

# WMHA GAME OF THE WEEK

MARCH 9TH 2010

MINOR BANTAM A2

STURGEON CREEK VS RIVER HEIGHTS

*'Two teams vying for a spot in championship'*

## Gateway—

The Gateway Community Centre was rocking on Tuesday night.

A2 Minor Bantam – The team posters, the cowbells, and the noisy cheers cascading down around the ice surface, where the Sturgeon Creek Hawks and River Heights Cardinals squared off in a crucial tilt to see who moves on to the championship series, were all the ingredients needed for some high-flying barn-burning playoff action.



The Hawks seemed to control the play in the opening stanza. Their relentless forecheck, and offensive-zone cycling created numerous scoring chances that were quickly turned away by the diminutive Cardinals net minder, Griffin McLennan – who put on a performance of gargantuan proportions for the better part of three periods. His counterpart however, Kolton Marchuk, stood tall when called upon – including a glove save on Aidan Falhman's partial breakaway.

River Heights opened the scoring in the second period when Ben Olson made a slick move at the blueline to stave off the oncoming check, fired the puck on net, before Dustin Hamm finally managed to poke it past a sprawling Tanner Hill– who entered the game midway through the second.



The tally gave the Cardinals a momentum surge as they came close to doubling their lead shortly thereafter, but were unable to convert on the flurry of opportunities – something that eventually leaned in the Hawks' favor.

In the late stages of the third, the Hawks tied the game up when Riley Holloway's re-direction snuck its way under McLennan and just barely trickled over the line, sending the game to extra time.

Despite both teams running around incessantly, creating all sorts of chances at both ends of the rink, the extra frame solved nothing.

The teams will now meet again in a game to be scheduled at Gateway arena to decide who's going to move on to the best of five championship series. Check [www.wmha.mb.ca](http://www.wmha.mb.ca) for up to date schedules and results.

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