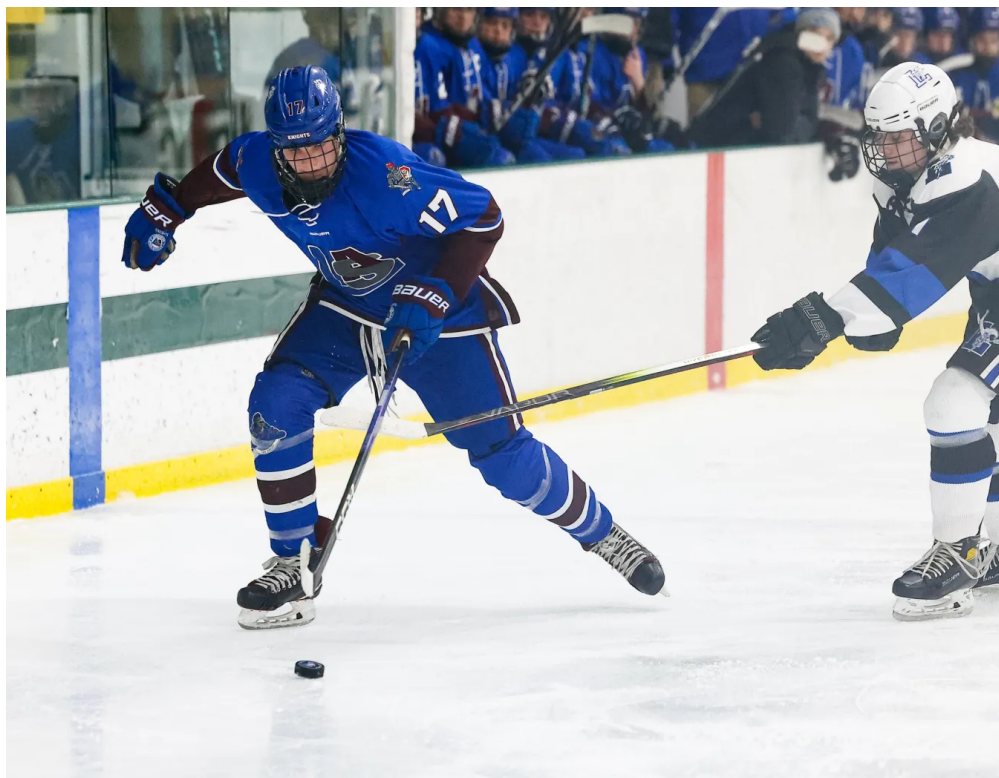


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# Blue Knights cruise past Leominster

## Lunenburg/Ayer-Shirley offense erupts after scoreless first period



Lunenburg/Ayer-Shirley's Dom Benner carries the puck during Tuesday's win over Leominster. (Sentinel & Enterprise / Gary Fournier)



By **JARED CATALANO** | Correspondent

PUBLISHED: February 7, 2024 at 9:43 a.m. | UPDATED: February 7, 2024 at 9:57 a.m.

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LEOMINSTER —Despite the scoreless first period of play, the Lunenburg/Ayer-Shirley hockey team found the back of the net five times in their 5-1 victory over the Leominster Blue Devils led by junior forward Dom Benner's two-goal performance at the Wallace Civic Center Tuesday night.

Although the Blue Knights struggled to net one early, the team had 22 first-period shots on goal.

When asked if there were any frustrations heading into the second period, Lunenburg head coach Eric Short said there were some "frustrations with their shot selection and puck movement." They made the changes necessary following the first intermission, as Benner got one by with the help of passes from Andrew Nicosia and Drew Short that led to the first goal of the contest just over three minutes into the second period.

The goals didn't stop there as the freshman forward Owen Hurley netted one in the 12th minute of the second period. Hurley's goal came off the assist of Ethan Dionne and Tyler Fortier.

The Blue Knights rolled into the third period looking for more as junior Ronin Duval cashed in his second goal of the season five minutes in. Freshman Sam Brand then tacked on his team's fourth of the game.

Late in the third period, the Blue Devils got in on the scoring with their lone goal scored by sophomore Michael Martin assisted by Jacob Turner cutting the deficit to 4-1. In an attempt to score again the Blue Devils went with the empty net, but Benner got a shot on the open net and was able to put it away with his second goal of the night.

Although the Blue Devils lost by four goals, freshman goalie Taiven Linnus had 44 saves between the posts. Leominster head coach Frank Mooney was pleased with his goalie's performance as he said netminder "played great tonight (and) we were really pleased with that."

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