



PENGUINS 2



SHARKS 5

SHARKS WALTZ TO EASY WIN

Sharks record third consecutive victory with 5-2 win over Penguins

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Dubai, The Sharks continued their fine run of form early in the New Year by easily defeating the spineless Penguins in an early morning encounter at the Dubai Mall. David Dokakis's absence is starting to become a worry for the Penguins, who, after starting the season on a high, are struggling for goals having lost their last three encounters.

Drew Gibson was amongst the goals once again, getting the Sharks ahead when his low shot somehow found the back of the net from the blue line.

Shortly after, Alex Caneborg of the Sharks had a golden opportunity to double their lead when he was awarded an elusive penalty shot. Patrice Guenet (on loan from the Sharks), tripped Caneborg whilst the Swede was on a breakaway, sending him crashing into the goalpost and thus prompting referee Chris Parker to give a penalty shot to the men in turquoise. Caneborg skated in on goaltender Stephen Doucette and shot from eight feet out, but his shot whistled way over the net. "I think he was aiming for that coffee shop overlooking the rink, *Au Bon Pain*, on the second floor," said an unnamed Penguins player after the game.

The miss did not cost much though, as minutes later Diego Kleckner made it 2 – 0 in favor of the Sharks. After leaving the Penguins defense to dry, Kleckner expertly shelved his shot over Doucette's right shoulder.

The Penguins defense was looking shoddy, and Ronan Twidle almost capitalized when Mohamed coughed up the puck in front of the goal, but Doucette was there to make the save.

Offense was also a worry for the flightless black and white birds from Antarctica. Passes were errant, and shots were few. It was a frustrating game for the Penguins who struggled to have possession of the puck. Contrastingly, the Sharks were passing the puck accurately and constantly peppered the Penguins goal with shots.

Jason Eid of the Sharks tripled their lead when he received a go-ahead pass from Drew Gibson and beautifully pocketed his backhand shot into the goal. The goal rounded off a dismal first period for the Penguins. "We left our brains at home," said the Penguins defenseman Olivier Van Durme.

The second period started on a better note for the Penguins, as Eric Zurcher (also on loan from the Sharks) received a pass from Kirsty Evans and netted the Penguins first goal of the game.

But their celebrations were short-lived, when moments later, Drew Gibson ripped a bullet of a slapshot into the Penguins goal for his second of the game, and 17th of the season.

With the score at 4-1, things were quickly getting out of hand for the Penguins and they needed to act. Eric Zurcher set up Mohamed in front of the goal and he made no mistake in finishing past the goaltender.

With the lead down to two, a change in momentum was imminent and a few close chances for the Penguins followed.

Despite the early hour of the morning, the Sharks goaltender Mathew Jones was on red alert. He charged out and pounced on a loose puck that was bound for the Penguins Jesse Kleckner, and shortly after made a sharp glove save off Kirsty Evans. Toby Oakley came close to getting the Penguins to within one as well, but his attempt was steered away by Jones blocker.

In spite of the Penguins efforts to level the game, the Sharks Double D Duo (Diego and Drew) struck the final blow. Drew gave Diego the perfect centering pass and the New Zealander/American forward hammered home his second of the game, and 10th of the season.

It was a dominant display from the Sharks, who seem to have turned the tables on the Penguins after some early season jitters. Their third win on the trot only means more misery for the Penguins, who are sorely missing the presence of David Dokakis.

Come 7:45 AM next Saturday, the pressure will firmly be on the Penguins to put up a good show against a confident Sharks unit. Next week will also be the first day in the office for the Sandstorms newly appointed game time photographer, Ammar Suleman.

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