

# Griffons lose focus after giving up short-handed goal



ERIC WELCH/St. Joseph News-Press

The puck pops up and over the shoulder of St. Joseph goalie Alex Buglewicz in the second period against the Des Moines Capitals on Friday morning. Des Moines went on to defeat the Griffons in the opening game of the IHSJL Varsity Tournament, a three-day event at Bode Ice Arena.

By PAUL SUELLENTROP  
pauls@npgco.com  
St. Joseph News-Press

The St. Joseph Griffons were plugging along, trailing heavily favored Des Moines, 2-1, in the second period and looking like they intended to make a game of it.

Then things got even better for the Griffons. The Capitals handed them a one-man advantage.

Unfortunately for St. Joseph, it wasn't enough of an advantage.

The Capitals scored a short-handed goal to go up, 3-1, and started themselves on the way to an 8-1 rout of St. Joseph in the first game of the Iowa High School Hockey League Varsity Tournament Friday morning at Bode Ice Arena.

Des Moines, the top-seeded team from the East Division, scored two short-handed goals in

the second period, part of a four-goals-in-five-minutes stretch that put the game out of reach.

"Those two short-handed goals (hurt us)," St. Joseph goalkeeper Alex Buglewicz said. "That first one, you could see it. We all kind of dropped our level of play. The second one came and we just died."

Des Moines made it 3-1 on a nice bit of work by Ryan Gladson and Scott Long. They combined to wreck St. Joseph's power-play opportunity by stealing the puck near the St. Joseph goal. Long scored the second of his three goals on an assist from Gladson with 7:08 gone in the second period.

Brian Anderson added another goal at the 9:13 mark. Matt Beals made it 5-1 with Des Moines' second short-handed goal and Long scored again with 12:15 gone in the second period.

"Short-handed goals always

give the other side the momentum," Des Moines coach Scott Krueger said.

Ehrich Waitkoss scored St. Joseph's goal late in the first period to cut the Des Moines lead to 2-1. The Griffons survived the first period in good shape and the goal led to some strong opening minutes in the second.

"Things were going right," St. Joseph coach Richard Creal said. "We were following our game plan to a T."

Buglewicz saved 33 shots, many of them from close range. St. Joseph managed 16 shots, three in the final period, and rarely forced Des Moines goalkeeper Sean Allison into a difficult position.

● Tournament results,  
schedule. Page D2