

Saturday 10/17/2009: Pee Wee Division (TBSA – Oldsmar, Fl)

Jax Cudas 3
TB Jr. Lightning 1

Game One – Battery of Barracudas Render Jr. Lightning Powerless

On paper the Jr. Lightning were outmanned and outgunned, but fortunately for them paper doesn't play a hockey game. It was a strange affair that seemed as if the Cudas were on a power play most of the game...not because the Jr. Lightning drew an inordinate amount of penalties, but more because the Cudas controlled play in the offensive zone time and time again. Puck movement was excellent with precision passing as the triangle developed and forwards using the points to relieve pressure. The Bolts were chasing the puck time and time again barely keeping pace. But when I say barely, that was just it, they just kept hanging on and hanging on keeping shot after shot from crossing the goal line. Frustrated for sure, the Cudas gave up a quality chance from in front of their net and the Bolts took a 1-0 lead. Period two was more of the same when finally the Cudas struck. Alex DelVecchio put home a shot with heavy traffic draped all over the front of the net after tough battles for control of the puck were won by Carter Meyer and Austin McDonough. The go-ahead goal then came shortly thereafter in the form of a crisp, tight, cross-crease pass left to right from Noah Kostick to the anxious stick blade of Austin McDonough who hammered home the team's second goal. The final shock for the Bolts came via a coast to coast jaunt by Austin McDonough who outskated the 'Ning and sent a water bottle knocker just under the lip of the crossbar for the final goal of the game. Team defense was excellent combined with a dominating offense. Blue Liners Timmy Lynch, Evan Asbury, Donovan Tehan and Shaylyn Maybury had a very strong showing holding the zone and rocketing a shot or two of their own on net.

Goals – 10 DelVecchio; 61 McDonough (2)
Assists – 3 Meyer; 61 McDonough; 21 Kostick

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Jax Cudas 8
Team Raiders 0

Game Two – Barracudas All Over Raiders from Opening Face-off

This contest played out as expected with the swarming Cudas causing the Raiders to retreat from the drop of the puck. Although the game was very one-sided, we were still able to witness some great hockey plays that kids this age just should not be able to make. Quinn Larson (Q) put on a dominating performance by scoring a hat trick and two assists. His goals were highlighted by a sweet feed from Dillon Gatto (D-Gate) allowing Q to skate down the middle of the ice and launch a killer shot past the goalie. Q's second was courtesy of a banked touch pass from Donovan Tehan (D-man) extending from the front of the Cuda net down to the offensive zone blue line where Q swooped behind the defense, nabbed the puck in stride and ventured down the right wing only to deke the goalie and slide the puck home. Q's third goal also came courtesy of a D-man assist who sped down the right wing only to serve up a pass cross ice to

the back door where Q awaited converting the chance with authority. Also scoring for the Cudas was defenseman Timmy Lynch. T-Lynch gathered the puck, saw an opening from the defensive zone and darted through it down the left wing. He then shook the goalie free of his shorts with a quick move and sent the puck netbound. D-Gate got into the scoring act as well with his cat-like moves and keen hockey sense. Seizing the opportunity to get a breakaway chance, he split the defense and received a perfect pass from Q resulting in a little shake-n-bake for the score. D-Gate tallied again with the help of his linemate Q on a smooth pass from mid-ice left which D-Gate took to the house in a flurry. Not to be denied a scoring tally of his own, Akil Thomas busted out on a coast to coast romp which ended badly for the Raiders. Zeke Zeier also saw the opportunity to help the cause as he battled vehemently with a Raider for the puck shoving it forward into the sweeping blade of D-man who blasted down the right wing and sent a whizzing shot over the backside shoulder of the goalie. Another stingy defensive effort for the Cudas kept the opposing shots on goal to a minimum, but when the Raiders did get a shot, goalie Josh Mitchell was there to thwart away any attempts. A quality team win earned for the Cudas resulting in a shutout for netminder Josh Mitchell who graciously thanked his teammates for their hard work in front of him. Quality kids we have here...you should all be very proud.

Goals – 7 Larson (3); 17 Lynch; 44 Thomas; 12 Gatto(2); 23 Tehan

Assists – 23 Tehan (2); 12 Gatto; 7 Larson (2); 15 Zeier