

Saints varsity hockey showcase tops in America



By Jake Courtepatte

Some of the best of the best in American scholastic hockey made their way north of the border over the weekend to compete in the Interscholastic Hockey Alliance Showcase, hosted by the St. Andrew's Saints varsity squad for the second year.

La Brier Arena on campus filled in to welcome Northwood School (New York), Nichols School (New York), Culver Military Academy (Indiana), Shattuck-St. Mary's School (Minnesota), and Victory Honda 18U (Michigan).

The Saints marched into action on Friday against the storied Shattuck-St. Mary's program, playfully referred to as "the Hogwarts of Hockey", and alma mater to NHLers like Sidney Crosby and Jonathon Toews.

With scouts from all levels in attendance, the Canadian side came out on top, squeaking out a 5-4 victory in what will be the first and only meeting between the two this season. Matthew Stienberg, Jack Agnew, Matthew McKim, Brendan Bowie, and Mark Hillier notched a goal each.

Saturday's matchup didn't get any easier, with the red and white up against Culver, the top-ranked team in American Independent Prep rankings. Down 4-0 late in the second period, Hillier scored the only St. Andrew's goal of the game on a nice one-on-one deke to get around the final defenseman, waiting out the Culver goalie for a final score of 4-1.

They wrapped up Sunday with a 4-4 tie with Victory Honda, Steinburg leading the way with a pair of goals, while Andrew Boland and Evan Brisley added singles.

CISAA regular season action resumes for the Saints on January 17 against Upper Canada College, where the Saints hold a 5-1-0 record good for second place.

The varsity B team also prepares to host the annual Gary West Hockey Tournament at La Brier this weekend, which has grown to eight teams in its second year. The puck drops at 7:30 Friday evening on teams from Ontario, Quebec, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.