

Hill Ends Duluth's State Hockey Reign

By PAT REUSSE
Staff Writer

Anything Bobby Orr can do for the Boston Bruins, Bobby Young can do just as well for the Hill Pioneers.

That has been the feeling among the Maplewood high school's student body this hockey season and banners have proclaimed such things as "Hill Has Its Own Bobby Orr."

If you don't believe it, you should have been among the 4,100 fans who filled Aldrich Arena Sunday.

Young's goal with 3:32 elapsed in sudden death overtime gave Hill a 5-4 victory over Duluth Cathedral and the State Independent Tournament championship.

The victory ended Cathedral's five-year stranglehold on the title and the Pioneers had all sorts of motives for wanting to win, even if you exclude the desire to be a champion:

● Hill lost to Cathedral, 6-1, in the championship game last year in Duluth. Most of the Pioneers on this year's

ished skating off a penalty to Young and shot the puck down the ice in order to change personnel.

However, only four Pioneers came on the ice and the Hilltoppers' goal, in effect, came with a man advantage.

Jeff Netzel started the play with a pass to super centerman Mike Randolph, who in turn fed Paul streaking down on left wing. He hit the net from 25 feet.

Weum's lead goal at 12:14 came seconds after Hill goalie Tim Russell stopped Paul on a breakaway. Weum battled in a loose puck after a hectic scramble in front of the cage.

Cathedral built a two-goal advantage on Mike Weum's goal at 1:44. Mike's goal came after he retrieved his own rebound and stuffed it in.

It was beginning to look very much like Cathedral was on the way to state title No. 6. The 'Toppers' forecheckers were dominating the game by bottling up Hill in its own zone.

right of Russell spun around and fired a hard shot by the somewhat shocked Hill goalie.

Hill's Greg Tauer, however, got open for one of his high-velocity slap shots and tied it at 2:30 of the final period.

Tauer's blast from just inside the blue line and straight out in front of the net beat Langdon cleanly.

The next slap shot Hill got off also beat Langdon cleanly. It was Young's sizzler along the ice which found the far corner and made Hill a state champion for the first time in its history.

Hill fans are hopeful it will not be the last time.

FIRST PERIOD—1, Hill, P. Conroy (unassisted) 0:27; 2, Duluth Cathedral, Paul (Randolph, Netzel) 11:09; 3, Duluth Cathedral, Mark Weum (Randolph, Paul) 12:14. Penalties: Young (H), 9:06; M. Conroy (H), 13:31.

SECOND PERIOD—4, Duluth Cathedral, Mike Weum (unassisted) 1:44; 5, Hill, M. Conroy (P. Conroy) 3:48; 6, Hill, DeMike (unassisted) 5:23; 7, Duluth Cathedral, Randolph (unassisted) 13:10. Penalties: Spannbauser (H), 6:29; Serlich (DC) 8:02.

THIRD PERIOD—8, Hill, Tauer (unassisted) 2:30. Penalties: M. Conroy (H) 7:28; Paul (DC), 7:28; Seseman (DC), 8:05.

OVERTIME—9, Hill, Young (DeMike) 3:32. Penalties: None.

Saves:
Duluth Cathedral 3 15 9 2-30
Hill 15 13 13 3-30
Goalies: Langdon, Duluth Cathedral;

club played in that game.
● Hill had been beaten twice by Cathedral this season, both times by one goal. The last time it was 5-4 in sudden death overtime at Aldrich Arena.

● Hill's school is in danger of being closed because of financial troubles and Sunday's game possibly could have been the last for the Pioneers. "We wanted to win for ourselves and we also wanted to win for the school," said Andre Beaulieu, the Pioneers' fiery French-Canadian coach.

Young's decisive goal, which came on a Bobby Orr-like slap shot from the left point, was possible only because Hill had battled back twice to tie in regulation play.

The Pioneers jumped in front 27 seconds into the game when Pat Conroy took the puck off a faceoff, moved in and slid it under Duluth goalie Kimber Langdon.

Cathedral, however, dominated the rest of the period with its aggressive forechecking game and moved to a 2-1 lead on goals by Fred Paul and Mark Weum.

Paul's score came at 11:09 and was the result of a Hill mistake.

