

# sports

## OFA Hands Potsdam 7-3 Loss

OGDENSBURG—The OFA Blue Devil hockey team, ranked fourth in the state large school hockey poll, used two powerplay goals in the first 6:00 to cruise to an impressive 7-3 win over the seventh-ranked Potsdam Sandstones in the first round of the OFA Midwinter Tournament Friday night.

Potsdam's rugged early season schedule continues tomorrow night (Wednesday) when they host state-power Salmon River at 6:15 p.m. at Pine Street Arena.

Led by some dazzling playmaking by Thad Jeneault, three blue collar assists by Richie Denicourt and two remarkable shots by Mike Houmiel, the Devils prevailed in a wide-open duel.

Jeneault opened the scoring with a whistling blast, beating Potsdam's fine sophomore goalkeeper, Scott LaGrand, from directly in front of the net. Scott Mattison and Jon Frederick drew assists on the play. Houmiel scored 94 seconds later delivering a sharp angle slap shot which kissed the near and far posts before settling into the cords, earning assists for Garvey and Glenn McCaffrey.

Rounding out a near-perfect first period, Jerry Sawyer picked up an unassisted goal. Stealing the puck near center ice he cruised in for a clean breakaway, sliding the puck home at 13:05. The second period saw the teams trade goals while the Stomers outplayed the Devils.

Devil keeper Dave Hewko made nine saves but was helpless to stop Chad Emerson from the slot off a perfect feed from Ron Reagan at 10:10. The Devils countered at 12:57 with Jeneault setting up Frederick. Slicing in on goal Jeneault drew LaGrand to one side before passing back against the flow to the opportunistic sophomore.

Frederick capitalized on another short range chance 23 seconds into the third period. He dumped home a rebound of a Geoff Golden shot after Jeneault found the trailing defenseman who had just stepped

out of the penalty box.

Emerson scored his second goal of the game at 1:28 of the period converting a centerpassing pass from Dan Carey perched behind the net. After LaGrand kept the Stomers in range with a sequence of six great saves midway through the period, the Devils scored twice in a span of 23 seconds.

The first came at 10:40 as Houmiel delivered a slap shot from a near impossible angle off the far post into the net. Garvey and Marc Ahrens picked up assists on the play and Ahrens cashed in a breakaway bid at 11:03.

Reagan closed out the scoring at 13:29 netting a rebound at Hewko's doorstep at with Emerson and Cory Varney assisting. Hewko and LaGrand each finished with 26 saves in the contest as the Devils completed a regular season sweep over the Stomers.

In the consolation game of the tourney Saturday night, Reagan scored the final two goals of the game at 10:13 and 11:40 of the third period as Potsdam won a free-wheeling 6-5 decision over Sir Robert Borden.

The Stomers' fortunes followed a roller coaster path as they rallied from a 2-0 deficit, lost a 4-2 lead, and then erased a 5-4 deficit.

Scoring five powerplay goals, Potsdam received dynamic performances by the line of Reagan, Emerson, and Garvey. Reagan added two assists to go along with his tying and winning scores, while Carey, a sophomore, took scoring

honors with two goals and three assists.

Emerson added a goal and two assists with Richie Denicourt lighting the lamp and Mike Warden passing out two assists.

Tony Boyle scored twice to lead the Sir Robert Borden cause.

OFA won the tourney with a convincing 6-2 victory over Section 3 invader West Genesee.

Stomers Lose Tough One

In an exciting New Year's Eve day contest, Massena outlasted Potsdam 2-1 at the Massena Arena.

The Red Raiders, ranked third in the state poll, out-skated and out-hit the Stomers for most of the contest but were continually foiled by LaGrand's awesome goaltending effort.

After a scoreless first period, in which LaGrand stopped 14 of his 33 shots, Reagan put the Stomers up 1-0 with a one-on-one goal at 3:54 of the second period. Reagan picked up a loose puck, raced down the ice and let loose with a shot which never left the ice.

Three minutes later, Massena tied the game when Chris Wiley alertly picked off a board pass from Bill MacQuaig and dumped it past LaGrand. With only 1:13 left in the second period, Lee Fregoe scored from the point as LaGrand was screened by one of his own players.

The goal proved to be the winning goal, sending the Stomers home frustrated with another close Division I loss.



