

Price Ice Bantams State Champions in the State 4A Tournament

The Price Ice Bantam team traveled to Barron to participate in the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association State Tournament on March 14 and 15. The Price Ice Bantam team is comprised of players from the Park Falls and Phillips areas.

The Price Ice Bantams faced Viroqua in the first game. Matt Neerdaels (assist Josh Lemke) found the back of the net mid-way thru the first period to put Price Ice on the board. Josh Lemke (assist Jake Lemke) followed up a minute later with the second goal of the game. Viroqua fought back and cut the lead in half recording their first goal with 5 minutes left in the period. On the power play, Jake Lemke (unassisted) found the netting giving Price Ice a 2 goal lead with just 12 seconds left in the first period. Coming up out strong in the second period found James Pechacek (assist Jake L) adding the Price Ice lead. Viroqua again trying to get back into the game cut the lead back to 2 goals but Jordan Koski (assist Jake L and Josh L) put the puck into the net giving Price Ice a three goal lead again. Tom Schumacher (assist Pierce Pluemer) continued to build the lead for Price Ice ending the second period with a 6-2 lead. Both teams recorded a goal in the third period with Neerdaels (assist Josh L) recording the lone Price Ice goal and Price Ice winning their first game 7-3. Kristen Pechacek recorded 3 saves on 6 shots while Viroqua recorded 40 saves on 47 shots.

Price Ice met the Ice Wolves from Middleton later Saturday afternoon. The Ice Wolves took an early lead 31 seconds into the game. Quade Wallace (assist Brady Bolz and Pluemer) tied the game bring the first period to an end with the game tied. The Ice Wolves found the net twice early in the second period taking a 2 goal lead. Pluemer (assist Schumacher) recorded a power play goal cutting the lead to 1 at the end of the second period. Josh L (unassisted) recorded a shorthanded goal early in the third period to tie the game. Koski gave Price Ice the lead less than a minute later. The Ice Wolves tied the game with 7 minutes remaining in the game. Again, a shorthanded goal was recorded by Jake L (assist Josh L and Pluemer) giving Price Ice the lead with just under 4 minutes remaining in the game. Josh L ended the scoring with an open net goal with 45 seconds remaining in the game to seal the victory for Price Ice 6-4. The Ice Wolves turned away 32 shots while facing 38. Kristen P recorded 14 saves on 18 shots to give Price their second victory in the tournament.

Early Sunday morning, Price Ice was pitted against Sparta. With two wins already recorded, Price Ice needed to win the game to get into the Championship Game. Price Ice came out strong recording 4 goals in the first period. Neerdaels (assist Josh L), Jake L (assist Josh L), Jake L (assist Neerdaels), and Wallace (assist Koski) all combined in giving Price Ice a 4-0 lead. In the second period, Neerdaels (assist Jake L and Josh L), Pluemer (assist Wallace), James P (assist Bolz and Josh L), and Neerdaels (assist Jake L and Josh L) recorded 4 more goals giving Price Ice an 8-0 lead. Pluemer (assist Josh L) Jake L (assist

Neerdaels), and Jake L (assist Neerdaels) recorded goals rounding out the scoring in the third period and Price Ice picking up their third win and a berth in the Championship Game. Sparta had 22 saves while facing 33 shots. Kristen P faced 12 shots while saving all and earning a shutout.

The Championship Game found Price Ice facing the host Barron/Chetek team. Price Ice took the lead on a power play goal when Josh L skated the length of the ice finding the net for the first goal of the game. Fifteen seconds later, Jake L (assist Logan Cowling) put Price Ice up 2-0 which was the score at the end of the first period. Barron/Chetek came out quickly early in the second period recording two goals tying the game. Cowling (assist Jake L and Schumacher) gave Price Ice the lead late in the second period giving Price Ice the lead 3-2 going into the third period. Jake L (assist Pluemer) added a goal at the 7 minute mark in the third giving Price Ice some breathing room and a two goal lead. Barron/Chetek was not backing down and notched a goal with 4 minutes remaining in the game to cut the Price Ice lead back to 1. In some fast and furious action in the last four minutes, Price Ice was able hold off all Barron/Chetek attacks and come away with a 4-3 win and earning the Wisconsin Bantam 4A State Hockey Championship!

The Bantam Team was comprised of Quade Wallace, James Pechacek, Logan Cowling, Josh Lemke, Jake Lemke, Tom Schumacher, Brady Bolz, Kristen Pechacek, Matt Neerdaels, Will Rusch, Jordan Koski, and Pierce Pluemer, Chad Schnautz, Sam Lehman, and Cory Heldt playing some games with the Bantam team during the year. The team was coached by Gary Koski and Jason Stromberg during the state tournament along with Dennis Lemke and Blake Pluemer during the year.

The Price Bantams won the Consolation Trophy at the Hayward Tournament and the Second Place Trophy at a 12-team Bantam tournament in Chippewa Falls. They ended the season with 26 wins and 11 losses while recording 193 goals scored while allowing 89 goals against. Congratulations to the players, parents, Price Ice, and the communities of Park Falls and Phillips!