

Quebec Team 2006

Quebec Game 2 - Hershey 0 Uxbridge 2 Thursday 2/16/06 – 1:00 PM

The Hershey Jr. Bears lost a close game 2 to 0 to Uxbridge ending their hopes of winning the Pee wee International Championship. Uxbridge was able to effectively use their big defensemen and their long reach to fight off the Jr. Bears in front of a large crowd in the Pepsi Colisee in Quebec City.

The game started off with Hershey using their speed and attacking the Uxbridge net, but Uxbridge used their size to keep Hershey from getting clean shots. Uxbridge used their strategy of counterattacking to their advantage when they were able to score at the 3:36 mark of the first with a shot from the blue line that was deflected off a player in front of the net and hit the post and trickled into the net. A few minutes later, Hershey thought they had tied the score during a scramble; however, the referees after a conference disallowed the goal. Following the ensuing draw, Uxbridge tried a long pass that found their streaking winger, but Jr. Bears defensemen Ryan McNamara caught him from behind and poked the puck safely to the corner. During the period, Noah Klag made a couple of big saves to keep Hershey within a goal. Jono Kashmere and Johnny Gaudreau were both hooked during drives to the net and were not able to get off clean shots.

The Jr. Bears started the second period continuing to attack the Uxbridge net, while Uxbridge continued to use their size and reach to hook, clutch, grab allowing them to slow down the Hershey attack. Danny Barnaby was robbed on a wrist shot on a 2 on 1 with a glove save. Kashmere and Gaudreau were both hooked off the puck while driving to the net again in the second period. Hershey had two power plays during the period, but could not put one in the net. Hershey was also able to kill off a penalty with the great penalty killing of Kenno, Rishell, Hrabovsky, McNamara, Barnaby, Nejme, Bentzel and Winters, a Hershey strength this tournament and all season.

As the third period started, the trend was similar to the first two periods. Hershey attacked while Uxbridge continued to play very defensive. Anthony Digrazio fired a shot that hit the post. Hershey continued to work the point and fire shots but they either were deflected wide, blocked or saved. Similar to the second period, Hershey had two unsuccessful power plays. On the last power play with less than two minutes left in the game, Hershey pulled the goalie. They had a few chances, but the puck jumped over their sticks. With 46 seconds left in the game, Uxbridge put in an empty net goal, thus ending Hershey's hopes.

The coaches and parents are very proud of their boys, who represented Hershey with class and pride, as their 10 month journey came to an end. Hershey started in April with clinics, May with tryouts, summer training in June through August, and exhibition season from September through February. The boys became best of friends during this period and their memories will last forever. Everyone would like to thank all of the boys for the season: Goalies Steven Dombrosky and Noah Klag; Defensemen Cody Bentzel, Johnny Hrabovsky, Austin King, Ryan McNamara, Nick Mantz, and Shane Winters; and Forwards Danny Barnaby, Anthony Digrazio, Dylan Fox, Johnny Gaudreau, Jono Kashmere, Zach Kenno, Jordan Klimovsky, Brett Liszewski, Ben Mariano, Al Nejme, Conor O'Neil, Brenden Rishell, and Brian Sachs.



Exhibition Game 5 - Huron Perth 2 Hershey 1 Wednesday 2/15/06 – 3:50 PM

The Jr. Bears faced off this afternoon against Huron Perth, a team outside of the Toronto area, in a penalty filled game with a continuous running time clock. Huron came out with a lot of speed and aggressiveness in the first period, so much aggressiveness that they had 5 penalties in the period. Hershey had two 5 on 3 power plays, but was not able to solve the Huron defense. After one period, there were as many penalties, 6, as shots on goal for both teams. Hershey goalie, Noah Klag, made several key saves in the period including a great breakaway save.

Huron came out in the second period with the same intensity and continued to take penalties. Unfortunately for the Jr. Bears, Huron was able to score a shorthanded goal on a one-timer with 3:37 left in the period. Huron did not waste much time and scored another goal with one minute left in the period to make the score 2 to 0 in their favor. Hershey did have some chances as Al Nejme was robbed on a one timer from behind the net. The Jr. Bears defense of Ryan McNamara, Johnny Hrabovsky, Austin King, Nick Mantz, Cody Bentzel and Shane Winters played strong in the period making great plays in both the defensive and neutral zones as Huron attacked.

