

Lorne Park Bantam Adam Battles Erindale Spitfire's In Thrilling Hockey Draw

*November 20, 2010 – Mississauga Bantam
Adam Hockey News*

Lorne Park tied the Erindale Spitfires 2-2 on November 20 in yet another loud and riveting game that left many in the crowd of 100 leaving the arena with raspy and raucous voices.

The Spitfires came roaring out of the gate catching Lorne Park's goalie #94 Holly Isber off guard as they managed to whisk their first goal past her to lead the game 1-0 in only one minute and 20 seconds of play.

Lorne Park quickly shot back as #5 Nicholas Cruji, a giant of a defense man, got the crowd to their feet by unleashing a shot that cleared the puck out to centre ice. Lorne Park's stocky Matt Brzakala #20, skated hard for the puck in a contest of speed against two of Spitfire's fastest defensemen.

With fans screaming in the background, Brzakala grabbed the puck first and hustled over the blue line in a heart pounding breakaway that electrified onlookers.

Brzakala blasted a wrist shot from twenty feet out directly at the Spitfire's young goalie. It was a showdown of suspense, truly worth the 5\$ gate fee many paid to witness this match up.

Brzakala's blazing shot was so hard it could be heard over the cheering crowd, which for a second were stunned in silence as they witnessed the unbelievable and successful block by the tough Spitfire goalie.

In a blink of an eye Brzakala caught the puck deflection on his stick and, with laser precision, fired the deflection directly in between the pads of the bewildered goalie

and into the goal, tying the game 1-1! The fans roared and screamed with delight.

The see-saw hockey battle continued throughout the remainder of the first and into the second period as each team tried to hold the other to only one goal.

Lucas Marleau #66 and #23 Jacob Hudson both had two valiant attempts in front of the Spitfire goal in the second period, but were stopped by the Spitfire's formidable defense and sharp goal tending.

It was not until 9:42 in the second period, during a thrilling scrum of tangled players and hockey sticks, that the Spitfire's excited onlookers with an explosive shot that flew behind Lorne Park's goaltender and into the net making it 2-1 in favor of the Spitfires.

The Spitfires determination to defeat Lorne Park was unyielding as they pressed and dominated the final third period.

The Spitfires attacked Lorne Park mercilessly.

Lorne Park struggled hard as the clock began to wind down.

At times looking worn and tired, Lorne Park tried desperately to regain control of the puck.

The frustration on the ice carried over and into the stands as many Lorne Park fans screamed words of encouragement to their team.

The Spitfire attack was unstoppable as their forwards unleashed a barrage of shots from in front of Lorne Park's net. It appeared to many spectators as if Lorne Park was on the brink of its third loss of the season.

Lorne Park's defense #27 Hannah Levesque and #77 Lucas Camara assisted their goalie in an impressive display of support and determination by blocking and defending the shots on goal.

Gasp's from the crowd were heard several times as Lorne Park players tried everything to stop the assault on their net. Some went so far as to selflessly throw

themselves into the line of fire as the Spitfires took aim at their goalkeeper.

Finally, with only two minutes remaining in the hockey battle, Lorne Park managed to clear the puck into their opponents end. The break was short lived as the Spitfires quickly shot the puck back towards Lorne Parks goal. Lorne Park's biggest defense man, Cruji, raced back, muscles burning to have the puck iced, ensuring a face off in their opponents end in the remaining minutes of play.

With less than two minutes remaining in regulation time, Lorne Park made its final line change.

The crowd was as exhausted from screaming and yelling as were many of the players leaving the ice for a well deserved break in the play.

Many Lorne Park supporters couldn't bear to watch their team lose. The suspense and nail biting excitement was almost unbearable.

With just over a minute remaining, out of the box came Lorne Park's Marleau and Brzakala who lined up alongside Cruji, Camara, Levesque and #14 Issac Viera against the Spitfire's toughest and biggest players in what was to be the final face off in this near epic hockey drama.

With the seconds quickly ticking down on the clock, the Spitfires won the face off and cleared the puck out to the blue line.

Many in the crowd were screaming and on their feet as Lorne Park's Cruji caught the puck and shot it back in off the boards towards Marleau.

Lucas Marleau, single handedly battled two Spitfire players for the puck and managed to smash it out to waiting Lorne Park player Levesque who carried it around the net, but unfortunately lost it towards the blue line.

The Spitfire's defense was quick to catch the puck and tried clearing it out beyond their blue line where three of their players readied themselves for yet another attack on Lorne Parks goalie.

However, this time the puck was skillfully intercepted near centre ice by Lorne Park's Isacc Vera who fired it towards Matt Brzakala. Brzakala lunged forward and barely managed to catch a piece of the pass directly in front of him. Brzakala quickly gained control of the puck. The fans instantly came to life, filled with screams of excitement as fans were again electrified by Brzakala racing one on one, once again, towards the Spitfire goalie.

Ice shavings flew out from beneath Brzakala's skates as if they were sparks as Matt's pounding stride's carved into the ice surface brining him closer to his target.

The clock by now was counting down; 16, 15, 14, 13 seconds remaining. Time was running out! The crowd knew beyond any doubt that this was Lorne Park's final and only chance.

Chased on both sides by Spitfire defenders, and with no one to pass too, Brzakala closed in on his target like a fiery bull with his head down, tucked between his awesome shoulders, focused on only one immediate thing ..defeating the goalie!

In the hysteria of the screaming and yelling, one could sense that the entire crowd collectively took a deep breath, as with only 10 feet to go, Brzakala released his infamous wrist shot.

The puck flew smoothly from Brzakala's stick in a straight line four inches above the gleaming ice towards the Spitfire goalie.

The crowd went crazy screaming in anticipation. Coaches from both teams were leaning over their benches holding their breath, waiting to see whether the referee behind the goal net would raise his arm to signal a goal.

The entire arena held a collective breath, captivated, anticipating the next second.

Then, in a blink of an eye, and to everyone's amazement, the puck bounced came back out towards Brzakala. The Spitfire goalie had unbelievably caught a piece of the puck on his left pad and knocked it back out towards Brzakala!

But before the crowd had a chance to react, Brzakala seized the moment and with lightening agility nailed a shot directly into the net behind the goalie for his second goal of the afternoon, tying the game in a final score of 2-2!

At the end of it, both teams battled to the end by playing their hearts out. Although Brzakala caught a few pass breaks, Lorne Park played like a real team and deserved to win.

Tying was just as good and important as winning.

The crowd, comprised mostly of parents, siblings and friends made a big difference and were equally as important. Their support and encouragement helped reinforce the values of team sports and raise the self esteem of players on both sides of the blue lines.

In the end, Brzakala has set the tone for many of the games Lorne Park has been in. He has scored virtually the same way every time he has been on the ice by catching a loose puck and out skating his opponents to take advantage of multiple shoot out's with goalie defenders one on one.

Matt has definitely earned his ice time and the respect of his fellow teammates.

Junior Matt Brzakala has had an impressive start this season (8 goals and 4 assists), scoring twice in every game, and adding four assists.

Lorne Park is now 1-1-2 going into the second month of the season and thanks to Brzakala has the highest GFA of all teams in the Mississauga Bantam-Adam House League.

POST NOTE: