

Quebec Team 2007

Tournament Game 4 Hershey 1 Anaheim 2

Saturday, 2/17/07 @ 6:00 pm – Colisee' Pepsi

The sun is bright in the blue sky this morning, warming the air and turning the remainder of the snow at the edges of the street and sidewalks to slush. We haven't seen the sun for a week. Place d'Youville behind the hotel is alive with activity; weekend shoppers, ice-skating, Sugar on Snow and Maple Butter concessions. Everyone has an anxious restlessness as we must pack the bus again and gamble on another night's stay, proceeding one by one to the RC (reception) to pay for our rooms one more night.

The boys arrive at the hotel earlier than expected, at 1:00 pm, catching a few parents off-guard as they're trying to fit in last minute souvenir shopping and eating a meal. The boys do not seem to mind and find comfort in the rooms of their friends and teammate's parents. As the televisions are turned on and scanned to find the English speaking channels, everyone stops at the TSN network, which is broadcasting a Pee Wee game live from the Colisee'. The boys become fixated on the game.

After some rest and a light snack, it's finally time to load and board the buses. The parents all cheer as the boys exit the hotel and board their bus. As the parent bus rolls out and down, away from the old city, the sunlight streaks through the cross streets, with brilliant, but momentary ribbons of light through the bus. As we arrive at the Colisee, we must wait on the bus for a locker room. The bag carriers stay, as everyone else leaves to enter the building. After 15 minutes we learn we have a locker room and can bring the bags downstairs. As we enter the lower level, it is apparent we are entering the final rounds, as the bag bins, previously full of hockey bags, are mostly empty. The smell of cotton candy and popcorn is thick in the air, being made only a few feet from the boy's locker room, # 137.

As we enter the main arena, the lower level is almost completely full. We can only find one or two seats together, sometimes requiring a bribe of Hershey chocolate to secure a seat. We quickly learn the games are running behind, as the boys remain seated across from us. It is well past 5:00 pm, and we realize our 6:00 game is being pushed. Finally, the boys leave, and black Hershey jerseys arrive and are distributed to each mom, along with a few cups of candy, hoping for many goals.

The Hershey team takes the ice first at 6:31 pm, led by Taylor Guevarez in his white Bears sweater. The boys circle the face off dots in their end, then pick up the pucks and proceed to the bench for their pre-game cheer. Conor O'Neil, Ben Mariano, Eli Lynn, John Bowen and Wes Breisch start the game. The Ducks jump on the Bears quickly and get a slapshot off from the top of the circle, only to be confidently gloved by Guevarez. Off the face off, the Ducks get another chance, only to have it gloved again. The Bears put out their second line of Dalton O'Connor, Jimmy Lodge, Jordan Klimovsky, with Lake Miller and Brandon Hacken at defense, but in spite of the Bears relentless defensive work, the Ducks continue to pressure, requiring Guevarez to start working hard early.

Finally, at 4:38 into the game, the third line of Dominic Brenza, Matthew Gaudreau, and Justin Stockdale, with Evan Williams and George Garris taking care of the defensive responsibilities, get their chance. Dominic Brenza picks up the puck in the neutral zone and speeds across the blue line, turning the defenseman - he is almost free on a break away. As he makes his move, the hard back checking of the Ducks 2nd defenseman pays

off, as he is denied a shot and the puck slides harmlessly into the corner. Play continues up and down the ice, with chances being almost even and lines being changed quickly. Mario Benicky, Andrew Romano and Craig Skudalski hit the ice, with all contributing to the Bears pressure and scoring chances in the offensive zone. Like their teammates, they are unable to get the puck past the Ducks Goaltender. The Ducks dump the puck in as the period ends with the score 0-0. Taylor Guevarez and the solid defensive work of George Garris, Lake Miller, Brandon Hacken, John Bowen, Wes Breisch and Evan Williams are the difference for the Bears, in keeping this game tied.

The first shift of the second period starts with a great chance by the Bears. Dominic Brenza sends the puck to Andrew Romano who finds Matt Gaudreau going to the far post. The goalie cannot react fast enough, as Gaudreau sends the puck to the net, but it catches the post and lies in the crease just long enough for the goal tender to flop back on top – so close. The Ducks take the face off and race down the ice. The Bears gain control, but lose the puck on the break-out. A Duck defenseman picks the puck up in the high slot, takes one step and fires it high over the blocker of Guevarez. The Ducks have taken a 1-0 lead at :54 of the second period, in a very tight game. The Ducks take the face off at center ice and immediately break into the Bears zone. The Bears are scrambling in their zone to get a clear or regroup. As the Ducks send the puck to the far post for a shot, Guevarez slides over and makes the initial stop, but the rebound comes free and the Ducks send it home to increase their lead to 2-0, just 1:20 into the second period. Anaheim has gained momentum.

The Bears are starting to give up too many chances. At 3:05, a Duck is left alone in front of the net and his teammate finds him. Guevarez, squared to the shooter, denies the point blank shot and covers, as Miller and Hacken arrive to stand guard to prevent anyone from crashing the net. As the puck is dropped in the defensive zone, the Bears take a 2 minute hooking penalty. The Bears are in a dangerous position. The Ducks rip off three successive shots and the Bears are unable to clear. The last shot is deflected by the goaltender and flutters into the air and across the top of the net. The Bears, through the hard work of John Bowen, Wes Breisch, Jimmy Lodge and Dalton O'Connor, kill off the final seconds of the penalty, and finally regain their composure as they go even strength, beginning to exert pressure on the Ducks. With 4:40 left in the period, the Ducks are changing shifts and an oncoming player touches the puck before his exiting teammate reaches the bench. The Ducks are called for too many men on the ice. The Bears are in desperate need of a goal and send out their power play team of Matt Gaudreau, Conor O'Neil, Jimmy Lodge, with John Bowen and Dalton O'Connor to hold the blue line. As hard as they work to move the puck up ice and set-up, the power play falters due to the excellent fore-checking of the Ducks. At 7:14 of the second period, the defensive work of Evan Williams and George Garris enables Jimmy Lodge to break free and receive a pass as he breaks into the offensive zone. He approaches from the goalies left and fires the puck high – “Ding” off the cross bar and into the safety netting. The period ends with equal play between the two teams. The Ducks have capitalized on their chances, while the Bears are struggling to get their flow going and finish on their chances.

