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Vikings win Tier II title

TIMES HERALD
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FRASER -- The Marysville hockey team is bringing home the hardware this season.

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After winning the Larry Manz Thanksgiving Tournament in Port Huron, the Vikings captured the Tier II championship Saturday at the first Utica Stevenson Holiday Hockey Tournament.

Marysville skated to a 3-0 lead and hung on for a 5-3 victory against Lapeer West at the Great Lakes Sports City.

"Our No. 1 goal is to play three complete periods of hockey," Marysville Coach Paul Moretz said. "We have yet to do that this season.

"We had the 3-0 lead in the first period and sat back for a while."

The Vikings, who improved to 9-2 on the season, bounced back from a dramatic 1-0 loss Thursday night against the Kalamazoo Blades in the opener on the eight-team, three-day tournament.

Marysville skated past Macomb Area Conference Blue Division oppo



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(Times Herald photos by WENDY TORELLO BREAKING IN:)

GOING DOWN: Marysville forward Bobby Shafran gets tripped up by Lapeer West defenseman Jeremy Cugliari on his



opponent Utica Ford, 6-4, Friday.

The Blades played Auburn Hills Avondale in the Tier I championship game.

"The players realized they played well Thursday night, but didn't do what it took to get the job done," Moretz said. "We didn't close it out.

"When we got off to the 4-0 lead Friday, the thoughts of Thursday's loss were gone. We really came out and played well the final two games."

Mark Pavelek, Bobby Shafran and Mike Richards knocked in first-period goals for the Vikings.

Tyler King, Anish Patel, Garret Heiser and Tyler Furness earned assists.

Lapeer West closed the period with a pair of goals and tied the game 3-3 early in the second period.

King scored the eventual game-winning goal on assists from Tyler Billins and Patel.

Furness accounted for the final Vikings goal in the second period with assists by Billins and Mike Schulte.

Andrew Schunck was in goal and made 21 saves.

Marysville finished with a 25-24 shot advantage.

The Vikings will meet Utica Ford for a second time on the road Saturday in a MAC Blue Division contest.

Moretz liked the idea of playing a holiday tournament.

"I wasn't a fan of playing on the first (New Year's Day), but it was difficult for everybody," Moretz said.



"Talking with Ben (Pionk, Port Huron High coach), it would have been nice to go January 2nd, 3rd and 4th, but it couldn't work out that way.

"I would definitely do something like this again. It was good getting three games in during the break."

In Your Voice



way to the Panthers' goal Saturday at Great Lakes Sports City.

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