DIGGING CORNERS — Potsdam's Chad Emerson (4) and Massena's Dave Romeo (6) battle for a loose puck during the Red Raiders' 2-1 win over the

Stomers last Tuesday in Massena. (Dan Williams photo)

## The Winning Edge

### A Year In Review

Editor's Note: The following is the first in a three-part series looking at 1985, The Year in Sports.

BY DAN WILLIAMS  
Sports Editor

My first year here in Potsdam certainly was a memorable one. In all levels of sports, history was made, records were broken, and scandals arrived.

The following is a sketchy list of some of my most memorable moments of the year 1985, surely one of the most significant years in sporting history.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SCENE

Perhaps the biggest high school sports story in the Potsdam area was the history-making Potsdam High boys basketball team. The Steve Knack-led quintet ended the years of embarrassment and disappointment by winning their first NAC Division I regular season title in 47 years.

The Stomers, 18-3 overall, clinched the title on a snowy February night at Tupper Lake. The Lumberjacks would later spoil Potsdam's dreams for a state title by edging the Stomers in the Class C semifinals at Potsdam College. During the campaign, Potsdam was ranked as high as 26th in the New York State small school poll, but suffered from a lack of exposure.

Mark Nunge was the NAC Division I Player of the Year, while teammates Scott Manske and Rob Peets also garnered All-NAC honors. Nunge has now taken his act to the University of Rochester, where he is a back-up forward.

In the early stages of the 1985-86 season, Potsdam proved that last year was no fluke, as they erupted to an 8-1 record, including a stunning upset at powerful Malone in a classic David vs. Goliath battle.

The Norwood-Norfolk cagers, despite fielding one of the league's smallest lineups, held their own in 1984-85, winning the Section 10 Class B title over Malone, then dropping a heart-breaker to Canton in the Class B-C championship. Pete Molnar, perhaps the league's best player after Nunge, earned first team All-NAC honors.

On the indoor track scene, Potsdam enjoyed many fine moments. The finest was senior sprinter Tracy Darmstadt's exciting second place finish in the 55 yard dash at the state championships. She lost by a mere .01 seconds. Darmstadt also was seventh in the state 300

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## Junior Hockey

The Potsdam Junior Hockey Bantam "C" team hosted an all-day Bantam "C" tournament last Friday at the Pine Street Arena.

Eight teams took part in the tourney which was sponsored by the Potsdam New Car Dealers Association. The results of the games follow:

Game 1: Waddington 4, Ogdensburg 1; Game 2: Prescott 2, Cardinal 1; Game 3: Clifton-Fine 4, Potsdam 0; Game 4: Evans Mills 6, Louisville 5; Game 5: Cardinal 3, Ogdensburg 2; Game 6: Prescott 4, Waddington 2; Game 7: Potsdam 6, Louisville 2; Game 8: Clifton-Fine 6, Evans Mills 1.

Clifton-Fine won the championship over Prescott 6-2 and Cardinal defeated Potsdam 6-3 in the consolation game.

## Stomers Host Canton Tonight

Looking to raise their NAC Division I record to 3-1, the Potsdam boys basketball team hosts rival Canton tonight (Tuesday) at 8 p.m. in Sandstone Gym.

The Stomers, 8-1 overall (2-1 in league play), have been idle since Dec. 29. "We needed a rest, that's for sure," said Coach Steve Knack. "Several players were tired and sick and hopefully everybody used the break to get healthy. I think we're ready to begin again with our league games."

Potsdam is led by junior center Basil Cheney, who is third in scoring in the NAC Division I with 15.3 points a game. Andy Ondek, a 6'0" senior co-captain, and Bharat Patel, a junior swingman, are both averaging 10.0 points an outing in league play.

The Potsdam-Canton matchup is annually one of the most intense games in the NAC and the best-attended. Knack hopes the tradition continues. "We'd like to see a large turnout for the Canton game. We always have close, hard-fought battles with the Bears and they are usually exciting games," said Knack.

## Bantam 'Bs' Win

The Potsdam Bantam B junior hockey team won the Winchester, Ontario Tournament Jan. 2.

The locals upended South Stormont 5-4 in the first round, before blanking both Blackburn and Winchester 2-0 and 3-0 to win the tourney.

Leading the offense for Potsdam were Mark Bigwarfe (five points), Mike McNamara (four), John Bradley (four), Craig Conroy (three), Shane Hewitson (three), and Brian Stone (two).