As the ice is cut between periods, there is an uneasy feeling in the Hershey crowd. As the Zamboni exits, the Bears return to the ice, led by Ben Mariano – the crowd is still with their Bears as the cheers are louder than ever. The starting line for the Bears is out for the last period. A shot is taken by the Ducks, which Guevarez sticks into the corner. John Bowen gains control and outlets to Ben Mariano who breaks into the Ducks zone and unleashes a high shot going to the corner of the net. The goaltender is slow to react and barely catches the puck with the shaft of his stick to keep it out –the Bears have no luck tonight. The Ducks get control of the puck and dump it deep in the zone. It appears the Ducks will be dumping and fore-checking to run the clock the remainder of the game. As the Bears clear the zone, they are unable to control the puck at neutral ice and the Ducks go on a break away. The shot is partially blocked by Guevarez's shoulder. Mario Benicky,

Craig Skudalski and Ben Mariano are put on the ice to try and get the score even with the Ducks.

Finally, at 4:51 of the period, Mariano uses the boards to pass to himself in the neutral zone, then sends it to the weak side, where Craig Skudalski is bearing down. Skudalski picks his spot and fires the puck – a clean, perfectly placed shot into the back of the net, to bring the Bears to within one goal. The Ducks are now the team that is scrambling. The Bears go back on the offensive, with quick shifts, and efficiency getting on and off the ice. The forwards, consisting of O’Neil, Skudalski, Mariano, Lynn, Klimovsky, Stockdale, Lodge, Benicky, O’Connor, Gaudreau, Brenza and Romano, combine to keep the pressure on the Ducks defense. They are getting the puck deep into the Ducks zone and work hard to pin the Ducks down. Gaudreau is behind the net protecting the puck, as a Ducks defenseman comes in from behind and checks him down; the referee’s arm goes up. The Bears go on the power play at 6:51 of the third period. Pure excitement returns to the Colisee. The Bears put out their power play team of O’Neil, Gaudreau, Mariano, O’Connor and Bowen and are all over the Ducks as they get chance after chance. A barrage of four shots are sent at the Ducks goaltender, the last of which goes off the outside post – they will just not go in. As the power play ends, the Ducks go on a break. Lake Miller and Brandon Hacken, fresh on the ice and skating like the wind, retreat and catch the Ducks to deny a chance. As the Bears control the puck again, Gaudreau draws another checking penalty behind the net. The Bears again have a great chance to tie this game. The Bears, with forwards Benicky, Skudalski and Stockdale, and defensemen Williams and Garris, again pressure the Ducks, but cannot get the puck past the net minder. The Bears continue to roll their lines with O’Neil, Lynn and Mariano, then O’Connor, Lodge and Klimovksy. At 11:14, in frustration to control the puck and move it up ice, the Bears are called for a trip in their defensive zone. This will diminish their chances, as the Bears will play 4-4 for 20 seconds, then have to kill off 1:40 of penalty time, with little time left in the game.

The Bears are undaunted and force the Ducks to ice the puck twice during their power play. As the Bears penalty expires, the Bears rip off two shots, then get three more chances, only to have the Ducks goalie freeze the puck. With 1:21 left, the Bears call a time out. The Bears go with O’Neil, Skudalski, Mariano, Bowen and Breisch. They continue to pressure the puck in the offensive zone and get Guevarez off the ice with :55 left, to gain a sixth attacker. The Ducks are able to clear and send the puck the length of the ice, only to have it miss the open net by 6” for an icing with 42.4 seconds left. The Ducks now call their time out.

The Bears briefly continue the offensive assault, but the Ducks gain control and get the puck over the red line. A shot is taken, but misses the open net as the Bears retrieve it. The Bears try to get it up ice, but the fore-checking and traffic in the neutral zone, makes it too difficult to get another scoring chance. The horn sounds and the Ducks have won this semi-final match, 2-1. In the spirit of the competition and sportsmanship, the Bears players take a Banner from the coaching staff. They unravel it to expose the Hershey Bears name and logo, with the words ‘Merci Quebec’, thanking all for the hospitality the tournament, the fans and the city has extended to them.

The boys emerge from the locker room and enter the Colisee' concourse, crying in disappointment, as the parents, Billets and Quebec friends we’ve made, break into cheers for the long week of accomplishments the boys have attained. This team came to Quebec and went 9-1, an achievement that no one can question and all should be proud of. The boys cannot be consoled, having felt they’ve left themselves, the parents and the Hershey community down – they need to know we could not be more proud – this cannot be understated. The tears are many, only challenged in volume by the hugs and kisses. Everywhere are small Billet children, barely able to speak English, crying for “their” hockey brothers. All the goodbyes are said and the boys are placed on the bus for the long ride home. After the parents settle in to their seats on the bus, John Brenza puts on a CD

photo chronology of our nine day experience, set to music. He has perfectly and fully captured every aspect of our and the boys' experience. As the pictures eloquently end to the Green Day song "The time Of Your Life", the tears well up again, as we all realize we have had one of the most wonderful opportunities of the boys and our lives. Maybe this should be the theme song on the parent bus, which we were looking for. History needs to record that we came to Quebec, we played and cheered our hearts out and we left proud, as a team. We have all made friends and memories that will never be forgotten. For the many 95's that were a part of this team, everyone wishes you well and will be cheering you on from near and far, a mere 12 months from now. There is no doubt that next year is yours.

The Time Of Your Life (Lyrics)

Another turning point;
a fork stuck in the road.

Time grabs you by the wrist;
directs you where to go.

So make the best of this test
and don't ask why.

It's not a question
but a lesson learned in time.

It's something unpredictable
but in the end it's right.

I hope you had the time of your life.
So take the photographs
and still frames in your mind.

Hang it on a shelf
In good health and good time.

Tattoos of memories
and dead skin on trial.

For what it's worth,
it was worth all the while.

It's something unpredictable
but in the end it's right.

I hope you had the time of your life.
It's something unpredictable
but in the end it's right.

I hope you had the time of your life.
It's something unpredictable
but in the end it's right.

I hope you had the time of your life.



Hershey Quebec 2006-2007

Jimmy Lodge * Mario Benicky * Jordan Klimovsky * John Bowen * Eli Lynn * Wes Breisch * Ben Mariano * Dominic Brenza * Lake Miller * Matt Clum * Dalton O'Connor *
Matt Gaudreau

Conor O'Neil * Taylor Guevarez * Andrew Romano * Matt Clum * Craig Skudalski
Brandon Hacken * Justin Stockdale * Travis Kauffman * Evan Williams * George Garris

Tournament Game 3 Hershey 3 Connecticut 1

Friday, 2/16/07 @ 8:30 pm – Colisee' Pepsi

The bus is packed as darkness falls, under the auspices of another approaching winter storm from the southwest. Route 81 and Route 78 in Pennsylvania remain closed after last week's winter storm and another storm is battering Plattsburgh, NY. We win, and we stay another night. We lose, we head home. The parents take it in stride and board the bus, understanding this is possibly our last game. The air seems still, as the wind has subsided, the blue and white Quebec flags lie motionless in the night, as there is warmth outside surrounding us for the first time in a week.

The parent bus arrives at the Colisee' and pulls up behind the player bus. The parents leave the bus; grab a hockey bag from underneath the player's bus, disappearing around the backside of the Colisee and again down to the locker rooms.

As the parents arrive back up on the concourse, it's obvious the interest in the remaining games has picked up. There is more electricity in the air and more people roaming about. Heading through the tunnel to seek a seat, the Colisee' is more crowded tonight than seen the entire week. Hershey fans must wait for the team families from the current game to leave, before settling in to Section 14-16. Each family finds a different place to watch the Victoriaville Tigers face the Zurich Lions. It's intriguing to see the names on the Victoriaville Tigers backs - Bergeron, Cote, Messier and Roy – are the blood lines of other NHL-ers testing their talents here tonight?

Finally, the game ends and its time for Hershey to take center stage on the ice. The Wolves enter the ice first, in their yellow sweaters, uncharacteristically led by a forward, not the goaltender, as is tradition. The Bears follow closely, led by Matt Clum in his "Bears" white. The boys proceed slowly one by one out of the tunnel. Taylor Guevarez, Branden Hacken, Evan Williams, Dominick Brenza, Andrew Romano, Dalton O'Connor, Craig Skudalski, George Garris and Mario Benicky hit the ice in sprint like fashion throwing their Hershey bars to the crowd. Once they are all on the ice and circling their zone, they begin slapping their sticks on the ice. They skate their warm-up with strength and intensity. Players Justin Stockdale and Travis Kaufman along with the coaches' assistants Austin King, Jonathan Kashmere and Johnny Hrabovsky are all huddled together listening to the words of wisdom from coach.

Once again the first line of O'Neil, Mariano and Lynn are out to take the face off, with Bresich and Bowen as the defensemen. The puck finds its way deep into our zone, only to find its way out with Ben Mariano on the break as he cuts into the offensive zone, to the net, beating the Connecticut defense and finds a hole in the goalies posture to put the Bears up 1-0 at only :27 into the game. The crowd erupts in appreciation for the early effort, led by the Bears contingent in Section 14-16. The next shift comes out and Jordan Klimovsky draws a tripping penalty in the neutral zone, to put the Bears on a power play. The first minute of the power play does not yield any chances, however, the Wolves put some pressure on the Bears in their defensive zone, As the Bears clear the puck, Lake Miller is pulled down from behind by the Wolves at 2:39. The Bears will be on a 5-3 power play for 14 seconds. The Bears gain the offensive zone and Miller sends the puck down low to Jimmy Lodge, who works the puck along the boards, brings it out front and finds Jordan Klimovsky wide open on the far post to hammer home another Bears goal only 3:12 into the first period. As play resumes you can hear frustration in the Wolves fans voices, as they shout at their players to pick up their game.

Finally with 6:42 left in the first, the Bears take a high sticking penalty, to give the Wolves a chance to tighten up the game. The Wolves pressure the Bears in their zone and have a number of chances that they cannot finish and only result in one solid shot on goal, with Clum gobbling it up. With the period ending, the Bears dump the puck and retain a 2-0 edge. Only 25 minutes to hold the lead and advance to the Semi-finals.

The Wolves start the second period with a change- They are now dumping the puck in low and playing a 2-1-2 fore-check, aggressively going deep to try and pen in the Bears. With 1:45 left in the 2nd period, the Bears are called for interference, after a shot ricochets off Clum, bounces high into the air and lands in the crease. The Wolves effort trying to get to the loose puck has paid off. The Wolves launch an attack at the Bears that has everyone clenching their cameras and seatmates, but the puck is finally dumped down the ice by John Bowen as the 2nd period comes to an end, allowing a few moments of peace, before the start of the remaining 15 minutes..

