



Photograph by Laurie Gaboardi

The Green Wave's J.M. Brodski (12) takes a shot on goal as the gaze of the Ice Cats' Scott Skrzypczak (16) follows the puck in Monday's game on the ice at Canterbury School.

New Milford's size and speed prove too much for Ice Cats

By JASON TUREK
Sports Reporter

The Bethel/Brookfield Ice Cats and New Milford Green Wave faced off Monday night at Canterbury School for a hockey match-up. Many of the players on each of the rival squads have played against each other on many occasions.

"A lot of the kids played youth hockey against each other," said New Milford coach Bob Greco. "This is a rivalry each team looks forward to playing."

New Milford 5
Beth/Brook 1

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In the end, New Milford's size and speed were too much for the youthful Ice Cats to handle, as the home team scored five unanswered goals in the second and third periods to come out with a 5-1 victory.

The Green Wave (7-5, 6-1), coming off a 10-2 drubbing of Masuk last week, outshot the Ice Cats (4-8, 2-3) 40-15.

"Their offense was powerful tonight," said Bethel/Brookfield coach

'By forechecking their defense, we were able to make things happen and with our three lines, we had the energy to do that.'

—BOB GRECO, GREEN WAVE HOCKEY COACH

Rusty Granacker. "We wanted to be defensive-minded going into the game. On offense we wanted to get initial shots by shooting and driving to the net."

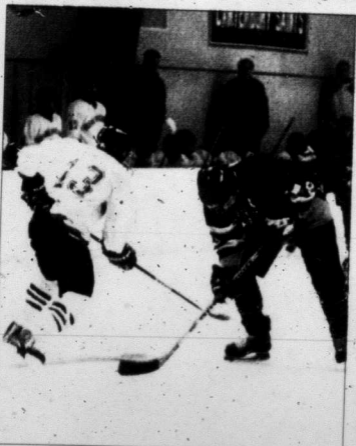
The Ice Cats got on the scoreboard first with 3:33 remaining in the first period with a goal by forward Mark Checkosky. Defenseman Will Smith was the key to the goal, forechecking two Green Wave players as Checkosky got to the loose puck and beat goalie Nick Longobardi.

Despite the early deficit, New Milford was dictating play and outshot the Ice Cats 15-5 in the period.

"The kids were getting frustrated because we were firing and missing," said New Milford coach Bob Greco. "They had great goalie play from (Mike) Sullinger that kept us off the board. They scored their first goal on a line change and we didn't backcheck."

New Milford kept taking

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The Green Wave's Ryan Kaiser (13) fights for puck possession with a Bethel/Brookfield player in Monday's game. After falling behind early, the Wave recovered for a 5-1 win.