

Late rally caps comeback

BY C.J. RIBAK

STAFF WRITER

First of all, to get to the championship circle, dial up the intensity level.

Both the Broncos and the Lakers did just that in the Metro Summer Hockey League's title game Sunday at the Plymouth Cultural Center. The result was a hard-fought, hard-hitting game that wasn't decided until the final buzzer.

And it took a dramatic three-goal, final-period rally by the Lakers to emerge with the crown, as they edged the Broncos 7-6.

The league's director, Keith Pietila, happens to play for the Lakers, so at least he was pleased with the outcome. "I don't know how we turned it around in the playoffs," he said, referring to the Lakers' 2-6-3 regular-season record.

"When the playoffs go, guys were dropping back on defense more."

A quick look at the scoresheet

HOCKEY

would provide proof enough of the increase in intensity. Most MSHL games have one, maybe two penalties; the championship game had 15 (nine for the Lakers, six for the Broncos).

The Broncos' got a goal from Brian Consolino, his second of the game, with 6:05 remaining in the final period to take a 6-4 lead.

That was pretty much the way the game had gone all night -- the Broncos would build a lead, the Lakers would battle back, the Broncos would rebuild their lead.

Consolino's first goal had made it 3-1 Broncos with 11:38 left in the second period -- the first of four two-goal leads by the Broncos. The Lakers never led and tied it just once, on Ron Pietila's goal early in the second period to make it 1-1, before the final-period rally.

After Consolino's third-period

score, the Lakers struck quickly. Dave Daavettilla punched home a goal 31 seconds after Consolino's score to pull the Lakers to within 6-5; then, 1:09 later, Paulo Duciua beat Broncos goalie Chris Thomas to tie it at 6-all.

The game-winner came with just 1:01 left, with the Lakers' Aaron Daavettilla netting it -- his second of the game, to go with one assist. Dave Daavettilla had two goals and an assist, too.

"I don't know what it was," said Keith Pietila. "Once we tied it up, it seemed like anyone's game."

Mike Harris also had a goal for the winners, with Charley Cluff-fetelli netting three assists, and Steve Jones and Vic Decina got two apiece.

Consolino totaled two goals and three assists for the Broncos, with Brent Bessy scoring twice and both Scott Hands and Jeramie Murray getting one goal apiece.

Rickey Maroon and Shawn Miller divided time in goal for the Lakers, each giving up three goals. For the Broncos, John Trainor (two goals) and Thomas (five) split time in the net.

Including playoff and regular-season games, the Lakers had just a 6-6-3 record.

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ship, butted heads with plenty of Big Ten players during the week of practice leading up to the game.

"I was looking at that, just to prove to myself I could hang with everybody," Curl said. "I was real happy with my performance."

One of the best friends Curl made during the all-star experience was fellow East offensive tackle Dave Sucura from Sterling Heights Stevenson who is headed to Michigan State.

"I got to know a lot of my teammates well," Curl said. "It was such an awesome experience, meeting all these talented players. I had a blast."

Hunter, a 6-foot-3, 195-pound wide receiver, caught only one pass, but it helped set up the East's first touchdown.

The 35-yard gain was the longest pass play of the day and put the ball on the West 28-yard line. The East scored three plays later.

Hunter would like to have seen the ball a little more, however.

"A lot more," he said. "But we won, so I'm happy."

Hunter discounted the idea it was difficult to install an adequate passing game with only a week of practice time.

East quarterbacks Kevin

Kroger (Dearborn) and Matt Louchead (Mount Clemens Chippewa Valley) were 6-of-16 for 80 yards.

"Our passing game was pretty good," Hunter said. "We just needed to use it a little more. The coaches thought we could with the run; we won, so I guess it was a good game plan."

Hunter, who planned to be back at MSU as a walk-on player when practice started Monday, said he wasn't thinking of future exploits on the same field but was concentrating on the all-star game.

The 6-foot-1, 195-pound Sliskosky expected to play out side linebacker but was made an all-purpose back the first day of practice.

He played almost the entire game on offense, being used as a blocking back, flanker and wing-back depending on the play.

"I took this week to be good preparation," Sliskosky said, "because I'll be playing the same position there (Ferris State University) and I've got a little head start now."

