



**TIER III JUNIOR C NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
NEW ENGLAND SPORTS CENTER
MARLBOROUGH, MA
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**ATLANTA KNIGHTS WIN NATIONAL TITLE
~Knights avenge previous day's loss~**

The Atlanta Knights avenged their round-robin loss to the Suffolk Juniors to win the USA Hockey Tier III Junior C National Championship.

Suffolk, who rode a strong first period to victory in the first matchup between the teams, again struck first when **James Wilkom** gathered an Atlanta clearing attempt at the blue line and shot. Atlanta goaltender **Sean Davis** made the save, but **Alex Carlacci** buried the rebound for his sixth goal of the tournament at 3:42.

After the goal, Atlanta began buzzing around **Sean Keating** and the Suffolk net, but the goaltender initially held strong.

A rolling puck provided the Knights with a chance to tie the game. Six minutes into the game, two Suffolk players battled with **Taylor Adolphson** for the puck behind the net. The puck squirted out and Adolphson somehow swatted the puck past Keating.

The Knights looked to take the lead just after the midway point of the period with several chances in front of the net, but Keating spectacularly denied all of them.

Suffolk came out firing early in the second, but Davis proved equal to the challenge. Atlanta came back and unleashed on Keating, but the goalie stood his ground and preserved the tie.

Atlanta had an extended 5-on-3 as the second period approached the 12:30 mark, but despite their efforts, nothing went in. With 12:10 remaining in the period, **Sean McTiernan** was awarded a penalty shot. He tried to draw Keating out and sail the puck over his glove, but Keating made the save.

The Knights finally solved Keating with 13:42 remaining in the game when **Colin Brannigan** took a pass from **Ryan Bray** and backhanded it into the

net. Sean McTiernan also received credit for an assist.

Soon after the goal, Alex Carlacci had an excellent chance to tie the game when he skated in and ripped a shot at Davis, but the goalie made the blocker save and sent the puck into the corner.

The Knights extended the lead to two goals when McTiernan dished the puck to Brannigan and Brannigan beat Keating on the stick side with 7:09 remaining.

Atlanta made it 4-1 with just over four minutes remaining when Brannigan gathered the puck at the bottom of the left circle and cycled back to the blue line. He shot and Bray picked up the rebound and scored.

Suffolk pulled Keating after a stellar game with 1:10 remaining but could not chip away at the lead.

The win gives Atlanta their first USA Hockey Tier III Junior C National Championship after bowing in the 2009 finals and the 2008 semifinals.