

Toledo St. Francis de Sales and Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit matched up in the first semifinal of the 2021 OHSAA State Ice Hockey Tournament at the OhioHealth Ice Haus.

St. Francis made its 13<sup>th</sup> appearance in the state tournament, whereas it was Walsh Jesuit's first ever appearance in the state tournament. St. Francis got off to a scorching start with three goals in the first 12 minutes of the first period. The first two of those goals were scored by Riley Box, who finished the game with a hat trick. Walsh Jesuit quickly responded at the start of the second period with two quick goals from Hunter Nalepka and Ryan Kerscher to reduce the deficit to just one.

St. Francis answered back with three consecutive goals to stretch the lead to 6-2 heading into the third period. Jake Myers put in the seventh and final goal for St. Francis halfway through the third quarter and capped off the 7-2 victory over Walsh Jesuit. Jackson Smalley had an impressive performance in goal for St. Francis. Smalley finished the semifinal with 23 saves and only two goals allowed.

With the victory, St. Francis advanced to its sixth state championship game since 1988 and will be seeking its first state title since 2015.

Lakewood St. Edward and Upper Arlington matched up in the second semifinal of the 2021 OHSAA State Ice Hockey Tournament at the OhioHealth Ice Haus.

St. Edward made its 22<sup>nd</sup> appearance in the state tournament, and Upper Arlington made its first appearance since 2007, the schools third appearance all time. The goalkeepers were the stars of an exciting first period highlighted by phenomenal defensive play on both sides. St. Edward's Ethan Payne finished the first period with eight saves and Upper Arlington's Garrett Alderman capped off the opening period with seven saves of his own.

Jack O'Sullivan opened the scoring for St. Edward with a goal early in the second period. Jack Mansour gave his team a much-needed scoring cushion 14 minutes into the second period to stretch the St. Edward lead to 2-0 headed into the final period.

Lucas Newton sealed the victory for St. Edward in the latter stages of the third period to cap off the 3-0 victory. St. Edward's goalkeeper Ethan Payne finalized his phenomenal game with a shutout and totaled 19 saves for the game.

With the victory, Lakewood St. Edward advanced to its 18<sup>th</sup> state championship game since 1985 and will be seeking its first state title since 2008.

Toledo St. Francis de Sales and Lakewood St. Edward squared off in the championship game of the 2021 OHSAA State Ice Hockey Tournament at the OhioHealth Ice Haus to determine which school gets to take home the hardware.

St. Edward made its 18th appearance in the state championship game, and St. Francis made its sixth state championship appearance all time. Devon Homier gave St. Francis an early 1-0 lead when he punched in a goal past St. Edwards goalkeeper, Evan Wrightsman. In goal on the other side of the ice, Jackson Smalley had a stellar first period with 11 saves and did not allow a single goal.

The second period was another phenomenal display of goalkeeper play on both sides. Neither team added a goal in the period and the two goalkeepers combined to have 10 saves in the period. St. Francis went into the third period with a narrow one goal lead.

Less than two minutes into the final period St. Edward's Jack Mansour found the back of the net to even the score at 1-1. Not even four minutes later St. Francis' Luc Kuhr answered back with a goal of his own to give his team a 2-1 lead. St. Francis' goalkeeper Jackson Smalley was a star down the stretch. Smalley tallied nine saves in the third period and totaled 27 saves in the game. Toledo St. Francis de Sales hung on down the stretch and capped off the 2-1 win to capture the 2021 state title.

With the victory, Toledo St. Francis de Sales won its third state title. Lakewood St. Edward finished the season as the runner up, and it is the schools third second place finish to go along with 11 state titles.