



## EXHIBITION GAME 4: Hershey 2 – Ancienne-Lorette 1

Quebec City, Quebec – Complexe Sportif Wendake

February 16, 2019

One day before the Jr Bears official debut in the Tournoi International de Hockey, Pee-Wee they took on a local Ancienne-Lorette team. Back playing at the familiar Wendake arena which was built on Huron First Nations Land and also being the newest hockey barn most of our players and parents have seen.

For the fourth time our Chocolate Town team decided that playing from behind early on is a motivator. It didn't take long for Ancienne's six-foot tall forward to intercept a misdirected pass from our blueliner intended for a forward on the half-wall. He got a nice shot past starting goal tender Ryan Murphy. But that would be all the scoring in the 1<sup>st</sup> period. Murphy held his composure, making some great saves. The Jr Bears put themselves in some precarious position which required some backchecking heroics, notably from defenseman Ellie Dimatos. The opponents demonstrated good hockey sense paired with good size and speed up front. Mason Kaplan had several notable offensive zone entries with speed but Ancienne was strong on their sticks always making a last-ditch effort to poke pucks away. The Ryan Dhawan, Brady Logue, Blake Umberger line continued to work with reckless abandon but always Ancienne found the puck luck. Big defenseman Issa Mansour just missed connecting with Logue for what could have been a great opportunity. Unfortunately, the Jr Bears played a little too aggressive on the puck and would have to start the 2<sup>nd</sup> period short-handed. End of 1<sup>st</sup> period score 0-1.

Forwards Cam Westlake and Hunter Strohm took the first short-handed forward shift of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period and kept Ancienne at bay. Strohm was able to make a big defensive zone clear which help eat critical minutes off the clock in favor of our team. The Jr Bears survived the penalty unscathed. Later on forward Ben Smith used his aggressive offensive play to draw a penalty which put the good guys on the power play for the first time. However, the Jr Bears just couldn't generate enough offensive firepower to add a tally. Ryan Murphy made a notable glove save around the 7:20 mark. Ancienne made a planned goalie change midway through the period. As is typical of PeeWee hocke, goals often come when least expected and with more grit than grace. Parker Nassour tied up an Ancienne defenseman low in their zone and was able to pop the puck loose to a Cam Westlake on the tail end of a long shift, he was able to find some space and slide a backhand puck over the goal line. Score 1-1. The Chocolate Town players needed that score to pull it together. The Jr Bears made their own planned goalie change with the momentum in their direction. With Ryno Harris in net the Jr Bears kept on the throttle. David Maish had a nice zone entry and pass to line mate Hunter Strohm who snapped off a nice shot. Eli Schaller followed up with a potential score but the Ancienne goaltender made a better door than a window. Harris made a nice leg save around the 2:33 mark. Kaplan ended the period with a hard shot.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> period was a tale of defense. The coaches modified the forechecking strategy and it succeeded in countering Ancienne's speed. Tucker Valoczki turned on the defensive pressure. Defenseman Shelby Shane got pucks on net and Broden Wood held his blueline and kept the puck in the zone when it counted. Ben Smith created a great scoring chance and drew a critical penalty around 6:20 in the period. On the ensuing faceoff, centerman Ryan Dhawan pulled the draw back to defenseman Brandon Shaffer who buried the puck in the back of the Ancienne net! Score 2-1. The Jr Bears would go on another powerplay and Ryno Harris would make two more impressive saves before the final buzzer sounded. Final score 2-1. The Jr Bears had 19 shots on goal and Ancienne recorded 22 shots on goal.



Murphy was 12/13 and Harris was 9/9. The Jr Bears will take on the Quebec Nordiques on 17 February at 1pm at the Centre Videotron.



## EXHIBITION GAME 3: Hershey 4 – Quebec Nord Est 3

Quebec City, Quebec – Arena Rejean Lemelin

February 15, 2019

The Bears took to the ice again yesterday afternoon for their second exhibition game in Quebec City for a tougher more physical match up with the Quebec Nord-Est Seigneurs, resulting in a nail-biting 4-3 victory. A “merci” goes out to the families of the hosting team. The friendly match started with a family tailgate so that the of both teams’ families could meet and mingle. Several of the host family’s kids were facing off against the Bears today making for a fun rivalry. Ryan (Ryno) Harris was the netminder for this battle. Like the previous game, the Jr Bears needed some first period adversity to jump start their play.

Both teams came out excited and the puck spent a good deal of time on the sticks of both teams. Defenseman Aidan Devaney did a nice job clearing the zone early in the 1<sup>st</sup> period. Aggressive play from defensemen Ellie Dimatos resulted in Chocolate Town’s first penalty. The locals stuck to their power play game plan working the puck in the offensive zone and looking for a shooting lane to open. Eventually they found a way to get the puck past Ryan putting them on the board first. Score 0-1. That was all the Bears needed to turn it on, showing their increased intensity with a 2-on-1 and a great play from Brady Logue, who showed a lot of hustle, to Blake Umberger resulting in a shot. There was a lot of action in front of the net as the clock ticked down, but the period ended 0-1. The Ryan Dhawan, Brady Logue, Blake Umberger line would continue to pour the pressure throughout the game.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> period, a short 10-minute period, started quick of the opening faceoff with a zone entry and a great pass from Joe Argentina to Cam Westlake to tie it up 1-1. The Jr Bears kept the pressure on and Parker Nassour forced a bad Seigneurs turnover in their own end which result in a highlight goal. Score 2-1. The defensive parings of Broden Wood and Shelby Shane, Tucker Valoczki and Ellie Dimatos, Aiden Devaney and Cam Greenawalt, and Brandon Shaffer and Issa Mansour challenged the Seigneurs all game. Unfortunately, with about four minutes remaining in the period the Bears were on the short end of a bad bouncing puck that looked to bounce off of one of our player’s. Score 2-2. The Seigneurs made a goalie change with three minutes left in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ryan Dhawan had two excellent opportunities on the same shift but couldn’t find the back of the net. Hunter Strohm made a great forechecking play on the end boards behind the opponent’s goal but the referees took exception and with about 1min on the clock the Jr Bears found themselves down one player in the last minute of the 2<sup>nd</sup> period. The home team had the Jr Bears fans on the edge of their seat and uncertainty prevailed after the buzzer sounded. The Jr Bears would start the 15-minute 3<sup>rd</sup> down two players.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> period started with both forward Strohm and defenseman Brandon Shaffer in the box. Cam Westlake found an endless tank of gas as the lone forward on the 5-on-3. Shorted-handed icing was allowed in this game and defenseman Shelby Shane took advantage by clearing the zone, helping burn some seconds off the penalties. The Bears managed to kill penalty #1 and #2 with some intense moments and not without bigtime play from Ryno Harris. More back-and-forth play ensued with another Logue to Umberger opportunity. This was followed up by a big shot from forward Ben Smith that was snatched with a glove save. Umberger followed with a nice backcheck to tie up the offensive player. Notable play by defenseman Cam Greenawalt to stop an untimely breakaway. The Jr Bears took advantage of a change of possession in the neutral zone and a Seigenurs line change within the 4 minute



mark of the 3<sup>rd</sup> period with defenseman Broden Wood moving the puck to Westlake in stride who entered the opponents offensive zone on his off-hand, with his backhand he stuffed the puck into the goal! Score 3-2. More intense play ensued. Shane had a great pass to Nassour for a strong shot. An unexpected turnover in the defensive zone by the Bears allowed the Seigneurs to create a 3-3 tie with 45 seconds to go. At the 23 sec mark, Logue had a beautiful pass to Captain Issa Mansour who found the back of the net for the game-winning goal. Great hockey and great sportsmanship were on display when defenseman Shaffer acknowledged his billet brother with a pat on the helmet after a shot on net that was saved by Harris. In a last-ditch effort for a comeback, the locals pulled their goalie. Westlake gained the zone, circled behind the opponent's net and worked the puck up to Eli Schaller for what everyone thought was a buzzer-beating empty netter and goal #5. However, the referees didn't agree on the timing of the puck hitting the back of the net and waived off the final tally. No hard feelings as the Bears pull out the win! Final score 4-3. The shot tally shows how competitive this game really was as Chocolate Town put 24 shots on net and Harris made 25 saves.

The Hershey Bear see action again Saturday 16 February back at the Complexe Sportif Wendak when they face Ancienne-Lorette at 1:40pm.



## **EXHIBITION GAME 2: Hershey 3 – AS De Quebec AA 1**

Quebec City, Quebec – Complexe Sportif Wendake

February 14, 2019

In advance of their first game in the 60<sup>th</sup> annual Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament, the Hershey Jr. Bears Quebec Team took to the ice on Thursday for what would end up being their second Exhibition game. After an unexpected early departure and a late night, the Bears lost their first game in Montreal 7-2. Due to weather, the originally scheduled exhibition game on Wednesday, February 13 was cancelled.

The Quebec home team was on the scoreboard first about half way through the first period with a power play goal that starting goalie Ryan Murphy just couldn't reach on the back side of the net. Score 0-1. However, the Bears didn't let that get the better of them and answered quickly with an even strength goal scored by persistence in front of the home team's net. Cam Westlake knocked it in but each of his line-mates received credit with the helpers, in Joe Argentina and Eli Schaller picking up an "A" on the play. Score 1-1.

The second period was Chocolate Town's first opportunity to go on the powerplay, our PP line dominated possession and created offensive opportunities but it wasn't until their opponents cleared the zone and then turned the puck over in the neutral zone caused by great defensive pressure from the Jr Bears that Argentina was able to enter the zone across the right faceoff dot on a two-on-one with Schaller. The AS De Quebec defensemen played the pass which gave Argentina a great shooting lane which he capitalized on with a quick-release wrist. Score 2-1. The second score was the turning point in the game as the Jr Bears found their legs and began pouring on the pressure with a barrage of shooting from all the forward lines and their blueliners. Eventually Issa Mansour made a nifty pass from his right blueline position to Argentina who fed Westlake for a quick release score from the right circle, his second of the game. Score 3-1. Both teams made pre-determined netminder changes halfway through the 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Jr Bears Ryan (Ryno) Harris getting his turn in net.

The third period saw the Jr Bears pour on even more pressure. Blake Umberger had a nice scoring opportunity sparked by his line-mates Brady Logue and Ryan Dhawan, and defenseman Brandon Shaffer had a nice end-to-rush. In the closing minutes of the game Schaller got around the defense with a puck from Argentina but couldn't get past AS De Quebec's goaltender. The game would end with Chocolate Town on top 3-1.

All the Jr Bears contributed in the win with the Jr Bears outshooting their opponent 30-21. Ryan Murphy stopped 9 shots faced and Ryno Harris stopped all 11. The Jr Bears get set to face off against another hometown team in Quebec Nord-Est on Thursday 15 Feb at 1:30pm at the Arena Rejean Lemelin. The Jr Bears are now 1-1 in exhibition play.