

Bantam Wheaties fill the net

BY DEREK JORY

It started as a shellacking, then became a nail-biter, before finishing as a blowout.

The Brandon Bantam A Source for Sports Wheat Kings' 10-4 win over the Pembina Chargers on Friday at the Optimist Arena was entertaining to say the least.

Up 4-0 midway through the second period, the Wheat Kings took a mid-game nap and allowed the Chargers to even the score at 4-4. The Wheat Kings held a slim 5-4 lead early in the third before finding their rhythm again, blowing the game open with four goals in three minutes to win their third consecutive game at the 40th annual Maple Leaf/Victoria Inn Tournament of Champions.

"It's always nice to see the guys overcome those low points and battle through it and come out with the win," said Brandon assistant coach Jason Rathwell. "Saying that, it would be nice to see more consistency. They came out strong today, but it was tough to see our hard work slip away in the second when we gave up a bunch of goals. We need to get some consistency and follow it through until the end."



Tyson Cloet (right) of the Brandon Bantam A Wheat Kings collides with a Pembina player on Friday. (Tim Smith/Brandon Sun)

Tanner Jago and Tanner Fluker led the way for the

Wheat Kings with three goals and a helper each, while

Carson Perreux and Kelby Minshull chipped in with three

assists apiece.

Tyler Fast had two goals and

an assist and Lucas Stoffel had two helpers for the Chargers, who were outshot 38-25.

"We had a pep talk in the dressing room after the second and we realized that we got a little ahead of ourselves because we thought we were running away with it," said Jago, a Brandon blueliner. "Then we realized it was a game and we brought our best effort in the third."

With a 3-0 record in round robin action, the Wheat Kings finished first in Pool A in Bantam A having scored 23 goals and only given up eight against. They will face Notre Dame, who finished 1-1-1, this afternoon at 2:30 at the Kinsmen Arena in semifinal action.

"That game is going to be a big test for us," said Rathwell, who is in his first season coaching the team. "We're happy with how the boys have come together."

"We told them right off the start that we want lots of passes and lots of shots and no selfish plays and that's what they've been doing. But we want the team to play a little more physical, especially in the corners when they are battling for the puck."

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Brandon trio still rolling right along

Cole McCaig, Brayden Cuthbert and Austin Lewis continued their hot play as they led the Brandon Bantam AA Wheat Kings to a 7-0 win over the Springfield Icehawks at the Kinsmen Arena on the second day of action in the 40th annual Maple Leaf/Victoria Inn Tournament of Champions.

The trio combined for nine points as the Wheat Kings won their third game of the tournament, outshooting Springfield 49-13.

Derek Sobkow, Josh Elmes and Cody Nelson scored the other Brandon goals, while Conner Dalton earned the shutout in net.

Brandon will be looking for its fourth win when it takes on the Seine River Snipers, who sit at 0-2, this morning at 9:15 at Westman Place.

Here's a rundown of Friday's other action:

BANTAM AA:

Moose Mountain Wild 10 Dryden Paperkings 0

Devon McMullen went wild by scoring three goals and

dishing out three assists while Ryan Taylor scored twice and had two assists for Moose Mountain.

MacDonald Lightning 8 Northern Knights 3

Five points from Dennis Millar and Jared Morris and four from Matthew Murray paved the way for the Lightning.

Moose Mountain Wild 6 Seine River Snipers 4

Carter Birch scored two third-period goals and finished with four in the game for the Wild. Ryan Matsalla added two helpers.

Northern Knights 6 Dryden Paperkings 1

Brent Wold had two goals and an assist and Brady Musey had a goal and an assist for Northern.

Brandon Wheat Kings 6 MacDonald Lightning 2

Josh Elmes had three assists and Brett Reid scored once and added an assist for the Wheat Kings.

BANTAM A:

Brandon Wheat Kings 6 Moose Jaw Warriors 1

2008 Tournament of Champions

Tyson Cloet had two goals and Seth Smith stopped 20 shots in net for the Wheat Kings. Mitch Holik was the only Warriors scorer.

Brandon A1 Wheat Kings 3 Selkirk Fishermen 2

Brandon got goals from Braden Fisher, Zach Hass and Derek Nevins, while Cruz Jimenez and Brenden Setter scored for Selkirk.

Varsity View 10 Pembina Chargers 1

Nicolas Demski had four points while Riley Court, Cam Teschuk, Ryan Morgan and Ryan Stylvester had three points each for Varsity View.

Minnedosa Bombers 7 Selkirk Fishermen 0

Thomas Roche scored once and had two assists and Julien Merasty scored twice for the Bombers.

Brandon A1 Wheat Kings 2 Notre Dame 2

Blake Dechka and Callum McDonald each had a goal for

the Wheat Kings, while Christian Prejet and Michael Chanel replied for Notre Dame.

Varsity View 3 Moose Jaw Warriors 3

Six different players scored between these two teams including James Meyers for the Warriors and Nicolas Demski for Varsity View.

