



CAN'T STOP WON'T STOP Arthur Ylitalo '23 takes advantage of an open net and goes for the shot. Ylitalo has learned many things in hockey that he will take with him through life. "Over the years, I have felt the trust from my coaches and teammates," Ylitalo said. "Hockey has taught me hard work, determination, and never giving up." Photo by Brooke Heil

PLAY BY PLAY

players use the power of their positions to execute a game

As the whistle blows, the screams of the crowd and music from the speaker system come to an end. A new line comes off of the bench as each player focuses on what they need to do within their position to execute the play. Ryan Roethke '23 takes on the face off for this play. His teammates Hunter Dalum '23 and Laken Gunia '22 are ready for the pass back to them. Goalie Maxwell Varner '24 is preparing to defend his goal against the other team.

All focus is on the puck as Roethke anticipates the drop. Within seconds he wins the puck and is on his way to make a play. As a forward Roethke has to have the speed to get past the defenseman of the other team and give himself the opportunity to take a shot on the goalie.

"I'm a right winger so I'm always looking to get to the net first," Roethke said. "If I don't have that option, I'll try and get it deep, or throw a pass to the middle if I have someone coming down."

Scanning the ice for an open teammate, Roethke passes the puck to Dalum hoping he has a chance to take the shot. With his teammate's support around him he reads the goalie and sees an opening in the net. Dalum takes the shot hoping to get another point on the board for his team.

"We do a lot of communicating. If we're doing it right, we just need to pick our heads up and see what's going on on the ice," Dalum said. "I just get to the wall and do my job no matter what position the coach

is telling me to do. I just go and work hard to put myself in the right position at all times."

Although it was the perfect shot, the goalie deflected it just in time leading to a turnover. Gunia is already on his way down to the defensive zone ready to block any shots taken on his goalie.

"I like to play defense because you can see the play develop before it happens," Gunia said. "You can try to anticipate and jump certain passing lanes, and try to know what move they are going to make before they do it."

As the puck enters his zone, it's the only thing Varner is focused on. While the opposing team develops a play, Varner watches their every move trying to read when the shot will be taken. With no time to think the shot is taken and Varner's instincts take over; his hand goes exactly where he needs to stop play.

"I'm the last line of defense. Everything kind of comes down to me. I can pretty much dictate the game," Varner said. "There definitely is a lot of pressure because it all comes down to you, but I think I perform better under pressure."

Preparing for the next face off, every player on the ice reflects on the last play. They focus on both what they did well and what they could improve on to get the goal. Above all they know that every position working together will lead to the win.

-Grace Bruhn & Brooke Heil

MY Addyson Cremers '24
ELEMENT
IS...

"Moments where I am surrounded by people that I love and doing things I like. Just being comfortable".

Photo by Claudia Staut

