

Another perfect season in the books for R.F. Hall Wolfpack

By Jake Courtepatte

For the third year in a row, the Robert F. Hall Wolfpack is perfect at the end of the ROPSSA hockey season.

They capped off their 9-0 season with a 5-2 victory over the Notre Dame Knights last Thursday, highlighted by a hat trick from Christian Hauck.

Hauck opened the scoring in the first period, followed shortly by a Knights' tally to tie the game at one after 20 minutes.

He picked up his second of the game just minutes into the middle frame, beating a Knights' defenseman to the puck before wristing one over the glove of the goaltender for the 2-1 lead.

However, the Knights came storming back again, tipping one home while six-on-four with a delayed penalty.

Senior Steven Smythe lent a scoring hand before the period would expire, picking up a pretty shorthanded goal.

After intercepting a fanned breakout pass, and tripped to his knees by the erred defenseman, he maintained control of the puck enough to flip it over the shoulder of the Knights' goaltender.

"He's been a big part of our team for all three years he's been here," said Head Coach Mike Mattachini. "He's one of our key guys."

Hauck's second shorthanded and third overall goal of the night came early in the third from a low snap shot, with an insurance marker coming just as the Knights put on the pressure late in the game.

R.F. Hall is the team to beat with playoff time fast approaching, riding perfect records throughout the playoffs as well on their way to back-to-back board championships.

That's 37 consecutive wins, in case anyone is counting.

But Mattachini and his coaching staff are not letting the stats get to the heads of any of their players.

"Knock on wood, because we're in for a tough ride this year," said Mattachini. "Every year is difficult, but we've got some really good competition this time."

He made note that a number of teams have dropped down from the Tier 1 division, including Mayfield Secondary and Philip Pocock schools.

"It's gonna be a tough-go."

Playoffs are under way as of press time, with the Wolfpack meeting the St. Francis Xavier Tigers in Mississauga at the Hershey Centre this week.

Xavier's only loss of the season came at the hands of their NorthWest rivals and division leaders Mayfield Mavericks last week.

It's a busy week for the NorthEast division champion Wolfpack as they also take a road trip to Pembroke Friday for the first OFSAA qualifier of the year.

Regional semifinals go down at the Hershey Centre the following Monday.



Christian Hauck breaks down the wing in last Thursday's game against the Notre Dame Knights. The Wolfpack won 5-2.