
SENTINEL-REVIEW STAFF

PARIS - While it wasn't the easiest way to snap their second seven-game losing streak of the season, the Woodstock Navy Vets will take it.

Shocking the Paris Mounties at home Saturday, the Navy Vets eked out a 2-1 shootout win against one of the top club's in the Niagara Junior C Hockey League.

Buoyed by another solid effort by goalie Mike Roefs, who made 49 stops for the surprise win, the Navy Vets turned a second-period power-play goal from Brandon Morrow into a chance at an upset. Locked in a 1-1 tie after regulation and overtime, Woodstock's Mackenzie Langford and Christian Babb both scored on the shootout after an initial miss by Morrow. With Roefs denying the two Mounties, Graham Kitching and Mitch Atkins, the Vets had earned an elusive win.

The win over the Mounties, the west division's third-place team, gave Woodstock a 6-16-0 record, leaving them four points behind Aylmer in the divisional basement.

The Navy Vets weren't quite as solid against the east division's Dunnville Mudcats, who left Woodstock Friday with a 5-3 win.

While the Navy Vets stayed close for most of the game, tying things up in the third on another Morrow goal, a short-handed Dunnville marker from Landon Minor proved to be the turning point. Dunnville's Austin Golding added an empty-netter in the final seconds to seal the win.

The Mudcats opened the scoring in the first with a goal from Hayden Molen and a power-play marker from Minor. Brandon Pyette responded late in the frame to put the Navy Vets on the scoresheet, but Shawn Anthony restored the two-goal margin early in the second.

A second Woodstock goal, netted by Langford late in the second, gave the Navy Vets some hope.

The Navy Vets face the Chippawa Riverhawks in a rare out-of-town Thursday night game before facing the first-place Norwich Merchants at home Friday at 7:30 p.m.

Merchants dominate tough weekend

COLIN PERCY
For the Sentinel-Review

NORWICH - The Norwich Merchants faced their busiest and toughest weekend of the season that included visits to two defending Ontario champions.

The weekend starting off with Friday's home date against the Paris Mounties. Paris has had Norwich's number this season, winning two of the three matchups prior to Friday night and Paris got the first dagger, but not until the second period, when Matthew Small scored midway through the game.

Brett Parsons tied the game on a breakaway with 1:42 remaining in the second. The Mounties retook the lead

4:34 into the third and held the lead late into the game. Norwich took a late timeout, and seconds later, Nick Burdett sent the crowd into a frenzy by tying the game with 1:15 remaining on the clock.

No team could break the stalemate in the final minute, so overtime was required. At 1:39 into the additional period, Gus Ford scored one off of a Paris skate to complete the 3-2 comeback for Norwich. Zach Core had the team's two lone assists while Matt McGonigle made 25 saves to earn his 11th win of the season.

On Saturday night, the team made a trek to Thamesford to take on the defending Ontario Junior D champion Trojans in the second and final game

of the crossover series with the SOJHL club. Jon Percival opened the scoring 5:10 into the first period, thanks to a power-play marker. Drake Morrell made it 2-0 early in the second, burying one from in front of the net, and Parsons added a third for Norwich to take a 3-0 lead after 40 minutes.

The Trojans would answer three minutes into the third, but could get no closer, as Norwich began a third-period assault that started with a power-play marker from Ryan Stephenson 57 seconds after the Thamesford goal. Zach Couwenburg buried one 4:08 later before Zack Morrison potted one to make it 6-1.

A dangerous check from behind by Thamesford's Judson Couture on Norwich's Couwenburg gave Norwich a five-minute power play towards the end of the game. The Merchants capitalized thanks to a Tom Brady goal, which closed out the 7-1 victory for Norwich. Assists went to Buck Schreider, Brady, Zimmerman, Ford, Jesse Cave, Morrison, Couwenburg, Stephenson, Jakob Schira and Percival while Trevor Fleming stopped 24 of 25 shots to earn the victory.

On Sunday, Norwich travelled to take on its second Ontario champion opponent of the weekend, this time facing off against the Ontario Junior C Schmalz Cup-winning Grimsby Peach Kings. It was the champs who opened the scoring midway through the first, thanks to a nice dangle from a Peach Kings forward. It wasn't until 8:46 of the second that Norwich got on the board, thanks to Parsons' third goal in three nights. Ford would give Norwich its first lead with just over eight minutes remaining in the third and Morrell added an insurance marker for Norwich, who closed out the game 3-1 and ended the weekend securing all six possible points. Assists went to Schira (2), Cave (2), Ford and Viktor Korbs, while McGonigle was solid making 24 saves in the win.

Norwich will continue their four game road trip with a visit to Woodstock on Friday, Nov. 30, for a 7:45 p.m. start. On Sunday, Dec. 2, Norwich will make their final trip to the east division, when they take on the Dunnville Junior Mudcats in an afternoon tilt. Game time is at 3:30 p.m.

OVERTIME

Prior to last Friday's game against Paris, the Norwich Merchants surprised former Executive member and long-time volunteer and announcer Dave Jull with an induction into the Norwich Merchants Wall of Fame. On Saturday, December 1, the Norwich Merchants will be participating in the Santa Claus Parade beginning at 11 a.m.

FLOORING CREATIONS

WISHING YOU ALL A HEALTHY AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON, CHEERS

HOLIDAY HOURS:
Dec. 22 regular hours
Dec. 23 - Jan. 1 Closed
Jan. 2 - regular hours

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