

Ice Blacks vs HC Storm - Game 4

Game 4 was very different, with the game not decided until the very end when Jordan Challis scored to put the Ice Blacks up 4-3 and then Brett Speirs sealed it with another goal on a massive slapshot late in the third period. Finland's HC Storm came out with a different gameplan on Dunedin's big ice and NZ struggled to put much together in the first period, although the Ice Blacks went into the change rooms up 1-0 thanks to some strong goaltending by Rick Parry, who has just started his studies at the University of Otago, and a nice goal by Josh Hay.

The second period was another hotly contested one, and the teams finished the period with the Ice Blacks up 3-1. Josh Hay scored again for NZ and Braden Lee added another. However, the Storm came out firing in the third period and tied it up 3-3 in a thrilling turn of events, and with a lucky goal, before Challis poked home a rebound and Speirs buried the Finns.

"It was probably good that we finished the series with a tight, tough game," said Corey Down, the NZ Captain. "The team feels prepared for the World Champs in a couple weeks and it was great to finish the series in Dunedin, where the Champs are held. The support of the local fans was great and really lifts the team."

The Ice Blacks take on Luxembourg, Turkey, Greece, Mongolia, and Ireland between April 10th and 16th in Dunedin. More information can be found at www.iceblacks.com or www.nzicehockey.co.nz. Tickets are available online through Ticket Direct.