

## Titans skate past Knights St. John's takes over in 2nd period

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The rubber match between rivals St. Francis de Sales and St. John's Jesuit last night at Tam O'Shanter was a tale of two periods.

The Titans survived a shaky first period and exploded in the second with three unanswered goals, holding the Knights to zero shots on goal. Following a 1-1 tie after the first period, St. John's tallied four unmatched markers, including two power play goals, to drop St. Francis 5-2 before about 1,500 spectators.

"In a game like this, there are always some nerves involved and it takes some time to get settled in," said St. John's coach Mike Hayes. "In that second period we looked more comfortable."

Freshman Ray Morris, sophomore Mark Stansfield, junior Andrew Heldt and sophomore Cam Hauenstein each collected a goal and an assist for St. John's. Heldt broke the deadlock early in the second, Stansfield scored the game-winner and Morris provided the fatal blow late in the second.

"Our coaches got on us in the locker room after the first period because they thought we were playing sloppy," Heldt said. "The captains got us all focused and we went out there with a purpose in the second period and it's history from there."

Titan goalie John Unger made 20 saves and junior Shane Hetrick tallied two assists.

St. John's improved to 17-6-2 overall and put a stranglehold on second place in the Northwest Hockey Conference Red Division with a 5-2-1 record. St. Francis (18-9-0) has dropped two of three to its rival, including both league contests, and fell to 5-3-0 in NHC play. Both teams have two games remaining, but neither is likely to catch Northview, which is 6-0-0 with two games in hand.

"It was a battle for second place," Heldt said. "It gives us a lot of momentum. We really wanted to sweep them this year because we haven't done it in a while. We outscored them 9-2 [in league games], so we were very happy with that."

St. Francis carried the play in the first, outshooting the Titans 12-5. St. John's looked a bit out of sync and Hayes said he changed his game plan twice during the first period. Still the Titans struck first on a pretty cross-ice pass from Morris to sophomore Cam Hauenstein, who tipped it in for a 1-0 lead 2:17 into the game. The Knights evened things on senior Alex Majewski's goal.

St. John's pulled ahead by one just 57 seconds into the second period on Heldt's rebound goal. The Titans grabbed a two-goal advantage on Stansfield's power play marker and Morris kept the rallying going with an unassisted power play goal with 2:05 left in the second period.

"I couldn't stop screaming and yelling," Morris said. "I was going crazy. I could hear the chant, 'He's a freshman.' It felt amazing to score a goal in this game."

Danny Johnson gave the Titans a four-goal cushion early in the third before Zach Nadolny scored a rebound goal for St. Francis with 6:50 left in the game to provide the final margin.

Nadolny also had an assist and Knight goalie Charlee McAninch had 18 saves. Heldt said holding the Knights to no shots in the second was "something any team would be proud of." "You always dream about scoring that big goal against St. Francis," said Heldt, who notched his first one in seven games against the Knights. "The adrenaline was going full blow and I was just flying around."

Northview has already knocked off St. John's twice by scores of 5-0 and 3-2. The Wildcats have defeated St. Francis 4-3, but the teams meet one more time in the regular-season finale on Feb. 12.

The Knights also have one league game remaining, against Bowling Green.

"A lot of funny things would have to happen for us to overtake them," Hayes said.



St. John's Ben Wurst steals the puck from St. Francis' Louis Woody in the first period last night at Tam O'Shanter.  
( THE BLADE/ANDY MORRISON )