



Peterson powers EP

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BY ROBERT LEE
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PROVIDENCE -- East Providence senior center Louis Peterson wants to conclude his high school hockey career by leading the Townies to their first state title since 1975.

Yesterday, Peterson and his teammates took a big step toward winning the title by posting a 6-4 triumph over Scituate in the opener of their best-of-three Blue Cross/Blue Shield Division III title series at Providence College's Schneider Arena. Peterson led the way with three goals and three assists.

The second game is set for 1 o'clock today.

"It would mean everything to win the whole thing," Peterson said. "I have been waiting for this opportunity since I was a freshman. Our team is very unified. We are a band of brothers, and it would mean a lot to go out with a state title."

The top-seeded Townies (23-0-0) needed everything Peterson gave them. Scituate's Peter Simeone did his best to match Peterson. Simeone led the second-seeded Spartans (21-2-0) with two goals and an assist.

Peterson got help from teammates David Hill (goal, three assists), Patrick Gormley (goal, two assists) and goalie Cameron Ford, who made 27 saves.

"This is a disappointing loss, but fortunately this is the first game and we can come back just like we did today," Scituate coach Mark Luther said. "We lost the first period but came back. We'll be back . . . We can do it; we just have to take control of the first 10 minutes."

The Spartans overcame a sluggish start. Trailing by 4-1 after a dominating performance by the Townies in the first period, Scituate scored three consecutive goals to make make it 4-4 over the next two periods, in which East Providence was whistled for six penalties.

Derek Luther scored the tying goal with 4:55 left in the third period, but Peterson got the game-winner from the left circle on a power play with 1:32 remaining.

David Hill closed out the scoring, on an assist from Peterson, with 1:14 left.

"Peterson was excellent," East Providence coach Gregg Amore said. "Patrick Gormley, who is one of our hardest-working kids, was excellent . . . And Ross Amaral, our second-line center, was excellent, too."

Three of the Townies' goals came on power plays as Scituate was called for nine penalties.

Peterson ignited the Townies' offense 2:18 into the game when he scored on a breakaway for a 1-0 lead.

The Spartans answered 3:32 later when Simeone scored, on an assist from Luther, making it 1-1.

However, the Townies were just getting started.

Defenseman Anthony Tavares scored a power-play goal on a slap shot from near the blue line, putting the Townies ahead, 2-1, at 7:50 of the first period.

Peterson made it 3-1 when he found the back of the net from the left circle with 5:29 left in the opening session. And with 3:46 left, Gormley, with an assist from Peterson, scored a power-play goal, extending East Providence's lead to 4-1.

Scituate got close in the second period. Bryan Luther went top shelf with 4:08 left, and Simeone scored with 45.6 seconds to go, cutting East Providence's lead to 4-3.

First period -- EP, Louis Peterson (Anthony Tavares, David Hill) 2:18. S, Peter Simone (Derek Luther) 5:50. EP, Anthony Tavares (Patrick Gormley, Peterson), 7:50; Peterson (Hill, Gormley) 9:41; Gormley (Hill, Peterson) 11:14. Penalties -- S 3-6.

Second period -- S, Bryan Luther (Simeone, Derek Luther) 10:52; Simeone (Bryan Luther, Jason Thibault). Penalties -- EP 4-8; S 4-8.

Third period -- S, Derek Luther (Thibault) 10:05. EP, Peterson (Hill, Michael Cicerone) 13:28; Hill (Peterson). Penalties -- EP 2-4; S 2-4.

Saves -- EP, Cameron Ford, 27; S, Alvin Durning, 22.

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