

St. John's reaches state final

Parsell scores 2 goals as Titans rally

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COLUMBUS — St. John's Jesuit overcame some early jitters and its line of talented juniors came through in the clutch to advance to the state championship hockey game.

The Titans rallied twice from one-goal deficits and defeated Hunting Valley University School 5-3 yesterday in the state semifinals at Nationwide Arena.

Junior Chase Parsell scored two goals, including the game-winner with 7:24 left. His linemates and fellow juniors Cam Hauenstein and Dan Johnson accounted for the game's final seven points. Hauenstein scored a goal and assisted on the winning marker. Johnson had three assists.

"This is the biggest game I've played in yet, so it was huge," said Parsell, who slammed in the winner to send a large group of Titan faithful into a wild celebration. "It was a good pass. I just happened to be in the right place and I jammed it home."

St. John's, which also got goals from Shane Hetrick and Mark Stansfield, advances to face Parma Padua Franciscan in the state final today at 1 p.m. with a chance to become the first Toledo metro team to win a state championship. Parma Padua beat Upper Arlington 3-2 in the other semifinal.

Hetrick said his teammates also want to honor the 1999 St. John's team that won the state final on the ice, but was forced to forfeit the title. It was ruled that the Titans had used an ineligible player.

"A lot of us are familiar with the players from that team. It's a big deal for us," Hetrick said. "We all talk about it. To win it for our school and bring it back would be great. Toledo is starting to compete with the Cleveland teams. We're just trying to get respect."

University School (22-13-3) has now lost in the state semifinals in five of the last six years. St. John's (28-7-3) is back for the first time since 2001. The top-ranked Titans clearly had more vocal supporters, including a student section of about 200.

"We haven't been to the final four since it moved to Nationwide [2003]," St. John's coach



SPECIAL TO THE BLADE/WILL SHILLING

Luke Stansfield helps St. John's goalie Tyler Marzec block a shot by Michael Chilcote of Hunting Valley University School.

State hockey semifinal

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Mike Hayes said. "So there is a lot of excitement around the school and I think that's why our fans are out in force. Our kids are excited, but they know the big picture."

The semifinal got off to an unbelievably fast start as goals were scored on each of the first three shots. The teams combined for six goals over the first 17:33 of the contest as the Titans fell behind twice before Parsell tied it early in the second period. The game was knotted at 3 for the next 20 minutes.

Hauenstein then set up Parsell with a crisp pass from behind the net. Hauenstein added an empty netter as he dived at a sliding puck with 45 seconds left to provide the final dagger. Johnson assisted on the last three goals.

"Lately our line has struggled," Johnson said. "We finally got some chances and we buried them."

Hayes said he doesn't have a top line, but has two that are extremely difficult to match up against.

"You never know which one

is going to get the big goals and today Danny Johnson's line got the big goals," he said.

Junior goalie Tyler Marzec (20-6-1) made 13 straight saves after giving up three goals on the first six shots.

The Preppers scored on their first shot of the game just 1:06 into the contest on a long shot just inside the blue line. Hetrick answered 30 seconds later. The Titans then scored on their second shot by Stansfield 34 seconds after that and led 2-1 only 2:29 into the game.

But the Preppers tied it and then regained the lead before the end of the period. Five goals were scored on 12 shots in the opening period.

"Both teams were running around with adrenaline in their veins," University coach Bill Beard said. "I tip my hat to St. John's. They were able to convert a couple more chances than we did. They deserve to be ranked No. 1."

Hetrick, a senior, created his own breakaway and beat Brian Tighe with a slap shot to tie it at 2. Hetrick's unassisted marker was his 23rd of the season.

"After they scored their first goal all that was going through my head was that I was going to do whatever it takes to get it



SPECIAL TO THE BLADE/WILL SHILLING

Dan Johnson (21) and Luke Stansfield (6) celebrate with Cam Hauenstein after Hauenstein scored in the third period in the state semifinals. St. John's, ranked No. 1 in Ohio, is 28-7-3.

Just 43 seconds after that, Stansfield took advantage of another steal, this time deep in the Preppers' zone created by Cody Matthews. Stansfield's slapper beat Tighe over his glove hand.

"We had some nervous energy early," Hayes said. "We kind of got off to a bad start, but we regrouped. That goal was a huge boost. We went from very low to very high in a matter of seconds."

a rebound goal. Marzec then allowed a long shot a few feet outside the blue line to get by him. Marzec thought he had stopped it, but the puck trickled through his legs and into the net to make it 3-2.

St. John's tied it at 3 on Parsell's power-play goal 2:33 into the second period.

"The crowd was a big help to us," Parsell said. "They come all the way down here to support us."

path that Northview took here last year, but they hope it ends much differently. The Wildcats beat University in the semifinals, then lost to Parma Padua in the final.

"I'm sending my guys home right now to take a nap," Hayes said. "They're hungry and I'm confident they'll be ready to play."

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