

Sports

Springfield Thunderbirds grab OT win over Penguins

WILKES-BARRE, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (11-8-2-0) got the last laugh in a wild, back-and-forth game, 4-3, over the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins (10-8-3-0) in overtime on Saturday night inside Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza.

As was the case in each of the first two games in the season series, the first period came and went with goaltenders remaining perfect. On this night, Vadim Zherenko and Joel Blomqvist turned in all the stops, with Zherenko the busier of the two with nine first-period stops, while Blomqvist stopped six. Zherenko had the two best saves of the frame in two minutes, denying both Sam Houde and Jagger Joshua with the leg pad on in-tight scoring chances.

Each team also had two power plays in the first period, but the man-advantage units could not generate much offense, and the 0-0 deadlock remained into the intermission.

After quiet opening periods, the power plays came to life in the second, and it took the Penguins just 1:14 to get on the board first. Sam Houde got his stick on a loose puck in the slot and bounced a fluttering shot toward Zherenko's cage, getting a helpful tip

from Peter Abbandonato for the game's opening goal, which doubled as Abbandonato's first as a Penguin.

Despite the deficit, the T-Birds rallied on a chance of their own after two penalties in a 1:16 span were called against Wilkes-Barre/Scranton. With the 5-on-3 advantage, rookie Zach Bolduc took advantage, rifling home a one-time slapper through Blomqvist, tying the game at 7:49. Calle Rosen and Hugh McGing earned the helpers on Bolduc's fourth goal of the season.

After the equalizer, both teams had more power play chances to take leads, but the penalty killing strengthened, along with continued good work from Zherenko and Blomqvist.

The game took on a truly chaotic feel in the third period. After the T-Birds failed to convert on two separate power play chances, it was the fourth line that got Springfield its first lead. Mathias Laferrriere deked around a fallen defender and took a shot from the left circle that plopped down behind Blomqvist. Drew Callin was in the right place to tap it across the line for his third of the season, giving the T-Birds the 2-1 lead at 4:31.

Unfortunately for the T-Birds, it was just the beginning of a see-saw 20-minute period, as the Penguins equalized during a delayed penalty just 1:05 later, as Valtteri Puustinen rammed home a loose puck after Zherenko and the defense made two sprawling saves earlier in the sequence.

With the game back even, 2-2, the T-Birds faced their toughest challenge of the night when Hunter Skinner was ejected and given a match penalty for a hit to the head of Penguins' forward Sam Houde. Wilkes-Barre/Scranton had three minutes of uninterrupted power play time, but could not solve the PK nor Zherenko.

After surviving the major, the T-Birds then got their power play chances as the Penguins took a too-many-men minor, as well as a tripping call to Jack St. Ivany. With time waning on the club's 8th power play of the evening, the T-Birds finally broke through as Matthew Peca snapped a wrist shot through Blomqvist at 16:38 to make it a 3-2 game.

Once again, though, the Penguins had a rebuttal, as Abbandonato scooted into the slot, took a pass from Will Butcher, and slipped it through Zherenko's legs to tie the

game, 3-3, with just 1:39 to go in regulation, setting the stage for the second overtime in as many nights between the division foes.

Overtime was a riveting, back-and-forth affair with both goaltenders answering the bell on multiple occasions. Adam Gaudette had a breakaway with the game on his stick, only to see Blomqvist turn him away, while Ty Smith had perhaps the Penguins' best chance with the T-Birds' defense out of sorts, but Zherenko had the denial.

At last, with less than a half minute left separating the teams from a shootout, Laferrriere circled the offensive zone to the right side before slipping a puck near the crease. Matt Kessel had moved up on the play and put himself in the perfect position to get a piece of it and beat Blomqvist, giving Springfield the 4-3 overtime triumph. It was just Kessel's second goal of the season, and it gave the T-Birds their first home win since Oct. 29.

The T-Birds get some time to rest before a rare single-game weekend next Saturday as they welcome the Bridgeport Islanders to the MassMutual Center for the annual Teddy Bear Toss.

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sition, it is a more test-friendly opportunity for our students," Blain said. "In biology vs physical science we tend to have better results."

"This would line up biology with the biology test, so everybody would be onboard," Rumpalik said. "We figured that by giving everyone bio, we're getting everyone to take the same exam, it's easier to analyze the data and it's easier to help the students that need help."

They also feel this will open up more opportunities to them in the remainder of their high school career.