The Jr. Bears, after coming out a little flat for the game, turned it around in the third and adjusted to Huron's play by becoming more aggressive. Similar to Huron in the first two periods, Hershey began to take penalties as a result of their attacking style. Hershey was able to kill off a 5 on 3 with several big saves by goaltender Steven Dombrosky that caused the momentum to swing in the Jr. Bears favor. When the game settled down to 5 on 5 hockey, Hershey was able to crack their defense when Nejme beat their goalie with a backhanded shot top shelf from a slick cross slot pass from Dylan Fox.

With the Hershey faithful on their feet, the Jr. Bears fed of the goal and continued to attack. The Jr. Bears stormed the Huron net and at one point had the puck behind the Huron net minder just short of the goal line, but could not poke it in. Hershey had one more chance with a power play in the last minute of play, but could not score as they swarmed the net.

The game ended with Huron giving Hershey their first loss of the trip, losing 2 to 1 in a very strong defensive game with excellent penalty killing on both sides. Huron out shot the Jr. Bears 11 to 9. The boys look to bounce back tomorrow with their second tournament game.



Exhibition Game 4 - Hershey 7 Charlesbourg 0 Tuesday 2/14/06 – 6:00 PM

The Hershey Juniors Bears enjoyed an afternoon of snow tubing and relaxation before they got down to business. This evening the team played Charlesbourg and skated to a 7-0 victory. The boys from Chocolatetown began their scoring when Johnny Gaudreau battled for the puck in the corner and set-up Brett Liszewski in the low slot for a goal at 8:16. Less than two minutes later Al Nejmech won the face-off setting up Dan Barnaby who lit the lamp on a back-hander at 6:13. The final goal of the first period came when Ryan McNamara fired a missile from the point and Brian Sachs caught the rebound at 5:29 to end the period with the Bears up 3-0.

Lighting struck again at 8:12 in the second period when Nejmech made a great tape-to-tape feed from behind the net to Barnaby who scored on a one-timer. Charlesbourg gave the Bears the advantage at 8:16 with a roughing penalty. Hershey wasted no time capitalizing on it with a top shelf goal by Johnny Hrabovsky. Brendan Rishell was credited with the assist.

Rishell continued his productive ways by opening the third period with a blaster from the point with assists coming from Foxy and Barny. Gaudreau rounding out the scoring at 8:15 with a top shelf back-hander after a neutral zone turnover initiated by Nick Mantz.

A major story of this year's Quebec play is the stellar performance of the defensemen, including Austin King, Shane Winters and Cody Bentzel. The defense, led by the incredible performances by our goalies, Klag and Dombrowski have garnered shutouts in 3 of the 5 games played. In a word—AWESOME! Shots on Goal: 40-4.

The hallmark of this year's team is its team play. All of the Junior Bears got ice time as they fought hard for the Bears. The "freshman" line, made up of Conor O'Neil, Ben Mariano, and Jordan Klimovsky dazzled the fans with their speed and tenacity. Anthony Digrazio and Jono Kashmere kept the pressure on Charlesbourg with solid, dependable play.

The Bears will have practice in the AM followed by another exhibition game as they prepare for their next tournament game against Uxbridge on Thursday afternoon.



Quebec Game 1 - Hershey 8 Gatineau Olympiques 0 Monday 2/13/06 – 4:45 PM

The Hershey Jr. Bears opened their 46th Peewee International Tournament with an explosion, beating the Gatineau Olympiques 8 to 0. As the stomach virus was fighting the Jr. Bears, the boys from Chocolate Town brought the fight to Gatineau off the opening face off when Danny Barnaby scored 32 seconds into the game on a breakaway with assists going to Dylan Fox and Johnny Hrabovsky. Hershey continued to pressure Gatineau and scored two goals in a 30 second window starting when Brian Sachs lit the lamp off a rebound beating the goalie top shelf with assists going to Zach Kenno and Anthony Digrazio. It was deja vu with Ben Mariano scoring similar to Sachs when Mariano put in a rebound from the slot with assists going to Brenden Rishell and Jono Kashmere. Conor O'Neil came in on a breakaway off a great move but was robbed by the goalie with a great save.

The Jr. Bears kept attacking in the second period and Digrazio rifled a shot top shelf at the 7:54 mark off a tape to tape cross ice floater from Kenno with another assist going to Sachs. Al Nejmech then beat the goalie top shelf with a backhander at the 6:21 mark off a scramble in the slot. The pressure was created from Fox and Barnaby getting assists. At 4:54, the Bears scored to make it 6 to 0 when Johnny Gaudreau made an end to end rush, weaving through defenders and scoring short side with an assist to Cody Bentzel who made a perfect breakout pass. Before the fans were back in their seats, Sachs scored his second as the Jr. Bears attacked the net looking for rebounds. Mariano and Kenno assisted on the goal while helping create the pressure. The Jr. Bears killed off a late period high-sticking penalty on Jordan Klimovsky that carried into the third period. At the end of two periods, the score was Hershey 7 and Gatineau 0.

