

Leader not to be stopped

The Dornbirner Eishockey Club lost its Wednesday night road game at the UPC Vienna Capitals 1:4. The championship leader of the Erste Bank Eishockey Liga didn't let anything get in their way against the team from Vorarlberg.

The Dornbirn Bulldogs were trying it with a surprise move Wednesday night: Thomas Stroj was playing goalie. Dornbirn's backup goaltender got tested early on by the home team, and saved against Riley Holzapfel, who had outplayed DEC-defenseman Olivier Magnan. The current best team of the Erste Bank Eishockey Liga put the dampers on their guests twelve minutes into the game, when Sacha Bauer (12.) - his back towards the goal - scored the first goal for the Caps. Dornbirn was trying to find their luck in fast breaks, and eventually got successful in the second period. Kevin Macierzynski won the puck, and passed it to topscorer Chris D'Alvise (34.), who made for his 99th Bulldogs-goal.

Ferland with double strike

It was Jonathan Ferland, who brought the home team back on the winning lane. The Canadian scored twice within sixty seconds, and the Capitals were up 3:1. First Ferland (35.) hadbscored single-handed, during a powerplay he (36./pp1) used a nice assist for his second goal. During the final period the team from Vienna was pushing for an early decision. For a while the Bulldogs were successfully putting up resistance. But eventually Raphael Rotter (52./pp1) took care of the 4:1. The puck jumped off the boards right onto Rotter's blade, and the Capitals' figurehead didn't hesitate to hit the puck into the goal. The team from Vorarlberg, who had been playing road games in Klagenfurt, Graz and Vienna in this final week of 2016, is returning home with only one single point (from the match at the EC-KAC), and keeps being behind expectations.

Thursday, December 29, 2016 (Erste Bank Eishockey Liga):

UPC Vienna Capitals – Dornbirner Eishockey Club 4:1 (1:0, 2:1, 1:0)

Albert-Schultz-Halle, 4.500 spectators

Officials: BABIC, NIKOLIC, Gatol, Seewald

Goals:

VIC: 1:0 Bauer (12.), 2:1 Ferland (35.), 3:1 Ferland (36./pp1), 4:1 Rotter (52./pp1)

DEC: 1:1 D'Alvise (34.)

Penalties:

VIC: 4 min.

DEC: 10 min.

Line-Up:

VIC: Kickert – Lakos, Cuma; McKierman, Brocklehurst; Bowman, Fraser; Peter, Maxa – Ferland, Sharp, Fischer; Tessier, Vause, Nödl; Rotter, Holzapfel, Pollastrone; Großlercher, Nißner, Bauer;

DEC: Stroj – Schmidt, Magnan; Connelly, Caruso; Crawford, Konradsheim; Siutz – Grabher Meier, Arniel, Dustin Sylvester; Macierzynski, McBride, D'Alvise; Livingston, Häußle, Petrik; Dominic Haberl, Daniel Ban;