

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

19 March 2011

Serbia Under-18 National Team – 4  
New Zealand Under-18 National Team – 1

Our first game of the International Ice Hockey Federation World Under-18 Championship, Division 2, was against Serbia. We were as prepared as could be, and the players were raring to go.

The game began with a very spirited Haka. The crowd appreciated it, and the players were motivated to challenge Serbia in every facet of the game. The Haka echoed throughout the rink, and was done very proudly.

The first period began at a frantic pace. Although Serbia managed two goals in the period, New Zealand kept pace had numerous scoring chances. Discipline was lacking however, and New Zealand spent about half of the period shorthanded.

The 'yellow' line of Connor Harrison, Josh Greenwood and Luke Pickering created many scoring chances with their physical play down low. The 'green' line of Jaxson Lane, Kevin Jagau and James Currey used speed around the outside to move the Serbian defenders, and generate some offence. The 'red' line of Bradley Apps, Keegan Harnett and Max Macharg shut down the top Serbian players, and the 'white line of Tom Richards, George Scott and Shaun Harrison played some quality defensive hockey. On defence, Mitchell Frear, Regan Wilson, Jermaine Joyce, Quinn Drake, Cam McLeod and Reuben Burgess played a strong physical game, and distributed the puck well. Aston Brookes was on his game, and made many key saves early on. And back-up Richard Bigsby was a very vocal presence behind the bench for this game.

With New Zealand down 2-0 in the second, we battled back and netted a goal from a wild goalmouth scramble. Max Macharg was credited with the goal. Our bench erupted, and one could feel a changing momentum of the game.

This momentum lasted about 5 minutes, before a costly penalty halted any progress. Serbia netted a goal on the powerplay, to restore their two goal lead. The score remained the same up until a few minutes left in the game, when they got a fourth and final goal. The final score was 4-1 to Serbia.

Special congratulations goes to the youngest member of the team, Kevin Jagau, who was awarded the IIHF Player of the Game award for New Zealand. He led by example, and never gave up on any play. Had it not been for the good goaltending of the Serbian netminder, Kevin would have had 3 goals in the game.

There were many positives for New Zealand. Although we lost 4-1 to the third ranked team, we showed that we are able compete against our division 2 competition. We can skate with them, play a physical game, and stick to our team concepts. Discipline will be an issue we address for our next game, as we play a very strong 5 on 5 game. We now prepare for Estonia, and the coaching and management expect nothing short of a good result on the scoreboard.

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