

# Navy Vets win remembering Sorensen

Story and photo by MARK SCHADENBERG  
of The Daily Sentinel-Review

The Woodstock Navy Vets assumed sole possession of first place in the Niagara Junior C West Division with a 7-1 victory over the Paris Mounties last night at the Perry Street Arena.

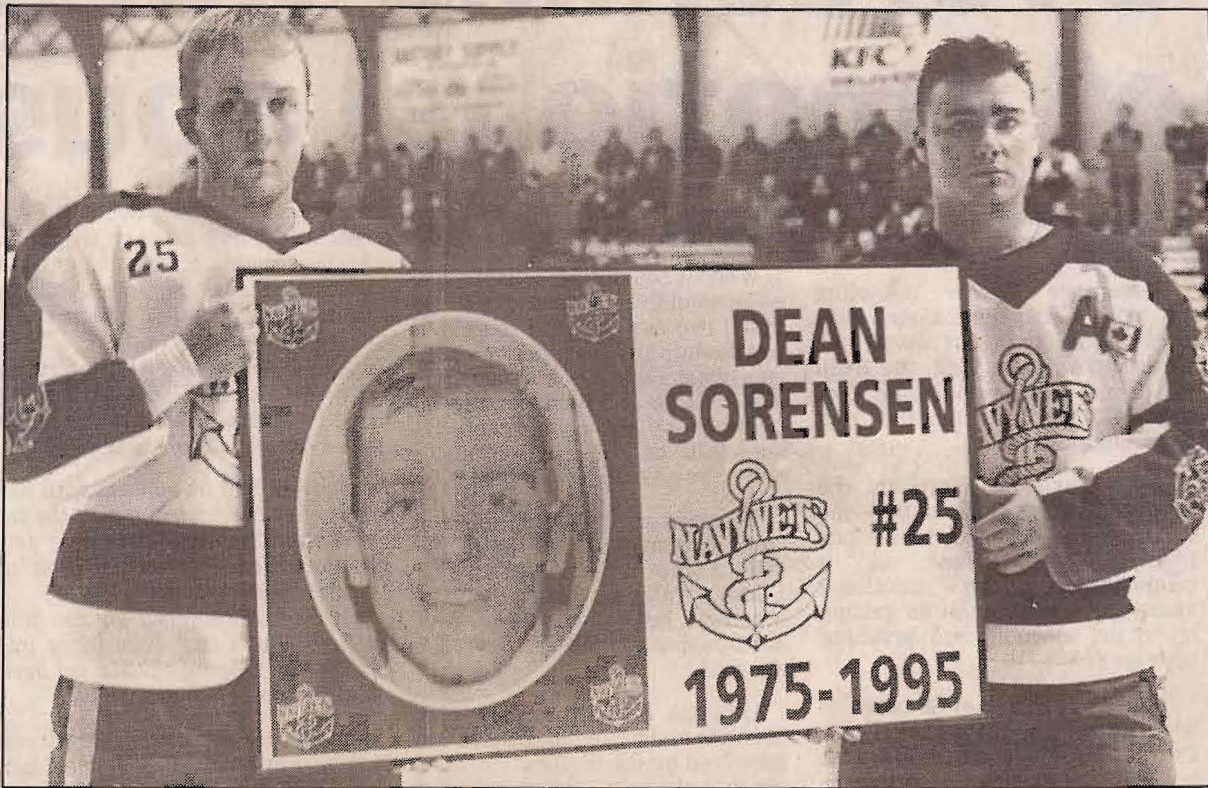
However, the importance of the game in the standings was overshadowed by the emotional pre-game tribute to Dean Sorensen, who was killed in the early morning hours of Nov. 12 in a single-vehicle accident on Highway 403.

After postponing two games and trouncing Simcoe 9-0 last Sunday, last night was the Navy Vets first home game since Sorensen's death.

"This goes much farther than the wins and losses," said Navy Vets coach Dave Bogart. "All I could think about this week was preparations for the pre-game ceremony. I was hoping it would all go perfectly as we could pay our respects and honor Dean — and everything went well.

