



PENGUINS 0



SHARKS 4

SHARKS SWIM BY PENGUINS FOR FIRST WIN

Gibson scores three and Jones bags shutout in Sharks win
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Dubai, Two weeks of blissful holidays seemed to have done the trick for the deadly sea going fish. The Sharks finally registered their first win of the season when they shutout the Penguins 4-0 at The Dubai Mall late on Saturday morning. It was a solid all round display from the previously winless Sharks, who were without the reliable services of Diego Kleckner. The Penguins were also short of one key player as David Dokakis, the leagues leading goal scorer, was unavailable due to exams.

The Penguins fell into some penalty trouble early in the game, when Olivier VanDurme was sent to the box for tripping, and Kirsty Evans joined him shortly after for roughing. On the ensuing power play, Drew Gibson found the back of the net when he banged in his 9th goal of the season off a rebound.

Jason Eid doubled their lead midway through the opening period when he took a shot from the slot that found its way through traffic, and beat the Penguins goaltender, Stephen Palubinski, low to his right.

Meanwhile, the Penguins passed the puck around well, but failed to get quality scoring opportunities on the Sharks goaltender Mathew Jones.

The Penguins coach, Thierry VanDurme, was visibly frustrated at the lack of shots his team had on Jones. "How are you supposed to score if you don't shoot?" he fumed after the game. "Just put the puck on net and good things will happen."

Mohamed set Kirsty Evans on her way, but her shot whistled wide off the net and smashed into the glass. Olivier VanDurme had a breakaway opportunity as well, but he sent his snap shot just wide as well.

The Sharks continued to pressurize the Penguins goal, but Palubinski was up to the mark, the highlight being a stunning glove save off Gibson which left the Canadian lost for words.

But the Sharks consistency was rewarded when a lapse in defense saw Jason Eid send Drew Gibson on his merry way one on one with Palubiski. Gibson pulled off a spiffy deke before sliding a backhand past the net minder for his second of the game, and 10th of the season.

Gibson completed his hat-trick when he slipped by the Penguins defense as though they were wisps of smoke, and fired a sharp angle shot into the top corner. Jason Eid was credited for the assist of Drew's third. The goal was Drew's 11th of the season, and he now levels the Penguins David Dokakis for the highest number of goals thus far in the season.

Gibson's performance was also special because it came at a time when the team needed him to step up to the plate. Without Diego Kleckner in the roster, and his team on a three game losing streak, things were looking bleak for the Sharks. But a wonderful offensive display from him, supported by Jason Eid, Ronan Twidle and Alex Caneborg, along with a spotless performance from goaltender Mathew Jones, saw the Sharks get back into winning ways.

With the game well and truly past the Penguins and only a handful of minutes left on the clock, the two teams still had enough gas for some last minute razzmatazz which wowed the early shoppers at The Dubai Mall. Seconds after the Penguins winger Mohamed was denied by a beautiful pad save from Mathew Jones up-close, Jason Eid of the Sharks came flying out of nowhere to send Mohamed crashing into the boards with a sickening crunching noise. Unfortunately for Eid, his monstrous hit was after the whistle, and that resulted in him being penalized for the rest of the game. Although nobody was hurt, Eid apologized after the game for his shenanigans.

The focus now shifts towards the upcoming tournament in the UAE' s oil rich capital of Abu Dhabi, which will take place on the 12th of December, a Saturday. Dubai is likely to send an A and B team for the first tournament of the season, which promises to be a cracker.

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