

Whalers move into 2nd-place tie

The Plymouth Whalers got back on the winning track Sunday with a 6-1 home victory over Erie.

Jesse Boulerice scored a pair of goals to lead Plymouth past the Otters. The Whalers moved into a second place tie with Sarnia in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division.

OHL HOCKEY

Plymouth opened scoring in Sunday's game. Harold Druken scored unassisted at 11:27, which was the left winger's 12th goal of the season.

Erie's lone goal came less a

minute later. Geoff Peters scored on an assist from Colin Pepperall.

The Whalers broke the game open in the second period with a pair of goals. David Legwand, who leads OHL rookies in scoring, got his 31st of the season and Boulerice scored his first of the night.

Plymouth tallied three more times in the third. Sergei Fedotov, Yuri Babenko and Boulerice all scored.

Robert Esche played in goal for Plymouth and stopped 25 of 26 shots.

The two teams played Saturday at Compuware Arena as well, but with a much different result. Erie outgunned Plymouth 8-5.

The Whalers fell behind 3-1 after one period and never recovered. Legwand scored a pair of goals while Kevin Holdridge, Eric Gooldy and Andrew Taylor each added a goal.

PLYMOUTH 8, WINDSOR 2: Playing Dec. 4 on the road, Nikos Tselios scored a hat trick to lead the Whalers to an easy victory.

Ahead 5-2 in the third period, Tselios scored three straight goals in less than 10 minutes. The defenseman now has five goals on the season.

His performance upstaged the torrid Legwand. He scored a pair of goals in the game. Taylor (2) and Julian Smith also scored for the Whalers.

Windsor is in last place in the OHL's West Division.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Gaining control: Yuri Babenko of the Plymouth Whalers keeps the puck in front of him during Saturday's 8-5 loss to Erie Otters.

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White's natural hat trick lifts Franklin 3-1 victory

Call Jeremiah White "The Natural."

The junior left winger scored all three Livonia Franklin goals in the second period as his hat trick led the Patriots to a 3-1 win over host Walled Lake Western in a Suburban High School Hockey League game played at the Lakeland Ice Arena.

Franklin improved to 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the South Division. Western, which received a first-period goal from Dan Norris, is 2-3 and 0-3.

Two of White's three goals came off the power-play.

Justin Sawyer assisted on two of the scores, while Tony Saia, Brandon McCullough, Trevor Skocen and Dave Tyler each added one.

Franklin netminder Phil Brady stopped 23 of 24 shots.

"It was a best outing in three years," Franklin coach Terry Jobbitt said of his senior netminder. "He was a very important part of the victory."

Franklin also used a 1-2-2 defensive lock to stymie the Warriors.

"The team came out and played the system very well," Jobbitt said. "It's a pure defensive system. When you work it and when you're disciplined, it works."

"We had only two lines (because four players were out), so playing a 2-1-2 was kind of risky."

In other games played last week:

REDFORD CC 2, A.A. PIONEER 2: Redford Catholic Central and Ann Arbor Pioneer played to a tie on Saturday in a Metro Hockey League game played at Redford Ice Arena.

PREP HOCKEY WRAP

Pioneer scored a power play goal at 10:08 of the second period to erase a 2-1 deficit.

The tie left the Shamrocks with a 2-0-1 record overall and in the Metro.

Greg Berger and Todd Bentley scored the CC goals.

Berger's goal, assisted by Ian Devlin, came with 25 seconds left in the first period and gave CC a 1-0 lead.

Pioneer came back and tied the score with a goal at 3:35 of the second period. The Shamrocks took their second lead when Bentley scored, assisted by Joe Beaudoin.

The Shamrocks outshot the Pioneers, 26-24. CC senior goaltender Rick Marnon played well in net, according to coach Gordie St. John.

"We didn't handle our defensive zone well, giving up the puck," St. John said. "We had all sorts of turnovers in the wrong zone. Marnon did a very good job and Pioneer played very well, well enough to tie us."

Last Wednesday, CC earned a 6-1 victory over Ann Arbor Huron at the Ice Cube in Ann Arbor.

Erik Hawkins scored two goals and Jason Tardif, Pat O'Dea, Devlin and Bentley had one each.

Tony Keshishian collected three assists while Tardif, Berger and O'Dea earned two each.

Jim Melton and Keith Rowe had one assist apiece. The goalie was Marnon, who had 10 saves.

Rich is about to join the 3-2-1-SOLD! club.

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