

12/19/2009: Pee Wee Division (Brandon, FL)

Jax Cudas	3
TB Jr. Lightning	2

Game One – Cudas Top Lightning in Tough Battle

The Cudas looked to redeem themselves after the last meeting with the Lightning which was a close affair...too close for the Cuda faithful. But yet again, although on paper the Lightning appear to be a considerably weaker team, they kept pace with the Cudas forcing another tight contest. The Cudas were able to net 3 goals in total starting with a solid one-timer from Austin McDonough assisted by Noah Kostick. Noah again got himself on the scoresheet only the second time it was in the form of a nifty goal from in front. He was able to execute a head fake to make the goalie move, then his patience paid off as he was able to maneuver for the shot and send the puck home for the tally. With time methodically ticking by and the Lightning getting 2 goals of their own, the Cudas needed to strike again. Linemates Dillon Gatto and Quinn Larson sensed the call and rushed the net. With a flurry of bodies defending, the two were able to establish position and ultimately Dillon was able to hammer home a rebound after an extended scrum in front of the net. Arms raised with excitement at the goal but back to work the Cudas went. With not much time left in the game, the Cudas reinforced the defense by adopting a “defense first” style of play which was successfully executed and the game secured. Any win is a good win so we’ll take it and move on to the Jr. Bulls.

Goals: 61 McDonough, 21 Kostick, 12 Gatto
Assists: 21 Kostick, 7 Larson, 78 Maybury, 8 Sader

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Brandon Jr. Bulls	6
Jax Cudas	5

Game Two – Bulls Outlast Cudas and Climb Up the Standings

In this, the last meeting of the three-game set between these two teams, the Bulls were able to hold off a late charge by the Cudas to grab a 6-5 victory. The Cudas came out tough in period one scoring 2 goals to the Bulls 1. The first Cuda offering to reach paydirt came from the twig of Dillon Gatto as he pinpointed a shot through the five hole near the left post. Goal number 2 came on a Quinn Larson breakaway as he was able to pull a shake-n-bake move and put the biscuit in the basket behind the Bulls' goalie. Period two came and the wheels fell off for the Cudas. The Bulls netted 5 goals while the Cudas were only able to answer with one on a tricky shot from Hunter Buben. Taking a 6-3 lead into the third, the Bulls were looking to slam the door on the Cudas. For much of the third period the lead stood at 3. Then the Cudas struck for goal number 4 on a shot from Dillon Gatto with helpers by Quinn Larson and Timmy Lynch. The sweat pumps were still on idle as the Bulls had a 2 goal lead. Shortly after the Gatto goal, Quinn Larson was able to maneuver for a shot from the left side set up by Gatto and Buben. The shot handcuffed the Bulls' goalie and found its way into the net. With only a one goal lead the crowd woke up for both sides cheering the kids on. Tough play back and forth ensued as the Cudas desperately sought the tying goal. Too little too late unfortunately for the Cudas as the Bulls were able to stave off the last minute rush attempts and secure the victory.

Goals : 12 Gatto (2), 7 Larson (2), 13 Buben

Assists: 21 Kostick, 7 Larson, 17 Lynch, 12 Gatto, 13 Buben