The Bears enter from the tunnel first, trying to kill off the last: 16 seconds of the Wolves power play. With 8:37 left in the game, the Bears got down to business with Klimovsky, O'Neil and Lodge holding the offensive zone and creating chance and after chance. The Wolves are forced to ice the puck, once they gain control.

With 3:33 left in the game, the Bears inadvertently trip one of the Wolves players and are called for the two minute minor. The Wolves immediately call a time out to discuss their strategy for the man advantage. Klimovksy, Mariano Bowen and Bresich are called upon to defend the Bears. Although there are chances they all stand tall, with Clum leading the way. Just as the Bears and their fans felt confident we would escape with an effective kill, the Bears are caught deep in the zone, when the puck is sent out to the high slot, for a slapshot from the Wolves defense. It soars into the top corner of the net, bringing back the tension and sense of urgency felt before the game – the Bears only hold a 2-1 advantage. As the players line up for the face off, the whole building feels hushed. The wolves immediately jump on the puck and start the attack. The Bears counter and get the Wolves caught in their zone until about one minute left in play. The Wolves break out and are able to get their goalie out of the net with :56 seconds to play. As they gain the zone, the Bears are looking for an opportunity to get the puck out, with the possibility of a game winning open net goal. Matt Gaudreau challenges a defenseman just outside the Bears' defensive zone and is able to pick his pocket as the puck lay at the defensemen's feet. Matt spins, picks up the puck and skates down into the paint of the crease before pushing the puck into the back of the net with 13.6 seconds left. The Bears have just sealed the game defeating the nationally ranked Connecticut Wolves and the crowd goes hysterical. The face off ensues and the Bears kill the remaining moments to once again advance to the next round.

The team graciously shake hands at center ice, then proceed to the glass where their families are seated, raise their sticks and tap the glass, one step closer to realizing the dream they set out to attain 10 months ago.



Tournament Game 2 Hershey 2 Shermont 1

Thursday, 2/15/07 @ 3:30 pm – Colisee' Pepsi

The morning after the first major snowstorm in Quebec City in 2007 began with gray skies and a blustery wind, biting at all exposed parts of one's body. The boys returned to the Palace Royal hotel at 11:20 after meeting and watching a game at the Colisee'. The parents loaded the player bags onto their bus and boarded, shortly thereafter.

Everyone is back again in Section 14-16, with the Moms in the white BEARS jersey today, with hands full of Hershey's chocolate miniatures' candy. Shermont Hockey Club takes the ice first and begins their warm-up. Taylor Guevarez is out of the tunnel first for the Bears, indicating his start in net, followed by Matt Clum, Evan Williams, Andrew Romano, George Garris, Justin Stockdale and the rest of the team. Each player skates slowly by the glass, throwing Hershey bars into the waiting crowd. The Bears are on the far bench today, in their black Hershey jerseys. As the linesman prepares to drop the puck, the O'Neil, Mariano and Lynn line, anchored by the Bowen and Breisch defensive pairing, begin the game. The puck is dropped and the Bears win the draw. Shermont quickly regains control, but ices the puck. As the second and third lines take the ice, they continue to pressure the puck, causing Shermont to ice the puck two more successive shifts. At 4:55 into the first period, with the constant pressure, Lake Miller draws a high sticking call. With the pressure the Bears exerted, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to put Shermont in the hole early. The Bears had four great chances early in the power play, but were unable to put the puck in the net. The Bears continued to pressure and control the flow of the play, which resulted in Shermont being called for a tripping minor to Dominic Brenza at 7:50 of the period. The parents watched from the edge of their seats, feeling confident, but apprehensive that the Bears couldn't score. As the period ended, there was one final shot on goal, which was once again stopped by the Shermont net minder, leaving the score tied at 0-0.

The Skudalski, Kauffman and Benicky line started the second period, with Miller and Hacken standing at the blue line, prepared to defend. The Bears continued to control play, with Mariano taking an errant defensive pass on a break away, only to have the puck bounce over his stick as he deked the goalie. As the Bears pressured, pressured pressured, the game remained scoreless, leaving everyone uneasy. Finally, with 2:57 left in the 2nd period, Jimmy Lodge received a pass from Lake Miller and flied down the right hand boards. He sped through, to the corner and pulled out in front, tucking the puck between the goalies pads and into the net for the first tally of the game, putting the Bears up 1-0. The Bears did not let up and continued to play hard on the puck, leading to another Shermont penalty for tripping Jordan Klimovsky with 16.6 second left in the 2nd period. Although unable to convert in the waning seconds of the period, the Bears were looking forward to 1:44 of power play time to start the 3rd period. The boys cleared the ice, and retreated to their locker room to refocus for the final period of play.

As the horn sounded to announce the start of the third period, the Bears coaching staff put out the power play squad of Bowen, Mariano, Gaudreau, O'Connor and O'Neil. Shermont gained control of the puck and dashed down the ice for a short handed chance, only to have Taylor Guevarez deny a goal. As the Bears regrouped to advance the puck up the ice,

O'Connor drew a hooking call in the Bears defensive zone, at :27 in, to put the Bears on a 5-3 power play. The Bears again appeared to have a voracious appetite for the puck, pressuring Shermont who was having trouble clearing the puck,. Shermont eventually got the puck out of their defensive zone and started to change lines, but the Bears launched a quick counter attack. Conor O'Neil passed the puck up to Jordan Klimovksy, who fired the puck cross ice to a waiting Dalton O'Connor. O'Connor buried a wrist shot high, off the goaltenders blocker arm and into the net. The Bears were now up 2-0. The goal was scored during the 5-3 power play, so they still had a short 5-4 power play and chance to extend their lead. As the penalty time expired to go even strength, Shermont goes on a clean break away. As the Shermont player dekes and goes to Guevarez's left, Taylor extends his pad to the post and covers the puck, denying a chance for Shermont to bring the score within one. All the Bears' players on the ice, skate to Taylor and give him a congratulatory hug and their thanks.