Goalies David Pennington and Bob Manor combined for 44 saves in the three contests. Pennington made several outstanding saves in the last two games.

Chet Thomas, David Roda, Mike Buffam, and Greg McCasland sparkled on defense.

## Massena Crushes N-N 8-2

MASSENA — Skating toward a climactic game at OFA, Massena downed Norwood-Norfolk 8-2 on Saturday night to stay in a virtual tie with the Blue Devils for the Northern Conference Division I hockey lead. The Raiders climbed to 6-1 in league play thanks to Marc DeLoe, who scored three goals and assisted on a fourth.

with one goal and three assists while Bill MacQuaig added a goal and two assists. Also scoring for the Raiders were Ken Hurlbut, Scott Northrup and Buffy Richards. Brent Todd and Steve Scott scored the N-N goals.

Norwood-Norfolk tangles with Lake Placid Wednesday and Thousand Islands Saturday, both at Norfolk Ice Arena.

Wiley figured in four goals

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## Welsh-Less Bears Win Colby Tourney

Great teams fight off adversity and win anyway. That's exactly what the Potsdam College mens basketball team did last weekend at the Colby College Tournament in Waterville, Maine.

The Bears, now 11-0 and awaiting the first national rankings, travel to archrival St. Lawrence tomorrow night (Wednesday), then head to Brockport Saturday and Utica Tech Monday.

Making the long trek to Maine without Coach Jerry Welsh and starting guard Tim Harris, the Bears also had to fight off a three-week holiday layoff and a rugged 10-hour van trip through a snowstorm.

Welsh missed the trip because of an injury suffered in an icy fall outside a Massena grocery store last Thursday. The veteran coach broke two ribs in the fall and was unable to make the long trip in a van.

"I've never missed a game in my 28-year high school and college career. Last year for the home Albany game, I had a temperature of 103 degrees but I showed up," said Welsh.

"I'm a firm believer that a good team is made in practice, not in games. We have some fine assistant coaches, like Stan Cohen, who has been with me for 13 years, and our seniors are leaders and know what we want," Welsh said.

Harris, a 6'3" junior guard, who is averaging eight points a game, missed the tournament because of

an illness in the family.

Bears Nip Colby In the championship game of the tourney, Potsdam overcame a slow start to edge host Colby 62-55 to win their second Colby Tournament in three years (they didn't play in the tourney last year).

Junior forward Brendan Mitchell scored eight of his game-high 19 points in the final 2:00, lifting the Bears from a 53-53 deadlock with Colby to the final score of 62-55. Mitchell hit nine of 16 shots from the floor, a large improvement over his 2-15 performance the night before against E. Connecticut State.

All-Tourney Roosevelt "Pony" Bullock added 16 points for Potsdam. The Bears erased a 35-32 Colby lead at the half, tightening their defense over the second 20:00. Potsdam outscored the hosts 30-20 in the second half.

Chris Powell led the way for Colby with 15 points and frontcourt star Chris Cole hit for 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Both clubs were victimized with poor shooting as Potsdam connected on only 39 percent of their attempts and Colby shot 36 percent from the floor.

E Conn Falls Poor shooting hurt Potsdam Saturday night in the first round but they still had enough firepower to defeat Eastern Connecticut State 59-50.

Bullock's fine all-around game helped the Bears to victory.

Bullock scored 16 points, dished out three assists, blocked four shots and registered four swipes. Mitchell, despite his 2-15 field goal shooting, managed 12 points on 8-11 foul shooting. Tom Conboy was nearly perfect (4-5 from the floor, 2-2 from the line) scoring 10 points. Barry Stanton added eight points and a strong 12 rebounds.

Potsdam shot only 36 percent from the floor, but held E. Conn. to 33 percent.

Leading ECSU were Dan Still and Chris Booth, both with 13 points. Potsdam led 26-22 at the half.

ECSU won the consolation game 65-63 over Thomas College, an 86-77 loser to Colby Saturday night.

## Correction

In last week's Courier-Freeman, an article about the junior hockey tournament contained some wrong information. The Potsdam squirt team did lose to Tri-Town 4-1, but did not lose to Malone 3-0 as was reported. Actually, Potsdam defeated Malone 3-0 in the second round of the tourney.

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