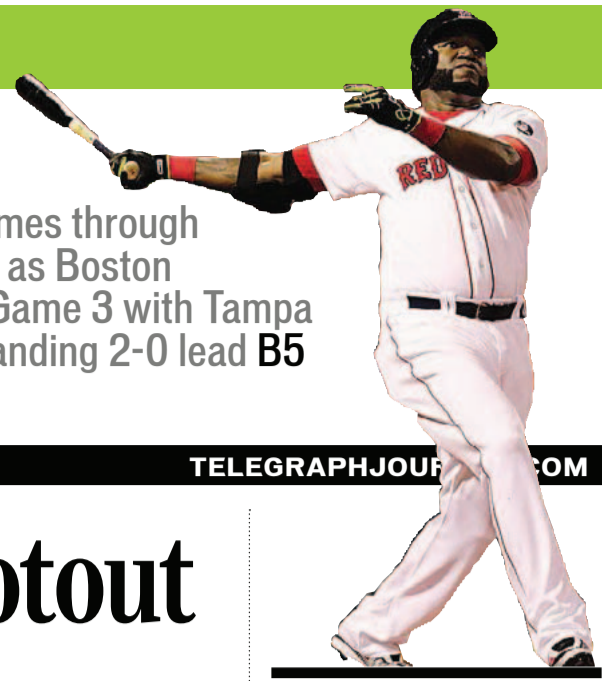


SPORTS

Baseball playoffs
Big Papi comes through for Red Sox as Boston heads into Game 3 with Tampa with commanding 2-0 lead B5



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TELEGRAPHJOURNAL.COM

Sea Dogs outlast Titan in lengthy shootout

QMJHL Saint John scores in the dying seconds of regulation before Noah Zilbert scores decisive marker

PETER ASSAFF
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

BATHURST – It took 14 attempts before Noah Zilbert finally gave the Saint John Sea Dogs a 5-4 shootout win over the Acadie-Bathurst Titan in Quebec Major Junior Hockey League action in front of 1,558 fans at the K.C. Irving Regional Centre on Sunday.

Zilbert, who was the seventh Saint John shooter, slid the puck between the pads of Titan netminder Jacob Brennan to finally put an end to the back-and-forth game.

Joey Richard, with a pair, Nathan Noel and Michael Abbott scored in regulation time for Saint John, which fought back from an early two-goal deficit to grab a 3-2 lead before needing a last-minute goal to send the game to overtime.

“It was a little bit back-and-forth,” said Saint John head coach and general manager Mike Kelly. “They jumped on us early. They seem to always do that in this building, they come out pretty hard, and we were able to catch up ... after one.”

The Titan jumped out to a 2-0 lead before the seven-minute mark of the game, and led 8-4 in the shots on goal department by the midway point of the frame before the momentum changed.

“I think our power play (was key),” said Kelly. “We probably could have scored one or two more goals on the five-on-threes, but our power play has been real good. Sometimes they don’t score but it gives you momentum.”

The Sea Dogs, who wound up going one-for-seven on the power play, managed to tie the score by the end of the opening period and wound up outshooting the Titan 17-9 in the opening frame.

“I think that our guys have been pretty resilient,” said Kelly. “It is good to see that we can do that in the middle of a period. Earlier on in the year it was more we had to collect ourselves after a period because we have such a young team.”

Robert Pelletier, Christophe Boivin, Dominic Beauchemin and Alexandros Soumakis did the scoring for Acadie-Bathurst while Brennan wound up facing 47 shots by the time the overtime session was through. Antoine Landry faced 38 shots in net for Saint John.

Titan coach Danny Dupont said the momentum change in the



Sea Dogs winger Connor Donaghey takes charge of the puck with Acadie-Bathurst Titan defencemen Francois Godin and Alexandre Gosselin. PHOTO: KATHERINE HUNT/THE NORTHERN LIGHT



Saint John’s Kelly Bent delivers the puck to a teammate during action against the Acadie-Bathurst Titan at the K.C. Irving Regional Centre in Bathurst on Sunday. PHOTO: KATHERINE HUNT/THE NORTHERN LIGHT

first period comes down to sticking with the game plan.

