



PROVIDENCE BRUINS

MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT:

Providence Bruins

Nathan Roberts

roberts@pseagency.com, 401.680.4734

Eddie Pannone

pannone@pseagency.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRUNCH ROUT P-BRUINS TO TAKE 3-1 LEAD IN CONFERENCE FINALS

Syracuse, NY – The Providence Bruins fell to the Syracuse Crunch Friday night 7-2 and now trail the Eastern Conference Finals 3-1. The P-Bruins got goals from Jordan Szwarcz and Danton Heinen while Zane McIntyre made his 16th consecutive postseason start in net.

As has been the case in every game this series, Syracuse grabbed an early lead just four minutes into the game. Off a pass from Yanni Gourde, Ben Thomas blasted a one-timer from the blue line by McIntyre top-right corner to give the Crunch a 1-0 lead. The resilient Bruin bunch bounced back at 7:07 thanks to Szwarcz’s third goal of the series and seventh of the postseason. Wayne Simpson did some tough work to keep possession of the puck behind the net and skated it to the right wing corner. He found Szwarcz in the slot, who beat Mike McKenna to tie the score 1-1. It looked like that would be the score heading into the break, but a late 5-on-3 goal from Matt Taormina gave Syracuse a 2-1 lead after 20 minutes.

Without exaggeration, the second period was the worst of the season for Providence as they allowed a season-worst four goals to fall out of the game. Michael Bournival scored the first of these goals just 33 seconds in, jamming at a puck in front shortly after a power play. Providence made it 3-2 a minute later when Heinen was able to put home a rebound off shots from Ryan Fitzgerald and Simpson for his league leading ninth playoff goal, but it was all Syracuse after that. Gourde scored off a centering pass behind the net from Tye McGinn to give the Crunch a 4-2 lead at 4:31. Bournival and Gabriel Dumont each added another tally in the final four minutes of the period as the Crunch headed to the break up 6-2.

The third period saw Malcolm Subban enter play for the second straight game as McIntyre was pulled in hopes of sparking a comeback. Cory Conacher made sure that wouldn’t happen, scoring his first goal of the night and fourth point of the game to give the Crunch and eventual 7-2 win. It is the most goals Providence has allowed this season and ties the most they have given up in their postseason history.

McIntyre stopped 24 of 30 shots before getting pulled while Subban stopped 9 of 10 after entering in the third. McKenna stopped 33 of 35 in a winning effort. Providence was 1-2 on the power play and 3-5 on the penalty kill. The P-Bruins will look to avoid elimination tomorrow night in Syracuse when the teams meet for game five of this best-of-seven series at 7pm.

The Providence Bruins are the American Hockey League affiliate of the NHL’s Boston Bruins, playing their home games at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center in Providence, RI. Spanning more than 20 years, the Boston/Providence affiliation is one of the longest and most successful player development partnerships in professional hockey history.

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#5/26/2017#