

Friday 9 October

An early wake-up call was the order of the day, as our 4th game of the tour was to begin bright and early at 8.15am! The boys woke around 6am and wandered to the managers' room for breakfast. The vans were packed and the boys were off to the rink.

The boys were in no mood to muck around this morning. After a focussed off-ice warm up, the team hit the ice running. The first period consisted of tight, defence-oriented hockey. Both teams had few opportunities presented to them in the first period. With several minutes remaining, Lachlan Frear ripped a hard, low shot on net. The goalie responded with a nice save, however Callum Burns buried the rebound to open up the scoring. It was Callum's first goal for NZ, and one he will treasure forever, as he kept the puck after scoring. The first period finished 1-0 to NZ.

The second period was much the same as the first. South Australia was finally able to capitalise after NZ got into penalty trouble. A 5 on 3 power play gifted an easy goal after a rebound, quickly followed by another power play goal shortly after. The coaches stressed the importance of keeping discipline, which the team did. With time running down in the second period and 2-1 down, NZ were able to tie up the scores after an impressive display of passing between Kevin Jagau and Max Macharg, with Jaxson Lane finishing off the play nicely. 2-2 at the end of the second.

It took another rebound goal from a shot from the point to break the deadlock. Mid-way through the final period, Jaxson Lane was able to latch onto a rebound after a hard shot from George Coslett. NZ really tightened up their defensive end for the remaining 11 minutes, giving up nothing to the SA offense. The South Australians once again pulled their goalie with seconds remaining after NZ took a late penalty, but were unable to capitalise on the 6 on 4 opportunity, NZ skating away with a 3-2 victory and their 4th win from 4 games on the tour.

The team headed to the Adelaide CBD and spent the afternoon walking up and down Rundle St, a famous pedestrian shopping precinct. A few bargains were had by the boys.

That evening, the South Australia organisers put on a dinner at the Glenelg Surf Club. Glenelg is a famous beach on Adelaide's coast line. It was a great chance for the players, parents and management of each team to mingle, and a good time was had by all.

Andrew Hay
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