

Match Report
IIHF World Under-18 Championship
Division 2, Group A
Brasov, Romania

23 March 2011

Austria Under-18 National Team – 21
New Zealand Under-18 National Team – 0

In a game pitting amateurs versus professionals, New Zealand gained a harsh lesson of what to expect should we ever become a Division 1 hockey nation. We faced a stronger skating and efficient team that displayed professionalism in every aspect of the game.

New Zealand fought for the entire 60 minutes however. Richard Bigsby was the busiest man on the ice, absorbing and deflecting shots from all angles. The pressure was relentless. At times, New Zealand was able to relieve the pressure and establish themselves in the Austrian zone, but could not finish off the play for a goal.

Richard stopped 64 of 85 high quality shots, thereby earning player of the game honours.

Spirits are quite high after the game- the Kiwis understand they played a professional team, and gave a full effort. We now look forward to the much anticipated day off today to Dracula's Castle, and then concluding the tournament on a high note against Croatia.

Jonathan Albright
Head Coach
2011 New Zealand Under-18 National Team
New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation