

MIDGET BULLDOGS CONQUER EUROPE



THE BURLINGTON BULLDOGS MIDGET MD REP TEAM HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A SUCCESSFUL GOODWILL TOUR OF GERMANY, SWITZERLAND AND ITALY. THE TEAM WON THREE OF THEIR FIVE GAMES, OUTSCORING THEIR OPPOSITION BY AN IMPRESSIVE 36-23. IN THE COURSE OF THEIR TOUR, THE TEAM ALSO HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT HEIDELBERG CASTLE, A VILLAGE IN THE BLACK FOREST OF GERMANY, DOWNTOWN STUTTGART, ZURICH AND ROME AND SPENT A MEMORABLE NEW YEAR'S EVE IN COMO IN NORTHERN ITALY.

THE TEAM PLAYED THEIR FIRST GAME IN MANNHEIM ON JANUARY 27TH, HOURS AFTER GETTING OFF AN OVERNIGHT FLIGHT FROM TORONTO. WHILE THE CANADIAN BOYS GOT OFF TO A GOOD START, GOING UP 2-0 IN THE FIRST PERIOD, TIRED LEGS AND JET-LAG EVENTUALLY CAUGHT UP WITH THEM AS THEY FELL TO THEIR GERMAN HOSTS BY A 6-3 SCORE. ONE OF THE GERMAN GOALS WAS INTO AN EMPTY NET AS THE CANADIANS FOUGHT HARD TO TIE THE GAME. GOALS CAME FROM KIRK FORSYTH, MATT GAMBOLI AND ADAM LEMMON.



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, THE TEAM BUSSED INTO NEARBY EPELHEIM TO PLAY THE ICE BEARS. AGAIN, THE BULLDOGS WENT OUT TO AN EARLY 2-0 LEAD. ON THIS NIGHT THOUGH, THE CANADIANS KEPT THE PRESSURE ON AND SKATED TO A CONVINCING 16-4 WIN. GOALS CAME FROM BEN CUNKO WITH FIVE, KIRK FORSYTH WITH A HAT TRICK, ERIC MACRAE AND TAYLOR ANDERSON WITH TWO EACH AND SINGLE GOALS FROM AARON GOULD, PAT STAPLETON, MATT GAMBOLI AND ADAM LEMMON.



THE BULLDOGS PLAYED THEIR THIRD GAME IN THREE NIGHTS AGAINST A VERY TALENTED STUTTGART TEAM (SPONSORED BY PORSCHE AND WITH THEIR VERY OWN RUSSIAN RINGER), LOSING BY ANOTHER 6-3 SCORE. HERE AGAIN, THE CANADIAN WERE PRESSING AT THE END UNTIL THE GERMAN TEAM SCORED INTO AN EMPTY NET. GOALS CAME FROM ERIC MACRAE, DAVID GRAHAM AND MATT GOESTCH.

AFTER A NIGHT OFF AND A BUS RIDE TO ZURICH, THE BULLDOGS WIN THEIR FOURTH GAME OF THE SERIES, BEATING DUBERNDORF 6-1. TEAM CAPTAIN MITCH MCINNIS AND AARON GOULD HAD TWO GOALS EACH, WHILE KIRK FORSYTH AND MATT GAMBOLI ADDED GOALS OF THEIR OWN. THE BOYS FOUND THAT THEY HAD FANS WAITING FOR THEM FOR THIS GAME AS A



GROUP OF YOUNG SWISS BOYS – WEARING THEIR TEAM CANADA GEAR SHOWED UP AT THE GAME, ASKING FOR AUTOGRAPHS AND GETTING INTO THE GROUP PHOTO.

THE FINAL GAME OF THE SERIES WAS PLAYED IN CHIASSO ON THE SWISS SIDE OF THE BORDER WITH ITALY AND AFTER A GREAT NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY ON THE BANKS OF LAKE COMO THE NIGHT BEFORE. DOWN BY A GOAL AND FIGHTING OFF A TWO-MAN PENALTY WITH LESS THAN 3 MINUTES LEFT, THE CANADIAN TEAM EVENS THE SCORE ON A BEN CUNKO BREAK-AWAY. IT WAS BEN'S SECOND GOAL OF THE GAME. AS THE SECONDS TICKED DOWN, ADAM LEMMON SCORED FOR BURLINGTON TO GIVE THE BULLDOGS THE GAME AND A WINNING RECORD IN THE SERIES. ADDITIONAL GOALS CAME FROM TAYLOR ANDERSON, DAVID GRAHAM, MATT GOETSCH, JOSH CHAPMAN AND AARON GOULD.



NIC BALDWIN AND KYLE GRIMARD SHARED THE GOAL-TENDING DUTIES THROUGHOUT THE SERIES AND WERE BOTH VERY STRONG IN THE CANADIAN NETS.

AFTER LEAVING CHIASSO, THE TEAM SPENT TWO DAYS IN ROME VISITING THE VATICAN AND COLISEUM AND GETTING IN A FEW GREAT MEALS AND A LOT OF SHOPPING.

THIS TEAM REPRESENTED BURLINGTON AND CANADA WELL AND CAME HOME WITH SOME GREAT MEMORIES.

