

Like Sports?

Write for us
contact
anaslund@css.edu

CSS Women's Hockey Sweeps Northland College

Andrew Naslund
anaslund@css.edu

The College of St. Scholastica's women's hockey team faced Northland College twice this past weekend, and each time skated away with a victory. For Friday night's game, the Saints traveled to Ashland where they shut out the LumberJills with a score of 3-0. They won Saturday night's home game at Mars Lakeview Arena with a score of 6-2.

The Saints went into Friday's away matchup with plenty of confidence as they had just had two shutout wins in a row and an impressive 3-0-1 record in the beginning of their season. Northland managed to hang tough in the beginning of the game, and the first period ended in a scoreless tie. In the second period, however, the Saints' dominance broke through once, as Saints' Sam Gorecki, assisted by Taylor Thompson and Rachel Anderson, scored the first goal of the game to give CSS the 1-0 advantage. Each team's defense would hold up for the rest of the period, and the score remained unchanged going into the third period.

Unfortunately for the LumberJills, the third period belonged to the Saints. Taylor

Murray, the freshman defender from Prior Lake, Minnesota, scored a power-play goal to give CSS a 2-0 lead. Then, Greta Nundahl, assisted by Alexia Klass and Anderson, scored the third goal for the Saints, making the final score 3-0 in favor of St. Scholastica. This game marked the third straight shutout for the team, and the second straight shutout for junior goaltender Lexi Thomeczek. Thomeczek saved all 27 shots Northland attempted.

On Saturday night, the Saints played the same team once again, this time in their home arena, yet the first period was dominated by Northland. Just five minutes into the game, Northland's Saylor Donnelly assisted Karadyn Kiviaho for the first goal of the game to give the LumberJills a 1-0 lead. Nearly four minutes later, Northland scored once again, this time Samantha Scott with the assist from Gabby Suhr. The opening period ended with the Saints having given Northland a 2-0 head start.

Neither team managed to score in the first half of the second period, but after a Northland penalty, the Saints offense exploded. Rachel Anderson and Alexia Klass assisted Taylor Thompson with just under six minutes left



Rachel Anderson coming down the ice towards the puck during the game against Northland on November 10. The Saints held a victory against Northland for both games. Photo taken from MaKenna Bridgman/csssaints.com

in the period to cut the deficit in half. Nearly two minutes later, Thompson scored her second goal of the game with an assist from Anderson and Taylor Murray to tie it up. But the Saints weren't done. With eight seconds remaining in the period, Anderson found the net with the help from Katie McKinzie and Hailey Raske to give CSS the advantage at 3-2.

The Saints went into the third period with all of the momentum, and there really wasn't much Northland could do. During a power play, junior defender Greta Nundahl extended the lead to 4-2 with an assist from Kennedy Houge. The Saints scored again, as Anderson and Gorecki assisted to Klass for the fifth goal of the night. With

two minutes left in the game, Amber Tilander, assisted by Paige Forsman and Giorgia Battisti, scored the sixth and final goal of the night for the Saints. Goaltender Lori Huesby protected the net well for the Saints, saving 22 shots in the 6-2 win.

It may not have looked good for the Saints early on, but the team showed their composure in their impressive comeback win on Saturday.

"We had a slow start in the first period, but we definitely gave a big response after that period," McKinzie said. "After the first period, we all brought our focus in the locker room and put our minds into the next period. The hockey world knows 'a two goal lead is a no goal lead.'"

"Winning on Saturday was amazing," Battisti said. "We didn't play our best in the first period, but we never stopped believing in ourselves and the team. Being down two goals gave us the right energy and motivation to win the game. Also, the crowd played a really big part in our victory because we felt the support from our families and friends."

The Saints, now 5-0-1, look unstoppable to this point.

"Starting the season off like this is really great," Battisti said. "It is important for us to create a positive environment in the locker room and start off in the best way possible. We hope that our season keeps going as well as right now and we will for sure keep fighting and believing in our team."

"I think we are all proud of each other for coming together as a team to push through and continue to win games," Huseby said. "We are in it together this year and we have a common goal of winning a national championship. This is just the beginning."

The Saints will be in action at the Mars Lakeview Arena in Duluth once again this weekend, as they host Adrian College. The first game will be on Friday at 7 P.M.

Earn College Credit with
AFFORDABLE TUITION
this winter break.



Register today!

uwsuper.edu/jterm