



January 23, 2012 Summary

The week that was for the Junior Lions brought forth some very good and very sad news. The week started out with the revelation that assistant captain Patrick McCann is out for the season after surgery to repair a broken ankle suffered in a contest in the first week in January. Standout freshman forward Isaiah Sands is also lost for the remainder of the season after surgery to repair a torn ligament in his arm that was cut by a skate blade in last week's victory against New Trier.

The Junior Lions had three contests this past week and opened up with a Catholic grudge match against Benet academy. Benet had edged the Junior Lions two weeks earlier 4-3, and the Junior Lions were looking to even the season series. Needing only one point in their remaining two Catholic league games to clinch a playoff spot in their first year in the JV Catholic league, they were pumped up and ready to play. The Junior Lions quickly created several great scoring chances but were unable to convert as Benet weathered the early attack from the Junior Lions. Benet would strike first, taking a two-goal lead. Midway through the second period, freshman forward Cameron Cerda fell awkwardly into the end boards and had to leave the game and was lost indefinitely to a neck injury. With just 10 skaters remaining on the Junior Lions bench, a valiant effort was made to climb back into the contest as they scored to make it 3-1 Benet. However the effort would not prove enough to earn a Catholic playoff spot tonight as the Junior Lions would not be able to cut the margin any further. Benet added two more goals for a 5-2 win over the Junior Lions. The hard hat went to freshman defenseman David Duszynski.

Wednesday night, the Junior Lions would play against the Loyola JV team in a Metro North showdown. With just 10 skaters, it looked to be a challenging evening for the Junior Lions when just two minutes into the game, Loyola was able to capitalize on a line change by the Junior Lions defense. Freshman goaltender Brendan Burkman may have been beaten on his first shot of the evening, but he quickly settled down and did his part to keep his team in the game. The score would remain 1-0 for most of the contest. With just over a minute left, freshman forward Brandon Stewart's wrist shot on a breakaway attempt drew iron as the Lions came within inches of knotting the score. Six minutes into the 3rd period, the Ramblers would add a second goal, and despite a valiant effort from the 10 healthy junior Lions playing back-to-back contests, there did not seem to be enough gas left to mount a counter-offensive. Much of the remaining time was spent in the Junior Lions defensive zone, and the Lions defense yielded two late goals for a final of 4-0 in favor of Loyola. The hard hat went to junior defenseman and part-time orator Joseph Lorenzini for a stellar effort on the defensive side of play for the Junior Lions.

The level of optimism was high for Saturday's contest as the Junior Lions took on the Evanston Wildkits in a preview of an upcoming Metro North playoff contest. The Junior Lions

were well rested and in high spirits after finding out late Thursday that forwards Joey Zanfardino, Pat McCann and Adam Czarnecki, along with defenseman Jon Ostling and goaltender Joey 'Hank' Herrmann, were named to the Metro North JV all-star team. The game was hard fought and fast-paced as both teams, having been riddled by injury, were evenly matched with 10 skaters a side. The Junior Lions had more consistent pressure while the Wildkits were able to create several odd man breaks, but the day would belong to the goaltenders as the game remained scoreless until eight minutes remaining in the contest when forward Brandon Stewart put home a rebound on a Joe Lorenzini shot from the point on a power play for the Junior Lions. Late in the game, the Wildkits found themselves on their own power play and were able to convert with just over two minutes left on a broken play in front of the Junior Lions net. The game would end in a 1-all tie and would leave fans of both clubs eagerly anticipating their playoff rematch in the weeks to come. The hard hat went to junior captain Steven Edlbauer for his defensive efforts.

The Junior Lions have just 2 regular season games remaining as they take on Notre Dame Monday at 8 p.m. in Niles in their regular season Catholic league finale. They need a tie or a win to make the playoffs for the first time in the Catholic league at the JV level. The Junior Lions will wrap up their regular season in the Metro North with a home game at 9:10 p.m. at West Meadows against Lake Forest, another Metro North playoff preview. Come out and support the Junior Lions as they march toward their playoff portion of the season.