



GAME REPORT

NEW ZEALAND UNDER 18

IIHF Under-18, Division 3, Group B World Championships
Monterrey, MEXICO 14 - 20 March 2010



Sunday, 14 March 2010

New Zealand - 9 : Israel - 8

Tonight, New Zealand played their first game of the 2010 IIHF Under-18 World Championships and earned a hard fought victory over a spirited Israeli team.

New Zealand came into the game well prepared, and had a good understanding of the task at hand. The warm-up was performed at a good level of intensity, and the players were focused. Since the IIHF Directorate decided that we could not perform a Haka on the ice, one was done in the dressing room prior to emerging for the first period. The Israeli team room was right next to ours, and they surely heard the Kiwis bellow out their fierce calls.

The game began with full intensity, with Luke Pickering firing a waist-high snapshot goal to the blocker side of the Israeli goaltender. Israel tied the game up soon after, but New Zealand replied with two straight goals from Remy Sandoy, thanks to some good set-up work from Pickering, Jermaine Joyce, and Gareth Lloyd. Israel potted another quick goal, and again New Zealand replied with two more goals from Pickering and Connor Harrison. With strong defence from Todd Elder, Ryan Currid and Regan Wilson, the period ended with New Zealand well ahead at 5-2.

The second period was the total opposite of the first. New Zealand came out with sluggish legs and ill-discipline. Israel scored two minutes into the period after capitalizing on a quick turnover in the neutral zone. With a steady stream of Kiwi players sent to the penalty box, Israel scored two more power play goals. The score was drawn 5-5, and the third period was yet to come.

The third period was a see-saw battle, with goals exchanged twice. Israel went into the lead early on, and New Zealand replied with Harrison pouncing on a rebound. Israel scored once again, and Lloyd tied it up once more. With 5 minutes left, Lloyd was at it again, dangling his way through the Israeli defence to finally put New Zealand ahead 8-7.. Harrison once again potted another one to make it 9-7. Although Israel worked hard to narrow the gap with another goal, the defence of Jamie Lawrence, Wilson and Joyce held strong. Josh Greenwood, Dylan Dickson, Dane Dunlop, Todd Elder and Logan Johnson shut down the final seconds, and New Zealand won 9-8.

This game was a total team effort from start to finish. Newcomers Quinn Drake, Justin Fuller, Tom Wilson, Joe Gaynor, Nick Gloag and Dale Bailey all made successful IIHF World Championship debuts, and will build on this towards our next game versus Ireland.

New Zealand just took the first step of four towards the gold medal. More consistency and hard work will be needed to succeed versus a gritty and determined Irish team.

Reported by:

Jonathan Albright

New Zealand Under-18 National Team

New Zealand Ice Hockey Federation

14 March 2010