With 10:09 left in the third and the Bears feeling confident about their effort so far, they take a slashing call in their defensive zone, as they're trying to clear the puck, Shermont now has a another chance to bring this game close. As the penalty kill begins, the Bears control the puck and clear out of the zone. The whistle blows as a Shermont player is hurt. After a minute with the coach, the player is on his feet and the crowd claps and cheers that he is okay. Play resumes and the puck is sent deep into the Bears zone. A scramble behind the net occurs and the puck is sent out in front to a lonely Shermont forward who shoots it high over Guevarez's glove, to give Shermont their first goal of the game. The Bears are now back in a game, with the score 2-1.

At the ensuing center ice face off, the Bears control and resume their aggressive play. With 6:56 left, Gaudreau draws a tripping minor, leaving Shermont short-handed once again, with time running out. The Bears put out Miller, Breisch, Brenza, Klimovsky and Lodge. Domenic Brenza finds Jimmy Lodge at the blue line, who takes the puck in unabated and fires a shot high glove side, only to have the Shermont goaltender flash his leather to make a stupendous save and keep them within striking distance. As the whistle blows the stoppage, there is another Shermont player that lies hurt in the Bears defensive zone. He regains his feet and the crowd cheers, however, it is apparent the Bears have worn Shermont down. Play continues, but the Bears never get the power play going. With the clock now as their enemy, Shermont calls a time out at 31.4 after Guevarez freezes a weak shot from the blue line.. The Bears win the face off and take it below the goal line, controlling it until there are only a few seconds left, when they throw it back out into the neutral zone and the horn blows. The Bears have survived and rung up another win, with a 2-1 victory, advancing them to the quarterfinals of the tournament.

The Bears next opponent will be the Connecticut Wolves on Friday night, 2/16/07, at 20:30.



EXHIBITION GAME 6

HERSHEY 6

P.E.I. ROCKETS 2

Wednesday 2-14-07 11:00 a.m.

Val-Belair Arena

Prior to the Hershey Bears game, the fans were treated to watch a morning practice session held by the Remparts. The Remparts are a Quebec major junior team owned by Patrick Roy, who was also in attendance.

The game started out with excellent puck movement and constant back checking that set the tone of the game early. Matt Gaudreau came up big by scoring the first three goals of the game. The assists came from Ben Mariano, Connor O'Neil and John Bowen. The Bears took advantage of a four on four with Jordan Klimovsky feeding Ben Mariano for the fourth goal of the game. Defensemen Brandon Hacken, Wes Breisch, Evan Williams and George Garris controlled the puck in the neutral zone throughout the game.

The Bears power play units saw twenty minutes of ice time due to the aggressive play of the Rockets. The power play goals were scored by Dominic Brenza and Jimmy Lodge. Also assisting on the power play units were Lake Miller, Andrew Romano, Eli Lynn and Dalton O'Connor. Offensive players Justin Stockdale, Travis Kauffman, Mario Benicky and Craig Skudalski were called upon when at full strength.

The Bears goaltenders Matt Clum and Taylor Guevarez played well against the strong shooting Rockets.



EXHIBITION GAME 5 HERSHEY 1 CHALRESBOURG 0

Tuesday 2-13-07 7:00 p.m.

Arpidrome De Charlesbourg

The Hershey Bears take to the ice for the first time after their first tournament victory. Taking the ice for the Bears was Eli Lynn, Ben Mariano, Connor O'Neil, Wes Breisch, John Bowen, and goal tender Taylor Guevarez. The offensive pressure was intense at the Chalresbourg end with aggressive play from Craig Skudalski, Mario Benicky, and Travis Kauffman; but the Chalresbourg goal tender stood strong. Constant pressure by Jordan Kilmovsky led to a battle at the blue line; which enabled Dalton O'Connor to gain control of the puck. Jimmy Lodge, with great anticipation, received the puck with a break away resulting in a Bears goal.

The Bears offense and defense controlled the blue line by out shooting the opposition 9-1 in the second period. Justin Stockdale and Andrew Romano continued the offensive pressure while Evan Williams and George Garris controlled the blue line.

At the start of the third period, goaltender Matt Clum took over to preserve the 1-0 lead. Eight minutes of penalties gave the opposition many scoring opportunities. The Bears penalty kill unit consisting of Brandon Hacken, Lake Miller, Dominic Brenza, and Matt Gaudreau, came up big only allowing 2 shots!

At the end of the game, both teams participated in a friendly shoot-out. The results being Hershey 5 Chalresbourg 4.



Tournament Game 1 Hershey 3 Moncton Wildcats 2

Monday, 2/12/07 @ 10:30 – Colisee' Pepsi

The Hershey moms were dressed in their son's black away jerseys, cups of candy in their hands. The billets and their children all seated next to their Hershey families, with Section 14-16 of the Colisee' simply consumed in Hershey spirit. Moncton enters the ice first and proceeds to warm up. Goalie Matt Clum is out of the tunnel first and steps onto the ice, as the Hershey crowd erupts into enthusiastic and deafening cheers. One-by-one, the Hershey boys, dressed in their home white jerseys, hit the ice. Their heads are held high and with determination on their faces, they skate to Section 14-16, throwing Hershey bars into the crowd. The Bears coaches follow, in their white Hershey fleece jackets, with the obvious business at hand on their minds. The boys briefly stretch their legs circling the ice, then skate to the blue line as the Moncton team lines up. They gracefully meet at center ice for the ceremonial pin exchange.

