



The 2020 Hershey Bears Pee Wee Quebec Team's magical run through the Tournament has come to an end in a heartbreaking 1-0 Overtime loss in the AA Elite bracket Semi-Final Game to Est-du-Quebec Oceanic on a questionable power play opportunity for the Oceanic.

The 21 young men and women of the 60th Anniversary Team of 2020 have delighted all their families, friends, relatives, billet families and Bears nation back home in the States for these past 2 weeks, and all involved have been enriched by the experience. Such a special team of hockey players and upstanding young men and women that came together and perfectly embodied the moniker of "Hockey Family."

The Bear defied odds and earned the moniker "Cardiac Cubs" thanks to a 3 Tournament game winning streak this week, which included epic come-from-behind victories where they erased deficits of 2-0 and 3-0, and two of which were secured in shootouts, after OTs failed to solve the outcome.

The 60th Anniversary Team lived up to and exceeded expectations, and overachieved many times. They finished in the Final 4 of the field of 28 teams in the Pee Wee AA Elite bracket, which included teams from 10 different countries including Canada, The United States, Croatia, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Japan, Austria and more.

The Bears went 3-2 in Tournament Games and 4-1 in Exhibition Games, and had two separate 3-game winning streaks within their run in Quebec Province.

Please join all of us associated with the 2020 60th Anniversary Team in saluting this exceptional group of Pee Wee hockey players, and give Thanks to them for taking us all on this incredible, exhilarating and amazing ride that was the 2020 Quebec International Pee Wee Tournament! Thank You Bears!!! 🐻🐻🐻🏒🏒



Tournament Game #4 Pavillon de la Jeunesse, Quebec City

Hershey Bears Quebec Pee Wee Team — 4 Blainville-Brosbriand Armada — 3

The month of February starts Groundhog Day and a few weeks later the Quebec International Pee Wee Tournament starts up. Tonight at Pavillon de la Jeunesse, the two February institutions collided in another epic match for the Hershey Bears.

The previous two contests saw the Bears rally back from 2- and 3-goal deficits to march on to victory, but tonight it was the Bears who would get on the scoreboard first against the highly skilled Armada from Blainville-Brosbriand in Quebec Province. After some early feeling out by both teams, the Bears broke through just about 3 minutes into the contest when Winger Dom D'Elletto popped in the rebound of a good, accurate shot by D-man Ellie Dimatos. Just like that, it was 1-0 Hershey. But the fun didn't stop there, as the Chocolate & White kept up the offensive pressure, and after some furious net mouth action punctuated by strong work down low in the zone by Hunter Strohm and Lily Straub, winger Brady Logue popped in a loose puck and the scored doubled to a 2-0 Hershey advantage.

Meanwhile, on the back end, the Hershey D was doing its job and holding the talented, smooth-skating Armada in check. Goaltender Patrick Quinlan was strong between the pipes, and steady blue liners Shelby Shane, Ian Mohr, Martyn Ogorodnikov and Carter Erwin did their jobs by clogging shooting lanes and clearing out rebounds that Quinlan kicked out. At the end of one period, Hershey was up 2-0.

The Second Period started with a Bear heading to the box early in the frame, and unfortunately the Armada were able to convert on their PP to make it a 2-1 game and breathe new life into their hearts and skates.

Hershey's offense stayed in attack mode though, as forwards Blake Umberger, Evan Kensey, Dom Rotella, Jack Torr and James Holden did their best to pepper the Blainville net with shots on goal from anywhere they could get a look in the zone. About 4 minutes after the Armada goal halved the Hershey lead, the Bears were able to get the 2-goal cushion through some great puck carrying and savvy passing by Center Joey Argentina. Argentina found D'Elletto down low in the slot on a nifty cross-ice pass from the left side halfwall, and after being stopped on his initial shot, D'Elletto was able to poke the puck across the line and make it a two goal game again. The Bears continued to use their big bodied players to their fullest advantage, as the contest featured more physical play than the average tournament contest. The Defensive pair of Will Gregorio and Cam Ross imposed their will on the Armada forwards, and shut down any high-quality scoring chances.

