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Fast start lifts Vikings to win in season opener Marysville 4, Lapeer East 2

By JOSEPH HAYES
Times Herald

It wasn't the ideal start to a new season.

Nevertheless, a win is a win.

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The Marysville Vikings hockey team got off to a solid start to its season with a 4-2 victory Thursday night against Lapeer East in McMorran Pavilion.

The Vikings (1-0) began the game on a torrid pace, scoring three goals in the first 16 minutes of play.

From that point on, East Lapeer dictated tempo and proved to be the aggressors.

"We stopped skating," Marysville Coach Paul Moretz said. "We started waiting and stopped taking the play to them."

Bob Shafran opened the scoring for the Vikings at 4:17 of the first period on a goal assisted by Erik Figge and Devin Herr.

Later in the period on the power play, Figge scored from Mike Richards and Tyler Billins at 11:03 to give the Vikings a two goal advantage.

In the first minute of the second period, Marysville took a seemingly commanding hold of the game, when Bryan Hill scored from Garrett Heiser.

"We had balanced scoring," Moretz said. "That's how

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BIG HIT: Marysville's Hank Zandarski, right, gets checked

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The teams combined for nine penalties in the period.

"I don't think it got chippier," Moretz said. "I think both teams kind of picked it up in the period. It wasn't that much checking in the first two periods."

Marysville will have a full week off to practice before returning to the ice to face St. Clair in the Thanksgiving Tournament at McMoraan Pavilion Nov. 23.

Before the Vikings return to the ice to face their rivals next Friday, they hope to correct the problems that surfaced Thursday.

"We have to skate better," Herr, a sophomore defenseman said. "We have to work on passing the puck more."

it's going to be for us all season.

"We're not going to be flashy. We're going to be a blue-collar, hard-working team."

After Hill scored, Lapeer East began to claw its way back into the game with scrappy, hustle plays.

Kyle Parker netted the first Lapeer East goal at 12:35 of the second period unassisted.

Midway through the third period, Kyle Nadeau brought Lapeer East within a goal when he scored unassisted.

It wasn't until two minutes remaining in the third period before Marysville finally put Lapeer East away with a breakaway power play

goal from Pat Bartlett that was assisted from Heiser.

"We started off good because we were playing hard and passing," Heiser, a junior defenseman said. "We have to get more shots on goal. We didn't have enough."

Both teams finished with 20 shots. Andrew Schunck was in net for the Vikings while Robert Cavanaugh was in net for Lapeer East.

"We didn't do the fundamental things tonight," Lapeer East Coach Joe Nader said. "They were quicker to the puck than we were."

Play in the third period was much more aggressive as the score grew closer.

against the boards Thursday night by Lapeer East's Jason Collins in McMorran Pavilion. The Vikings opened the season with a 4-2 victory.

Zoom Photo



Times Herald photos by KEITH KING

ON THE MOVE: Marysville's Bob Shafran, right, takes the puck up the ice Thursday night against Lapeer East during the Vikings' 2007-08 season opener in McMorran Pavilion. The Vikings earned a 4-2 victory.

Zoom Photo



By KEITH KING, Times Herald

SMOOTH MOVE: Marsyville's Mike Richards pulls away from Lapeer East's Kyle Nadeau during action Thursday night in McMorran Pavilion. The Vikings won their season opener, 4-2.