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STATEN ISLAND SUNDAY ADVANCE ■ MARCH 1, 1998

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Fordham Prep ices St. Peter's in OT, 6-5

■ Eagles waste 5-2 lead and drop semifinal series opener in shootout

By BILL SPURGE
Advance Staff Writer

ELMSFORD, N.Y. — St. Peter's lost a 5-2 lead late in the third period and went on to suffer a heart-breaking 6-5 overtime shootout defeat to Fordham Prep in the CHSAA playoff semifinal best-of-three opener at the Elmsford Skating Academy last night.

Alan Rigatti's short-handed goal with 6:30 left gave the Eagles a seemingly safe three-goal lead, but the advantage was wiped out on a natural hat trick by the Rams' Phil Crotty. His last goal came with 2:12 seconds left on a 6-on-6 advantage. Prep was on a power play and pulled goalie Matt Deane for another skater.

After a scoreless five-minute OT, five players scored in the coaches' turn in the shootout, with the second-seeded Prep as the home team shooting last. Rigatti, Tom Ferrara and James Carapella tallied for St. Peter's as

both teams scored on three of their first four shots. But Deane stopped defenseman Craig Paradiso before Sean Lackey beat Joe Vernola through the legs for the winner.

"This series is not over," stated Eagles' coach Sal Gerardi. "Instead of concentrating on defense in the defensive zone with the 5-2 lead, we got excited. It happens. Their defense did a good job of keeping the puck in. But we'll be raring to go in the second game at Elmsford, Wednesday at 5:15."

The No. 3 Eagles overcame an early 2-0 deficit with stellar special team's play. After Carapella scored to make it 2-1 late in the first period, Paradiso connected on a 5-on-3 manpower advantage to tie it with 6:52 left in the second period. Charles Sheridan netted a power play score with 2:10 left for the Eagles' first lead.

St. Peter's took advantage of a 4-on-3 to make it 4-2 with 9:38 left in regulation. Justin Papineau made a fine play to keep the puck in the Rams' zone and Steve Perez took the rebound of his own blocked shot and blasted it inside the post. Rigatti made it 5-2, but Crotty went to work, lighting the lamp on a power play, a wrist shot from the slot, and an in-close score for the knotted.

Vernola kept the Eagles alive with an excellent kick save on Crotty's overtime slapper. Crotty would wind up with five goals, including an opening stanza score and Prep's first goal in the shootout.

"We were a little desperate towards the end," said Crotty, the Rams' leading scorer. "We just wanted to put the puck on net. Both goalies played great. Hopefully, we can play with that same desperation (Wednesday)."

NOTES: Vernola made several key stops as Prep outshot the Eagles 16-7 in the third period and 38-24 for the game. "Joe played a solid game," noted Gerardi. "Perez, Sheridan and Carapella were the only Eagles with more than a point goal, assist each, not including the shootout. But the Eagles had to be pleased with the distribution as five different players scored." The game saw 20 minor penalties handed out. Both teams were 3-7 on the power play, and Prep allowed the one short-handed score. The teams played two ties in three regular season meetings. No. 1 Holy Cross trailed to beat No. 4 Archbishop Stepinac 6-3 in the other semifinal opener.

High school hockey notebook

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

CHSAA playoffs underway

The CHSAA championship playoffs got underway last night with St. Joseph by-the-Sea, the top seed, opening up the B division semifinals in a best-of-three against No. 4 Christ the King at the Mount Vernon Rink. The "if" game is scheduled for Friday at 10 p.m. at Abie Stark.

In the other B semi, No. 2 Bishop Ford opened up against Monsignor McClancy, the third seed, last night at Skyrink. Game two is slated for Thursday night at 5:15 at Murray Rink in Yonkers. The "if" game would be Saturday night at 9:30 at Skyrink.

No. 3 St. Peter's opened up its A division semifinal series against second-seeded Fordham Prep last night at Elmsford Rink. The two teams will meet again on Wednesday (5:15) and Saturday (5:40) at the same site.

Billy Cross, top-seeded in the A division, faced off against fourth-place Archbishop Stepinac last night in a game that preceded St. Peter's contest at Elmsford. Game two is Thursday night in Yonkers, with the "if" contest slated for Saturday at 4 p.m. at Elmsford.