After the long 2nd Period intermission, the Armada returned with a newfound sense of energy and urgency. Only a minute into the 3rd and Final Period started, Blainville found the net again on a nice passing play and the lead was slashed back to one.

It would stay that way until late in the game when, with the net minder pulled for an extra attacker, the Armada struck again after a furious net-front battle that resulted in a goal against and a newly tied score with less than a minute to go.

From that point on, Quinlan put the Bears on his broad padded shoulders and simply refused to beat. He denied a trio of top-quality Armada scoring attempts off of odd man rushes in the extra session, and having the 3-on-3 OT period, the score was still deadlocked at 3-3.

In the shootout, Quinlan was just as dominant, shutting down all 3 Blainville shooters he faced. Brady Logue scored a shootout goal with hands so silky smooth they would have made Nikita Kucherov proud as he outmaneuvered the Armada goalkeeper and slid the puck neatly along the ice for the only goal the Bears would need in the shootout.

When the smoke cleared, the Bears were victorious, having been the ones to weather the storm and thwart a furious comeback attempt by the local team.



Hershey now advances to the Tournament Semi-Finals and will play Romouski Oceanic of Quebec on Saturday afternoon for the chance to make a visit to The Finals on Sunday.

The Cardiac Cubs of Hershey are making things exciting and thrilling to watch, and are showing resiliency and determination at epic proportions. Tune in here on Saturday for specific details and Let's Go Bears!!!



**Tournament Game #3
Pavillon de la Jeunesse, Quebec City**

**Hershey Bears Quebec Pee Wee Team — 4
San Jose Sharks — 3**

On occasion, there are those extremely rare occurrences in sports where you witness a game that makes you say -- "I am so glad I was there to see that game. I will never forget it" -- tonight was one of those nights. What was more special, and a fact that we have to keep reminding ourselves, is that this was a sporting contest played by 11 & 12 year olds -- in this case The Hershey Bears Pee Wee Quebec Team.

The Bears returned to the ice at Pavillon de la Jeunesse on Wednesday night looking to build on their first victory in the Tournament, an epic come from 2 goals down win that thrilled the senses, while also again facing elimination if they were to lose. Tonight's opponent would be the San Jose Sharks, a squad that featured the sons of 3 former NHL players that donned the distinctive Teal sweater of the Sharks, including Evgeny Nabokov, Owen Nolan and Curtis Brown.

Things started off innocuously enough, as both teams felt each other out and traded scoring chances, along with solid and physical neutral zone play. Things turned a little south for the Bears as the Sharks got on the board first thanks to a goal by the younger Nabokov, a big, powerful Center forward who took the puck from the right corner and made a power move toward the net, slipping a backhander shortside past Bears net minder Jacob Aranda, who was coming off a fantastic showing in Monday night's victory. The NHL legacy factored into the Sharks' second goal, just a minute later, as the younger Nolan fired a shot that found the back of the net as well, and just like that it was 2-0 San Jose. Given the occurrences of Monday night, one could say the Bears had lived through this before, but the situation changed significantly when the Sharks struck again just 2 minutes later with another goal by Nabokov, which propelled the teal, black and white squad to a 3-0 advantage heading into the first intermission.

The 2nd period showed a better side of the Bears. Patrick Quinlan came in relief in net and turned aside many San Jose chances, and the defense in front of him stepped up matters markedly. Bullion stalwarts Ellie Dimatos, Shelby Shane, Ian Mohr, Martyn Ogorodnikov and Carter Erwin built a barrier around Quinlan and let the net minder take care of business.

On the offensive side, Hershey opened things up more and fleet-footed forwards Joey Argentina, Dom Rotella and Evan Kensey used their speed to create quality scoring chances, but yet were not able to beat the San Jose net minder. At the end of Two, the score remained 3-0 Sharks.

