



PENGUINS 4



SHARKS 4

SHARKS STEAL LAST SECOND TIE IN OPENER

Ronan Twidle scores two as Penguins and Sharks battle out a tie
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Dubai, The 2009-10 season for the Midget Dubai Sandstorms got underway today with a thrilling game at the Dubai Mall Ice Rink. Drew Gibson opened the scoring for the Sharks when he and Diego Kleckner played a picture perfect 2 on 0 to give their team an early lead. Swedish forward David Dokakis then leveled it for the Penguins when he was on the receiving end of a lovely pass from Olivier Van Durme. Dokakis coolly slid the puck by the Sharks net minder Stephen Doucette to level the score at 1-1. The tie didn't last though as minutes later, Drew Gibson broke free of the Penguins defense and pulled off a nifty deke before beating goaltender Mathew Jones through his five hole for his second goal of the game. The Sharks put home another one before the period ended, when Englishman Ronan Twidle wristed a shot top corner courtesy of a breakaway.

Two goals down, the Penguins had a job on their hands to make a comeback. Mohamed delivered for his team, when he received an accurate centering pass from Olivier Van Durme and his one-timer deflected off a defenseman, and floated high above Doucette's head before settling into the net. The goal seemed to energize the Penguins as they pushed for an equalizer, and they got one in the form of Toby Oakley, who found the back of the net in the midst of a wild scramble in front of the Sharks goal. With the score tied at 3-3 and less than eight minutes to play, both teams were on the lookout for a potential game winner. The Penguins got the go-ahead goal with David Dokakis who, after putting on a superb burst of speed, found himself alone with Doucette. The Swede was as cool as a cucumber as he found the corner of the goal with pinpoint accuracy to put his side up 4-3. To make matters worst, Sam Padmore of the Sharks was penalized shortly after for boarding David Dokakis, but on the penalty kill, the Sharks Swedish forward Alex Caneborg had a golden chance to even things up. Caneborg was left one on one with Jones and fired a quick snap shot which pinged off the post.

The Sharks looked down and out with 20 seconds left in the game and it was then that they found a hero in Ronan Twidle. Complacency got the better of the Penguins and with mere seconds to go, Twidle netted his second goal of the game, pouncing on a juicy rebound left by Mathew Jones. It was a fitting end to an evenly fought game in which both teams had their chances.

DRAMA

One thing this game wasn't short of was drama. Once when there was a loose puck in the Penguins zone, goaltender Mathew Jones charged out of his net to try and clear the puck from danger. At same time, the Sharks centre-man Drew Gibson also tried to reach the puck. The two collided in mid-ice near the blue line and the puck fell at the feet of Diego Kleckner, who had the whole goal facing him and no goalie guarding it. He let go of a wrist shot, and out of nowhere, Jones unleashed a valiant dive and got a piece of the puck with his shoulder. Everyone watched with bated breaths as the puck rolled towards the goal, but decided to veer away at the very last moment rolling just wide of the net. As Jones scrambled back to his net, Kleckner was left to rue his bad luck. "I was so sure it was going in," said Diego Kleckner after the game. "I was already celebrating."

In another instance, the Sharks goaltender Stephen Doucette seemed to have smothered the puck and was waiting for the face-off whistle, but at almost the same time as the whistle came, the Penguins winger Mohamed had poked the puck from under Doucette into the goal. A minor

argument erupted between the players complete with a few shoves here and there, but the goal was eventually waved off.

The two teams will go at it again next week at The Dubai Mall, with the match scheduled to begin at 9:15 am.

Mohamed Suleman (a.k.a. Mohamed Mohamed)