The third period started with the Bears playing strong defensive hockey as Gatineau started to press offensively. Austin King, Nick Mantz and Ryan McNamara were able to keep the puck in the Jr. Bears offensive zone, fire shots from the point and bottle up the neutral ice creating many scoring opportunities with their aggressive play. On the same shift, Shane Winters and Bentzel both made great defensive plays on a one on one in our defensive zone. Hershey ended the scoring when Gaudreau continued to use his quickness to skate around defenders and lit the lamp at the 1:30 mark of the period as Brett Liszewski and Kashmere continued to occupy space in front of the net, tying up defenders.

The Jr. Bears out shot Gatineau 39 to 8 for the game. Goalies Noah Klag and Steven Dombrosky were solid in net, both combining for the shutout. The Jr. Bears will spend tomorrow going snow tubing before playing their 4th exhibition game late in the afternoon. The Bears look forward to their second tournament game on Thursday vs. the winner of Ahuntsic and Uxbridge.



Exhibition Game 3 – Saturday 2/12/06 - 7:15 PM Jr. Bears 4 – Drakkar 0

The Hershey Jr. Bears played their 2nd game of the day and their 3rd exhibition game since their arrival to Quebec City. Their opponent for the nightcap was Drakkar De La Côte-Nord, a local team from Quebec. The Jr. Bear fans were fired up and the players were also as they came out with jump in their skates. The line of Jono Kashmere, Johnny Gaudreau and Brett Liszewski continued their strong play and started it off with some excellent chances to set the tone. At 7:16 of the first, Hershey started the scoring when Ryan McNamara feathered a precise pass to a streaking Danny Barnaby who came in on a breakaway and beat the Drakkar netminder to put the Jr. Bears up 1 to 0.

A short time later, off an offensive zone faceoff, McNamara found Brenden Rishell along the side boards and Rishell beat the goalie from the slot on the glove side at 3:35 of the period. The 2nd period went back and forth with the Jr. Bears still taking charge when Al Nejmech lit the lamp for the Jr. Bears 3rd goal with assists going to Barnaby and Dylan Fox. At the end of the 2nd period it was 3 to 0, in favor of the boys from Chocolate town.

The Drakkar backing seemed stunned to see their team down and the Jr. Bears fans were loud and supportive. As play went back and forth the Jr. Bears cashed in again when Barnaby with a beautiful inside out move notched his 2nd of the game with assists from Fox and Nejmech. With about 5 minutes left, Noah Klag came up with a huge save on a breakaway to keep Drakkar scoreless. At 2:11 of the 3rd period, the Jr. Bears went down a man and the penalty killing of Gaudreau, Liszewski, Cody Bentzel and Shane Winters along with Nejmech, Rishell, Ryan McNamara and Johnny Hrabovsky finished the kill off. The line of Zach Kenno, Brian Sachs and Anthony Digrazio, along with the forwards Ben Mariano, Conor O'Neil and Jordan Klimovsky peppered the Drakkar netminder all game with plenty of scoring chances.

Not to be forgotten are the rest of the Jr. Bears defensemen who played another solid all around game led by Hrabovsky, McNamara, Nick Mantz, Austin King and the twin towers of Shane Winters and Cody Bentzel. Klag who finished with the shutout was fabulous throughout and backing him up was Steven Dombrosky. The Jr. Bears were victorious 4 to 0, out shooting the notably bigger Drakkar team 21 to 16. The boys earned a well earned day off on Sunday as they prepare for their first tournament game on Monday against the Gatineau Olympiques at the Pepsi Colisee, the former home of the NHL Quebec Nordiques in Quebec City.



Exhibition Game 2 – Saturday 2/11/06 Jr. Bears 3 – Elite 1

After tasting success on Friday and some snow time Friday afternoon, the Jr. Bears drove an hour to play the Lotbiniere Elite in the first of a doubleheader of games today. Similar to yesterday, the Jr. Bears started right off the opening face off with defenseman Ryan McNamara making an end to end rush with their goalie making a great save. The Jr. Bears were able to put one in off a face off when Johnny Gaudreau fed Jono Kashmere who skated from the right boards to the slot and beat the goalie at the 9:05 mark. Less than a minute later, Brian Sachs skated around several defenders and fired a shot shortside top shelf to make the score 2 to 0, scoring an unassisted goal.

