

9/06/2009: Pee Wee Division (Brandon, FL)

Brandon Jr Bulls 5 (5th = Empty Netter)
Jax Cudas 3

The 4vs 5 qualifier brought about a rematch of yesterday's combatants. However, with a relatively solid win yesterday, the Bulls had all they could handle with our Cudas this time around. The Bulls scored early which had them as confident as ever, but the Cudas had other plans. Carter Meyer, who has been an absolute terror to the competition, launched a shot from the left circle which left the goalie shaking his head as it passed him by and into the net. Austin McDonough, who seems to control play when he is on the ice, also got into the scoring act by firing a laser to the upper right corner and appeared to catch a little crossbar and a little post. Waves of discussion ensued as to whether or not it was a goal, but after discussion by the refs, it was counted. I knew it the whole time...they just needed to ask. Taking a 2-1 lead into the second a seesaw battle continued between ends of the ice. The Bulls broke through with a few scores of their own which was then tied up by a fantastic shake and bake goal by Noah Kostick who schooled the goalie and left him high and dry wondering what had happened. At 3-3 the game moved on and the Bulls once again were able to capitalize for their 4th goal. Down the stretch in the third the drama was building and the stage was set for an exciting finish. It did not disappoint as the Cudas pulled the goalie to unleash a 6th player in an attempt to assault the Bulls net. Giving everything they had the Cudas created an odd man 2 on 1 rush. The lone defenseman positioned himself correctly to cut off the pass and forced the puck handler to take the shot. The goalie made a great pad save directing the puck to the opposite side of the ice where a Bulls player was able to gather the puck, get into the clear and flip it into the Cuda empty net.

Although the record for the weekend (1-3) was not what we had hoped for, some very positive steps were taken to establish a base line from which the Cudas can work. The Sunday games were strong outings for the team and the improvement from Saturday was evident. The PeeWee Cudas can hold their heads high as they depart Ellenton and travel back home to get back to the drawing board.

Weekend update for Barracudas Bantam A team in Orlando RDV Labor Day Tournament

Friday: Early 5:15 pm game vs Orlando Jr Knights Bantam A

Early 3-0 lead resulting in a 10-1 victory. Several players scored multiple goals. One of the best passing games ever for the bantams. Solid defense and excellent goaltending by Ferlin kept the Jr Knights to 1.

Saturday: 6:35 pm game vs Thunder Bantam A

2-1 loss. Individual players had good games, but team had difficulty recreating Friday's excellent passing game. Questionable call resulted in game misconduct to Murtaugh for "push off" (see rule 623.a)

Sunday: 2:35 pm vs Miami Little Toros

Although not physically at the game, the karma of Rob Dentel ran through the team as the Cudas controlled the "Tiny Toros" in a 5-2 win. Ghannam had 2 goals, Mattone 1 goal, 2 assists, Taucher 1 goal and an assist. Penalties were kept to a minimum and the team played a solid game of skating and passing. Defense and goalkeeping continue to be solid resulting in lowest "goals against" in the tournament.

Monday 3:45 pm vs Thunder (Championship game)

In a rematch from Saturday, the Cudas took control of the game late in the first period and never lost it. In a very disciplined game, the Cudas played their game of passing, skating and puck control. Both the defense and offense played an excellent game of controlling the puck within the Thunder's defensive zone, which resulted in many shots on goal. Murtaugh had a hat trick, Mattone had 2 goals and playmaker Brown had 2 assists. As they have for the entire tournament, the defense and particularly goalkeeper Ferlin had an excellent performance. Final 5-2 Cudas for the Championship!

-----John Morley