Tournament games feature a long intermission between the 2nd and 3rd periods for an ice cut, and Head Coach Doug Yingst clearly delivered some inspiring words during that break. At the start of the 3rd, the Bears came out with a spring in their step, yet they were unable to beat the Sharks goalkeeper and bury that elusive first marker.

As the clock slowly winked down to under 5 minutes to play, the Bears showed their resilience, desire, courage and sense of urgency in all facets of the game. The Defensive tandem of Will Gregorio and Cam Ross exemplified this to a T, as they used active sticks to nullify San Jose scoring attempts, taking hits to make plays and put an exclamation point on thing when Ross absolutely sold out with a full body dive at the offensive blueline to keep a play alive and deliver a quality scoring chance. The hard work played off, as did some of the chess match aspects of the hockey game. All night long, the big-bodied Nabokov and the towering Brown seemed to be on the ice at virtually every moment for San Jose, so Yingst employed some outstanding line-matching strategy and rolled out an equally big-bodied line of James Holden, Hunter Strohm and Lily Straub. The 3 power forwards used their size and tenacity to dominate play in the San Jose end on one sequence and their hard work was rewarded with Holden firing a slice pass from Strohm from behind the net into the Sharks net to breathe new life into the Chocolate & White. The score was now 3-1, but the clock was an enemy too, as it came with 4:37 remaining in the contest.



Yingst played his hot hand and the powerful forward line drew a penalty when a San Jose player came up high on Strohm and made head contact, an infraction that cost the Sharks a 2-minute power play. Strohm had been a whirling dervish in the moments preceding the hit, frustrating the Sharks with tenacious forechecking and great stick-on-stick passion. He skated off the ice on his own, and Hershey took to the man advantage.

About halfway through the PP, Hershey hit pay dirt, as Dominic D'Eletto connected with Blake Umberger on a nifty passing play and the puck made its way to speedy winger Brady Logue. Logie put on a stick handling clinic, and then as he cut cross-ice in the San Jose zone, shot back across the grain, fooling the Sharks net minder and blew the puck high and into the net to make it 3-2. On this play the pendulum clearly swung and momentum was now on the Hershey side. San Jose had taken their foot off the pedal and stopped attacking with their earlier level of tenacity, and now it was the Bears who were showing more bite. Still, only 2:50 remained.

It was now gut check time for the Bears and they continued to unload their arsenal toward the San Jose net, only to have their tender turn aside or gobble up the shooting attempts. The clock continued to run down like a thief in the night. With 90 seconds left in the 3rd, Yingst and goaltender coach Paddy Carey summoned Quinlan to the bench and the Bears net was empty in lieu of a 6th attacker. The action stayed in the SJ end but they ultimately cleared the zone, but iced the puck in the process. With only :53 seconds left before the Bears fired up the bus for a long ride home, Yingst called time out to draw up a play for the ensuing offensive zone draw. The magic worked, as Logue once again struck for Hershey, depositing the puck into the Sharks net thanks to passing help from Umberger. The Hershey bench and fans erupted into mass jubilation, as the score was now tied 3-3 with only :12 seconds remaining -- a true miracle on ice occurring before all those in attendance.

Tournament format dictated that a 3-on-3, 5-minute overtime period was next and the Bears had a golden chance early on, but San Jose's goaltender made the potential play of the game by stoning a Hershey breakaway attempt after a slick stretch pass. San Jose then caught a huge break as the Bears inadvertently had out 4 skaters in the Overtime period, which resulted in Too Many Men on the Ice violation and a Sharks power play. In the spirit of the evening, the Bears valiantly killed the penalty with Quinlan simply putting on a clinic with all kinds of saves including corralling hammering point shots and even stoning the apex predators on a 2-1 odd man rush that resulted in a high-quality one timer from inside 15 feet of the net. The clock winked down to zero and we were going to a shootout, per tournament rules.