In the second period, the Jr. Bears continued the pressure, but were not able to put one past the Lotbiniere goalie. However, Hershey made some great plays during the period. Austin King and Nick Mantz each stopped a one on one early in the period to keep the momentum from changing. Lotbiniere was able to crack the great Hershey goaltending with a power play goal with 5 seconds left in the second.

The Jr. Bears did not let the goal to get them down as they attacked again off the opening face off. The forward line of Gaudreau, Kashmere and Brett Liszewski attacked with 3 quick shots off their first shift. Goalie Noah Klag made a great save on a breakaway to keep the Jr. Bears in the lead. Defensemen Cody Bentzel used his size 12 skates to prevent a toe drag to stop a rush as the game was intensifying. With 43 seconds left in the game, Hershey put the game away when Dylan Fox scored on an assist from Al Nejmeh. The shots for the game were 44 for the Jr. Bears and 11 for Lotbiniere.

The Jr. Bears defensemen played another dominating game on both sides of the ice with Johnny Hrabovsky and Shane Winters firing numerous shots from the blue line. The freshman line of Conor O'Neil, Ben Mariano, and Jordan Klimovsky played another strong game as well as the line of Anthony DiGrazio, Zack Kenno and Brian Sachs as they moved the puck with precision during the game. Brendan Rishell played a very strong game and led the team in shots on goal as he filled in for Danny Barnaby who was not able to play the game due to illness.

The goaltending duo of Steven Dombrosky and Noah Klag continued their strong play splitting the game. The Jr. Bears had some lunch and went shopping at L'Entrepot Du Hockey, and then rested before their second game later in the day.



Exhibition Game 1 – Friday 2/10/06

Jr. Bears 6 – Wolves 1

The 2006 Jr. Bears played their first game in their quest for the championship title up in Quebec City against the Dallas Lonestar Wolves at the indoor mall of Les Galeries de las Capitale. All of the shoppers got their first glimpse of what the Jr. Bears look to bring to the 2006 world tournament.

The Jr. Bears dominated from the opening period, but were not able to put any into the net until Dylan Fox beat the Wolves with a laser wrist shot top shelf with 6 seconds remaining in the first on a feed from Al Nejmeh and with help from line mate Danny Barnaby. The Jr. Bears out shot the Wolves 13 to 1 in the period and leading 1 to 0. The Jr. Bears killed off a penalty in the period without allowing a shot led by the strong penalty kill of forward's Brenden Rishell, Zach Kenno, Jono Kashmere and Al Nejmeh and the defensemen Johnny Hrabovsky, Ryan McNamara, Nick Mantz and Austin King.

The boys from Chocolate town continued the pressure into the second period. Brian Sachs lit the lamp top shelf, short side at the 12:25 mark of the second period on a great feed from Anthony "Spaghetti" DiGrazio. The Jr. Bears found themselves shorthanded one time in the second, but were able to hold the Wolves again without a shot from the Jr. Bears strong penalty kill units.

The Wolves were able to poke in a rebound off of a 3 on 1 at the 3:39 mark of the period. The Jr. Bears showed their resiliency coming right back to make the score 3 to 1 when Brett Liszewski scored with an unassisted goal less than a minute later. Even though an unassisted goal, the Jr. Bears created this score through the unrelenting pressure of Liszewski's forward line mates Johnny Gaudreau and Jono Kashmere with help from our big D line of Shane Winters and Cody Bentzel. The second period ended with the Jr. Bears out shooting the Wolves 14 to 2.

The Jr. Bears lit the lamp to start the third with an early goal at the 11:25 mark. Connor O'Neil took the face off from Ben Mariano, skated to the middle of the slot and beat the goalie with a wrist shot. Zach Kenno then scored at 5:21 off a feed from DiGrazio with a slapper just inside the blue line. The Bears ended the scoring of the period when Jordan Klimovsky scored off a rebound with assists from Mariano and O'Neil (the Freshman Line).

The clock finally expired with the Jr. Bears winning 6 to 1. The tandem of Noah Klag and Steven Dombrosky split the duties and captured the exhibition win getting the Jr. Bears off on the right PAW. The Bears out shot the Wolves 40 to 4 for the game.



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