

## Dec. 27 Hornet Holiday Ice Hockey Classic



Hamilton's Allison Pelke makes one of her 18 saves against Nottingham, as she recorded her first career win in today's Hornet Holiday Classic victory (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos by e-mailing [jbsportphoto@aol.com](mailto:jbsportphoto@aol.com)).

### **Pelke and Gomez enjoy 'firsts' in Hamilton's victory over Nottingham**

By Rich Fisher  
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Dec. 27: The Hamilton West ice hockey team not only moved to 2-0 in the Hornet Holiday Classic, but Allison Pelke moved to 1-0 as a starting goalie in the tournament.

Making it extra special is that it was her first '1' ever.



Nottingham and Hamilton shake hands after the Hornets 8-2 win over their township rivals at Lawrenceville today (Photo by John Blaine/purchase photos at [jbsportphoto@aol.com](mailto:jbsportphoto@aol.com)).

Pelke gained her first career win as the Hornets topped Nottingham, 8-2, today in the second round of the tournament at Lawrenceville School. Since Hamilton won all three periods and the game, it picked up all four points, giving it 7-1/2 of a possible eight points in two tourney wins so far.

"It was a good solid game all-around," Hornets coach Matt Hamilton said. "We controlled play, but Nottingham hung tough through two periods (and only trailed 3-1).

“Ultimately, they ran out of gas in the third and we finally buried a few pucks. David Osnato, Thomas Tramontana and Sean Tohill all had big days offensively, while defensively we played outstanding. It was a nice win for us in the end.”

Tramontana and Tohill each had two goals and an assist, while Osnato had another hat trick and an assist.

Gerry Gomez joined Pelke in the “first” department by scoring his first career goal. The defenseman also had an assist. Richard Hauck and Joe Olszewski had assists and Pelke made 15 saves.

Kyle O’Byrne had another big game in goal for Nottingham, making 38 saves. Kyle Ballschneider had both Northstar goals, while Zach Renitsky and Matt MacNeal had assists.

The Hornets are back in action against Steinert in a third-round game at 3:30 Thursday.

### **Steinert comes out smoking, but St. Rose rallies for second-round win**

Steinert played one of its best periods of the season to start out, but could not sustain throughout.

Thus, St. Rose of Belmar took a 6-2 win over the Spartans in the second-round game of the Hornet Holiday Classic. It didn’t help that Steinert was without Joe Konrath, Ryan Zujkowski, Rob Mulcare, Austin Durling and Ben Kraml, but the Spartans hung in there.

Steinert picked up a point in the tournament by outscoring St. Rose 2-1 in the first period.

“Our guys were ready to play and came out energetic,” coach Ryan Declerico said.

St. Rose got the first goal, but Sean Clinedinst replied twice in the period’s waning moments. Clinedinst tallied with 3:07 left after Andrew Dudich lofted the puck out of the defensive zone and Alex Verdi stole it in the neutral zone. Verdi found a breaking Clinedinst, who raced down the right side and roofed the puck under the crossbar to tie it.

A few minutes later, Clinedinst shot one from an off angle on the right side that “surprised the St. Rose goalie,” according to DeClerico, and banked in off the inside pad.

“Our guys really played well against a very talented team, the coach said. “Coach (Pete) Rossi and I decided to change our forechecking strategy for this game. We put it into play only 15 minutes before the game without any on-ice practice and the guys did really well with it in the first period. We were able to contain their speed and keep shots to the outside.

“Unfortunately, the second period was not as successful.”

St. Rose scored three times in the second, and controlled the puck for most of the period.

“We fell into the same mistakes that have killed us all year,” DeClerico said. “We did not get the puck out of our zone and had to scramble around with long shifts and tired players. We were not able to get the forecheck going due to the long shifts. This allowed open space for St. Rose to use their speed and skill.

St. Rose scored two more in the third and outshot Steinert 38-13. By winning the last two periods and the game, the Shore team picked up three out of four points.

“Overall, we know that as soon as we go away from the systems that coach Rossi and I talk about we break down as a team,” Rossi said. “We played one of our strongest periods of the year in the first period.”

Which could pay future dividends.

“We will take that confidence of knowing that we are capable of playing really strong hockey and try to build on it,” DeClerico continued. “We need to play 45 minutes of hockey and not just 15 minutes. We will look to build off of this going into a tough game against Hamilton Thursday (at 3:30).