

Ice Hawks cruise, slip in home rink

Written by MITCH MAERSCH
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Co-op hockey team drops Manitowoc but can't stay with Homestead in pair of games at Ozaukee Center

The Grafton/Port Washington Ice Hawks doubled their win total before taking one on the chin from a top hockey foe at the Ozaukee Ice Center last weekend.



The Hawks beat Manitowoc United, 7-2, on Friday, but lost to Homestead, 12-0, on Saturday.

Against Manitowoc, Eric Dondlinger scored Grafton/Port's first goal on the first line shift of the game.

After Manitowoc evened the score, Jeff Wade, Nate Perez and Taylor Snider combined to score five unanswered goals that put the Hawks in command.

"With our early season injuries, we have had to juggle our lines literally every game, and this was the first game these three had played together," Grafton/Port coach Dan Wade said.

"They were able to get out on the break and create high-quality scoring opportunities."

Jeff Wade finished the night with two goals and three assists. Perez had two goals and two assists, and Snider added a goal and two assists. Dondlinger scored once.

"It was our Student Night, and the energy from the crowd and Eric's first goal really got us going," coach Wade said.

Against Homestead, things got out of hand quickly for the Hawks, who were playing their fifth game in eight days.

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Grafton/Port missed two early power-play scoring chances and trailed, 3-0, after one period. Homestead added three goals late in the second period and kept the pressure on in the third.

“We had chances early, and (goalie) Izac Hickok kept us in the game, but Homestead is a talented team that will wear you down,” Wade said.

“We couldn’t stay with them.”

The weekend left Grafton/Port with a 2-5 season record, including 0-2 in North Shore Conference play.

This week, the Hawks were scheduled to play the Sussex Hamilton/Germantown/West Bend co-op team at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Kettle Moraine Ice Center.

Image Information:GRAFTON/PORT WASHINGTON’S Joe Benson tried to slip a shot past the Manitowoc goalie in a nonconference game at the Ozaukee Ice Center last Friday. Benson and his teammates pulled away for a 7-2 win, their second of the season.