

HOCKEY WINNIPEG GAME OF THE WEEK

MINOR ATOM A1

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 4th 2012

Seven Oaks VS River East

River East Slips Past Seven Oaks

Terry Sawchuk-

One team was looking to extend a 13-game unbeaten streak (dating back to their lone loss of the campaign back in early November) while the other was looking to halt a four-game tailspin, and find the win column for the just fourth time in 16 tries. Indeed, it was a tale of two teams sitting in opposite ends of the 9A1 standings when the top-ranked River East White (11-1-4) welcomed Seven Oaks Black (3-9-3) for their second and final meeting of the 2011-12 regular season.

But, despite their differences in the win-loss columns, these two teams managed to put on a display of end-to-end action that left most fans in attendance with a set of white knuckles.



Seven Oaks came out with a tremendous jump in their step in the opening stanza. They got the puck deep in the offensive zone, applied pressure on the opposing rearguards and forced net minder Jarret Unrau to make some big saves – most notably on a pair of blasts from the point, courtesy of Tyler Kupchak.

Seven Oaks (who had only mustered 34 goals in the previous 14 games) kept River East pinned in their own zone for minutes at a time, but couldn't capitalize on their chances.

River East eventually broke the stalemate in the opening minutes of the middle frame when Rhonan White scampered his way into the offensive zone and found a wide open Carter Johnson – who made no mistake and put top shelf, giving his team the 1-0 lead.

Shane Ulrich came close to doubling his team's lead less than a minute later, but was unable to puncture the wall erected by Unrau between the Seven Oaks pipes.



Seven Oaks eventually tied the game at one a few minutes later when Levi Thiessen pounced on a loose rebound, and tucked it past Bradley Rarog. Knowle Clarke got his team's second of the period with just 33 seconds remaining in the frame – giving Seven Oaks a 2-1 lead after two.

River East tied the game in the opening minutes of the third when Rhonan White slid one past Rarog. From that point on, the game turned into a back and forth battle that featured some tape-to-tape breakouts, timely defensive plays, and some stalwart net minding.



The game seemed poised for a tie, until Rhonan White tallied his second of the period (third point of the game) with just 21 seconds remaining in the contest.

Final score: 3-2 River East

River East will conclude the regular season portion of their schedule this upcoming Sunday against St. Boniface (red). Seven Oaks will meet River East (grey) on Saturday

Joel Marcoux

WMHA Communications

joelmarcoux@wmha.mb.ca