And although the AA division regular season is just finishing up, it looks as if top-seeded Monsignor Farrell will take on either Kellenberg Memorial or Iona Prep (a finalist last season) who are both duking it out for the No. 4 seed — next Sunday at 7:45 p.m. at Abie Stark. Game Two would be Tuesday (6:00 p.m.) at the Synco Skating Academy, with the "if" contest slated for Thursday at 7 p.m. in Yonkers.

Second-place Xavierian will oppose No. 3 Chaminade in the other AA semi on Saturday at 9:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon. Game two is Monday at 5:50 in Synco set with the "if" contest scheduled for Thursday in Yonkers, following the Farrell contest.

Eagles I rounding into form in NYIHA East

The Eagles I of the NYIHA East may have started

off a little slowly this season, but they are beginning to take flight. They are currently in third place with an 8-7-1 record, and probably played their best game of the season in a 10-4 win over Palisades at the S.I. Skating Pavilion, Charleston, last week.

Forward Alan Rigatti sparked with a hat trick in the contest, and he's only one of a few Eagle players who are beginning to feel their wings. That's good news with the playoffs just a month away.

"I wish they were sooner, because we were starting to play a little better," joked Eagles' I coach Robert Gravinia. "Actually, though, I don't look ahead more than one game at a time. That's what we did last year, and you saw what happened."

"That's always been our thing — let's make the playoffs and see what happens. The Eagles certainly liked what happened in the playoffs. After a fourth-place finish during the regular season, they managed to knock off their arch-rivals, Lions I, when Chris Skelton scored nine minutes into overtime for a stunning 4-3 upset victory, which propelled them into the NYIHA championship series."

The Eagles then dropped the final 7-2, in a game that was much closer than the score indicated. Gravinia, though, is hoing his crew can take it one step further this season.

Suspension update

Here are the latest NYIHA suspensions: Feb. 8 Central's assistant coach Bob Warup, one game for abuse of official; Feb. 10 three Sea Gulls — Kevin Duval (three games, high sticking) and fighting, Mike Kowack (one game, high sticking); and coach Dan Esquivel (one game, 15 team penalties); four Vikings II: coach Anthony Geraci (one game, 15 team penalties), James Mahoney (two games, fighting), Rich Marcari (two games, fighting), and Marc Yaverbaum (two games, fighting).

— SAM BOROWSKI and BILL SPURGE

BOWLING



ADVANCE PHOTO BY CARLA L. HEBBERG

Past presidents, left to right, Dorothea Johnson, Gloria Simonson and Peggy Cherrick reminisce at the 50th annual S.I. Women's Bowling Association Tournament.

SIWBA: A half-century of memories and friends

■ The only regret anyone has is the death of younger women bowlers

The way Peggy Cherrick, Dorothea Johnson and Gloria Simonson were rattling off names and events yesterday at Rab's Country Lanes, you'd think they were chatting about something that happened last week.

Not quite. Unless your calendar reads 1948. But for the older SIWBA members who turned out for the opening ceremonies of the Staten Island Women's Bowling Association's 50th annual championship tournament, it might as well have been 1948.

"It's a walk down memory lane if nothing else," said Simonson, like Johnson and Cherrick a former SIWBA president. "I'd never thought 50 years would go this fast, but it has."

It has been five decades since Cherrick, Simonson, Ruth Dockett, Lillian Mazzariello, Mary Topp and Edrice Wolfe drew up plans for the Staten Island contingent to break away from the city association.

"It was scary because we had to go to the lanes (on the island) with petitions and get them signed and then send them to New York State before we were granted our charter," remembered Cherrick. "It was a tough task, but once we got started we were pretty determined."

"I'm not surprised it has grown this big. The population of Staten Island has more than tripled, but I don't think anyone ever envisioned it like this."

Of course, the late Dockett, whose name is most synonymous with the SIWBA, was the ringleader of the group and the force behind Staten Island's breakaway.

"The day she started until the day she died, she was dedicated to the Association and bowling," said Cherrick of Dockett. "Without Ruthie, it would be hard to imagine all this."

