

Worcester Railers comeback falls short

READING, PA — The Worcester Railers HC (9-9-1-1, 20 pts) fell to the Reading Royals (10-9-2-0, 22 pts) on Saturday, December 6th, with a final score of 4-5 in front of a crowd of 3,494 at the Santander Arena. The Railers are back in action on Wednesday night agains the Adirondack Thunder at will take on the Royals again on home ice on January 14th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Reading struck first with an early goal, scored by Massimo Rizzo (1-2-3), assisted by Nolan Burke (1-1-2) and Carter Berger (0-2-2) at 4:09 in the first. The Royals extended their scoring streak to two goals, the second added by Jeremy

Michel (1-0-1), assisted by Rizzo and Ben Meehan (0-1-1) at 15:45 in the first (0-2). Worcester answered with a power play tally of their own at 17:46, scored by Gleb Veremyev (1-0-1), assisted by Anthony Callin (0-1-1) and Drew Callin (0-1-1) (1-2). Reading bookedend the first period with their third goal of the night from Burke, assisted by Rizzo and Berger at 19:24. Reading grabbed the only goal in the second period, a tipped shot from Robbie Stucker (0-1-1), redirected by Nick Capone (1-0-1), also assisted by Artem Kulakov (0-1-1) at 7:46. A final Reading goal was scored by Kyle Haskins (1-0-1) at 2:54 in the third. Worcester answered the Royals’ fifth

goal with three goals in the second half of the period. The first by Matt DeMelis (1-1-2) (2-5), the second by Anthony Repaci (1-1-2) (3-5), and the third by Lincoln Hatten (1-1-2) (4-5). The clock ran out just as Worcester pushed for their goal to tie the game and force overtime, but the game ended in a 5-4 Royals’ victory.

Reading opened the game with an early lead at 4:09. Royal’s forward Massimo Rizzo (4th) tucked the puck in between the pipe and left skate of Parker Gahagen (0-1). Reading stretched their lead to two goals with a score from Jeremy Michel (1st) at 15:45 (0-2). A chance for the Railers to narrow the

gap came late in the period as they went on their third power play of the night, which opened the ice for Anthony Callin to feed a pass from behind the net to Gleb Veremyev (2nd) for Worcester’s first goal at 17:46 (1-2). T.J. Walsh headed to the box shortly after the tally for holding, which put Reading on their first power play of the night. Nolan Burke (3rd) nabbed a goal for the Royals 28 seconds into Walsh’s penalty to re-establish their two-goal lead. Shots on goal were 12-16 in favor of Reading.

The Royals’ fourth goal of the night came just over a third of the way through the second period from forward Nick Capone (2nd).

Worcester played the period on the defensive and found themselves down a man on two separate occasions. Neither penalty resulted in a Royals goal, but Capone’s scored soon after the clock ran out on Riley Ginnell’s time served for high-sticking. Worcester was kept off of the board in the second which left the score at 4-1 Reading to close the second. Worcester trailed in shots on goal with nine to Reading’s 12. Reading was assessed one penalty served by Ben Meehan.

As play resumed in the third, Worcester worked to cut into the Royals three-goal lead, turned four as Kyle Haskins (5th) added another to Reading’s tally for the evening at 2:54. Worcester

opened the floodgates on Reading’s net and scored three times in the second half of the period. Matt DeMelis scored an even strength goal at the 12:41 mark to make it a three-goal game. Worcester then called its timeout and pulled goaltender Thomas Gale to give the team an extra attacker. Repaci (6th) (3-5), and Hatten (8th) (4-5) each added their own goals with the extra-attacker on to get back to within one. Despite their offensive push across the final 2:30 of the third, Worcester fell short by one as the final horn sounded. The final score was 5-4 Reading. Final shots were 41-35 Worcester, and final penalties were six for the Royals and three for the Railers.

TURLEY, from page 7

covering sports and I really enjoy watching high school soccer.”

Peterson also named baseball as one of his favorite sports to cover. Peterson, especially over the past several years, has had no shortage of exciting competition to cover. He’s been at most major championship games in Turley’s coverage area, and even enjoys traveling around the state to schools he has never been to thanks to the state’s new tournament format.

Peterson was not even taking much of a break at the PVSOA banquet, forgoing receiving too much recognition, and focusing his attention on the award winners at the event (see related stories).

Henry did not have a typical path to becoming Turley’s longstanding sports photographer since 2006.

He had a more than 30-years career in the military in the United States Air Force. He spent many of his years working as a mechanic at Westover Air Reserve Base right in his hometown of Chicopee.

But he also spent some of his time overseas during his early days in the military.