The Pioneers had just fin-

caught the forecheckers too deep and made it 3-2 by converting a three-on-one break at 3:48.

Matt Conroy got the goal, getting a setup pass from brother Pat, the Pioneers' relentless first-line center.

Cathedral thought it had a goal at 4:51 but it was ruled that the puck had been blown dead before it was tapped into the net.

"The goaltender (Russell) had the puck covered," said Lou Cotroneo, the referee. "He heard the whistle and started to get up. That's when the puck went in."

The Hilltoppers could not really gripe too loudly, since St. Thomas Academy had a goal nullified in overtime in a similar situation in Friday's first round. If it had been allowed, Cathedral would have been playing in consolation for the first time in the tournament's six-year history.

Hill followed with the tying goal at 5:23 when Steve DeMike's high shot over Langdon hit the crossbar and fell over the goal line.

A spectacular play by Randolph, who was the most spectacular player in the tournament, gave Cathedral a 4-3 advantage at 13:10.

Randolph took his own draw on the faceoff to the



SPRAWLING SAVE. Hill goalie Tim Russell makes a diving stop on a wrist shot by Fred Paul (far left) of Duluth Cathedral in the championship game at the State Independent Tournament Sunday at Aldrich Arena. Pioneer players Fred Simon (17), Les Larson (2) and Mike Remarcke (8) and Cathedral wing Mark Weum (partially obscured by Larson) converged on Russell after the save. Hill won the title contest, 5-4 in overtime. — Staff Photo by T. J. Stasser.

Beaulieu Knew Shot Was Good

By CHARLEY HALLMAN
Staff Writer

Bob Young let loose a cannon shot.

Clunk.

Duluth Cathedral's five-year stranglehold on the non-public hockey title was over.

The Hill players hesitated. Then Young raised his stick and was mobbed as his teammates and Hill fans dove on him at the blue line.

Andre Beaulieu, Pioneer coach, said later, "I followed the puck pretty closely. Yes, I knew it was in."

Young, later named to the all-tourney team as a defenseman, said in the dressing room, "I saw the opening in the right corner and thought he (Cathedral goalie Kimber Langdon) might be screened so I let her go."

The junior defenseman said, "It was unreal. It's very exciting to be a champion."

Beaulieu, puffing on a long victory cigar in the dressing room, said he thought his boys won "because they wanted to win more than everyone else."

Asked what he thought the turning point in the game was, the Pioneer mentor replied, "When we came back from being down 3-1 and tied it up.

That proved to the kids we could score with them."

Pioneer center Pat Conroy, like Young a junior, said he thought the turning point didn't actually occur on the ice, but on the players bench after Cathedral went ahead 3-1.

"Our line was on the bench and Andre fired us up. He told us we could still win but we had to start making the puck bounce our way and forecheck more."

The next shift out, Pat set up his brother Matt on a two-on-one dash on the Hill-topper goal, and Matt converted to bring the Pioneers within one.

Senior defenseman Greg Tauer, who tied the game at 4-all in the third period for Hill, explained his goal.

"I was able to get control

of the puck against the right boards and skated across the center. I just saw a little hole and let her fly. Luckily it went in. It's just fabulous to be a winner. It was the most important goal I've ever scored."

Tauer's hard shot blistered by Langdon before he saw it and could move on it.

In an unusual display of unity, Benilde fans joined those of the Pioneers for the championship game.

Benilde would cheer Hill and Hill would cheer Benilde and the 4,000-plus spectators heard evidence that the threat of losing the two Christian Brothers schools has made the student bodies of both very close.

One Red Knight fan wearing a letter jacket said after the game, "I almost feel

like we won instead of Hill. Our guys really wanted to see the Pioneers take it after they lost Saturday.

"For awhile though, I thought Cathedral was going to win. There sure a lot of loose pucks in front of the Hill net."

Brother Francis Carr, a teacher at Hill, said, "I've been pacing the floor for 45 minutes. It sure feels great to be with a winner. The boys deserved it, Andre deserved it and Hill High School deserved it."

The one sad note in the locker room came when a father brought up the possible school closing. "Just think, they only lose four kids. What a marvelous chance they would have to defend the title next year.

"But I wonder if they're going to get the chance."

