

# SPORTS & SCHOOL NEWS

## ADAPTED FLOOR HOCKEY

# Seven-goal period lifts Coyotes past Rams in play-in win

### Peterson-Lomker nets six goals in 13-6 playoff victory

By Rob LaPlante  
Sports Editor

Twice, the home team fell behind in Monday's Section 1A Adapted Floor Hockey play-in game.

Twice, the home team rallied to re-gain the lead, which included six unanswered goals in the second period to lift the Buffalo/Monticello/STMA Coyotes to a 13-6 home win Monday over the Mounds View/Irondale/Roseville Rams.

After falling behind 2-0, the Coyotes led 3-2 after one period on a pair of goals by senior Austin Peterson-Lomker, and one from sophomore Brandon Powers.

Peterson-Lomker scored early in period two, but Gordon Erickson gave the Rams a 5-4 lead, scoring three of his four goals over a two-minute span.

The Coyotes closed the period with six unanswered goals. Powers and Peterson-Lomker each scored twice in the middle period. Also scoring were sophomore Meghan Garaghty and Justin Garaghty.

Peterson-Lomker finished the game with six goals and one assist. Powers had 4 goals and two assists. Monday's game was one of the rare times this season the Coyotes have played with a full lineup.

"Oh my word, that has made a world of difference," said Head Coach Ruth Clarke, commenting on the return of Powers to the lineup. Powers was one of the leading scorers on last fall's Adapted Soccer team, and is the starting pitcher on the Adapted Softball team. "He's one of the reasons we've started to do better. He is a very good athlete, who sticks on the other team's best player and he has a good shot, which makes a huge difference in his play."

One of the prettiest goals of the night came when Peterson-Lomker one-timed a pretty pass from the corner by sophomore teammate Mackenzie Davis. That was the Coyotes' third goal.

Clarke says that is a set play.

"We have them standing in certain positions when the puck goes into each corner behind the net, hoping for the puck to be passed in front of the net," Clarke said. "She (Davis) and sophomore Meghan Garaghty are really coming along. We practice those things, and now they are doing them in the games."

Leading 10-5 after two periods, the Coyotes got insurance goals in the final period from junior Kyle Kauffman, and one each from Powers and Peterson-Lomker.

Sophomore Nathaniel Westphal posted the win in goal.

The Coyotes (3-6 overall) played against South Washington (8-0) in a Section 1A playoff game Thursday, March 7 at Woodbury High School (see details in next week's paper). South Washington is the No. 2 seed in the CI South Division. South Washington ended the Coyotes' season a year ago in the same game with an 18-3 win.



Coyote teammates Mackenzie Davis (left) and Austin Peterson-Lomker (right) share a high-five following a second-period goal in Monday's Section 1A play-in game. Peterson-Lomker's six goals paved the way for a 13-6 home win. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

# Wrestling

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"We wrestled a tough schedule, and he beat every one of the top guys. He's proven himself against every single kid."

Four of Habisch's wins this season came against No. 3 ranked Carl Leuer of St. Michael-Alberville. Habisch defeated Leuer by a tight 2-1 decision the week before in the section title match, and won another close battle in Saturday's semifinal match.

Habisch trailed Leuer 1-0 after two periods, but starting the third period in the down position, Habisch quickly tied it with an escape, and later added four more points for a 5-2 decision.

"I was more prepared for this match with him," Habisch said. "We pretty much studied the past week what I could improve on. It was a good match."

Prior to Leuer, Habisch posted a 7-1 decision in the quarterfinals over Edric Waindim of Park of Cottage Grove, and 14-2 major decision over Austin Underdahl

he just has that bring it on mentality. You can shoot at me, but I'm going to score on you."

While he closes the book with a fairy-tell ending in his high school career, Habisch hopes to bring that momentum into his college career, where he will wrestle next season at North Dakota State University.

"Hopefully I can get All-American status someday in college, or even win a national title," he said. "I'm going to a great program, so it will push me to do my best, and hopefully I can catch that next dream."

### Scherber runner-up

A year after watching his older brother, Jacob, finish as state runner-up, sophomore Ryan Scherber achieved the same status.

Seeded second at 126 pounds, Scherber, a second-time state participant, opened with a 9-1 major decision over Michael Buffington of Irondale. He then followed with a 7-6 decision over Marshall



Buffalo freshman Owen Herbst (left) prepares for his match against Anoka's Scott Springer (right). (Submitted photo)

affected me. Even little stuff like him eating a salad makes me think, what am I eating, or what could I be doing differently? All the support from family, coaches, and teammates along the way has helped me."

The fact Scherber made it even past his quarterfinal match was a victory. Not because of his talent, rather an injury he suffered just prior to his first match of the tournament.

"He hurt his knee pretty bad before his quarterfinal match while warming up," Presler said. "He popped his bursa, so we were in the training room six minutes before his round started. It just goes to show how resilient he is. When he's focused, he's focused. He put together a great tournament."

### Herbst debuts

New to the state tournament was freshman Owen Herbst, who wrestled well at 145 pounds, but was defeated in both of his matches by two guys who placed.

Herbst opened last Friday's prelims round having lost a tight 7-6 decision to Farmington's Luke Peterson. With Peterson winning his next match, that allowed Herbst to face Anoka's Scott Springer in the consolation bracket. Herbst again was on the short-end of another tight dual in a 5-3 loss.

