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P-BRUINS WIN IN SHOOTOUT OVER THUNDERBIRDS, 5-4

Springfield, MA - The Providence Bruins defeated the Springfield Thunderbirds in a shootout tonight in Springfield, Massachusetts by a final score of 5-4. Alex Grant, Peter Mueller, Peter Cehlarik and Colton Hargrove scored in regulation for Providence, with Cehlarik providing the only score in the shootout. Goaltender Anton Khudobin provided 34 saves for the win, highlighted by stops on all three shootout attempts.

Providence opened the first in front of goaltender Anton Khudobin, who had been assigned to the team by the Boston Bruins for a conditioning stint prior to the game. Thanks to a strong start the P-Bruins were able to pick up a score early in the period, registering the first score of the game just 4:12 into the period. Defenseman Alex Grant beat Springfield goaltender Reto Berra for his fourth goal of the season, assisted by Matt Grzelcyk and Danton Heinen. After taking the lead Providence found themselves in a battle with Springfield, with the Thunderbirds applying pressure in an effort to even up the score. Providence provided a prime opportunity for the Thunderbirds to get back in the game when Chris Porter received a Holding penalty at 6:05. It was the first of two power plays for Springfield on the night, and both would prove unsuccessful. Nearly a minute after Porter's penalty expired, however, Springfield defenseman Josh Brown pushed a pass from Juho Lammikko past Anton Khudobin to even the score at 1-1. At 12:33 the P-Bruins game Springfield a similar opportunity, and again the Thunderbirds responded with a score. Just minutes after a Cross-checking penalty on Providence's Chris Casto expired, Ryan Horvat found the back of the net. It was Horvat's third goal of the season, assisted by Josh Brown and Juho Lammikko at 14:51 in the period. Springfield would finish the period leading in shots 9-6, and on the scoreboard 2-1.

Providence came out of the gate in the second looking to find the game tying goal, but instead soon found themselves falling further behind. Springfield's Mike Sgarbossa tallied his second of the season at 6:38, assisted by Dryden Hunt and Josh Brown, to put the Thunderbirds up 3-1. Facing a two goal deficit the P-Bruins turned up the pressure in an attempt to get back in the game and soon found themselves on the power play. Approximately half way through the man-advantage opportunity forward Peter Mueller beat goaltender Reto Berra to cut the lead to 3-2. The power play goal, scored at 9:53, was Mueller's third of the season and was assisted by Jake DeBrusk and Alex Grant. The remainder of the period was dominated by Providence on the scoresheet, with two more scores and 17 total shots in the period. The first of these goals, scored by Peter Cehlarik and assisted by Mueller, came at 13:17 to tie the game at 3-3. The second, scored in the closing seconds of the period, gave Providence the lead after Colton Hargrove scored his second of the season, assisted by Chris Porter and Wayne Simpson. The goal at 19:45 sent the P-Bruins into the intermission with a 4-3 advantage.

As much as Providence controlled play in the second, Springfield was just as dominant in the third. Despite heavily outshooting the Bruins in the period, the Thunderbirds were unable to find the game tying goal through the first half of the period. Springfield would go on to register 20 shots in the period to Providence's five in the final frame, but would have to wait until the final minutes of the period to even things up. At 18:55 Springfield's Paul Thompson netted his fifth of the season, assisted by Mackenzie Weegar and Chase Balisy, to tie the score at 4-4. The P-Bruins would hold on to close out the period and send the game to overtime for the second time in as many nights.

Shots were not as plentiful in the overtime period, with Providence registering four shots and Springfield only one. The relatively even play would result in a draw during the extra frame, leading to a shootout. The shootout featured Heinen and Cehlarik for Providence, with Cehlarik providing a score. Anton Khudobin would do the rest, turning back all three attempts he faced to secure the win for the P-Bruins, 5-4.

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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