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'Creuse' control

L'Anse Creuse North tops Oxford High in hockey battle

By Alan Bojakowski
C & G Sports Writer

MOUNT CLEMENS — Macomb L'Anse Creuse North upended Oxford High, 6-2, in a non-conference hockey matchup Jan. 26 at Mount Clemens Ice Arena.

Sophomore forward Matthew Kennedy scored the game winner for LCN at the 9:36 mark of the second period.

Kennedy's goal was assisted by senior forwards Scott McCown and Shawn Golden and put his team up, 3-0.

The game may have ended with eight shots in the back of the nets, but it started rather slowly as the Crusaders — 9-5-1 overall, 5-3-1 Macomb Area Conference White — and the Flint Metro League's Wildcats (3-12-1) needed some time to figure each other out.

A goal from LCN junior forward Sam Divozzo with 1:32 left in the first period off a nice pass from junior forward Geoff Clanton got the scoring started. After that goal, the action was fast and furious.

"It feels great," Crusaders coach Bernie Marini said of the win. "When the scoring started, we picked it up every period. We were on the puck and stayed on the puck."

LCN's speed and quick passing left a lasting impression on its opponent.

"That's a powerhouse team," Oxford coach Dave Hague said of North. "They're just a fast team, and a very talented team."

Junior goalie Zach Mutart picked up the win and came up with several stellar saves. Mutart, the team's backup goalie, got the start in this non-league game.

"He did a nice job," Marini said of Mutart. "It's hard coming in after not getting a lot of action throughout the year. He's really working hard in practice, and he's getting better."

Here's the rest of the scoring rundown:



Photo by Randy Wilcox
Macomb L'Anse Creuse North junior defenseman Joel Zito makes a pass during the Crusaders' 6-2 win against Oxford High Jan. 26 at Mount Clemens Ice Arena.

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- McCown, who led the way with three points, scored the game's second goal halfway through the second period.
- Oxford defensemen Brian Simpson, a senior, and Alex Ignagni, a junior, assisted on junior forward Timothy Marney's goal in the second period.
- Kennedy notched another goal late in second period off a pass from senior defenseman T.J. LeFevre.
- LCN junior Joel Zito had an unassisted goal in the third period.
- Crusaders junior forward Kyle Halbert picked up a short-handed goal on a nice pass from McCown in the third period.
- Simpson scored a power-play goal to wrap up the scoring for Oxford.

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