The game began with the O'Neil, Lynn, Mariano, Breisch and Bowen combination. The face-off was pushed deep into the Moncton zone, but the Moncton team regrouped and quickly sped out on a rush, catching the boys off guard. The puck found its way into the low slot and was clumsily knocked in through a screen of sticks and skates to put Moncton up 1-0 at 1:19 of the first period. Moncton gained control on the face off and moved the puck into the Bears zone, but a shot that was ripped, bounced off goalie Clum and the Bears went on the offense. After gaining the offensive zone, a shot was wristed towards the goal. The rebound was recovered by Craig Skudalski, sent over to Mario Benicky who feathered a pass to Travis Kauffman, who buried the puck for the Bears to tie the score at 1-1 at 2:52 of the period. The Bears were controlling the pace of the play, keeping the puck in the Moncton zone with the help of Dominic Brenza, Andrew Romano, Matty Gaudreau and Justin Stockdale. Moncton gained control of the puck and started a rush down the ice. The puck was lost by the Bears behind the net and sent out front by a Moncton player who was on his knees to a waiting forward who sent the puck in with 1:19 left in the first period. Moncton was up 2-1. The Bears went on a charge, with a shot from the high slot being paddled away into the corner. The period ended 10 seconds later with the Bears still down 2-1, having not found their groove, but out shooting the Moncton Wildcats, seven to six.

The second period started with Moncton picking up right where they left off, gaining the zone and setting up, but the Bears quickly countered, and had a great chance at the other end, just missing the net wide. With tenacious fore-checking below the goal line, Ben Mariano drew a hooking penalty just 2:58 into the second period, to put the Bears on the first power play of the game. The Bears held the offensive zone for the entire power play. With 20 seconds left on the power play, Matt Gaudreau found Jimmy Lodge in the corner who sent the puck into the face off circle, to a cutting Jordan Klimovsky who walked in on the Moncton goalie unchallenged and plastered a shot high over the goalies right shoulder to tie the score at 2-2. Play continued back and forth up the ice as shifts changed, with the Bears defensive play of George Garris, Lake Miller, Brandon Hacken, Wes Breisch, John Bowen, Evan Williams negating every Moncton break down the ice.

With 3:24 left in the period, the Bears drew a cross check deep in the Moncton zone, providing an offensive zone face off and golden opportunity to finally take the lead. The Bears offensive lines threw fire and ice at the Moncton goalie, with the defense constantly holding the blue line and dumping the puck deep back into the offensive zone. The Bears were unable to take advantage of the power play and time slipped by to the end of the period. Although the Bears couldn't take advantage of the power play or put the puck into the net, it was obvious in the play and 11-3 shot advantage, that the Bears had regained their composure and control of the game. The Bears players and coaches waited for the Moncton team to leave the ice before withdrawing to their locker room for the 2nd intermission ice cut. With only 15 minutes to play, it was still a tense 2-2 tie.

The Bears returned to the ice to the same enthusiastic and loud cheers. The flow of the first few shifts was awkward. The Bears passes were not as crisp and accurate as they were. That all change with 8:45 to play, when Dalton O'Connor out-letted a pass to Jimmy Lodge

who flashed through the neutral zone, on a two-on-one break. The Moncton goalie cheated towards the pass, leaving the short side open, which Lodge found with a low, hard shot to put the Bears up 3-2. The Moncton team then launched a vicious attack at the Bears. With 6:00 minutes left, the Bears were scrambling in their zone, requiring Clum to stop two point blank shots from the slot to keep the Bears lead intact. The Bears then countered with two shifts of attack time. With 3:42 left, an interference call left the Bears short-handed for much of the remainder of the game. As Moncton set-up in the offensive zone, the Bears were unable to clear. The defense blocked numerous shots, but a weak shot made it's way into Clum who covered up, only to have Moncton crash the crease and hack at the Bears goaltender, with the puck trickling into the net. The officials waved this off, as the puck had been covered and the whistle had blown the play dead. The Bears continued to frantically pursue the puck as time ticked away. With under a minute to play, Moncton pulled their goalie to gain an extra attacker. The Bears took the puck away in the defensive zone, and sent it up ice towards the open net as time expired, giving the Bears a thrilling 3-2 first round win in the tournament. After the on-ice celebration, as Hershey tradition dictates, the Bear players turned to their parents and raised their sticks in a show of appreciation and respect. The next tournament game awaits the Bears Thursday afternoon, at the Colisee'.



EXHIBITION GAME 4 Hershey 4 Eperviers Beauport 1

Sunday, 2/11/07 @ 17:00 – Arena Gilles-Tremblay

The Bears, looking to continue their unbeaten streak, faced an apparent tough challenge with the local Eperviers Beauport team. Their opponents, skating out of their home rink, were big, but carried a short bench of 13 skaters. Matt Clum was selected to initially defend the net for the Bears.

The first period face off began with the first line of O'Neil, Lynn and Mariano. Coming of the injured reserve list and after a solid pre-game skate, Eli Lynn was able to take the ice for the first time of the tournament. A balanced and measured attack began the game for the Bears and continued into the first shift change, when the Beauport team got caught on a defensive shift change. Dalton O'Connor fed the puck to Jimmy Lodge who sped into the Beauport's zone and buried the puck in his opponent's net to take an early 1-0 lead. The Bears continued to pressure the puck in the offensive zone, causing the Beauport team to have difficulty clearing the zone, and leading to a critical turnover. Travis Kauffman received the puck low in the zone and looking for a Bear in scoring position, passed to Mario Benicky who expertly handled the pass and stuffed the puck into the net to extend the Bears lead to 2-0. As the first period was ticking down, Beauport became rejuvenated and lobbed a barrage of shots at the Bears. The Bears countered, carrying the puck down the ice and getting a late scoring chance on a partially blocked shot, which the Beauport goalie grabbed out of the air as time expired and the horn blew. As the goalie touched the puck, the referee blew the whistle, calling Beauport for a two minute minor penalty, presenting the Bears with a golden opportunity to start the second period.

