

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

By Ross Forman

Bob Melton, wearing his lucky green New Trier tie again on March 20, in his 17th season as head coach of the school's top varsity team, New Trier Green, celebrated his 10th state championship.

New Trier Green won its second consecutive boys state championship in the top-tiered Red Division as the No. 1-seeded Trevians defeated No. 3-seeded Glenbrook North 2-1 on goals from Brent Segvich and Kevin Marren. New Trier goalie John Junge (28 saves) was named the game's MVP.

"My goal is to win state every year – not for myself, but for the kids, the ones who have heard about the Green teams of the past," Melton said. "We put in a game plan for every game, and the kids then have to execute. They did (against GBN).

"The key (against GBN) was two-fold. First, we knew we were not going to have a chance unless we stopped (the Spartans' top forwards, Nicholas) Day and (Nate) Harris, and we did; we kept them off the scoreboard. And, we really tried to attack their second-, third-, and fourth lines."

Melton, 48, said the title was particularly enjoyable because "I don't think this team was expected to win, so I am very, very happy. Even though we got the No. 1 seed, I don't think we were the favorite to win (state), which makes this win very special."

Junge said it was "an amazing game, by both teams," and not surprisingly low-scoring.

"It was absolutely incredible," he added.

Junge finished the season 22-4, with a season goals-against average of about 1.90.

"I thought I was seeing the puck well," Junge said. "GBN is a great team, but I have a lot of confidence against them; I just feel like I know what they are going to do."

Tommy Stobart, a senior at Waubonsie Valley, was credited with the game-winning goal with 7.3 seconds left to play in the first period of the Combined Division state championship, played March 20 at the United Center.

But he admitted after the win that senior Michael O'Hara (Waubonsie Valley) truly scored the goal, leading Waubonsie past Glenbard, 3-0, for Waubonsie's first ever hockey state championship.

Waubonsie finished the season 42-11-2, while Glenbard ended its season 32-19-4.

"It was a huge game and feels great to be on top, especially getting the shutout. This was awesome," Stobart said.

Stobart swiped at the rebound from the right side after Ben Vietri's backhander from the slot was stopped by Glenbard senior goalie Joel Mayo. O'Hara tapped it in. Vietri, a senior at Waubonsie Valley, was the team's top forward this season, entering the final game with 77 goals and 65 assists in 54 games played.

Stobart went the highlight reel route 4:30 into the second period. He side stepped a Glenbard defensive with an eye-popping move and then, on the breakaway from the top of the circle, drilled a shot past Mayo into the right side of the net.

"That's my go-to move, the toe-drag, and it's a great feeling to be able to pull that off, especially in my last game," said Stobart, who will attend Eastern Illinois University in the fall.

Adrian Rassing, a junior at Metea Valley, gave Waubonsie some breathing room at 6:14 of the second period, scoring a backhanded goal from the left side of the slot into the lower right corner. Rassing's 12th goal of the season was assisted by sophomore Jake Cirino (Oswego).

Senior Jake Rubinstein notched his 35th win of the season with the shutout in goal.

"We were flat for the first period, but were able to turn it around," said Waubonsie coach Jim Frasco. "I'm just so happy for these guys; they've worked hard and this is just a great feeling, just phenomenal."

- New Trier defeated Loyola 3-2 in double overtime to claim the girls' state championship. Ivy Dynek scored the game-winner, assisted by Rebecca Lindblad.

2013-14 Girls' High School Hockey Awards As Selected by Ross Forman

Girls Hockey Forward of the Year: Eric O'Connor (Loyola)
Runner-up: Nicole Guagliardo (Barrington)

Girls Hockey Defenseman of the Year: Natalie Ryan (Upper Fox Valley)
Runner-Up: Madeleine Shea (Fenwick)

Girls Hockey Goalie of the Year: Frances Flores (Fenwick)
Runner-up: Nicki Mueller (Upper Fox Valley)

Girls Hockey Coach of the Year: Jeff Bruns (Upper Fox Valley)
Runner-up: Nelson Forsberg (New Trier)

Editor's Note: This article was edited for content by AHAI