San Jose shot first and as expected, Nabokov came out first. He outwaited Quinlan on his attempt, going forehand to backhand and popping the puck into the Hershey. After both teams missed on their chances, Logue once again stepped up and buried his attempt to even things up. Both goalies buckled down and several more attempts went for naught as the tenders denied everything that came their way. In the bottom of the 7th round, Hershey sent out speedy Center Jack Torr, and he hit the ice like he was shot out of a cannon, gathering the puck at Center Ice with speed and hurtling in on the Sharks net. The speed of attack left the tender flat-footed and Torr shot for the same spot as Logue's first goal, high up on the glove side. The swift wrister blew past the tender and found the net in the desired spot and the twine billowed with the sight and sounds of victory. Hershey had done the improbable of coming back from a 3-0 deficit with 3 tallies in the final 5 minutes and truly, truly snatched victory from the jaws of defeat!

After celebrating briefly and conducting the noble handshake line, the Bears players saluted their faithful, skating over to the side boards as each player sought out the eyes and attention of their parents and billets and cheered with the joy of a thousand wins. It was truly an awe-inspiring comeback, and one marked with determination, confidence and a true, never-say-die swagger that was impressive.

With the victory the Bears move on to Round 4 and will face a to-be-determined opponent on Friday night at approximately 8:00pm EST at Pavillon de la Jeunesse. Stay tuned here for more updates, and be ready to cheer on our squad. Good night and Let's Go Bears!!!



Tournament Game #2 Pavillon de la Jeunesse, Quebec City

Hershey Bears Quebec Pee Wee Team — 4 Middlesex Islanders Black — 3

The Hershey Bears took the ice at Pavillon de la Jeunesse on Monday night looking for their first victory in the Tournament, but also facing elimination if they were to be defeated. Things got tough right away for the Chocolate & White, as the big and talented Middlesex squad scored just :22 seconds after the opening draw, much to the dismay of the Bears and their fans. And things started to look bleaker when an Islanders forward got behind the Hershey defense and converted on a breakaway using the difficult "Kucherov" move, to make things 2-0 Middlesex just 2:03 into the match.

But the Hershey warriors were not phased and stuck to their gameplan, moving the puck around with precision passing and using their speed and cunning to break through the Middlesex defense. Forward Blake Umberger continued on his torrid pace and doggedly forechecked the Islanders defense in their own zone till they coughed up the puck. Ummmy picked up the loose biscuit in the Islanders zone and buried a crackling wrist shot far side over the goalie's glove to give the Bears new life and new hope less than a minute later.

Both teams continued to feel each other out in the period with some good puck movement, board battles and spirited hockey, but the period ended with the Bears trailing 2-1.

Hershey continued to keep their feet moving, and speedy forwards Dom D'Eletto, Evan Kensey and Jack Torr attacked the Middlesex defense with fast feet and slick moves. The Bears determined efforts rewarded them with a Power Play early in the 2nd, and they took full advantage of the man advantage. Rearguard Shelby Shane got the puck to Umberger on the left point, and he fired a high, hard bullet toward the Islanders net that was deflected by Center Dom Rotella past the tender and into the net to knot things at 2-2. The Hershey crowd in the Pavillon exploded with delight, and miniature Chocolate bars rained down to spectators as the crowd celebrated the equalizer.

On the backend, the Hershey defense buckled down and tightened things up in front of Goalkeeper Jacob Aranda. Defenseman Ellie Dimatos was a force of nature, using an active stick and her speed to nullify Islanders scoring attempts and skate the puck out of the zone with dazzling quickness. Fellow blue liners Ian Mohr, Martyn Ogorodnikov, and Will Gregorio used their size and tenacity to also thwart any offensive rushes coming their way, as the Bears grew more confident and bolder in their efforts on the heels of the tying goal.