MIDGET A:

California Wave 2 Beausejour Comets 1

Justin Penna and Clay Blankenship both scored for California, while Eddie Olguin stopped 32 shots between the pipes.

Estevan Bruins 6 Neebing Hawks 2

Donovan Florek and Lucas Smyth had a goal and an assist each for the Bruins, while Cameron Feser had two goals for the Hawks.

Fort William Canadians 8 Rat River Warriors 7

Matthew Nordlund, Charlie

Ahishinabie and Kevin Mawakwa had three points each for the Canadians.

Flin Flon Bombers 3 Holland Rockets 0

Wes Gawiak, Brett Ferguson and Ryan Langan each scored for the Bombers, while Neil Leifso stopped 22 shots for the shutout.

California Wave 2 Thompson King Miners 1

Mason Lomeli and Clay Blankenship each scored for the Wave and Shane McNevin replied for the Miners.

Rat River Warriors 10 Varsity View 5

Tavish Magne and Jari Carriere had five points apiece and Nathan Magne and Kristian Tessier had four points each for the Warriors.

MIDGET AA:

Notre Dame Hounds 2 Brandon Wheat Kings 1

Brendan Fagan scored the game-winning goal for the Hounds midway through the second period, while Tyler Ledoux was the lone goal scorer for Brandon.

Saskatoon Aces 5 St. Vital Vics 3

Eric Ditto dished out three helpers and Cody Chewka scored twice for the Aces. Jordan Ficek had a goal and an assist for the Vics.

Yorkton Terriers 8 West End Bruins 5

Lucas Puchala, Nathan Shabaturo and Regan Camruba all had three points for the Terriers and Davis Vandane chipped in with two goals.

Saskatoon Aces 8 Brandon Wheat Kings 3

Stephan Jackson and Dustin Bilanski had four points each and Landon Fehr had two points for the Aces.

St. Vital Vics 5 West End Bruins 2

Stefan Tone, Jordan Ficek, Kyle Vincent and Ryan Cooke all had a goal and an assist each for the Vics.

Notre Dame Hounds 3 Yorkton Terriers 2

Sam Benson scored the third-period game-winner for Notre Dame.

» Brandon Sun

Jones still alive at Scotties

REGINA — Once looking down and out at the Canadian women's curling championship, Manitoba's Jennifer Jones has stormed back to earn a berth in today's semifinal.

Manitoba beat Quebec's Marie-France Larouche 6-5 in Friday night's Page playoff game between the third and fourth seeds from the round robin. The Winnipeg rink had beaten Heather Strong of Newfoundland and Labrador 6-3 in a morning tiebreaker.

Manitoba, winner of six in a row, meets Ontario's Sherry Middaugh in this morning's semifinal (CBC 10:30 CT). Middaugh fell 8-7 in an extra end to Alberta's Shannon Kleibrink in Friday night's

playoff game between the top two seeds, so Alberta advances directly to Sunday's final (CBC, 11:30 a.m. CT). The winner of the semifinal faces Alberta for the national title.

"We've got, hopefully, two big games ahead of us, but definitely one tomorrow and we're going to have to step it up more tomorrow in order to win that game," Jones said.

Jones, third Cathy-Overton Clapham, second Jill Officer — a former Brandonite — and lead Dawn Askin were 3-4 on Tuesday, but won four in a row to finish 7-4 and squeak into a tiebreaker with Newfoundland.

"Terrible Tuesday feels like a long time ago," Jones said. "It wasn't that we were that far off,

but we were off and we knew we were in trouble. We turned that around with better draw weight and keeping it a little simpler to make sure we have a shot at the end of the day and it seems to be working."

Overton-Clapham said an attitude change precipitated their winning streak.

"We're having fun and we're a little more relaxed than we were in the middle of the week," she said. "I think we were just trying too hard, when we lost a couple there earlier in the week and people were saying that we didn't look ourselves."

"We thought we'd take a step back and have some fun and have some laughs and it

seemed to work. That's what we do when we're at our best."

Jones doesn't mind playing a high-stakes game at 10:30 a.m. local time Saturday.

"Early? I'm up for work way earlier in the morning," said Jones, a corporate lawyer. "We're up early regardless and then you're trying to kill a day. This way, we just get up and come and curl."

After winning Canadians three years ago, Jones lost to Kelly Scott in the final in 2006 and in the semifinal last year. Overton-Clapham will play in her sixth career semifinal.

"You get more and more relaxed every year when you're in this position," she said.

» The Canadian Press



Manitoba skip Jennifer Jones celebrates a shot Friday at the Scotties Tournament of Hearts. (The Canadian Press)

Vikings battling for fifth place today

ROBLIN — The Vincent Massey Vikings varsity boys will fight for fifth place at a high school basketball tournament today.

The Vikings dropped an 80-75 decision Friday to the McNaughton Marquis of

Moosomin, Sask.

Vasilios Giannopolous scored 21 for the Vikes. The R.D. Parker Trojans of Thompson then beat the Vikings 77-54. Gage Crowston hit seven threes for 21 points. Vincent Massey plays Dauphin today in the

fifth-place game.

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