“To be honest, that is a bit on us,” he said. “I thought we started switching our style. We started being more of a fancy team, trying to look good instead of being good.

That is experience. We’ve got to be able to take that ... and be able to learn from that.”

Despite the loss, Dupont said there were plenty of positives to take from the game.

“I think the guys worked hard,”

said the Titan coach. “Although we were down 3-2, the guys kept working and made it 3-3. Then Alex (Soumakis) scored a nice goal to make it 4-3 for us.

“Then a little bit of missed coverage on our part and he (Richard)

buried) it. It is good on them. They played a good game as well and it is experience for us.”

Pelletier and Boivin gave Acadie-Bathurst the early lead before Noel cut the gap to 2-1. Richard found a loose puck at the top of the crease and slid a backhander into the far corner of the Titan net to tie the game before the opening period was through.

Abbott converted a power-play chance late in the middle frame to give the Sea Dogs a 3-2 lead heading into the third.

Beauchemin tied it up early in the third before Soumakis gave the Titan a 4-3 lead when he picked the top corner on a two-on-one with just 2:39 left in regulation time.

Richard sent the game to overtime with his second of the night and Landry on the bench for an extra attacker, when he spun around in the faceoff circle and whistled a shot by Brennan’s glove hand with just 24.4 seconds left in regulation.

The Sea Dogs, who improved to 5-3-0-1, don’t see action again until Saturday when they travel to Halifax for a 7 p.m. game. The Titan, 4-5-0-1, are in Quebec City to meet the Remparts Friday at 8 p.m.

Vito’s come back to earth after pair of shootout setbacks

TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

After opening the season with three straight victories, the Saint John Vito’s have come back to earth.

The Vito’s dropped a 4-3 decision on home ice to the Fredericton Canadiens on Friday night and followed that up with a 7-6 setback to the reigning champion hometown Moncton Mark’s Work Wearhouse Flyers on Saturday.

For the Flyers, it was a bounce back after falling in their previous New Brunswick/P.E.I. Major Midget Hockey League contest.

On Sunday, the Flyers got a pair of goals from Kyle Ward and doubled Fredericton on Sunday in Fredericton. Liam Conrad added a goal and an assist and Christian Gregan also tallied for the Flyers, who are in second place with a 5-1-0-0 record. Jarrett Crossman and Justin LeBlanc each chipped in with two assists in the victory.

LeBlanc scored the shootout winner for Moncton in its win over Saint John.

Jean-Michel LeBlanc, with a pair, Tyler Copeland, Matt MacInnis, Riley Thompson and Matt Gray answered for the Vito’s (3-1-0-1).

Moncton outshot Saint John 40-31. Landry tended goal for Moncton and Kyle Porter handled the duties for Saint John.

Meanwhile, the Miramichi Rivermen swept both of their weekend road games to remain in first place at 5-0-0-1. Miramichi defeated the Charlottetown Islanders 3-1 in Charlottetown on Sunday and edged the Kensington Wild 2-1 Saturday in Kensington.

Wildcats drop Cape Breton

NEIL HODGE
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

MONCTON – Christophe Lalonde did most of the offensive damage for the Moncton Wildcats, but he was quick to deflect the credit.

The veteran left-winger scored twice and was a force in all zones in the club’s 3-1 victory over the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles in Quebec Major Junior Hockey League action Sunday, in front of 3,435 fans at the Moncton Coliseum.

“(Goaltender Alex) Dubeau was great for 60 minutes and he kept us in the game when they were all over us,” said Lalonde. “He’s a big key to our success. He’s one of the leaders on this team and when he steps up it gives all our forwards and defencemen confidence to make good plays.”

Moncton, 4-6-0-0, is last in the Maritime Division. It has two wins in the past three outings and this comes following a three-game losing streak.

The Wildcats will face the Blainville-Boisbriand Armada on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Moncton Coliseum.

Garrett Johnston rounded out the scoring for Moncton, which improved to 2-3-0-0 at home. Ivan Barbashev chipped in with two assists and Dubeau was named first star thanks to a stellar 34-save performance.

Mill Rats looking for boost from area businesses

Basketball Saint John hoping incentive through board of trade will put team in better position when it comes to ticket sales

RANDY O’DONNELL
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

SAINT JOHN – The Saint John Mill Rats have teamed up with the city’s board of trade to provide area businesses a better rate on season tickets.

Starting Monday, the Saint John Board of Trade will offer its members and those of Greater Saint John chambers of commerce and business associations the chance to buy three season tickets and get a fourth free. In addition, the Mill Rats have teamed with Spinzo, an online pricing platform, to further reduce the price of season tickets by up to 10 per cent.

The ticket offer, which will expire at midnight Oct. 21, comes as the National Basketball League of Canada franchise continues its search for a title sponsor.

The Mill Rats lost their major sponsor of three years, Rogers Communication, and their \$135,000 a year in funding earlier this summer.

“Every business needs rewards, whether it’s employees or contests

with their customers or clients or to extend a gift to their suppliers,” Mill Rats president and general manager Ian McCarthy said. “It’s also part of the thousand reasons the Mill Rats are good for the area in which we all do business so we’re asking them to get involved with us in that way.”

The deal allows local merchants to purchase four floor-level season tickets, valued at \$2,596, for a maximum of \$1,974 or four bowl-level tickets for 20 Mill Rat home games for \$746.74. The regular price is \$996.

Those prices could be discounted by an additional 10 per cent when coupled with the Spinzo offer.

Spinzo is a Saint John-based company that offers a dynamic pricing option for its customers. With each ticket purchased through the Spinzo offer, the price drops. At the close of the promotion, each company will get tickets based on the lowest price point.

“The onus is on the consumer a little bit to do some of their own marketing because if they were to get three or five of their friends on

board the better the price is going to be for that individual,” Spinzo vice-president of technology Joe Romeo said.

“It’s not a matter of one person getting a good buy. It is right across the entire spectrum of buyers. Everyone benefits, sharing with their friends, and getting more people to Mill Rat games of course.

“We’re really excited to be working with the Mill Rats. We think it’s going to be great for the team and great for their fans.” The Mill Rats begin their fourth season in Saint John when training camp opens Oct. 21 with media day and a scrimmage at the University of New Brunswick Saint John. Following the game, the board of trade will host a mixer at the Mill Rats Fan Zone in Brunswick Square. At midnight Oct. 21 the board of trade promotion closes.

In August, the Mill Rats launched their 1,000 Reasons Campaign in an effort to boost season tickets sales among fans. Since moving to the Port City in 2010, the team has seen its season-ticket base drop from a high of 908 fan-purchased tickets in



Ian McCarthy is the president and general manager of the Saint John Mill Rats. PHOTO: CINDY WILSON/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

year one to 382 last season. The team has also offered fans the opportunity to purchase their season tickets in three instalments.

Adult upper and lower bowl season tickets are priced at \$249 (\$12.45 per game) and tickets for those 16 and under are priced at \$149 or \$7.45 per game. Last year, season tickets for the upper and lower bowl were \$200, regardless of age. Since the campaign began the franchise has sold approximately 250 season tickets, with the team’s opening game less than a month away. McCarthy said the economy and an expanded schedule (the team played 10 home

games in its first season) have been factors.

“But other than that, everyone I talked to on a daily basis say the Mill Rats are awesome. The games are great, the community work is outstanding, so we want to see that translate into support,” McCarthy said. “We think we’ve got the best team we’ve ever put together to start the season. We think we have the best tactical coach that we’ve had. We’re excited about the new teams that have come into the league and the talent in the league is unbelievable. ... but we’re still looking for that overall support locally.”