

OMHA West Game Report: Guelph Gryphons (3) vs Niagara North Stars (2)

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Guelph Gryphons:

#10 Alexander Kyriacou, D/LS [0G,0A]

Kyriacou was a steady defensive presence for the Gryphons all night against the Stars. Consistently remaining well positioned, Kyriacou played a calm and reserved game which allowed him to effectively guard the middle of the ice and keep Niagara North players to the outside. When a Stars player would attempt to break into a high danger area, Kyriacou would use his strong defensive stick in combination with his body positioning to strip them of the puck. Kyriacou displayed strong defensive awareness, picking opportune times to step up on Stars puck carriers in his own end, otherwise remaining well poised to effectively cover the middle of the ice. On top of his strong defensive play, Kyriacou showed good puck moving skills, consistently making smart passing decisions and executing on them well, reaching his teammates with quick tape-to-tape passes.

#19 Micah Della Croce, F/LS [1G,0A]

Della Croce possesses a powerful and accurate shot and he certainly is not afraid to use it. When a lane is open, Della Croce will capitalize on it and unleash his snapshot. However, it is the ability to find those lanes that stands out the most. Della Croce always has his head up scanning the ice, keeping tabs on where players are and where they are going to be. Through this, he makes the right decisions and identifies the right routes to take on a consistent basis. Looping back to his shot, Della Croce carries a quick and deceptive release that he is able to use from anywhere in the O-zone. Additionally, Della Croce is able to make plays under pressure, as he is able to draw defenders in close to leave space open for his teammates, in turn feeding them with quality passes and creating a scoring opportunity.

#66 Hudson Wozney, F/RS [0G,1A]

Wozney is a playmaking machine, as he displays a strong pass-first style of game, consistently setting his teammates up with scoring chances. Wozney is a high-IQ player, excelling in transition and positional awareness. In transition, Wozney actively engages and finds the right routes. When the team gains possession in the offensive zone, Wozney uses his positional awareness to sneak behind defenders, create effective screens, and locate soft space on the ice. Lastly, it would not be a Wozney game report without mentioning his strong faceoff ability, as he dominates another game in the circle.

Niagara North Stars:

#13 Danny Adamo, F/RS [0G,0A]

Adamo continued to impress into the second half of the season, putting his excellent puck carrying skills on display and creating scoring chances for himself and his teammates off the rush. With the puck on his stick, Adamo's hands move well simultaneously with his feet, allowing him to buy himself time and space with the puck even under pressure to evaluate his options and generate scoring chances off the rush. After creating time and space for himself, Adamo uses his high offensive awareness to capitalize on open space and/or passing lanes to generate scoring chances for himself or his teammates.

#24 Easton Poirier, F/LS [0G,1A]

Poirier continues to display his exceptional tool-kit of skills and IQ as he progresses through this back half the season. In this game Poirier played a simple, yet effective game, using his strong passing ability to locate and execute on small, yet critical plays through transition and when cycling in the offensive zone. When a shooting lane opens, Poirier will use it, getting the puck on net - often creating rebound chances for his teammates. On the backcheck, Poirier picks up his man and rarely lets him out of his sight. It was nice to see Poirier work on refining the smaller details of his game as they push for a spot at the OHL cup.

#91 Nicholas Gilby, F/RS [0G, 0A]

Playing with his usual tenacity and speed, Gilby did not take a single shift off tonight against Guelph. Gilby is an aggressive forechecker who has high skill upside, and plays with edge. Away from the puck, Gilby relentlessly attacks the puck carrier by laying the body and aggressively stick checking,

engaging in puck battles and disrupting opposing puck possession. With the puck on his stick, Gilby's quick acceleration allowed him to burn past Gryphon defenders in transition to successfully gain the zone more often than not. In the zone, Gilby effectively uses his edgework to turn on a dime and elude defenders, giving him a brief window to cut into the middle of the ice and generate a high danger scoring chance.