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## EP improves to 11-0 with rout of SRA

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**PAWTUCKET -- The bad news for East Providence on Friday night was that neither one of its top two scorers -- Louis Peterson and Pat Gormley -- scored a goal in the Townies' Division 3 crossover contest against area rival St. Raphael.**

The good news for the Townies was that a few other players stepped up and produced some of their finest offensive performances of the season.

Second-line forwards Tyler Elmasian and Mike Cicerone and defenseman Jared Hill each scored a pair of goals to lead the unbeaten Townies to their 11th straight victory, a 7-1 conquest of the Saints, before a large gathering at Lynch Arena.

"I couldn't be more pleased," said EP coach Gregg Amore. "We gave a good solid effort. We forechecked extremely well. We played three lines a lot, which we had planned to do because of (SRA's) numbers, and we dumped and chased a lot, which we normally don't do, we normally gain the zone and look for a play. But that was our game plan, we followed it, and it worked out."

The Townies grabbed a 2-0 lead in the opening period before breaking the game wide open with four goals in the middle stanza.

Cicerone, a junior left wing, netted the first two just 31 seconds apart from each other (at 1:38 and 2:09), and Elmasian, who set up both of Cicerone's scores, made it a 5-0 game at 7:15 by scoring on a nice 2-on-1 break with Cicerone for his second goal of the night.

"This was Tyler's best game of the year," Amore said of his sophomore center. "He had some good hustle goals and really played well."

After Elmasian's second goal, the game got a bit more chippy and physical. Both teams combined for 17 minor penalties, but 12 of them came in the third period and final four minutes of the second period. The officials also handed out a misconduct to a St. Raphael player with four minutes to play in the contest and ejected a player on each team for taunting with 42 seconds left in the game.

The Townies outshot the Saints by a 30-16 margin, as again, EP's defense turned in another blue-collared effort and sophomore netminder Cameron Ford finished with 15 saves.

"Our defense played well again," added Amore. "We were very stingy in our own end, and when Cam had to make the big save, he did."

Even though Gormley (who had a goal in each of EP's first 10 games) and Peterson didn't find the back of the net, they did set up the night's first goal, by linemate David Hill two minutes into the contest, as Hill poked in a rebound of a shot by Gormley.

The Townies' next goal came 8 1/2 minutes later by Elmasian, who gathered a loose puck near the Saints' blue ice, skated in alone on SRA goalie Brian Troy, and flicked a shot past his glove.

Hill netted the Townies' final two goals of the night, the first one off a pass from Ross Amaral on a 3-on-3 situation with 1:25 to play in the second period, and the latter one on a power-play score 3:42 into the third period.

The Saints, who saw their four-game win streak snapped and dropped to 7-6 in division play, broke Ford's bid for his league-leading seventh shutout of the season, when with 6:05 left in the game, Brendan Johnson scored a power-play goal on a slap shot off a pass from Justin Fournier.

While Peterson and Gormley were shut out, so was SRA's talented first line of left wing Jared Pietraszka, center Paul Rebello, and right wing Robert Zamen for only the second time this season. The first time came in a 3-0 shutout to unbeaten Scituate High, which will face the Townies in a 7:30 p.m. showdown tonight in Cranston.

"We had to skate them into the ground," Amore added of the Saints, who only dressed 14 skaters and two goalies and gave their first line a large amount of ice time. "We came out and did what we had to do. Their first line is obviously very talented, but they were playing long shifts and double shifts, and if you keep going and going, you're going to get very tired."

Gormley, who leads all Division 3-Central scorers with 16 goals, was forced to exit the game 1:15 into the final period when he banged his head into a post near the Townies' penalty box on a check by a SRA player and suffered a contusion near his left eye.