

AAA GAME OF THE WEEK

JANUARY 14TH 2012

BANTAM I ALL STAR GAME

EAST VS WEST

The Bantam I All Stars Dazzle in High Scoring Affair

Iceplex—

It was a tough day to be a goalie during Saturday's Bantam 1 All Star game at the MTS Iceplex.

The highlights started out early on in the first period with Team West's Jody Stallard going on a two-on-one with Garrett Armour. Stallard made a perfect saucer pass over to Armour who was originally stopped by Team East's goalie, Tyler Brown, but the rebound bounced right back to Stallard who made no mistake giving his team the game's first goal.

There would be plenty more scoring where that came from, but it's important to note that throughout the spur of goals there was a lot of physical play headlined by the tough defenseman Garrett Armour (West) and Ryan Gardiner (East).

But whatever way you look at it, this game was about the goals, and both teams had a lot of them.

Team West added to their lead with two quick goals on almost identical odd-man rushes. The first play was finished by Jackson Keane, with a beautiful pass from Keegan Kolesar. The next play had Keane returning the favour with an equally impressive pass to Kolesar.

However, Team East would not be slept on. And on the powerplay, defenseman Mackenzie Dwyer quarterbacked the play to set up McKay Laine in the slot to put his team on the board. Shortly there after, Team West responded with a fluky goal coming from a point shot from James Shearer that hit a leg in front, and redirected into the net.

The back and forth continued further with another first period goal from Team East, coming from a well executed three-on-two from McKay, Chase Fincaryk, and Riley Bouchard which was finished by McKay picking the bottom corner for his second of the game. And riding the momentum from the equalizer, Team East crashed the net hard and after goalie Luke Ushakas made the first few saves, and it was Bouchard who picked up another point and brought the team back in the game.

And to end the high scoring first period it was Team East again who widened the lead with defenseman Tyler Anderson pinching in on the play with a wraparound to tie the game up going into the second.

The second period started just as the first ended: with more goals. With Team East putting high pressure on the West, forward Zack Grezelewski got hold of a loose rebound to put his team

ahead.

The lead lasted a few minutes, but after a neutral zone turnover, Stallard picked up another point shorthanded after a great pass and takeaway from Brendan Reichart. Shortly after that play it was time to switch the goalies, with saw Brandon Bodnar between the pipes for Team East, and Tyson Verheist for Team West. After the goalie change half way through the second, both goalies were flawless for the rest of the period despite being tested frequently and both teams itching for more points.

As good as the goalies played in the second period, the third was a different story; after all, it is an all-star game.

It was Team East who started off the scoring, with a Braden Purtil point shot hitting off a skate and finding the back of the net, giving his team the third period lead.

Later on in period, Team East forward Chase Fincaryk contributed to the scoring with a great individual play around the defensemen and putting in his own rebound for a powerplay goal. This goal was quickly followed up by a Jacob Behse point shot that was tipped in for McKay's hat trick goal.



Team West would fight back with a beautiful goal from Kolesar who fought off two checks, taking the defense wide and dangling around Verheist into the open cage for what was definitely the best goal of the game. But unfortunately Kolesar's goal wasn't enough, as Team East would hold on to their lead for the 8-6 victory.

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