“I bought my first SLR while I was in Thailand,” Henry said. He was looking to capture moments from his tours in foreign places and began taking pictures.

He eventually built his own dark room at his home. But he did not do too much more with photography until digital became more preva-

lent and he was encouraged to apply to the Chicopee Register following his retirement from the military in 2006.

He was put in contact with then-sports Editor Lou Zoldy, and has been a fixture with Turley Sports ever since. Additionally, over the years, his non-sports photo spreads have also been a huge support for Turley’s mission of capturing the big events in the communities. Among other things, he has covered the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Holyoke for many years, and has done many photo spreads in Agawam, Holyoke, and Chicopee in recent years.

In accepting their letters of commendation, both thanked the PVSOA for recognizing their work. Henry recognized the student-athletes and their accomplish-

ments as what has found him the most enjoyment in the work he has done for the past 20 years.

Turley Sports is dedicated to the coverage of high school sports with a boots-on-the-ground type of approach, attending as many events as possible with photo or story coverage. Both Henry and Peterson’s loyalty to Turley and to the student-athletes in the region personify the approach and the pursuit of that mission.

Peterson was just the third writer to be recognized by the PVSOA while Henry became the first photographer to receive a letter of commendation from the organization. The PVSOA has been awarding letters of commendation since 1979.

T-Birds get big win over Bruins

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (6-11-3-2) rode an otherworldly performance from their goalies to a 3-1 win over the Providence Bruins (17-5-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Vadim Zherenko had the busiest first period of anybody in the building, as the T-Birds goaltender was subjected to 15 attempts in a furious first-period push by the Bruins. Zherenko stood his ground, relenting only a power-play one-timer to Georgii Merkulov.

However, before Merkulov broke through, the T-Birds used their first shot on net of the day to get a fortuitous bounce and a 1-0 lead as Matthew Peca threw a puck off the legs of Hunter Skinner and through Michael DiPietro at 6:20 of the first period.

Providence wound up outshooting Springfield by a 15-2 margin in the opening frame, but the T-Birds responded with a great start to the second, as Chris Wagner found open space in the low slot and wired a perfect wrist shot over DiPietro’s glove at

2:04, off a great find from Nikita Susuev.

The T-Birds played a much more balanced second period, limiting Providence’s high-danger chances and allowing Zherenko clear sight lines to deny all 11 Bruins shots that did reach the net.

The pressure only intensified in the final 20 minutes for Zherenko, as the Providence attack emptied the tank on the Springfield goal mouth with 20 shots on net in the final period, but “Big Z” had responses every single time, including a highlight-reel denial of Christian Wolanin on a one-timer from the right-wing circle in the closing minutes.

Sam Stange eventually gave the T-Birds a breath with an empty-netter with less than 30 seconds to play to usher the visitors to a victory. Zherenko completed his masterpiece with 45 stops.

The T-Birds are back on the ice next Saturday, Dec. 13, as they pay a visit to Utica to take on the Comets; puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. at Adirondack Bank Center.

AWARDS, from page 7

be felt in the room as the PVSOA gave out their sportsmanship awards, most valuable players, and other miscellaneous awards for service, contributions and dedication to the soccer community at large.

James Duggan, who was the master of ceremonies at last Friday’s banquet, said he thinks its amazing that the PVSOA is still going strong with its banquet.

“You are all a part of history,” Duggan told the award winners. “Our program gets bigger every year as we

have the entire history of our awards in that program.”

Chief among the recognized people at the banquet are the sportsmanship awards. Coaches like Eric Degnan of Monson girls soccer and Tom Rivet of Chicopee boys soccer, both of whom were present at this year’s awards ceremony for other recognition, often said the sportsmanship awards for their teams were huge honors.

Degnan, who recently retired from coaching, said making sure his teams showed exemplary sportsmanship was even more important than win-

ning league titles, and multiple sectional and state championships. Degnan has received nine sportsmanship awards from the PVSOA, all with Monson.

Rivet has three from the group. Two came with Chicopee boys soccer and one with East Longmeadow.

Outgoing President David DelBuono, who received an award, emphasized the importance of holding the annual event.

He said he appreciated the hard work of all the officials who continue to work hard for the student-athletes

on the playing field.

The event was attended by family and friends of the awardees along with several recognizable faces who have served as officials for many years.

Duggan said he is looking forward to having everyone back next years for the 80th years of the awards. The banquet was established in 1946.

The PVSOA recognizes individuals with the Jimmie Downie and Larry E. Briggs Awards as well as plaques given to referees who had achieved milestone years of service..

