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Ferndale captures win in Jess Ambroe Classic **([http://tribune-](http://tribune-democrat.com/ferndale/x2063990550/Ferndale-captures-win-in-Jess-Ambroe-Classic)**



Northern Cambria's Jake Lieb looks for the puck in front of the net during Friday night's game with Ferndale. Also pictured is the Reapers' Brandon Daisley and the Yellow Jackets' Jacob Toth. George Lucas/For The Tribune-Democrat

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The listed opponent for Northern Cambria in Friday night's Laurel Mountain varsity hockey game at Cambria County War Memorial was Ferndale.

What the Reapers encountered was an emotional and purple-clad Jess' Army.

The Yellow Jackets were able to cultivate the emotion and high spirits to a 7-1 win in the second Jess Ambroe Classic.

In the end, the win made a great cause spearheaded by a trio of Ferndale senior hockey players – Billy Devlin, Greg Walters and Colton Dull

– that much sweeter for Ambroe, who is also a senior at Ferndale Area High School.

“Our school is small, but we have a big heart,” Dull said.

“We have a good fan base in our student body that's willing to go through with everyone else, whatever they're going through.”

The efforts and the game itself put a large smile on Ambroe's face following the game.

“They did well” Ambroe stated. “I love them all.”

The game was turned into an event to raise money for Chelsea's Hope, an organization supporting research to defeat Lafora, a form of epilepsy that Ambroe was diagnosed with in 2009.

While the exact total of money raised by the game won't be known for a few days, it was announced following the game that more than \$5,000 had been raised.

"We're always shocked to see how many people come out to support us and to support this disease because it's so rare," Jess' mother, Michele Ambroe said. "It surprises me every time we come out. We've known these kids since they were 3, 4 years old, to have them fight for Jess like this and win the game, it's the gravy."

Ferndale (5-10-2) raced out to three-goal lead in the first period starting with Ben Urban's short-handed tally just 38 seconds into game. Robert McConnell was credited with the assist.

Devlin picked up the first of his four goals at the 3:16 mark when he lifted a shot past Northern Cambria's Jake Lieb for the Yellow Jackets' second short-handed score.

With Ferndale on the power play, Devlin struck for his squad's third goal at 10:15 with assists from Dull and Walters.

"The kids were pumped up, it was hard to settle them down before the game," Ferndale coach Brian Riffle said. "They were ready to go."

Devlin posted two more goals in the second period, scoring at :43 and 6:02. Urban assisted on both goals while Walters assisted on the latter.

Joshua Thomas, with help from Brett Pribursky, ran the lead to 6-0 at 7:29 of the third.

Robert Miller scored Ferndale's last goal at 10:09 with an assist from Devlin.

Northern Cambria (1-16) got on the board just 15 seconds later when Luke Trinkley scored his first goal of the season.

Lieb stopped 43 shots in the loss. Ferndale's Tanner Murphy halted all four shots that he faced over the first two periods while Ryan Burkholder handled the Yellow Jackets' goaltending duties in the third, making two saves during those 15 minutes.

At the end of the day, the outpouring of support from the Ferndale community was the key statistic in the eyes of Jess' father, George Ambroe.

"Knowing that there's all that support makes it easier for us," he said. "Knowing that there are so many people behind you helps us ... It's inspiring and humbling that there are so many good people out there."

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