

Steamer's best short of Thunder

Steamers Pub played with their hearts, but they left their bodies in the penalty box.

Penalties were the downfall for the plucky Steamers team who pushed the First Litre Pub Thunder to four games and as much as they could handle physically in the semi-finals of the Prince George Lacrosse Association.

Players like captain Blake McIntosh, Jason Woltski, David Keough, Kevin Allen, Scott Scholtens and John Janella ran to the point of exhaustion and beyond as Steamers put all their gunners on the floor for virtually the entire series.

"We pushed hard, we played very hard," says Steamers coach/manager Neil McIntosh. "It's too bad we couldn't have put our less experienced guys out there more often."

McIntosh says the series was fun and he's not overly disappointed to lose.

"We had a fun series," he says. "It was a good series to play in. If you play well like we did then it's not that tough to lose."



Steamers goalie Tony Brizan and defenceman Jason Woltski are beaten by First Litre's Troy Johnson (#44) and Sean Swift. JOHN MCKENZIE/FREE PRESS

While Steamers left everything on the floor in game four, First Litre closed out the series with a gritty perfor-

mance of their own. They broke open a 7-7 tie at the start of the third period to win 14-10. The Thunder set up the

clinch by dodging a bullet on Sunday night when Jerome Lamarre scored two minutes into overtime to give the

favourites a 10-9 win and a two games to one lead in the best of five series.

It was much of the same on Monday night as the Kin centre was rocking with vocal supporters on both sides and thunderous hitting on the floor.

The two teams traded goals for the first 40 minutes before Litre broke it open with some gutsy go-to-the-goal play by snipers Sean Swift and Andre Baldo. Swift ended the game with five goals and four assists while Baldo had four goals and four assists.

Troy Johnson had a hat-trick for First Litre while Lamarre chipped in a pair.

McIntosh had three goals and five assists to lead Steamers while Janella had three goals, Keough had two and Scholtens, Brad Bredo and Mark Gabriel had one each.

"It was a good series, I

always said we have the toughest games against them," says First Litre captain Shawn Ingham. "They're the biggest team in the league besides us."

Ingham says his team never took the 5-10 Steamers team lightly, even though the Thunder were a perfect 5-0 against them in the regular season.

Penalties were the difference.

"We have to cut down on our penalties to win series' like this," says McIntosh.

Ingham knew his team had to cut down on the trips to the sin-bin if they hoped to stave off the upset.

"The game plan was don't talk to the refs and take our frustration out on their players and hope they retaliate," says Ingham. "That's what they did and they took dumb penalties. We stayed disciplined and stayed out of the box and we won."

First Litre now move on to play the Cap-Abilities Old-stylers, who have been waiting in the wings for almost two weeks.

Game one of the best-of-seven final, a re-match of last year's thriller, goes on Sunday at 8 p.m. at Kin One.

Beaver Lumber warm up for nationals

The Beaver Lumber men's slo-pitch team placed fourth out of 16 at a provincial Coors qualifying tournament in Burnaby.

The Prince George team sandwiched their four wins at the event between a pair of losses. They were eliminated from contention with a 3-2 loss to a team from Abbotsford.

The result qualifies Beaver Lumber for the Coors provin-

cials, September 14-15 in Kamloops as the top five teams advanced.

The Burnaby tournament was a warm-up event for Beaver Lumber, who will go to the Softball Canada National Rec Men's Slo-Pitch Championships August 9-11 in Guelph, Ontario.



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