

CLIPPER SPORTS

Selects off to good start in 2024

By Tony Zerucha

The Eastman Selects gave fans a belated Christmas present by winning their first two games of 2024.

On Jan. 5, the Selects visited the Pembina Valley Hawks. They got off to a strong start, as goals by Eric Cote and Kasen Mateychuk gave Eastman a 2-0 lead after the first period.

The Hawks slowly chipped away, eventually tying the contest six minutes into the third period. Hayden Kocken gave the Selects the lead at 8:05. They held it until the final minute when the Hawks scored to force overtime.

Following a scoreless five minutes, the teams headed to a shootout. Selects goalie Sam Fontaine stoned both Hawk shooters, while Calyb Moore and Luc DeGagne were successful to make the final 4-3 Selects. The Selects outshot the Hawks 41-36.

Eastman hustled home to face the Winnipeg Wild on Jan. 6. Calem Normandeau scored the game's first two goals to provide the hosts with a 2-0 lead at 1:05 of the second period. That score held until the final minute when the Wild got on the board at 19:06. Jeremiah Warkentine restored the two-goal lead 27 seconds later. Normandeau earned an assist to give him a three-point night.

The third period was scoreless and the Selects celebrated a 3-1 win over the fifth-place Wild.

The Selects bus up to Thompson for a weekend double-header against the Norman Northstars on Jan. 13 and 14. Following a visit to the Winnipeg Bruins on Jan. 17, they host the Yellowhead Chiefs on Jan. 20 and the Northstars on Jan. 21 at the Sun Gro Centre in Beausejour.



Jeremiah Warkentine restored Eastman's two-goal lead over the Wild.

File photo

High School Hockey Round-Up

High school hockey resumes this week, and several local teams are jockeying for playoff position.

SCI Girls On Hot Streak

In the Manitoba Women's High School Hockey League, the surging Springfield Sabres look to continue their hot streak in 2024.

The 7-6 Sabres are 7-1 in their last eight contests to rise to fifth place. They sit three points behind the Dakota Lancers and have one game in hand (wins are worth three points). The Sabres are two points up on

the Beliveau Barracudas but have two games in hand. Springfield has four home games and five road games remaining.

Top scorer Chloe Mueller has four goals, six assists and 10 points in 13 games. Lily Hurlley is the leading goal scorer with six, while blueliner Amy Jackson is tops with seven assists.

2024 begins with home games on Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. versus the J.H. Bruns Broncos and Jan. 17 at 3:30 against the Kelvin Clippers.

ESS Girls

The École Edward

Schreyer Barons' girls season resumed on Jan. 8 in Winnipeg against the Kelvin Clippers. They hosted the Lancers on Jan. 10 at 4 p.m. The 1-13-1 Barons are two points up on the Clippers. Results were not available by press time.

Serena Gorski leads the Barons with six goals and seven points. Kaissee Witnicki has earned two assists.

Panthers In Fourth

The Pinawa Panthers are tied for fourth spot in the Price Division with 34 points. They sit one point

behind the Lorette Scorpions but have three games in hand. Five of the Panthers' remaining seven games are at home.

Pinawa faced the Kildonan East Reivers on Jan. 9, but results were unavailable at press time. They host the ESS Barons on Jan. 12 at 4:30 p.m.

The high-flying Panthers boast a quartet of players averaging at least a point per game. Lachlan Cuthbert and Jaedys Dancyt are tied with 37 points. Cuthbert's 23 goals are tops, while Dancyt's 17 assists lead the squad. Cuthbert is fourth in

the division goal race, while Dancyt is eighth.

Sabres In Playoff Battle

The Springfield Sabres find themselves in the middle of a log jam in the Winnipeg Free Press Division standings. With 27 points, the 8-8 Sabres are in fifth place, five points behind the second-place West Kildonan Wolverines. They are also only five points ahead of ninth-place St. John's Ravenscourt.

Springfield has eight remaining games and only three home dates. The second begins on Jan. 12 at Jeane Sauve. Their next home date is on Jan 15 at

3:30 p.m. against the Wolverines.

Liam Johnston leads the Sabres with 12 goals, 10 assists and 22 points in 16 games. His 12 goals and 22 points are tied for eighth-best in the division.

Wild Hit the Road

The Powerview-Sagkeeng Wild hold down eighth spot in the Price Division, and if they are to move up the board, they'll have to do it on the road, where they play all seven games. The odyssey begins on Jan. 17 against the last-place Maples Marauders.

Connor Bruyere leads the Wild with 13 assists and 24 points in 17 games. Hunter Neepinak has fired a team-best 12 goals.

Barons On Losing Skid

Two École Edward Schreyer Barons and their 5-12 record seek to snap a four-game losing skid when they host the Louis Riel Voyageurs at 4 p.m. on Jan. 11. It's the start of three games in five days for the Barons, who visit the Panthers on Jan. 12 at 4:30 p.m. and host the Marauders on Jan. 15 at 3:30 p.m.

Three skaters are averaging more than two points per game. Kane Zarichanski leads the team with 16 goals and 33 points and is tied for first in assists with Vaughn Senebald. Both have 17. Senebald has 15 goals and 32 points, while Brady Szajewski has 14 goals, 16 assists and 30 points. Zarichanski's 16 goals tie him for 10th in the division.



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