Cherrick was referring to the huge gathering that witnessed the cutting of the 50th anniversary ribbon — golden in color, of course — signaling the start of another event.

"We cut the ribbon every year, but not as fancy as this one," laughed SIWBA secretary Pat Schur holding both ends of the ribbon. "This was special."

Aside from that, there was nothing that would signify it as more special than previous opening ceremonies. There were no fireworks displays, no politicians, just the usual trophy donors and events coordinators being introduced. But that's just the way SIWBA likes it.

The theory is if it works, don't fix it, suggested former SIWBA president Rose Taylor. "It's just tradition to do it this way," she said.

Perhaps, SIWBA is as guilty as anyone when it comes to sticking with tradition since many of its Board members have been around since its infant stages. Even Simonson acknowledged there might be a need for some change at the top.

"People may laugh that we're the same old ones, but Pat (Schur) doesn't want to let us go because she says she feels we're the ones that know the stuff from years ago," said Simonson. "But we can't get enough young people involved. It's only a couple of meetings a year."

Simonson said a questionnaire asking what is right and wrong with the Association will be passed around with the hope of sparking new interest in the Association, which has seen its membership decline over the past decade.

"We can't understand why the tournament has waned," said Simonson. "We tried to do everything for the bowlers. We try to make it as pleasant as we can, but membership keeps going down."

The ones who have stayed, though, are really enjoying the benefits of the Association. Defending all-events net and gross champ Lucy Donnaton, who had the honor yesterday of throwing out the ceremonial first ball — which produced a strike — is one member who appreciated the Association.

"There's so much history here, and I'm just happy to be a part of it," she said.

Cherrick said the fondest memories she has of the Association "are the fine friends I met and kept all these years."

Others, too, like Carole Casella, a SIWBA member for past 25 years, echoed Cherrick's sentiments.

"I love it because I enjoy bowling with all these people," she said. "You develop friendships over the years and that makes you want to keep coming back."

Even if it has been for 50 years now.

"Hopefully, we'll all be around 50 years from now to do it again," added Taylor with a laugh. "That would be nice."

During the opening ceremonies, Maria Dunn and Stephanie Schroder were presented with Island-high SIWBA awards for feats performed during the 1996-97 season.

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JOE D'AMODIO
SPARE TIME

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Running Back New York Jets	Running Back New York Jets	Running Back New York Jets
Wide Receiver New York Jets	Wide Receiver New York Jets	Wide Receiver New York Jets
Linebacker New York Jets	Linebacker New York Jets	Linebacker New York Jets
Defensive End New York Jets	Defensive End New York Jets	Defensive End New York Jets
Defensive Tackle New York Jets	Defensive Tackle New York Jets	Defensive Tackle New York Jets
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bulletinBOARD

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

The Staten Island Softball Association needs teams for its slow pitch and medium pitch leagues for weekdays and Sunday mornings. Call 667-0948.

The PSAL Football Officials Association will have a six-week class beginning March 10 at New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn. The fee is \$20. Clinic conducted by rules interpreter Joe Dede. Call 667-0948.

The St. Patrick's Invitational Basketball Tournament has one more team opening remaining for its girls' Biddy division. Biddy games are scheduled for Sunday, March 22 and Sunday, March 29. In addition, the girls' Varsity B also has one opening left. Varsity B games are slated for Saturday, March 21 and Saturday, March 28. Call Phil Bellino at 317-6928 or 667-3000.

An established softball team needs an experienced pitcher for play on Sundays. Call Vinny Romano, 556-5566.

The South Shore Bate Ruth League will hold a free umpire's clinic for anyone interested at the loop's Page Avenue complex in Tottenville, Saturday, March 14, 10 a.m. Call Tom Gogarty at 987-3270.

The S.I. Padres Athletic Association is seeking baseball players for its 7-8 and 9-10-year-old divisions. Call 948-8525 or 948-6142.

Roam smacks 751 at Country

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

John Roam lit up the local bowling scene last night with a 751 series in the prestigious Markiewicz Islander 800 Scratch League at Rab's Country Lanes. Roam's series included a 279 game.

Bowling on the Green
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Tennis March 20
1000 March 20
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