

COLLEGE HOCKEY

Crusaders sweep Saints

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Mission accomplished for the Okanagan Crusaders.

Heading into their weekend homestand, the Crusaders were eyeing a sweep of the visiting Selkirk Saints with an opportunity to move closer to .500 and into playoff position.

OC did just that, winning 5-2 on Friday night in Winfield, then 4-2 on Saturday evening at Rutland Arena. And the scores didn't do the Crusaders' efforts justice, as OC outshot Selkirk 53-29 and 62-17 over the two games, with Saints goalie Cody Deadmarsh earning second- and first-star honours for his respective 48- and 58-save performances.

"We got lots of shots and lots of opportunities," Crusaders coach Kim Barnstable said, "but their goalie played well both games."

The Crusaders peppered Deadmarsh and spread around the offence throughout the weekend. In Friday's opener, OC had five different goal scorers and 10 players register points, as Matt Elia, Dekker Mende, Andrew Rebus, Craig Materi and Kolby Barnstable lit the lamp. Dave Mann and Sasha Golin contributed two assists each, and starting goalie Adam Butler made 27 saves for the win.

On Saturday night, it was more of the same with four different goal getters for OC. Elia and Materi both struck again, while Derek Liebel, with his first of the season to open the scoring, and Golin also scored.

Backup goalie Cameron Beskidny stopped 15 shots to earn his first win of the season.

"The first couple periods of the first game, I wasn't really happy and our guys were frustrated because they had to get the rust off," said Barnstable, whose squad hadn't played since a 4-3 road win over Fraser Valley on Nov. 1. "But after that, the last period (on Friday) and then all of (Saturday) night, I thought we played really well and that's evidenced by how many shots we got."



Materi also assisted on Golin's marker to finish the weekend with three points against his former team, while taking over the Crusaders' scoring lead with 13 points on 11 goals and two assists this season.

"He really had a great weekend. Even the goal he set up was one of those highlight-reel goals, and he scored a highlight-reel one, too," Barnstable said of Materi, who spent the past two seasons with Selkirk and is the only BCIHL veteran on the expansion Crusaders' roster. "We look to Craig to do that kind of thing for us. And to do that against some of his old teammates was really exciting for him and us."

Materi is third in goals and tied for 14th in league scoring.

With the sweep, the Crusaders improved to 5-6-1 on the campaign, and moved into third place in B.C. Intercollegiate Hockey League standings. The Saints, who were coming off a three-point weekend against University of Victoria, fell to 1-10-1 and remain last in seven-team circuit.