In that position, "I got a lot of pass routes; I do a little of everything -- run the ball, block and lineup as a wideout."

Sliskosky caught two passes for 9 yards Saturday, but the all-time leading rusher at Farmington High never got a chance to rush the ball.

"I was a little disappointed; I thought I'd get it at least a couple times," he said. "I was still happy to play in this game."

"On a screen play, I got a first down, and I had a really good block on the first TD."

Sliskosky acknowledged being unaccustomed to blocking since he carried the ball 25 to 30 times from the tailback position at Farmington.

"I got used to it; it's not so hard," he said.

Two other former Observer-land players were slated to play for the East but didn't.

Farmington Harrison tailback Jason Granger was dismissed from the team for missing curfew, and Plymouth Salem line-man Tom Blah withdrew because of a recurring back injury.

Blah got a medical clearance to play 100 late in the week, however, to practice enough times.

The East led 14-0 on a 7-yard run by Grubbs, a 15-yard pass from Kroger to Jason Bailey (Oxford) and two extra points by Cory Sargent of South Lyon.

The West made it 14-12 with Craig Jensen's (Kingsford) 100-yard kick return and a dive by Joe Jacobs (Frankenmuth).

Humphreys one each. Ghanann and Viane also scored a pair of runs.

The Barons were eliminated Friday following a 10-7 loss to Joliet, Ill. A grand slam in the bottom of the fifth inning gave Joliet an 8-4 lead.

Ryan Tripp surrendered the grand slam, but the loss went to Viane. He left after four innings with the score tied 4-4, but the fifth run was charged to him.

Ron Blackmore was 3-for-3 with one RBI. Miller drove in two runs, and Daguanno had two hits. Latra and Garret Burch had one RBI and scored two runs apiece.

The Barons finish the season with a 32-9 record.

"It's the end of a long line with this group," Barons coach Dick Miller said. "They've been together since they were 10 years old and accomplished a lot. They won close to 20 tournaments."

"If we had played the way we did in the district, it might have been different. We've been to the regional the last two years, but just couldn't take it to the next level."

Always part of the South Farmington Baseball organization, the team was known as the Sox originally and as the Barons the last four years, including two at the Mickey Mantle level.

"The Barons were well received by everyone and known for good sportsmanship," Miller said. "If nothing else, we set a standard."

"If you called two weeks after a tournament was closed, all you had to say was 'We're the Barons,' and they'd find a spot for you. They knew they were getting a good team that played with class."

NOTICE PROPERTY DISPOSITION ROAD COMMISSION FOR OAKLAND COUNTY

The Board of County Road Commissioner of Oakland County will entertain written bids for the cash purchase of vacant property consisting of approximately 44.875 acres located on the east side of Benstein Road south of Sleeth Road in the Township of Commerce, Oakland County, Michigan designated as Tax Identification No. 17-09-476-003.

All bids shall be subject to the Bid Specifications for Benstein Road. Copies of the Bid Specifications and Bid Forms and additional information regarding the property may be obtained from Timothy W. Mast at Clark Hill P.L.C. at (810) 642-9692.

The Road Commission makes no warranties or representations regarding the environmental or other condition of the property.

Sealed bids must be plainly marked as to their contents and should be directed to:

Road Commission for Oakland County
Attn: Deputy Secretary/Clerk of the Board
31001 Lahser Road
Beverly Hills, Michigan 48028

Only those sealed bids received by the Road Commission on or before 3:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 4, 1996, will be considered.

The Road Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or proposals.

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THE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

7:00 p.m. • Mel Purcell vs Guillermo Vilas
• Borg-Bahrami vs. Dibbs-Tanner

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

7:00 p.m. • Bjorn Borg vs. Roscoe Tanner
• Mansour Bahrami vs. Peter Fleming

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

7:00 p.m. • Eddie Dibbs vs. Johan Kriek
• Jose-Luis Clerc vs. winner Borg-Tanner
8:00 p.m. • Jimmy Connors vs. Winner of Purcell/Vilas
• Gomez Vilas vs. Lloyd-Purcell

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

7:00 p.m. • Andres Gomez vs. winner Dibbs/Kriek
• Lloyd vs. winner Bahrami-Fleming

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

11 p.m. and 7 p.m. Semifinals

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

7 p.m. • Championship

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