

Play Off hopes shattered

Season over for the Dornbirner Eishockey Club in the Erste Bank Eishockey Liga! In their last Qualification Round game the team from Vorarlberg got defeated by the Moser Medical Graz 99ers. The match in the Eisstadion Liebenau ended 3:4 from the Bulldogs' perspective.

The home team celebrated a dream start in Tuesday night's game – Kyle Beach (2.) made for an early goal with a nice shot from the side. Subsequently Graz was eagerly pushing for their second goal, and succeeded again seven minutes after the first one. Former Bulldog Matt Siddall (9.) overcame Dornbirn's goalie Florian Hardy with a powerful shot into the top corner. Graz' supporters were going crazy. But with the minutes passing the visiting team was gaining momentum. Dornbirn was having several good scoring chances, but for the time being wasn't able to beat Graz-goaltender Sebastian Dahm.

Bulldogs make for an exciting match

Just when the guests were about to tighten the lead, they got abruptly stopped. While on powerplay the team of 99ers-Coach Doug Mason hit once more. Zintis Zusevics (28./pp1) got nicely assisted by Thomas Pöck and shoved the puck in the empty goal. The score was 3:0. After that the Styrians were mostly focusing on their defense play. Dornbirn didn't give up just yet, and was trying hard for their first goal. Jamie Arniel (48.) ended up being the one making for it. He snatched the puck in the defense zone, and - passing Graz' defense - skated all the way over to Dahm's goal, where he succeeded from a close range. Martin Grabher Meier (50./pp1) took care of the 2:3, while on a powerplay. With five minutes remaining Florian Hardy left the ice – and on the very next Bulldogs-attack James Livingston (56.) tied the game. Three minutes before the end the DEC goalie got pulled again. This time the Bulldogs were not able to turn it to account. Ken Ograjensek (60./en) chipped the puck into the empty net. Final score: 4:3 Graz.

Tuesday, February 21, 2017, Qualification Round (Erste Bank Eishockey Liga):

Moser Medical Graz99ers – HC Orli Znojmo 4:3 (2:0, 1:0, 1:3)

Eisstadion Graz-Liebenau, 3.784 spectators

Officials: LEMELIN, SIEGEL, NOTHEGGER, VERWORNER

Goals:

G99: 1:0 Beach (2.), 0:2 Siddall (9.), 0:3 Zusevics (28./pp1), 4:3 Ograjensek (60./en)

DEC: 3:1 Arniel (48.), 3:2 Grabher Meier (50./pp1), 3:3 Livingston (56.)

Penalties:

G99: 6 min.

DEC: 8 min.

Line-Up:

G99: Dahm – Boivin, Klimbacher; Pelech, Strohmeier; Weihager, Pöck; Reinthaler, Petrovitz – Zusevics, McLean, Setzinger; Ograjensek, Feichtner, Beach; Siddall, Brophay, Woger; Pirmann, Zierer, Natter.

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