Still early in the Second, the Bears went into full-on attack mode, as Shane lugged the puck out of the Hershey D-zone, through the neutral zone and into Islanders territory. She then slipped a nifty pass to Brady Logue in tight quarters, and Logue put a filthy fake on a Middlesex defender and streaked in alone toward the net. He patiently slid the puck 5-hole between the pads and the crowd roared again at a new decibel level as Hershey now had a 3-2 lead.

Forwards James Holden, Hunter Strohm and Lily Straub continued to pressure the Islanders D for their shifts in the period, but the frame ended with the Bears ahead by one.

The 3rd Period continued with back-and-forth action, as both teams exchanged punches in an effort to gain the crucial next goal. Aranda put on a clinic in net, flashing the leather and scissor-kicking Middlesex scoring attempts safely into corners and out of harm's way. With help from D-men Cam Ross and Carter Erwin, the Hershey d-corps employed a bend-don't-break approach to keeping things under control as the period wore on despite some PK action for the Bears.

Halfway through the period, the Bears got the big break that the game seemed to be leading to. Fleet-footed Center Joey Argentina sprung loose along with left wing boards and flew toward the



Middlesex net all alone. He cut hard left to right, patiently waited for the tender to commit first, pivoted on his skated and then calmly deposited the puck high into the Islanders net to stoke the Bears to a 4-2 lead.

But the Middlesex squad would not go quietly either. With a Bear in the box later in the stanza, the Islanders moved the puck around and found a hulking power forward alone in a soft spot on the ice, and the big man rifled a shot into the upper left corner of the net to once again make it a 1-goal game.

But Aranda and the Hershey defense would have no more. They put up brick wall after brick wall down the stretch, frustrating the Middlesex crew in the waning minutes. After a strategic timeout by the Islanders, Hershey was able to clear the zone, but also iced the puck in the process. The clock showed less than 2 seconds to go in regulation, but the face-off was right to Aranda's right side. Umberger lined up to take the draw, and through sheer might and will, tied up the Islanders center as time expired before any more shots could go on net. The Hershey bench exploded onto the ice and mobbed their goalkeeper, as Coaches and Fans alike took in the electric atmosphere.

The victory ensured the Bears would play another Tournament game, which will be Wednesday evening, February 19th at the Pavillon against the San Jose Sharks. Stay tuned here for more LIVE streaming coverage and commentary, and plan to cheer on the team on their quest for Quebec Tournament glory!



Tournament Game 1 Videotron Centre, Quebec City

Lac St. Louis Lions — 6 Hershey Bears Pee Wee Quebec Team — 1

The Hershey Bears Quebec Team took to the ice in the electric atmosphere of the Videotron Centre this afternoon, for their first official Tournament game against the Lions of Lac St. Louis. The atmosphere inside the 17,000 seat Arena was full of excitement and anticipation, and the Bears did their part right out of the gate to keep the electricity flowing.

Not long after the opening draw, Lac St. Louis moved the puck back to their right point in the offensive zone. As their hulking right d-man loaded his cannon to fire, forward Blake Umberger sprinted toward the rearguard, stacked his shin guards and adeptly took away the shooting lane. The Lions defender's shot hit Umberger's pads with a thunderous thud and the puck ricocheted out to center ice. Umberger blew past the Lions defender and raced in alone on a breakaway. He patiently outwaited the Canadian netminder and with a silky deke, promptly deposited the biscuit into the Lions' net for an early 1-0 Bears lead.

That goal would prove to be the high point of the tilt for the Hershey squad, however. Not long after the Bears marker, a Lions defender lofted a d-zone clear high into the Videotron air and upon landing in the neutral zone, it took a series of odd bounces and squibbed past the Hershey defense. A speedy Lions forward corralled the puck and went in alone on netminder Patrick Quinlan uncontested. Despite a valiant effort by Quinlan, the puck found the net and just like that the score was knotted at 1-1.

The Lions took a huge dose of confidence from the play, and surprised the Hershey defensive corps on the very next shift with some quick puck movement and a shot that penetrated the Hershey net to make it 2-1 Lac St. Louis.

