



December 7, 2009

Springfield makes Ross pay with power play goals

JEFF ARENZ
Sports Writer

FREMONT -- Holland Springfield scored all three of its goals on power plays during a 3-1 Northwest Hockey Conference Blue Division win over Fremont Ross on Sunday at the Fred W. Recktenwald Ice Arena.

Springfield went 3-of-6 on power plays in the game, including a two in the third period.

"We have been working to get the same guys out there on the power play," Blue Devils coach Doug Dahmer said. "We're trying to use puck control and to get traffic in front of the net. We had a couple of rebounds that were able to cash in."

Tyler Erdman scored a pair of third-period power play goals as Springfield put the game out of reach.

With the game tied at 1 with less than 6 minutes remaining, the Little Giants' Phred Schumacher was whistled for tripping. When the Blue Devils went to the advantage, Erdman scored on a rebound with 4:26 left. Ken Bauman and Josh Eubanks started the play in the goalmouth area and were credited with assists.

In the final two minutes, Ross' Jake McAfee (tripping) and Austin Wilhelm (boarding) were sent to the penalty box as Springfield was handed a two-man advantage with 1:13 left.

After winning a draw in the Ross zone, the puck found its way to the stick of Erdman, whose shot beat Little Giants' goalie Brandon Pridemore. Ken Bauman and Tyler Rhoades set up the play with assists.

Pridemore, in his first year as the Ross goalie, had 12 saves.

Little Giants assistant coach Micah Schumacher said Ross is struggling to find consistency from its younger players.

"We have a young group of kids who are still learning how to play together," Micah Schumacher said. "We have to fine-tune our consistency. It seems like we play well in one game and play bad in the next game."

The Blue Devils (4-3-1, 1-0-0) broke a scoreless tie in the second period on Robbie Bauman's goal at the 3:29 mark. The tally was set up on a pass from Jon Osmialowski to Bauman, who raced into the slot.

Springfield goalie Jake Losoya made 20 saves while the Blue Devils killed off all four penalties assessed against them, including the Little Giants' two-man advantage in the first five minutes of the third period.

But the Little Giants (0-4-1, 0-1-0) got the equalizing goal from Brad Beck, whose even-strength shot trickled past Losoya with 7:31 left.

"My teammates were playing hard all day when I got onto the ice," Beck said. "They were digging (the

puck) low (in the corners) and it was a nice set up from Ian Mowery. He gave me a great pass and I got off a lucky shot. Goals happen. It doesn't matter how they go in."

Through two periods, Ross had a 15-7 edge in shots after dominating the second period 12-4. Springfield turned the tide during the final 15 minutes, when the Blue Devils outshot the Little Giants 8-6. Still, Ross held a 21-15 edge in shots for the game.

"In the second period, we really took it to (Springfield) with a ton of shot and probably should have scored a couple goals," Micah Schumacher said. "In the third period, we had some silly penalties and we beat ourselves."
