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P-BRUINS FALL 4-1 DESPITE HICKMAN'S FIRST GOAL OF THE SEASON

Providence, **RI** – The Providence Bruins fell to the Hershey Bears Friday night 4-1 in the first of two weekend matchups against their division foe. The P-Bruins got their lone goal from Justin Hickman while Zane McIntyre made his eighth start of the season in net.

Hershey struck early and often in the first period, scoring two goals in the opening six minutes of play. Riley Barber gave the Bears a 1-0 lead just 2:22 into play, jumping on a loose puck in the crease and scoring on the power play. Hershey quickly made it 2-0 at 5:57 with Barber this time on the passing end. His centering feed from behind the net found Mathias Bau in front, and his goal made things 2-0 Bears after 20 minutes of play.

Despite outshooting the Bears in second period, Hershey opened up their lead to three at 12:19. Anthony Peluso fought hard for the puck in the left wing corner and some fancy stick work got the puck to Bau in front. He fired in his fifth goal of the season and second of the night to give his club a 3-0 lead. The P-Bruins had some chances, including their second 5-on-3 power play of the game, but still entered the break down three.

Providence would not go down quietly, as Hickman scored his first goal of the season to cut into their deficit early in the third. Just 2:16 in, he stole the puck and went in all alone on a breakaway. His shot went glove-side high on Pheonix Copley as the P-Bruins made things 3-1 Bears. That would be as close as they got, as an empty net goal from Tyler Graovac sealed the deal for Hershey as they walked away 4-1 winners.

McIntyre stopped 21 of 24 shots while Copley stopped 31 of 32 shots. Providence was 0-6 on the power play and 5-6 on the penalty kill. The P-Bruins and Bears will each have Saturday off and return to action Sunday at 1:05pm when they conclude this two-game series at the Dunk.

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 25 years, the Boston/Providence affiliation is one of the longest and most successful player development partnerships in professional hockey history.

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