Peterson would eventually place fourth on the podium, while Springer was fifth. Herbst enjoyed a breakout season with a record of 36-10.

"It was really cool for Owen to get down here and get a little taste of it," Presler said. "He wrestled well with some of the best guys in the state. It's a good step. Hopefully next year we can continue to keep making those steps. He's a talented wrestler."

### Area success

Habisch and Scherber were two of six area wrestlers to medal in Class 3A. STMA had four wrestlers place, including third-place finishes from Brandon Psyk (113 pounds), Wyatt Lidberg (160), and Carl Leuer (170). Cole Becker placed fourth at 132.

As a team, STMA placed third in last Thursday's Class 3A team competition. The Knights defeated Eden Prairie 7-6 in the state quarterfinals, but lost to No. 2 seed Stillwater 29-20 in the semis. Stillwater would lose 35-22 to Shakopee in the title match. STMA defeated Bemidji 38-24 for third place.

Five wrestlers in Class

# 'A Year with Frog and Toad' to be performed at Spring Musical

Buffalo High School students are rehearsing for their upcoming Spring Musical, "A Year with Frog and Toad," based on Arnold Lobel's beloved children's books, which is a whimsical musical that tells the story of two best friends: the cheerful Frog, and curmudgeonly Toad.

The musical follows Frog and Toad through four colorful seasons, from hibernation to hibernation. Frog and Toad, along with their playful and quirky friends, enact many adventures, from rushing down a hill in a runaway sled in the winter, to taking a picnic and a quiet moment in the summer.

Children and adults alike with relish in the joyful vignettes of "A Year With Frog and Toad," which fea-

ture catchy tunes, funny dialogue, and bright, memorable characters.

Dates for the musical are April 25-28.

### CAST:

- Frog:** Patrick Stonecipher
- Toad:** Emily Kern
- Snail:** Owen Klaphake
- Mouse:** Victoria Herda
- Turtle:** Amanda Krinke
- Lizard:** Sam Carlson
- Birds:** Kayli Hansen, Megan Nowezki, Abigail Vogeler, Emilee Feldman, Sarah Burke, Perrin Thompson, Jillian Elton, Abi Hilden, Libby Krinke.
- Moles:** Nathan Beal, Aidan Whittaker, Jack Lanners, Charlie Elo, Jacob Braun, William Newman, Logan Klohs.
- Squirrels:** Lauren Strand, Emily Strommen, Luke Jansen, Julia Carter.

# Saints on Stage features 'Press Start!' March 8-10



Saints on Stage characters dressed in costumes for their show "Press Start!" Pictured (front row, left-right): Little Mushroom (Bridget DesMarais), Young Adventurer (Eli Tiernan), Speedy the Hedgehog (RC Ryan); (back row, left-right): Lorenzo (Derek DeWolfe), Marco (Harrison Klaphake), and Spikey Turtle (Tyler Louwagie). (Submitted photo)

By Jen DesMarais  
Guest writer

St. Francis Xavier's Saints on Stage invites you to attend this weekend's performance of "Press Start!"

A total of 60 students in grades 3-8 come together to bring your favorite 1990s video game characters to life on stage in this colorful musical.

Parents and school staff volunteers have been working hard with the students to create a show that you shouldn't miss.

"I knew right from the start the kids would be

uber-excited about this theme, and I know you will be too," said Director Laura Flynn. "This show is full of music, dancing, and lots of laughs - fun for all ages."

The show runs this weekend, Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, March 9 and Sunday, March 10 at 3 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier Faith and Education Center in Buffalo.

Tickets are available in advance at the Education Center or at the door for \$8. The show runs approximately an hour, with no intermission, and concessions available.



Buffalo's Riley Habisch (top) wrestles Mounds View's Chase Dressel (bottom) to the mat during his 3-0 win in last Saturday's title match. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)

of Faribault.

Much like his matchup with Leuer, Habisch had a history with Dressel, beating him 3-0 in last December's title match in the Rumble on the Red in Fargo.

Dressel and Habisch were scoreless after two periods, but again starting period three in the down position, Habisch earned an early escape point, and added a takedown to secure the win.

Once Habisch took the lead in both his semifinal and final matches, Presler could sense a win.

"Riley is really hard to score on, and when he gets that lead, or when someone needs to open up against him, that's when he is so good," Presler said. "We saw it against Leuer. We saw it against Dressel. He's got great defense, great position, so when someone has to come after him,

Peters of Rochester Mayo and 8-2 decision over Tyler Jones of Shakopee.

Scherber's bid for his first state title ended when three-time state champion Reid Ballantyne of Stillwater pinned him just 29 seconds into his match.

"Reid is very strong and talented," Scherber said. "Obviously, it (title match) didn't go the way I wanted it to, but I praise God for the opportunity to be able to wrestle in the state finals. It's one of the greatest things I've done so far in my career."

With his family in the stands cheering him on, Scherber credits Jacob for molding him into the wrestler he is today.

"I was there watching him last year, and he was here watching me this season," Scherber said. "He was a role model for me. Seeing him make decisions has



Stillwater's Reid Ballantyne (left) won his third-straight state title against Buffalo's Ryan Scherber (right). Scherber placed second at 126 pounds. (Photo by Rob LaPlante)