Public Notices

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING

Bulrush LLC (microbusiness-es) is giving notice of a Community Outreach Meeting in the parking lot at **1 Cabot St. Holyoke, 01040**, their proposed location, at **5:15 pm on Dec 29th, 2025**. There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions or, email ezra@blueskiescan.com 12/12/2025

City of Holyoke Invitation to Bid IFB 2026-25H Compliance Contractor

The city of Holyoke is seeking to collaborate with a contractor that works to bring properties into compliance with state laws and local city ordinance. The compliance contractor brings compliance to areas that have been neglected and have been

cited as noncompliant with state and local regulations. Areas may include biological waste, blood, syringes, human and animal feces, diapers, and sharp objects. Those awarded with the contract to be the compliance contractor of the city must be able to work in conditions and meet the requirements of the position which include but not limited to; Get properties into compliance within 7 days which is to include, board & securing, removing overgrown vegetation, **graffiti removal**, and monitoring. Will work **with Board of Health**, Building, PD and local vendors. All supplies for board and secure and personal protective equipment would be purchased and supplied by the supplier. Documents will be available starting on 12/10/25 by requesting electronically from morrowj@holyoke.org or in person from the

purchasing office. Or in person at no charge from the Purchasing Department. Bids will be accepted until 12/30/2025. **SUBMISSIONS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY to morrowj@holyoke.org on or before 2PM 12/30/2025**. The electronic timestamp will be the determining time. Submissions are to have the title “Compliance Contractor Submission” in the subject line. More than 1 contractor may be chosen. The estimated contract value is aprox \$50,000 a year total, not per contractor. The city reserves the right to contract with respondents for up to 3 years based on appropriations and contractor performance. The city follows Ch.30B, Ch.149 and all other applicable purchasing laws. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids. 12/12/2025

City of Holyoke Office of Purchasing Invitation to Bid IFB 2026-19SD Holyoke High Roof

The City of Holyoke, 536 Dwight St, Holyoke, MA 01040, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for IFB 2026-19SD the Kelly Elementary Building Updates Project located at 216 West St, Holyoke, MA 01040. The work is estimated to cost \$6,650,000. Construction Schedule anticipated to start June 22, 2026, and substantially completed by September 1, 2026. Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive. Filed sub trades must be certified by DCAMM in the categories of PAINTING, FLOORING, MISC METALS, ELEVATOR, PLUMBING, HVAC and

ELECTRIC. All Bidders must include a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Update Statement. Filed Sub Bids will be received until January 8, 2026, at 2:00 PM and publicly opened, forthwith online. Prime Contractors must be certified by DCAMM in the category General Building Construction. Bidders must include a current DCAM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAM Update Statement.

A pre-bid walkthrough will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 2pm for both General bidders and Filed Sub Trades. Bidders are able to meet at the main entrance of Kelly Elementary School, located at 216 West St, Holyoke, MA 01040.

General Bids will be received until January 16, 2026, at 2:00 PM and publicly opened, forth-

with online. Only pre-qualified General Bidders may submit bids. General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (considering all alternates), and made payable to the City of Holyoke. Bid Forms and Contract Documents are available electronically at www.biddocs.com (BDO# B25-HQ8P) or in person at Nashoba Blue, Inc. at 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749 (978-568-1167) on Wednesday December 10, 2025 after 9:00 AM. Questions due by December 31, 2026, at 2:00 PM. The city reserves the right to reject any and all bids if in the city’s best interest. 12/12/2025

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The Holyoke Sun

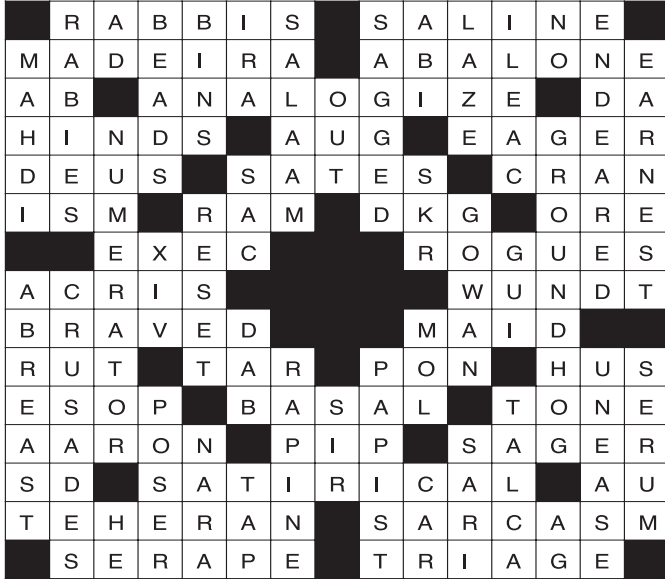
OBITUARY POLICY

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 \$275, 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.



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