

Prep hockey roundup: Lyons Township, St. Ignatius

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By Staff reports
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Brookfield, IL -

Lyons Township's varsity hockey team continued its winning ways in league competition with three Illinois Suburban League victories and one Metro Invitational Tournament win.

In the first game the Lions fell behind PREP 2-0 after the first period. LT came out strong in the second, tying the game with goals from Timmy Appleyard and Adam Swiatek. PREP regained the lead, only to have Appleyard score his second goal of the period, knotting the score at 3-apiece.

The Lions jumped on PREP with Anthony Appleyard scoring twice in the third to give LT the cushion it needed as it held on for a 5-4 win. Andy Patterson contributed four assists, with Anthony Appleyard adding three helpers. Robbie Grafer stopped 15 shots gaining in net.

The Lions currently are 8-1 in the Metro Invitational Tournament.

In their next game, LT outlasted S.O.R.E (co-op) by a 6-3 score in Suburban League action. Hitting the scoresheet for the Lions were Rhys Southworth (goal, two assists), Patterson (goal, assist), Brian Trefil (goal), Adam Zielezinski (goal), Anthony Appleyard (two goals), Will Misiewicz (four assists), Connor Quinn (assist) and Adam Swiatek (assist).

Grafer stopped 17 shots in net to earn the win.

In their next Suburban League contest, the Lions hung on for a 4-2 victory over Wheaton-Warrenville South. The Lions had a 3-1 lead going into the third period on goals from Timmy Appleyard, Quinn and Jon Pitelka. The Tigers cut the lead to one with a goal at the 9:40 mark of the final period.

The final 9:40 of the game saw both teams netting a number of scoring chances, only to be turned back by hot goaltenders. Anthony Appleyard netted a 75-foot bomb into an empty net to ice the win.

In the final game of the week, the Lions defeated St. Ignatius 10-3. LT had big nights from Chris Perri (goal, two

assists), Luc Bibeau (goal, assist), Ziekezinski (two goals), Southworth (two goals, two assists), Trefil (two assists), Misiewicz (goal, assist), Patterson (goal, assist) and Timmy Appleyard (two goals, assist). Nick Bonin made his return after a Christmas break knee injury in net, splitting the game with Robbie Grafer.

The win upped LT's record to 14-1-2, putting it in second place in the 22-team Illinois Suburban League.

Prior to that, the Lions went 2-2 in the Big Bear Tournament in Detroit.

The Lions started the Tournament with a 6-3 victory over Team Houston (Texas). LT jumped out with two quick goals from Anthony Appleyard and Patterson. Team Houston responded with a pair of goals early in the second period, but the Lions turned up the heat on the Houston team with three straight goals from Southworth and each of the Appleyard brothers to take a 5-2 lead into the final period.

Team Houston scored late in the final frame, only to have Anthony Appleyard ice the game thanks to his hat trick goal with an empty netter with 29 seconds left. Grafer was the winning goalie for LT, stopping 21 shots.

The second game of the day saw LT defeat St. Ignace, Mich., 7-4. Again the Lions jumped out fast with five straight goals. The Lions quick start seemed to light a fire under the very physical team from St. Ignace, as they out scored LT 4-1 though the middle portion of the game.

With the score 6-4, Anthony Appleyard scored his third goal of the game with 6:57 remaining, icing the victory for the Lions. Hitting the scoresheet for the Lions were Anthony Appleyard (hat trick, assist), Bibeau (goal, assist), Timmy Appleyard (goal, assist), Patterson (goal, assist), Quinn (goal), Misiewicz (two assists), Rhys Southworth (assist), Connor Mosquera (assist) and Ian White (assist). Grafer was the winning goalie.

The next afternoon saw the Lions drop a 5-1 contest to the Flint Blades. LT seemed a step slow after two tough games the previous day. The Lions avoided their first shutout of the season when Southworth took a pass from Swiatek and went coast to coast and beat the Flint goalie with 1:06 remaining in the game.

Later that evening, the Lions fell 6-3 to St. Clair Shores, Mich., in a very physical game. Scoring goals for LT were Anthony Appleyard, Timmy Appleyard and Misiewicz on a penalty shot. Grafer made 28 saves in a losing effort.

St. Ignatius

Recently, the Wolves tamed Montini 4-2 in an exciting end-to-end contest. The game was scoreless until 4:39 in the first when Montini went up 1 to 0 on a dribbler.

In response, the Wolfpack showed their teeth and TJ Boulger (Clarendon Hills) made a flawless pass to John Fitzgerald, who slipped the puck into the back of the net to tie the game.

Nick Collins scored the first of his three goals at 11:20 of the second period. The Pack was shorthanded but Collins anticipated the Broncos' pass, stole it at center ice and scored on the breakaway.

Although Montini scored another goal to close the second, that would be its last.

John McConnel (Park Ridge) in goal held the Broncos scoreless in the third behind the team's solid defense. Collins completed his hat trick on an assist from Boulger and on a picture perfect unselfish pass from Tom Javorski (La Grange) on the pair's two on one break.

Sunday brought the varsity's first playoff game against the mighty and deep Lockport team in the state Blackhawk

cup. Although Lockport anticipated taking the win skating away, the Wolfpack put up a fight and were in it until the final horn, coming up short on a slapshot off the post, 4-3.

Franz Schuck had two of the goals on assists from Josh Weber, Mike Javorski (La Grange) and Michael Chimenti (Tinley Park).

John McConnel (Park Ridge) was stellar in goal.

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