

CIAU Hockey Championships

Patriotes ink final chapter at Dogs' expense

Trois-Rivieres brings Quebec first ever University Cup in 25 years

by Alan Small

Trois-Rivieres 6 Saskatchewan 3

The Trois-Rivieres Patriotes avenged last year's loss to the University of Alberta Golden Bears by defeating the Canada West champion Saskatchewan Huskies 6 - 3 in the CIAU Final Sunday.

Two quick goals early in the first period and then again late in the third frame cemented Trois-Rivieres' first ever CIAU hockey championship on Sunday.

Alain Bisson's second goal of the game and fourth of the tournament looked to be a harmless shot from a bad angle until it was deflected in off Huskie defenceman Wally Niewchwas and past goalie Ross McKay for the eventual game winner.

That goal opened up the floodgates for the Patriotes when the Huskies had to press for an equalizer. Martin Nicoletti then scored on McKay 37 seconds later to snuff out any hopes of a Saskatchewan comeback.

Things looked rosy for the Patriotes at the beginning of the game when tournament MVP Marc Gervais snapped the puck behind McKay in a goalmouth scramble with Huskies Terry Lloyd in the penalty box at the 5:01 mark. Bisson, who was named to the tournament's all-star squad, scored on a two-on-one with captain Mario Paradis 43 seconds later to give Trois-Rivieres a 2-0 lead.

The Huskies Danny Leier replied on the power play with two Patriotes in the sin bin. He banged in an errant shot that bounced off the boards behind the net to lift the Huskies to within one.

23 seconds into the second period the Huskies Larry Korchinski redirected a Brian Swystun pass behind Trois-Rivieres goalie Claude Guerard to tie up the score. The Patriotes came back however, as Gervais steamed down right wing and blasted one in the top corner on McKay.

In the third, Ken Lovsin slapped one in high on the glove side on Guerard five seconds after Yves Lapointe scrambled out of the penalty box. Then at the 14:20 mark Trois-Rivieres scored the two goals which put it out of reach.



Richard Vinet (7) clears a puck out of harms way as tournament All Star goalie Claude Guerard plays it safe. Trois-Rivieres kicked the door in this year, gaining revenge for last year's final game loss to Alberta.

Adding insult to injury, Stephane Thivierge scored with 1:31 left to make it 6 - 3.

The game, like all of the games in the tournament was marred by high sticks, roughing calls, and the usual gatherings after the whistle. 101 minutes in penalties were assessed, including a match penalty to Curtis Stewart of the Huskies and a game misconduct to Steve Girard of Trois-Rivieres.

After the game, Patriotes coach Clement Jodoin made a great analogy of his past years in Trois-Rivieres.

"Three years ago, when we lost in the semi-final, we wrote the introduction. Last year, we had a chance to write the conclusion, but we couldn't. I said to the guys this year, we have a chance to write a great conclusion," Jodoin said.

"Throughout the tournament, we got the key goals when we needed them," he added.

Saskatchewan coach Brent McEwen was despondent, yet proud of his squad.

"I wouldn't trade my guys for the ones on the other side of the ice," said McEwen.

The Huskies lack of polish around the net was their downfall, as they missed many chances in a third period, that they owned until the Patriotes goals. They were in such control, in fact, that the three goals were the only shots Trois-Rivieres could muster against the huge Huskie defence in the third.

"We could create the plays," said McEwen, "but we couldn't bury it."

Parting Shots: Guerard, Nicoletti, and assistant captain Christian Thelend joined Bisson on the tournament all-star squad . . . The two

other players announced to the team were Huskies Wally Niewchwas and Ken Morrison.

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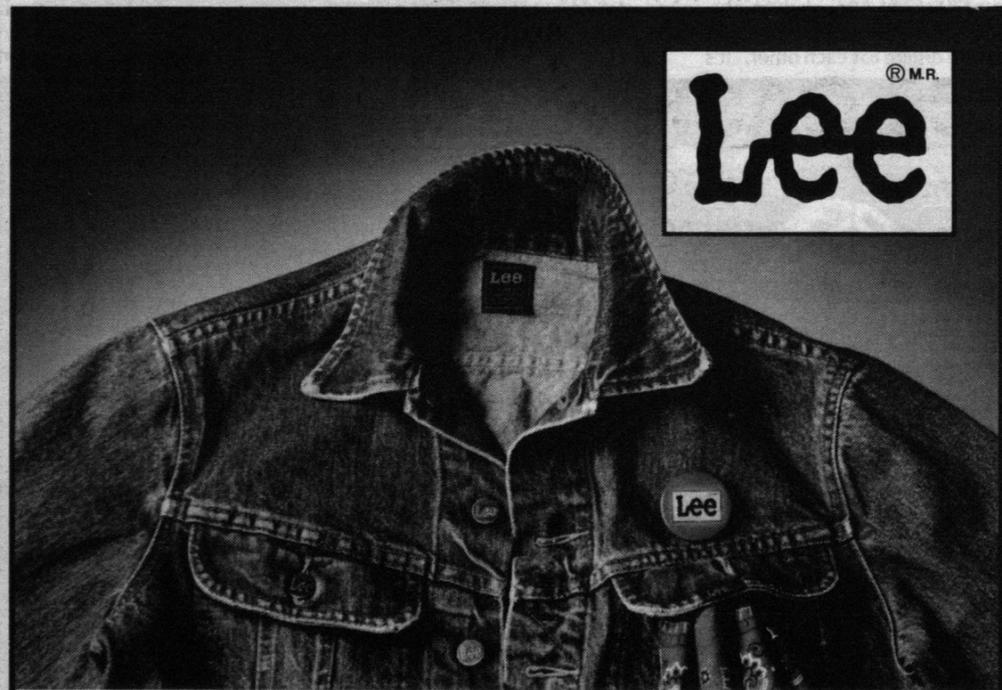
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