

AAA Game of the Week

February 13th, 2012
City Midget AAA
Sharks vs Monarchs

Monarchs hold off Sharks

Iceplex—

With playoffs right around the corner, it was no surprise both teams came to play with intensity when the City Midget Sharks took on the Monarchs Monday night. The fast paced defensive affair stayed within one goal for the first two periods, but the Monarchs were able to get the best of the Sharks in the end, winning the game 4-2.

The Monarchs set the tone in the first period with a couple of good chances in the first five minutes. The most threatening of these was from a nice pass by forward Jesse Reid-Whyte to Ryan Hutton who fired a one-timer on net, but it was swiftly kicked away by Sharks goaltender Tyler Main.



However the Sharks would respond, with Raymond Allard who had already had a couple chances during this game, took a feed from his teammate across the crease and into the open cage to get his team within one.

The Sharks however, wouldn't let the Monarchs take too much of the early momentum as defenseman Kris Sigurdson stole the puck from a Monarch player and dangled close on goaltender Evan Johnson, but getting denied on the chance.

But the Monarchs would end up putting one on the board, when with less than a second left on the clock, Hutton found Colton Veloso alone in the slot beating the buzzer to put his team up 1-0.

The second period was faced paced by both teams, but lacked many dangerous chances. That being said, the Monarchs did feed off their solid first period finish as they definitely controlled the pace of the second. A lot of this pressure was thanks to the dynamic line of Dylan Hopfner, Ezra Hall, and Liam Kroeker, who worked the cycle effectively, and kept the play in the Sharks defensive end almost every time they were on the ice.

But the Sharks didn't take this pressure lying down, as the duo of Ryan Pruden and Jordan Bochinski were one of the bright spots offensively. After getting close on a couple of occasions, it was Bochinski who broke out on a partial break, and as he took the puck to his backhand he was hauled down at the last second, barreling into the goalie putting both himself and the puck in the back of the net. However, because of the tripping penalty, the play was blown down and unfortunately for the Sharks they would remain goalless going into the final frame.

Despite the first two periods being a defensive exhibition, the floodgates were certainly opened in the third.

Three minutes into the third, the Monarchs Brandon Pochinco helped put his team up two as he dished a beautiful pass to Reid-Whyte who was alone in the slot and made no mistake finding the back of the net.



Fueled by momentum, the Sharks put the pressure on. Keeping the puck in the Monarchs end relentlessly, the Sharks showed with great pressure comes great opportunity, as Pruden was able to feast his eyes on a bouncing puck in the slot to beat a screened Johnson.

But almost exactly half way through the third, it was Veloso again who capitalized on a shot from Reid-Whyte after the Sharks gave the puck up in their own end to give the Monarchs the late lead.

The Sharks tried to fight back after the go-ahead goal, however the dagger was delivered with five minutes left in the game when a nice play from Veloso to Josh Sarbiewski resulted in a juicy rebound that was buried by Hall to give his team the 4-2 victory.

With only two games left in the schedule for each teams, they will not face each other again during the regular season. Both teams fought hard on this night, however the Monarchs are the ones hoping their late season victory can put them into the playoffs on a hot streak.

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