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Wednesday, March 4, 2020

Southpoint Sun - 13

Flyers leap to a commanding 3-game lead

By Sheila McBrayne

With three games under their belts, the Leamington Flyers have a three-game lead in the Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, Western Conference division quarterfinals versus Komoka.

The Flyers finished the 2019-20 regular season of 50 games with a record of 38-9-1-2 (79 points) to put them in second place behind first place London Nationals who finished the season with 87 points. The best of seven quarterfinal series started on home ice in Leamington.

GAME 1

Leamington 5 – Komoka 0

The Flyers were at home for the opening game of the series on Thursday, Feb. 27 in front of a crowd of 650 fans at the Highbury Canco ice pad. Adam Jeffrey scored the first goal with assists to Thomas Michaud and Nicholas Beneteau.

The Flyers added two more tallies in the middle frame. Jaydon Fetter netted a powerplay goal with assists to Kade McKibbin and Michaud. The Flyers' third goal of the game was netted by Nick Smith from Zach Taylor.

Taylor and McKibbin banked the final two goals to give the Flyers a commanding 5-0 win. Assists were credited to Griffin Robinson, Maddux Rychel, Michaud and Nicholas Beneteau.

Ryan Polidori was a perfect 20-20 with 20 saves on 20 shots in net for the shutout. The Flyers doubled the Kings' shots on net with 43 scoring opportunities.

GAME 2

Leamington 5 – Komoka 0

Game 2 in Komoka on Saturday, Feb. 29 saw the Flyers 'leap' ahead in the series with a 5-0 win over the Kings. The first goal didn't come until the second period by McKibbin. The third period saw the Flyers net four more unanswered goals. The second goal came from Beneteau, assisted by Michaud. The Flyers added three empty net goals at the end of the third period to end the game 5-0. Jeffrey, Jacob Kalandyk and Smith all found the unprotected net.

GAME 3

Leamington 5 – Komoka 2

The action returned to Leamington on Sunday, March 1 in front of 527 fans as the red-hot Flyers took a three-game lead in the best of seven series. Leamington's Kalandyk netted the first goal of the game, assisted by Maine and McConville. Leamington scored again in the second with a goal from Wyatt O'Neil, assisted by Kobe Seguin. Komoka responded with two goals to even the game at two all. Scoring for Komoka was D. Beljo and C. Welch.

Leamington replied with the game-winning goal by Rychel to end the second period. O'Neil, assisted by Josh King, netted the fourth goal and Adam Jeffrey finished off the game with an empty net goal.

Leamington outshot Komoka 53 to 20. Polidori earned the win for the Flyers.



Flyers Wyatt O'Neil puts the puck on net past Kings' defenceman Kobe Ferreira in the second period of the Sunday, March 1 home game. (Southpoint Sun Photos)



Flyers' players Josh King and Wyatt O'Neil try to push one past Kings' goalie Nathan Young.

SERIES SCHEDULE

- Game 4: Wednesday, March 4 at 7:15 p.m. in Komoka
- Game 5 (if needed): Thursday, March 5 in Leamington at 7:10 p.m.
- Game 6 (if needed): Saturday, March 7 in Komoka at 7:15 p.m.
- Game 7 (if needed): Sunday, March 8 in Leamington at 7:10 p.m.

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Atoms win, lose

After a few weeks off, the Southpoint Atom Community Trophy team was bound to be rusty and it showed.

Their first game of the weekend was against Harrow White. Harrow scored early in the second. In the third, Trophy's Connor Rumble-Anastacio took the puck down the ice and scored a short-handed goal. Five minutes later, Connor took another skate and scored his second goal. Chase Collins added to the lead when he stole the puck at the Harrow blue line, brought it in and scored. Harrow scored one more. Southpoint's goalie Ty Gould made some key saves that enabled his team to come away with a 3-2 win.

The second game was against Erie North Shore Blue. Blue won 9-1. Southpoint picked up one goal when Chase snagged the puck in the offensive end, made a beautiful move on the defence and then slipped the puck under the Blue's goalie.

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