

SPORTS

Knights overpower Nighthawks

Hockey | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Kris Nieger had an assist for the Joel Barlow/Weston/Abbott Tech hockey team in its game against Newtown/New Fairfield on Friday, Jan. 10. The Knights won 8-1.

With its opponent down a few key players, the Joel Barlow/Weston/Abbott Tech (JBWA) hockey team was quick to strike last Friday, January 10.

Host Newtown/New Fairfield was not only missing a few players due to injuries, its starting goalie was sick. The Knights would dominate both ends of the ice in an 8-1 win at the Danbury Arena.

"I think we were the better team all around," said JBWA Head Coach Bob Stearns, whose team also used speed to its advantage. "I do feel that we have a very good team this year and despite good numbers, Newtown is young and

less experienced."

Keeping the puck in the Newtown/New Fairfield half of the ice for the most part, the Knights did not have to wait long to capitalize on their efforts. Less than three minutes into the action, Wes Arees found the net with a shot into the left corner. Max Krug and Colin Morse had the assists as JBWA was ahead to stay.

The visitors later added two quick tallies in under a minute. Peter Robinson's shot off the left post got past Nighthawk goalie Kaylee Awrachow with 4:31 left in the first period, and 49 seconds later, Morse scored to give the

Knights a 3-0 lead.

The Knights' speed came into play on the next goal. Breaking away from the defense, Robinson went one-on-one with Awrachow and slipped the puck in to make it 4-0 going into the first intermission.

Robinson also got the scoring started for the Knights in the second frame when he took the rebound of a shot by Morse (who got the assist) and made it 5-0 just 43 seconds into the period. Robinson made his fourth goal with 10:23 to go as Brandon D'Angelo assisted.

Adding to its lead in the third period, JBWA made it 7-0 courtesy of Grayson DiBlasi, who went coast-to-coast on a breakaway for the score. The shutout ended with 5:4 left, as the Nighthawks' Quinn Harris got a shot past Knight goalie Connor Thomas.

The Knights did get the last word in, however, scoring on a shot by Dylan Hilario with 19.1 seconds left in the game.

Robinson led JBWA with four goals. Arees (two assists), Morse (two assists), Hilario, and DiBlasi each tallied one.

Krug, Kris Nieger, D'Angelo, Chris Nesto, and Dexter Richards also each had assists.

JBWA, now 5-1-1, visits Housatonic/Northwestern/Torrington/Wolcott-Tech on Saturday, January 18 at 2:45 p.m., visits Bethel/Brookfield/Danbury on Monday, January 20 at 1:45 p.m. and hosts Shepaug Valley on Wednesday, January 22 at 8:30 p.m. ■

Falcons take control in second half

Girls basketball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Mia Tartaglia led the Joel Barlow High girls varsity basketball team on offense with 18 points and on defense with eight steals in a game against Shelton on Saturday, January 11. Barlow won 42-32.

It took adjustments on defense for the Joel Barlow High girls varsity basketball team to make its move against Shelton last week.

The host Falcons had trouble keeping their opponent contained, particularly from the outside, with two different defensive strategies on Saturday, January 11. In the second half, however, it found a strategy that worked and picked up the pace offensively for a 42-32 non-conference win.

"We started out with man-to-man (defense), and Shelton did too good a job against it," said Barlow Head Coach Joe Carollo. "Then we went to our secondary defense and Shelton did too good a job against it."

A thorn in Barlow's side in particular was Shelton freshman Londyn Walls, who scored 10 points in the first frame alone, including two three-pointers. Her first put the Gaels in the lead at 3-0.

Although the Falcons countered with a 7-0 run of their own, Shelton then responded with nine

unanswered points, including seven courtesy of Walls. It was not until 4.3 seconds remained in the first quarter that Barlow replied with Paige Jarvis sinking a free throw to make it 8-12 after one frame.

Once again, the Falcons managed to erase the deficit, this time with back-to-back steals and subsequent layups by Mia Tartaglia to tie things at 12-12 in the second quarter. Walls, however, would not be contained, netting all of her team's eight points in the quarter. Her fourth three-pointer of the game, coming right before the buzzer, put her team up by one (20-19) going into halftime.

When play resumed for the third quarter, the Falcons made use of the three-point shot. Agnes Davis sank one early in the half to put the Falcons up 22-19. Immediately following one by Mia Tartaglia, Davis added another and the Falcons clung to a 32-29 lead going into the final frame.

By then, the Falcons switched to a third defense, a one-three-one trap, which caused Shelton problems. Not only did they hold Walls scoreless, they limited the Gaels to just three points the rest of the way.

A 7-0 run to start the quarter put Barlow in control at 39-29 and it never looked back.

Tartaglia led Barlow with 18 points. She also led on defense with eight steals. Davis also scored in double digits with 12 points, all coming on threes, and had five steals.

Sarah Ashgar scored seven, and Ava Gillon added four points. Jarvis had one free throw.

