Along with others, all the finals winners from last year have registered and hockeytoronto.com, a Toronto based hockey enthusiasts' Web site, is expect to send several teams.

Kinsmen are optimistic for excellent ice conditions this year. The recent thaw was actually helpful, organizers report, since it cleared the heavy snow and left a solid ice base now that winter cold has returned. Kinsmen also report there are still openings for teams, but they emphasize the need for teams to register soon or the opportunity will be gone.

Teams can now register at Crabby Joe's in Bolton or go on-line at canadianpondhockey.com.