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## Vikings top Saints, 4-3

BY JASON ALEXANDER  
TIMES HERALD  
• NOVEMBER 28, 2009

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Marysville never trailed, but had to battle every inch of the way to pick up a victory Friday at the Larry Manz Invitational.

The Vikings earned a 4-3 win against St. Clair at the McMorrان Pavilion to advance to today's finals.

"We never panicked," senior Devin Herr said. "We just settled down and worked together."

Marysville will face Port Huron High in the championship game at 5 p.m. today, while St. Clair will challenge Port Huron Northern in the 3 p.m. consolation game. Both games are at McMorrان Pavilion



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SPLIT THE PAIR: Marysville's Mark Pavelek skates the puck down ice Friday against St.Clair's David St. Pierre and Eric Westrick during Marysville's 4-3 semifinal win at McMorrان

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A pair of St. Clair (2-1) comebacks made things interesting.

Marysville (3-0) looked like it would roll early as they put on most of the pressure.

Drew Johnson scored on a quick-hitter from close range at 7 minutes, 40 seconds in to open up the scoring.

Marysville made it 2-0 three minutes into the second period when Herr scored on a pass from Mike Schulte.

"I thought from the start we forced them into turnovers and were able to capitalize for a

couple," Marysville Coach Paul Moretz said. "It wasn't pretty, but it worked."

St. Clair was able to settle down, however, and rally for its first comeback.

The Saints scored two second-period goals, one by Joe Lanzi who tapped in a bouncing puck in front of the net at the 10:44 mark and one from Jacob Cronenworth, who scored on a nice pass from Joe Hawkins with 5:56 remaining in the second frame.

"The kids did everything we asked of them," St. Clair Coach Scott Nichols said. "They played hard to get back into the game and got a couple in the back of the net."

The Saints couldn't hold off the Vikings, however, as Marysville reopened the two-goal gap later in the second period with goals from Nicholas Bartley and Robbie Farrell.

"Some weird things happened and we got out of our comfort zone," Moretz said. "I was proud of the way my team, after allowing the comeback, didn't panic and took a step forward."

St. Clair rallied for one more at the beginning of the third on a 5-on-3 power-play goal from Kyle Mazzola.

"The kids played up to their capabilities," Nichols said. "When they do that, all you can do is step back and pat them on the back."

The Vikings (3-0) are looking to continue success after a 20-win season one year ago.

Pavilion. (By WENDY TORELLO, Times Herald)



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EYES ON [PRIZE](#): St. Clair's Joe Lanzi skates with the puck Friday while Devin Herr defends during the Larry Manz Thanksgiving Tournament at McMorran Pavilion. The Vikings won. (By WENDY TORELLO, Times Herald)

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"I don't think we are at the point where we should be right now," Moretz said. "We have some young players who are still learning how things are done. We still do a lot of the little things wrong and it is really hurting us." **Contact Jason Alexander at (810) 488-7741 or [jalexande4@gannett.com](mailto:jalexande4@gannett.com).**

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