Both teams traded scoring chances in the play that followed, as Hershey forwards Brady Logue, Joey Argentina, Dom D'Eletto and Dom Rotella gave their all to find the twine. Quinlan and the Hershey defense stood firm as well, as Ellie Dimatos, Shelby Shane, Ian Mohr and Will Gregorio battled waves of swift-skating black and gold jerseys.

Hershey got some hope late in the frame with a Lion sent to the box, and forwards Evan Kensey, Hunter Strohm and Jack Torr worked hard to beat the Lions D. A great individual effort by a Lac St. Louis penalty killer, including a highlight film dangle, resulted in a short handed tally, and a 3-1 Lions lead as the period came to a close.

The second period saw the Bears attempting to mount a comeback, as forwards Lily Straub and James Holden battled for every inch of ice against the stingy Lions defense. Meanwhile, d-men Carter Erwin and Martyn Ogorodnikov nullified Grade A scoring chances by Lions snipers, keeping the game close.

The Lions went on the power play again, and Quinlan made a strong pad save on one particularly good shot, kicking the rebound below the end line, but a Canadian forward won the race to the puck and swooped around the opposite side of the net and stuffed it in to make it 4-1 Lac St. Louis.

The 3rd Period began with Jacob Aranda in net, and he did an admirable job keeping things close. The Bears couldn't solve the Lions' massive yet mobile defense, and after Hershey took a bench minor for having 6 skaters on the ice, the largest of the Lions blue liners absolutely wired a puck from the blue line into the Hershey cage to make it 5-1 on the man advantage. Lac St. Louis would



later add one more insurance goal on a screened shot from the point to salt home the win and make it a 6-1 Final.

The Bears next Tournament game will be Monday 2/17 as they'll be facing elimination. Stay tuned for details and updates here, as the Bears prepare the necessary combination of resilience, passion, courage, desperation and confidence for the game. Good night and good hockey.



Game 4 — Friday February 14, 2020
Arena Rejean Lemelin
Pompadour, Quebec

Hershey Jr Bears — 3
College de Levis Commandeurs— 1

The sun returned to Quebec City on Friday morning, but temperatures dropped to below zero, a stark contrast to the level of heated intensity on the ice at the Arena Rejean Lemelin in a spirited match between Hershey and the Commandeurs from College de Levis. The two teams competed at a furious pace in the First Period, with each team trading attacking jabs like heavyweight pugilists. Goaltender Patrick Quinlan stood tall all period long, turning aside all the Levis shots taken in the frame, and getting yeoman defensive support from blue liners Shelby Shane, Cam Ross, Will Gregorio and Martyn Ogorodnikov. Back and forth went the play all period, which featured both teams showcasing their speed, creativity, passing and physicality. Hershey forwards Dom Rotella, Evan Kensey and Hunter Strohm peppered the Levis net with scoring attempts which their goalie was able to deny. Even with all that action, when the first buzzer went off, the score was 0-0.

That didn't last for long, as the Jr Bears struck quickly — very quickly — early on in the second. Defenseman Ian Mohr corralled the puck in his D-Zone and sent a deft stretch pass through the middle of the ice between two defenders to winger Brady Logue. The speedy Logue created separation from the Commandeurs d-men and went in alone on the Levis net. Logue went forehand to backhand and buried the puck into the net to give Hershey a 1-0 lead just :37 seconds into the frame!

The second period kept up the frenetic pace of the first, and ratcheted up the speed and physical play even more. Hard puck battles, aggressive forechecking and back checking were the order of the day, and the officials let them play much to the delight of all the fans packed into Arena Rejean Lemelin.

The Commandeurs ferocious forecheck on one sequence midway through the 2nd lead to a great individual effort by one of their fleet-footed forwards, and he was able to elude both a Hershey defender and the keeper to knot things at 1-apiece with some slick stickhandling. When the 2nd stanza ended, things were deadlocked at 1-1.