The Bears won the second period face off and streaked into the Beauport zone, with the initial, quick shot, just slightly off target, clanging off the post. The Bears continued the pressure during the power play, only to see a clear by Beauport go into the neutral zone, just as the penalty time expired. The Beauport players were continually beaten by the determined Bears defense unit comprised of John Bowen, Brandon Hacken, Wes Breisch, Evan Williams, George Garris and Lake Miller who controlled the puck all game long and denied many scoring opportunities. The Bears continued to keep the Beauport team on their

heels. At 3:50 into the period, the Bears incurred a tripping call, leaving them short-handed for the first time in the game. As play resumed, the Bears controlled the puck, driving it into the Beauport zone and keeping it pinned in, with waves of attacks, effectively killing off the penalty.

In the middle of the second period, Taylor Guevarez came in to relieve Matt Clum in goal. The Beauport shots were far and few in between, allowing the Bears goaltenders to make routine saves and provide no opportunity for rebounds. The Bears continued to dominate play, keeping the puck in the Beauport defensive zone with the offensive pressure of Andrew Romano, Matty Gaudreau, Craig Skudalski and Justin Stockdale, while smoothly making shift changes. Beauport was able to break out on a few occasions and rush up the ice, but was unable to get off any quality shots. With seconds left in the second period, a rush by the Bears resulted in Dominic Brenza drawing a tripping minor by one of the Beauport blue liners. The Bears put up an incredible flurry of shots in the last 10 seconds, but were unable to get the puck past the Beauport goaltender, ending the period with the score still at 2-0 in favor of the Bears

The Bears were hungry for another goal as the third period started. 21 Seconds into the period, the Bears drew another minor penalty – a high stick; resulting in a two man advantage for 1:31. The Bears took the face off and set up in the offensive zone, cycling the puck down low and passing flawlessly around the perimeter. The puck was sent into the middle, only to be intercepted by the Beauport defense and subsequently thrown out towards the neutral zone, with the Bears defense unable to hold the zone. Dalton O'Connor retrieved the puck and sped up the boards, while the Bears and Beauport changed lines. He cut to the right hash mark and unleashed a wrist shot into the top corner of the Beauport net, giving the Bears a 3-0 lead. It seemed the Bears were ready to put the finishing touches on Beauport as they were controlling every aspect of the game.

Just 2:53 into the third period, the Bears took an elbowing penalty, giving new hope to the Beauport team. The Bears continued to play solid defense on the penalty kill, but with nine seconds left on the penalty, had trouble controlling a drive to the net, resulting in a goal for Beauport and trimming their lead to 3-1 with 10:14 to go in the game. Things began to tighten up as Beauport had numerous successive scoring chances, but fortunately for the Bears, Beauport missed shots, mishandled the puck and could not get anything more past Guevarez. Beauport remained determined and capable of cutting the lead to one.

Beauport took another penalty, giving the Bears a golden opportunity to put their rival away. The Bears attack was solid, but did not yield the chances they desired until 9 seconds left in the power play, when Jordan Klimovsky threaded a beautiful pass onto Lake Miller's stick on the weak side of the ice, who made no mistake in rocketing a shot into the Beauport net. With 3:41 left in the game, the Bears took complete control of the game with a 4-1 lead. As time wound down, the Bears had an uncharacteristic lapse and were called for too many men on the ice. Beauport now had 1:57 left with a one man advantage, to put up more goals and bring the score closer. The last two minutes were a frenzy of activity in the Bears defensive zone, with the boys unable to clear the puck and getting bad bounces off the glass, leaving the puck bouncing back into the center of the defensive zone and giving Beauport chance after chance. The boys stood tall and would not allow Beauport to bring the game close. The final horn sounded and the Bears had won their fourth game, now anxiously awaiting their first tournament game at the Colisee' Pepsi in the morning against Moncton, New Brunswick.

In the true spirit of the Pee Wee tournament and sportsmanship, the Beauport coach called for a friendly shootout, allowing all players a chance to shoot on the goaltenders. The penalty shot of the night came from a Beauport player who slowly entered the zone, put his stick between his legs at the top of the face off circle, "Michiganed" the puck onto his stick, spun around and whipped it low into the net – a spectacular trick shot. After all players had a chance to take a chance, the penalty shot score ended 6-4 in favor of Beauport. The

players from both teams removed their helmets, exchanged handshakes in a sincere showing of respect; and posed for a combined group picture, all representing one team – the team that plays hockey.



EXHIBITION GAME 3 - Hershey 3 Boston 1

Saturday Feb. 10, 2007 12:10pm

The Junior Bears third game was played during a bustling afternoon at the Galleria mall. Their opponent was the Boston Bruins, a team they could well meet in the second round of the tournament. The game started with the Bruins controlling the initial face off, with the Bears caught by surprise, resulting in an odd-man rush into our zone. The shot clanged off the post and the resulting rebound was slammed into the back of the net to put the Bears down 1-0 very early in the game.

Undaunted by the quick goal, the Bears controlled the second face-off from center ice and quickly set-up in the Bruins defensive zone. Working the puck down the boards and underneath the face-off circle, Jimmy Lodge passed to Dalton O'Connor shooting through the slot, who took the puck and slid across the front of the goalie, deking him to his knees, leaving an easy shot into the far side of the net. Tied 1-1, the confidence was building and was obvious in their play.

Taylor Guaverez stood tall in net making some key saves to keep the score even, as the play continued up and down the ice. The Bruins skated hard to get to dump-ins, only to be matched equally by the defensive play of John Bowen, Wes Breisch, Evan Williams, Lake Miller, Brandon Hacken and George Garris. The rushes required the Bears to work deep in their defensive zone, but always effectively moving the puck out of their zone, resulting in many quality chances for their offensive lines. As the buzzer sounded to end the first period, the score remained tied at 1-1.

