



**ST. CLOUD CATHEDRAL DROPS ORONO IN 15-GOAL CONTEST BETWEEN TOP-10 TEAMS**

Nate Warner and Jack Smith led the Crusaders offense, combining for 10 points as the Crusaders beat the Spartans 9-6.

Heather Rule, SportsEngine01/11/19, 6:30PM CST

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St. Cloud Cathedral forward Jack Smith buries a power-play goal in the first period of Saturday's game in Orono. Smith finished with two goals and six points in the Crusaders' 9-6 win over the Spartans. Photo by Drew Herron, SportsEngine

St. Cloud Cathedral  
 St. Cloud Cathedral  
 9 - 6 Final  
 Orono  
 Orono

<b>Team</b>	<b>123T</b>
St. Cloud Cathedral	4149
Orono	1236
Full Box Score	
Sat Jan 12, 2019 @ 3:00p Orono Ice Arena, Old Crystal Bay Road North, Long Lake, MN, USA	

For the third time this season, St. Cloud Cathedral scored a season-high nine goals. The Crusaders got points from nine different players and goals from six of them on Saturday, including a hat trick from junior forward Nate Warner.

Sounds like a recipe for a great win, right?

Well, sort of. The Crusaders, ranked No. 2 in the Class 1A coaches' poll, got the victory over No. 6-1A Orono, but it was probably their worst game of the year, according to Crusaders coach Derrick Brown.

"But that's okay," Brown said. "It was a weird day. I've never been a part of a game like that."

St. Cloud Cathedral (14-1) defeated Orono 9-6 at Orono Ice Arena, halting a five-game winning streak for its opponent. While the victory is still an overall positive for the record, it can be put into perspective a little bit. The Crusaders came into the game having allowed just 18 goals all season — and no more than three in a single game — before surrendering a half-dozen goals to the Spartans,

the defending Class 1A champions.



Photo Gallery: St. Cloud Cathedral vs. Orono

There was an obvious teaching point for the Crusaders to take away from the game.

"You've got to stay out of the box," Brown said. "You can't let a team that shouldn't be in the game back in the game."

Indeed, Orono (9-5) finished 3-for-6 on the power play, with all three power-play goals coming in the final period. Two came during a five-minute major penalty to St. Cloud Cathedral.

The Crusaders had jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead in the first period, and led 5-3 through two periods before quick goals from senior defenseman Luke Schmidt and Warner's second of the game just 41 seconds apart gave the Crusaders a 7-3 cushion only 3 minutes, 13 seconds into the third period.

Call it one of the many turning points in the game.

Just eight seconds after taking the 7-3 lead, St. Cloud Cathedral was saddled with the major penalty for elbowing. It also took a pair of minors throughout the five minutes, putting two guys in the penalty box twice during the long kill.

"We've just got to work on staying out of the box and playing five-on-five hockey," said junior forward Jack Smith.

The Spartans took advantage of their man-advantage opportunities. Senior Fisher Eiss scored one of his two goals on his three-point night during the power play to make it 7-4. Then the Crusaders' Smith, who had a season-high six-point game, regained the four-goal lead with a tally 34 seconds later. But Orono junior Zack Simon scored his second of the game 1 minute, 43 seconds after that to make it an 8-5 game with major power-play time left.

The Spartans got back within two goals on their third power-play tally of the period when junior Nick Mohs-Messerli scored his sixth of the season. But Warner completed his hat trick on a tic-tac-toe play from Blake Perbix and Smith with about five minutes remaining to seal the victory for the Crusaders.

"We had too many penalties (in the) second and third period," Warner said. "We had the lead, and we just started giving it away. So we've got to finish.

"We've got to start winning more games in the D zone."

Even with the defensive and special teams woes for the Crusaders, 15 of their 23 points came from the Warner-Smith-Perbix line. It was reunited after Warner had missed seven games recovering from a torn labrum. Warner returned Jan. 10 against Sartell-St. Stephen and entered Saturday with six goals and nine assists in seven games this season.

Smith, a Minnesota-Duluth commit who had just one assist in his past three games, scored twice and added four assists Saturday, giving him 15 goals this season. Perbix, who came in as the team points leader, tied his season-high with a five-point effort, coming off his hat trick against Sartell-St. Stephen.

Overall, it's been a solid start to the season for St. Cloud Cathedral, with the only loss coming in overtime in a 2-1 decision to Hermantown on Jan. 4. The Crusaders have plenty of scoring depth beyond just one line; 11 players had reached double-digits in points before Saturday.

"It's nice, but we shouldn't be giving up six," Brown said.





Orono forward Daniel Walker finishes a check along the boards as St. Cloud Cathedral's Blake Perbix fights for the puck. Photo by Drew Herron, SportsEngine

## First Report

St. Cloud Cathedral got off to a fast, 4-0 start against Orono, the defending Class 1A champion. The Crusaders needed every one of those early tallies.

Though the Spartans didn't go away quietly, the early padding helped propel St. Cloud Cathedral (14-1) to a 9-6 win against Orono Saturday afternoon at Orono Ice Arena.

Against Orono, ranked No. 6 in the Class 1A coaches' poll, No. 2-1A St. Cloud Cathedral proved its scoring depth with goals from five players in the first two periods alone. In their four-goal first period, the Crusaders scored a pair of power-play goals just 42 seconds apart to take a 4-0 lead before the Spartans got on the board before the first intermission.

Junior forwards Nate Warner and Jack Smith combined for 10 points to lead the Crusaders offense. Warner had a hat trick and notched an assist, while Smith tallied two goals and four assists.

For the Spartans (9-5), who saw their season-long five-game winning streak halted, Zack Simon and Fisher Eiss each scored a pair of goals. Simon added two assists and Eiss had one helper.

The Crusaders have won 14 of 15 games this season, with their only blemish being a 2-1 loss to Hermantown on Jan. 4.

## Who do you think will win?

- **St. Cloud Cathedral**

60%

- **Orono**

40%

- **Total Votes: 42**

The MN Hockey Hub poll is for entertainment purposes only.

## Comments

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