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Northview shuts out St. John's

Wildcats' Trego tough in goal; Bourland gets both goals

By MARK MONROE BLADE SPORTS WRITER

Northview displayed the passion, energy and effort required to knock off a defending state champion last night.

The Wildcats carried the play for most of a crucial early season matchup with St. John's Jesuit at a packed Tam-O-Shanter. Northview knocked off the reigning Division I champs 2-0 before a raucous crowd of about 1,000.



St. John's Mark Stansfield, center, and Northview's Carter Bourland try to gain control of the puck at Tam-O-Shanter. (THE BLADE/LORI KING)

Senior goalie Craig Trego made 24 saves to post the shutout and senior right winger Carter Bourland scored in the first and third periods.

"It's all about momentum," Northview coach Jim Cooper said. "This gives us some confidence as a team and program. St. John's and Northview is one of the great nights out here. It was a great atmosphere."

Northview (7-0 overall, 3-0 Northwest Hockey Conference) remained

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undefeated, while St. John's (9-2, 2-1) suffered its first setback in league play.

"It was huge," Bourland said. "Now we're in good position. Our goal was to forecheck harder than them and make their young defense know we were coming."

The Wildcats dominated the first period, outshooting the Titans 11-5 and controlled a penalty-filled third period (12-6). Northview finished with a 30-24 advantage in shots.

"I thought it was two evenly matched teams and you saw a lot of passion out of our team," Cooper said. "We have so much respect for St. John's. All of the teams are going to give them their best shot."



Northview goalie Craig Trego stops a shot by St. John's Chase Parsell last night at Tam-O-Shanter. Trego made 24 saves. (THE BLADE/LORI KING)

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Both coaches agreed that Trego and St. John's goalie Steven Schmitt, who finished with 28 saves, were solid.

"Their effort was twice as good as ours," Titans coach Mike Hayes said. "We talked about how we needed to outwork them and put them on their heels and the opposite happened."

Both of Carter's goals required remarkable individual play making skill.

"He can make you look pretty silly at times," Cooper said.

Bourland, who scored on the power play with 7:45 left to ice it, finished with seven shots.

"We emphasized all week that he was the one guy that we had to contain," Hayes said.

Trego said he was not bothered by the St. John's student section which repeatedly chanted his name and held up signs.

"Their crowd really didn't get to me at all," Trego said. "They tried hard, but it wasn't happening. It gave me more motivation to shut them up."

The Northview students also needed sophomore George Wilkinson, who transferred to St. John's. "It was crazy," Trego said.

Bourland made it 1-0 with 4:53 left in the first period. He came out of the corner and gathered a loose puck, skated along the goal line, through the crease and slid it past Schmitt.

"They had three defenders on me and I saw the puck squirt out," he said. "I took the open lane. I made the move on the goalie and put it in."

It was one of four shots for Bourland in the opening period. He put it away on a 4-on-3 breakaway midway through the third, capping it with a nice turnaround backhand.

"Eamonn Reynolds found me open in the slot and I caught it on my forehand



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and turned around and put it through the goalie's five hole," Bourland said.

Trego said he also was motivated after yielding 10 goals to the Titans last year.

"It feels great because last year I gave up five goals in each game against them. It was kind of a redemption game for me," he said. "This game will give us a boost for the rest of the season."

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