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Icers face tough foes in MLK tourney at Kent

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by Ken Lahmers

Editor

The Greenmen ice hockey team will play three tough foes in this weekend's Martin Luther King Jr. Day tournament at Kent State University Ice Arena.

It will head into that action after a week in which it beat Massillon Jackson 6-3, but lost to Jackson 3-1 and Solon. The squad now stands 5-9-4 overall and 1-6 in the Blue Central Division.

Aurora will face Walsh Jesuit on Jan. 18 at 9 p.m., Holy Name on Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. and Hudson on Jan. 20. Those opponents are upper-division teams.

"Playing these opponents will help our club get better when we come back to finish off the remainder of the season," said coach John Sheridan.

The KSU Ice Arena is on Loop Road on the east side of the campus. It is traditionally the site of the post-tournament tournament.

Solon remained undefeated in the Blue North Division with the 4-1 victory over AHS at the Pond.

The Greenmen allowed only a power-play goal in the first period despite being outshot 16-6.

"Our game plan was to chip the puck out of our zone and hopefully get a break," said Sheridan. "We knew we had to match Solon's speed."

In the second period, the locals struck as Jon Deacon cruised down the slot and took a nice pass from Kyle Deacon. Deacon whipped a wrist shot into the goal. Jay Adams assisted.

BUT LATE in the period, Solon took the lead with another power-play goal, followed 25 seconds later by Solon. Comets added a final tally in the final period on a two-man power play.

"I thought we came up with a real good effort against the best team in our division," Sheridan said.

Ronnie Schwartz turned away 37 shots, many from close range, to keep AHS in the game despite being outshot 16-6.

On Jan. 9, AHS took a depleted team down to Canton to face Jackson.

Aaron Jaskiewicz scored shorthanded in the first period on a shot from up close which was assisted by Matt Deacon.

But without captain Joe Lawrie, who was injured in the previous game, and several others who were ill, the offense the locals could muster. Lawrie is expected to be out a couple of weeks.

Two third-period goals gave the Polar Bears the victory.

On Jan. 11 at the Pond, the locals found themselves trailing Jackson 3-1 going into the third period, but the offensive explosion of the season.

They scored 5 unanswered goals, with Rausch and Jaskiewicz getting two each and Adam Bellamy getting one. Walker scored the first goal in the first period.

Jaskiewicz added 3 assists and now leads the team in scoring with 16 goals and 11 assists for 27 points. Walker and Bellamy and Mike Stephens each had one.

Schwartz stopped 21 shots, giving AHS another solid effort between the pipes.

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