

The Marquette Hilltoppers fresh off their overtime win to Host Waupun took on Waunakee as the second game in Pool B. Both teams skated up and down the ice feeling each other out in the first period. With neither team able to put the rubber disc in the net. Marquette outshot Waunakee 17 - 3 in the first period with no success. Waunakee had a solid strategy to not let Marquette get to the net.

And then another surprise. Just like the Hilltoppers previous game where Waupun scored first and held the lead for 2 full periods, the Waunakee Warriors tickled the twine first. 2:29 in the 2nd period, Waunakee' Mason Ihrke was able to drive to the net from the neutral zone catching Goalie Nick Ahlers by surprise. Ihrke drove across the crease and backhanded the puck past Ahlers. Waunakee was up 1 - 0. It was short lived. I am not sure what happened next. At the drop of the puck, Danny McKenna picked up the puck from face off winner Jacob Slater and McKenna accomplished what seemed impossible in the 1st period. He was able to drive to the net where the Marquette forwards are able to use their skills to pick the right spot to get it past the goalie. And this is what McKenna did 10 seconds after Waunakee scored. 1 -1.

Again both teams settled in for most of the 2nd period. Marquette had a huge lead in shots on net with Beck tuning away each attempt. With 1:27 left in the 2nd period McKenna again was able to skate in to the low slot untouched. Little brother Matthew McKenna battle for the puck in his defensive zone and found Slater in the neutral zone. Slater saw McKenna breaking hard and hit him with a good saucer pass that McKenna knocked out of the air, gained control, and then sniped V=Beck to take the 2-1 lead. This score lasted to the end of the 2nd period.

With the lead, Marquette is now able to do what they do best: attack the net. In the 3rd period, Marquette started to be the aggressor. Waunakee decided to use the same strategy and executed well putting a little nervousness into Marquette. The aggressive play ended up catching up with the Warriors. Danny McKenna once again was able to pick up a turnover in the neutral zone and skate right toward Beck. The same result turned out. McKenna hit a nice bar down shot in close to earn his Hat Trick and give Marquette a 3-1 lead.

Waunakee continued to battle throughout the rest of the third. The Warriors picked up a penalty with 6:23 left in the 3rd. The Hilltoppers took advantage and were able to score a power play goal using up almost all of the penalty time. At 12:23 Tyler Reineck was able to get his shot passed Beck from the to mid slot. Charles Langenfeld and Nick Maricinni assisted. This ended up being the final goal of the game and took the wind out of the sails, Marquette out shot Waunakee 36 to 19. Ahlers stopped 18 shots in the game while Beck was able to stop 32 for Waunakee. Marquette was finished with pool play and with 2 wins they would be headed to the Championship game against the Pool A winners. Waunakee still had Waupun to play.