Fortuitously for the Chocolate and White, the 3rd period started exactly the same way as the second and lightning, in the form of Blake Umberger, struck again. Less than a minute in, the Bears broke out of their own zone with a swift headman pass from rearguard Ellie Dimatos to center Joey Argentina. In turn, Argentina sprung Ummy with a great diagonal feed, and #18 was off to the races. With a good step on the Levis defender, Umberger sped down the left wing side and then wired a blazing wrister far side high over the keeper and into the upper corner for a 2-1 Jr Bears lead! The play continued at a furious pace throughout the period until the 12-minute mark, when forward Dom D'Elletto holstered a loose puck behind the Levis net and slid a pass to a pinching Dimatos, who forwarded a good, hard, low shot that the Commandeurs goalie was able to stop, but that also rebounded out to Jack Torr, who swiftly slid it into the yawning net for



a 3-1 Hershey advantage!

The Canadian squad would not go quietly into the freezing day, and they continued to fight the good fight down the final stretch. The last shifts of the game saw Hershey forwards Lily Straub, James Holden and Brady Cox frustrate the attacking Commandeurs' final attacking efforts, and defensemen Carter Erwin and Blake Junkins using their size and strength to hold the fort successfully to the final buzzer. When the smoke cleared, the scoreboard proclaimed a 3-1 Hershey victory!

The Bears begin Tournament play in the 61st annual International Pee Wee Tournament on Saturday afternoon at 2:15pm at Centre Videotron with an opening round matchup with Lac St. Louis. Stay tuned for updates tomorrow and Let's Go Jr Bears!!!



Game #3 — Thursday, February 13, 2020
Complexe Sportif Wendake
Wendake, QC

Hershey Jr Bears Quebec Team — 6
Japan Select — 3

The Hershey squad took to the ice again Thursday morning in Wendake, this time against the Japan Select Team. As snow flurries fell rapidly outside and temperatures dropped, things heated up on the ice quickly. The Japanese crew skated fast and the pace was quick right from the opening draw. Spirited play led to some early penalties, resulting in power play opportunities for the Bears. Blake Umberger, a forward quarterbacking the PP for the Chocolate and White, took a nice dish from center Joey Argentina and broke the ice with a rocket from the left point that cut through some strong net front traffic and dented the twine to put Hershey ahead 1-0. Not long after, Japan sent two skaters to the box on the same sequence, giving Hershey a 5-3 power play opportunity. Brady Logue fed Umberger on the left side boards, and Ummu patiently worked the puck deeper into the Japan offensive zone and then surgically threaded a nifty cross-ice feed to a streaking Shelby Shane pinching from her right D spot, who took the pass and buried a swift wristed shot into the Japanese net for a 2-0 Bears lead. The Bears continued strong offensive play throughout the period, with the line of Lily Straub, Brady Cox and usual D-man Cam Ross seeing some time upfront, putting lots of pressure on the Japanese defense and generating some quality scoring chances.

The Second period started with a carryover Power Play for Japan, and they converted just :33 seconds into the frame. Hershey sent another player to the box shortly after, and again Japan took advantage and knotted things up at 2-2 with the goals coming just over 2 minutes apart. Hershey continued to attack offensively, with forwards Dom Rotella, James Holden and Jack Torr using their creativity to generate quality scoring chances, and the Japanese goalie absolutely robbing Evan Kensey on a dazzling series of moves on a partial breakaway. Midway through the period, Japan took advantage of a play in the neutral zone and potted their third straight marker to put them ahead 3-2. From there, the Hershey defense buckled down, as d-men Ian Mohr, Blake Junkins and Carter Erwin locking things down with strong d-zone play, and netminder Jacob Aranda refusing the Japanese shooters any hope of beating him. Two minutes after the Japanese crew went ahead, Rearguard Ellie Dimatos fed Shane a nice pass, and she launched a hard shot toward the Japan net and Umberger pounced on the rebound to knot things up at 3 apiece, where things would stay till the end of the period.

