

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

25 March 2011

Croatia Under-18 National Team – 12
New Zealand Under-18 National Team – 0

The final game of the tournament had us face Croatia. Whether we won or lost this game wouldn't matter in the standings- Croatia had sealed up 3rd place, and NZ in 6th.

As we had faced in the pervious games, Croatia was yet another professional opponent, taking advantage of small miscues on the ice and capitalizing for goals. A stellar performance from Aston Brookes in net raised the hopes of the team, and kept the defensive shutdown in order.

We only managed 9 shots on goal- but each shot was a fantastic opportunity. We were creative in the offensive zone, but their goalkeeper had an answer to each of our chances.

Keegan Harnett earned the Player of the Game award, for his outstanding effort throughout the match.

Mitchell Frear was awarded the NZ Most Valuable Player of the Tournament Award. Justly deserved.

Finishing on a bright note, we had 4 supporters in the crowd. Tom Richards' parents cheered for us all game, along with two other Kiwi backpackers that they had met at the Dracula's Castle tour the day before. They were quite vocal, and it was refreshing to see the Kiwi flag fluttering in the stands among the empty seats and Croatian supporters.

A more comprehensive tour summary will be published in the next 6 hours. Stay tuned.

Jonathan Albright
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