As the second period started, the tension grew as the previous wins began to fade from memory – the Bears were in a tight game, now, so Game On. Any mistake could easily result in a goal and swing in the momentum. The Bears regrouped and started to play like the champions they are. The offensive power of Justin Stockdale, Mario Benicky, Jordan Klimovsky, Dominick Brenza, Andrew Romano, Craig Sudalski and Travis Kauffman all dominated the puck and caused chaos in the Bruins defensive zone. The Bruins struggled to clear the puck, as the Bears rained down scoring chance after scoring chance. The pressure resulted in the Bruins taking penalties in their frustration to clear the puck. As well as the Bears played, they were unable to take advantage of the many opportunities the Bruins gave them. With a little over seven minutes left in the second Period, Matt Clum came in to relieve Taylor Guevarez as the netminder, hitting blocker to glove, as they passed on the ice. The Bears continued to pour shot after shot on the Bruins goaltender, who made save after save, to keep the game tight. With the score still tied and only a few minutes to play in the second period, the Bears had another power play. Conor O'Neil took a pass from Matt Gaudreau and Bennie Mariano, skated behind the net and went to stuff it in the corner. The goaltender split to cover the post and stopped the shot, only to be left helpless, as the puck lay in the crease. Conor bore down hard and stayed on with it, as the defense was unable to move him from the slot. His hard work paid off as the third shot slid through the five hole, to put the Bears up 2-1. The second period ended with this score and the Bears feeling like they could put this game away with just another goal.

The third period was tight, as the Bears were trying to hang on to the lead. The Bruins threw everything they had, skating us down hard as they pushed the puck deep into our zone. The Bears stood tough and counterattacked. As they entered the offensive zone and set up, a pass went low, below the goal line, it was quickly sent into the slot, where Matt Gaudreau was blazing down, took the pass and buried a wrist shot high over the goalies shoulder. The Bears were up 3-1 and only needed to hold the lead for 10 minutes to have their third win. The Bruins were not going to roll over as they put up a fierce attack. The Bruins pinned the puck into our zone for what seemed like a whole period, as the Bears were unable to clear and get off for a line change. The pressure was relieved when the puck was sent into the neutral zone and a fresh five players stepped out. The Bears, having survived the attack, were rejuvenated and carried the play for the rest of the game. Having only two shots in the third period and giving up only four, the Bears celebrated as the final buzzer sounded. The 3-1 win was another confidence builder for the boys, to carry them into their next exhibition game on Sunday and first tournament game on Monday at the Colisee` Pepsi.

The anticipation of tournament play for forward Eli Lynn is now only one game away. He continues to practice and shows marked signs of improvement.

Game total shots on goal were Hershey 22 - Boston 15. Hershey served 6 minutes in penalties and Boston served 10 minutes in penalties.



EXHIBITION GAME 2 - Hershey 11 Harfangs 2

Friday Feb. 9, 2007 6:00pm

The second game of the day was played against a local prep school in the province of Quebec called the Beauport Harfangs. The nostalgic rink displayed the banners of notable names that played through the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League. A few alumni of the QMJHL, include Mario Lemieux, Guy Lafleur, Ray Bourque, Pat Lafontaine, and goalkeeper Patrick Roy.

The Hershey Bears continued their strong play play beating the local prep school 11-2. Leading the list of goals scored was veteran Jordan Klimovsky while Dalton O'Connor, Benny Mariano, Jimmy Lodge, John Bowen, Conor O'Neil, Matty Gaudreau, and Dominic Brenza all found the back of the net throughout the 45 minutes of play. The same goal scorers also moved the puck to earn additional points with assists.

Also adding points in the assist column were Brandon Hacken, Andrew Romano and Justin Stockdale. Other offensive players who contributed to the play included Craig Skudalski, Travis Kauffman, and Mario Benicky. The stellar defensive play of Evan Williams, Wes Breisch, Lake Miller, Brandon Hacken, John Bowen and George Garris once again held the opposition to minimal scoring opportunities. Matt Clum got the call and stayed strong in net while stopping a penalty shot to keep Hershey's momentum in full swing.

After a great performance in net earlier in the day, Taylor Guevarez took his spot on the bench and was taking in all the action. The injured Eli Lynn did dress and participate in the pre-game warm up skate but remained poised on the bench in the midst of his team mates.



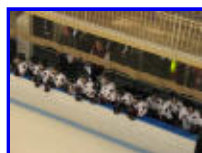
EXHIBITION GAME 1 – HERSHEY 8 GRENOBLE FRANCE 0

Friday, February 09, 2007 @ 12:30 pm

The Hershey Junior Bears Quebec team started their play today with an exhibition game against team Grenoble from France in their quest to the Pee wee International Championship. After a long trip to Quebec, the boys came out strong and on top with an 8-0 defeat at the standing room only, Galleria Mall. From winning the first face off of the game, the boys opened with a goal at 3:12 of the first period.

A power play goal was scored by Ben Mariano, assisted by John Bowen and Dalton O'Connor. Even strength goals were scored by Andrew Romano and Jimmy Lodge with Conor O'Neil, Dominic Brenza and Mariano each with two. The assists for the goals came from Matty Gaudreau, Evan Williams, Travis Kauffman and Craig Skudalski. The strong defensive play of Brandon Hacken, Lake Miller, George Garris, Wes Breisch and the other defensemen held the opposition to only 5 shots on goal. Taylor Guevarez recorded the shutout while the strong forecheck of Justin Stockdale, Jordan Klimovsky and Mario Benicky led to Hershey's 31 shots on goal to secure the win.

Eli Lynn, due to injury, cheered the team from the bench and is taking extra time to heal and rehab his way into the line for the start of the official tournament. The goaltending duties of Matt Clum were not necessary from the start of this game and is looking forward to the call.





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