The Third period went at a furious pace as both teams grappled to take the lead. Midway through, Hershey once again went on the man advantage and Japan all but killed it off till d-man Will Gregorio found speedy forward Dom D'Eletto who in turn surprised the Japan netminder with a quick release that found the back of the net and caused to bench and the Hershey faithful to erupt with great cheers as the Chocolatetown heroes regained the lead 4-3! Japan came right back and could not solve Aranda or the stingy Hershey defense. After many back-and-forth sequences, Hershey broke through again, with Logue feeding Ross at the right point, and his point shot being turned away only to have the rebound come to Straub, who wasted no time in



popping into the cage past the fallen netminder, making it 5-3 Hershey! Hershey poured it on even further, with Umberger hitting d-man Martyn Ogorodnikov in stride, who then carried the puck deep into the Japan zone and fed a perfect pass over to Argentina, who opened up on his off-wing and deftly buried the difficult-to-execute, in-motion one-timer high into the net just :45 seconds later to make it 6-3 Hershey! Japan refused to go down quietly and unloaded everything on Aranda, who stopped it all including a rapier-like glovehand on one laser of a shot. Team Japan moved the puck around with great accuracy and looked like they had a Grade A scoring chance on a slick feed to their left point, and the rearguard unleashed a bullet of a shot, but big forward Hunter Strohm would have none of it, and he courageously faced the Japanese shooter head-on, with the shot making a booming echo through the Arena as it caromed off his shin pad and skittered into the neutral zone, sealing the victory for the Bears!

In the ultimate show of honor and sportsmanship, the Japan Select team nobly bowed to the Hershey fans, and then embraced the Hershey squad with bro-hugs and congratulatory shoulder pad taps, despite how valiantly they battled each other just moments before. A great tilt and a great showing of the brother- and sisterhood of the game.

On Friday will play another exhibition game, and then begin Tournament play on Saturday at the famed Vidotron Centre. Stay tuned for another write-up tomorrow, and Let' Go Jr Bears!!!



EXHIBITION GAME 2: Hershey 4 – Austrian Selects 0

The Hershey Jr Bears Quebec Team took to the ice on Wednesday morning for their second exhibition game leading up to the 61st Annual Pee Wee International Tournament, taking on the Austrian Selects in a true International competition. The Hershey crew put on a strong performance in all aspects of the game and posted a 4-0 victory!

The Jr Bears got the ever-crucial first goal in the 1st Period, with Blake Umberger popping home a rebound after some great puck movement from linemates Joey Argentina and Dom D'Eletto, who picked up the assists. The Hershey defense did a strong job limiting Austrian scoring attempts thanks to spirited play by Shelby Shane, Ellie Dimatos, Martyn Ogorodnikov and Ian Mohr. Goaltender Patrick Quinlan was a brick wall, thwarting many Austrian attempts and taking the Bears into the first intermission up 1-0.

In the second stanza Hershey continued to dictate the play, as forwards Dom Rotella, Hunter Strohm and Jack Torr created many top quality scoring chances, and Brady Cox and Lily Straub forechecked relentlessly and kept the play bottled up in the Austrian zone. On the defensive side, d-men Will Gregorio, Cam Ross and Blake Junkins protected Quinlan and the Hershey net with tight D-zone coverage. The Bears added to their lead late in the frame when Argentina took a pass from winger James Holden and buried a high wrister that beat both the Austrian netminder and the buzzer to make it 2-0 Hershey.

In the 3rd the Bears dialed it up further, posting two more tallies just 3:18 apart to double the lead to 4-0. Forward Evan Kensey potted the first goal, with the helpers going to Jack Torr and D'Eletto, his second apple of the tilt. Brady Logue added the final marker on a setup from Kensey.

Congrats to the squad and Coaches Doug Yingst, Dave Umberger and Paddy Carey on the victory! Stay tuned here for more updates as the Bears embark on their Quebec journey.