Barlow, now 7-3, has already qualified for the state Class MM tournament. It visits Pomperaug Thursday, January 16 at 6:45 p.m. and is at New Fairfield on Tuesday, January 21 at 7:00 p.m. ■

MUSIC NOTE

Swing your partner 'round at A New England Contra Dance

By Pamela Brown



For the first time ever, The Granite and Redding Grange #15 are partnering up for "A New England Contra Dance" on Friday, January 17. Based on the tradition of New England's earliest settlers, the evening will feature a night of live music and community dancing. The event will take place at The Granite on 5 North Main Street from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. While the event is free, registration is required, and any donations collected will support the missions of The Granite and the Redding Grange #15.

Contra dance is a form of folk dancing with mixed origins from 17th century England, Scotland, and France. Made up of long lines of couples, there is easy footwork, twirls, and swinging around a partner. Don Heinold, a dance leader and instructor from Rhode Island, will be the caller leading the dancers through the sequence of steps. Music will be provided by Mickey Koth on fiddle and wind instruments along with John Kalinowski on accordion, concertina, and fife. The acoustic duo's roots are in Irish, Scottish, French-Canadian, jazz, and classical music so it will be an energized, upbeat, and amusing time for all.

Adults, families, and children eight and older with parental guidance are welcome. Attendees don't need a partner or any experience to attend. "People

should definitely feel comfortable coming alone. Beginners are highly encouraged. No one will be left out and it will move at a reasonable pace, so that everyone can keep up," said Melissa Stern, one of The Granite's board members and a dance professional.

Light snacks and refreshments will be served. "We encourage folks to support our local restaurants and businesses by having dinner beforehand or dessert after. Georgetown is fortunate to have amazing food options," she pointed out.

"The Redding Grange has a long history of hosting town dances, but this will be the first time we have co-hosted an event of this nature since we re-organized in 2021," said Elizabeth Jensen, President of Redding Grange #15. "We were delighted that The Granite reached out to us to co-host this wonderful event. Redding Grange had been exploring the option of hosting a square dance at our hall on Newtown Turnpike, but the larger space inside The Granite is more conducive to holding a large, community-wide dance."

According to Jensen, the event is an entertaining way to jointly support the mission of both organizations. "The Grange's mission statement is all about supporting community-building and wellness. Dancing is right in our wheelhouse," said Jensen. Stern agrees. "At The Granite,

we are dedicated to enriching our community with the arts, including dance, visual arts, and music. We're committed to creating new opportunities for live music in our community. In these times of heightened loneliness and isolation, community dance offers a wonderful opportunity to step away from our screens, connect with one another, share laughter, move together, and create shared moments of joy."

Margherita Pilato, Senior Program Coordinator at the Heritage Center, is excited to hear there's growing interest in contra dancing. "It's a wonderful way to get people more familiar with this New England tradition," she said. "I enjoy that they typically blend those with and without experience. It's spirited, high energy, and gets people together from all walks of life. It's both lighthearted and very concrete all in one."

"We are hoping for a lively, festive atmosphere that warms us all up during these cold, dark winter months," said Stern. "Our goal for the contra dance event is to create a space where people can mingle, reconnect with old friends, meet new neighbors, get some exercise, share laughter, smile, and learn something new. The possibilities for connection and joy are endless!" ■

Learn more and register at thegranitechurch.org/events

Sports stats and schedules



Boys basketball

Results:

January 7:
Newtown 60 / Joel Barlow 51
January 10:
Brookfield 64 / Joel Barlow 52

Record:

Joel Barlow 1-6

Next games:

January 16:
at home versus Pomperaug
at 7:00 p.m.
January 18:
away versus Bethel at 3:00 p.m.
January 21:
at home versus New Fairfield
at 7:00 p.m.

Girls basketball

Results:

January 7:
Newtown 33 / Joel Barlow 25
January 10:
Joel Barlow 43 / Brookfield 31
January 11:
Joel Barlow 42 / Shelton 32

Record:

Joel Barlow 7-3

Next game:

January 16:
away versus Pomperaug
at 6:45 p.m.
January 21:
away versus New Fairfield
at 7:00 p.m.

Hockey

Results:

January 6:
JBWA 2 / Conard 2
January 8:
JBWA 5 / New Milford 2
January 10:
JBWA 8 / Newtown /
New Fairfield 1

Record:

Joel Barlow 5-1-1

Next games:

January 18:
away versus Housatonic /
Northwestern /Torrington /
Wolcott Tech at 2:45 p.m.
January 20:
away versus Bethel /
Brookfield / Danbury /
Immaculate at 1:45 p.m.
January 22:
home versus Shepaug Valley
at 8:30 p.m.

Wrestling

Results:

January 8:
Newtown 75/Joel Barlow 3

Record:

Joel Barlow 1-2 (SWC)

Next matches:

January 18:
away at New Milford
Tournament at 9:00 a.m.
January 22:
away versus Brookfield /
Shepaug at 6:00 p.m.