"The guys then went out and played an awesome game. They played inspired hockey, wanting to win this game for Dean," continued Bogart. "We have won three straight championships and have enjoyed a lot of wins, but this is my most satisfying victory in five years with this hockey club. You could feel that the guys wanted to do well tonight, to follow Dean's character and to play well for Dean."

A banner in Dean Sorensen's memory was unveiled at centre



PLAYING THEIR FIRST home game since the death of Dean Sorensen, the Woodstock Navy Vets last night unveiled this memorial to Sorensen which will be displayed in the Perry Street Arena. Holding the memorial is Ryan Smith (left) and Mike Konigshofer. Last night, Woodstock defeated the Paris Mounties 7-1.

ice, while Navy Vets' forwards Ryan Smith and Mike Konigshofer skated around the arena with a commemorative mural that will be displayed at the Perry Street Arena and then moved to the new arenas at the Woodstock District Community Complex when it opens next year.

"It was one of Dean's dreams to play in the new arena. He talked about it often," said Dianne Sorensen, Dean's mother. "A little of him will now be over at the new arenas. Tonight will be long remembered, and speaking for Bob (Dean's dad) and myself, this was a really nice dedication. The whole Navy Vets organization has to be complemented for this tribute. The club always goes that extra mile — they're a top-notch organization and that's why they've been winning year after year."

Sorensen, 20, was in his fourth season with the Navy Vets with the first three ending in Niagara West championships. His determination and will to win will continue with the hockey club — through all the players, but especially through Dean's brother Tim, a 17-year-old defenceman in his second season.

"I don't know how all the boys were able to hold up with all this emotion," said Dianne. "The players all became part of our family — the team is a family. Dean would often bring home one of his teammates and we'd sit around the kitchen table and talk. Dean al-

ways made a point of introducing his teammates. Dean was also always proud to see me wearing his Navy Vets hockey coat."

Coping with the loss of a son is an obvious hardship, but the Sorensen family continues to receive support.

"Dave Bogart has just been a super person. He has called just about every day, just to see if I'm OK. The entire Navy Vets organization has just been great," said Dianne.

On the ice, the Navy Vets fell behind 1-0 as Mark Fox batted the puck past Woodstock goalie Tim Pinder 4:20 into the first frame.

A couple minutes later, the pent up emotion let loose as Navy Vets' Bill Ebel, Brandon Murphy and Mike Konigshofer were involved in a heated battle with Mounties' Joe Ligori, Jim Neeve and Derek Demeyere. The instigator was a high stick from Ligori, but the situation that followed took referee Jim Ryan about 15 minutes to sort out.

"It's tough to get a grip on your emotions, on your feelings after everything this club has had to endure over the past two weeks," said Bogart. "We've run into a few obstacles — it's been a lot for these guys to deal with."

Trailing 1-0, the Navy Vets would go on to score seven unanswered, leading 2-1 after one period and 3-1 after two before adding four more in the third.

Drew Campbell and Ryan Smith both netted a pair, while singles went to Kale Brown, Andy Hewitt and Ted Bertrand.

Smith's first marker — 9:35 into the third — was the prettiest of the night. Paris was breaking out of their own end, but the puck was stopped by defenceman Craig Halpenny at mid-ice, Smith gain controlled and with one quick move was in alone on Mounties' keeper Jamie Disano. To score, Smith slid the puck left, deked Disano and deposited the puck into the now-vacated cage.

**Here, There, Everywhere:** Leading the list of Navy Vets with assists was Tim Sorensen. Additional helpers went to Jason Rupert, Derek Partlo, Greg Paton, Brown, Konigshofer, Smith and Halpenny.

It was Partlo's first game in the Navy Vets lineup this season. The Ohio University Bobcats player returned for this weekend and will be back again for his Christmas break which begins Dec. 4. Partlo, who signed an overage junior card in late August, was a last minute addition to the game sheet and with his hockey gear in Ohio, he wore Brad Austin's equipment.

Last night's win, was the 100th for Dave Bogart, Bill Ebel and Jason Rupert. The trio are in their fifth season together.

Tomorrow, the Navy Vets play in Simcoe at 7:30 p.m.