"It also opens more opportunities for students down the road," Blain said. "With your physical science students that walk in taking physical science, the next technical course is typically biology because students have to take that and then they're at their junior year before they're really starting to explore some of the other options. By giving the students the opportunity to take chemistry or environmental science as a sophomore year we're actually giving them more options."

The proposed curriculum update also included several new courses. They want to add offerings for AP Studio Art, "Learn to Jam", Music and Sound in Film, and Heritage Spanish.

"Learn to Jam" is a new music course that would allow students to engage in non-traditional methods of making music.

"Learn to Jam is a course for any type of musician—beginning, intermediate or advanced—centering on non-traditional methods," Blain said. "Whether it be bucket drumming, which has become increasingly popular, whether it be boom sticks. It's just a way to increase our offerings in our music department."

The school wants to offer students a

wider variety of course choices in music so that each student can find a course they truly enjoy.

"We really want to expand our offerings to give students more opportunity to explore the music in ways that they see fit," Blain said.

The new Spanish class, Heritage Spanish, is geared toward native Spanish speakers.

With 9.3% of the AHS student population being hispanic or latinx, AHS wants to make sure those speakers are fully supported within the school.

"Our Spanish classes are very traditional, we teach them for students without a spanish background," Blain said. "Our spanish-speaking students come from different dialects and they often struggle the most in a spanish class. The native speaking course...allows for that experience and we actually support them with their writing."

This course will include a cultural aspect and allow for native speakers to be able to fully succeed within a Spanish class, where the structure in a traditional course often impedes their success.

"This makes a lot of sense, it's like Spanish One but for the native Spanish speakers," Committee Member Wendy Rua said.

The Heritage Spanish course or courses similar to it are offered in most school districts with a high spanish-speaking population. Agawam wants to get ahead of the curve by starting with this course now.

The goal would be to, in the following year, offer a part two of this course so those interested can continue to advance in this field of study.

The school committee will discuss their decision on approval or disapproval of this proposed plan at their next meeting.

Public Notices

AGAWAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS PUBLIC HEARING Renaming of School Petition

According to the provisions of the Agawam Charter, Article 8, section 8-1 (b), a public hearing shall be held to act by taking a vote on the merits of every petition which is addressed to the School Committee and which is signed by at least 50 voters. The public hearing regarding the name change from Robinson Park School to the William P. Sapelli School is scheduled for **December 12, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.** in the **Agawam Junior High School auditorium** located at **1305 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.** 11/30, 12/07/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD23P2429EA

Estate of: Joseph Anthony Minella Also known as: Joseph A. Minella, Joseph D. Minella Date of Death: 11/10/2023

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal**

Representative has been filed by **Gail A. Nadok of Agawam, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Gail A. Nadok of Agawam, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/27/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the

MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

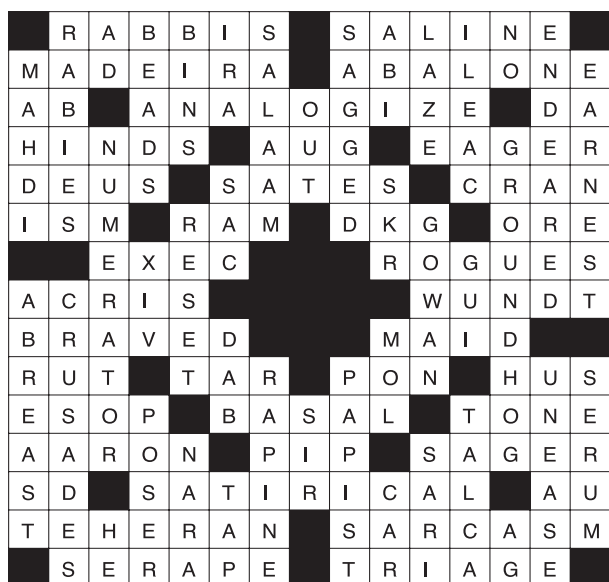
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: November 29, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
12/07/2023

Legal Ad AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, December 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM** at the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of DePalma for work to be performed at South Westfield Street (Parcel ID E4 2/10 & E4 2/2), subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of
Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION
12/07/2023



Agawam Advertiser News OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Early Deadlines for all LEGAL NOTICES...

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 21 at Noon for Publication Dec. 25-29

Happy Holidays!

Happy New Year!

All Papers Will Deadline Thursday, Dec. 28 at Noon for Publication Jan. 1-5