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Wilkes-Barre/Scranton vs. Charlotte Checkers Game Story

An absolute thriller occurred Wednesday, December 13th, in Wilkes-Barre Scranton, when the Penguins and the Charlotte Checkers faced off in an Atlantic division rivalry match. The Penguins won the game 6-4 after a highly eventful third period that saw both teams score 7 goals, 5 to the Penguins and 2 to the Checkers. This brings the Penguins to 13-6-1-0 on the season and the Checkers fall to 11-6-1-2.

The third period started fast with the Penguins scoring 4 goals in only 5 minutes. The first was scored by center Tristan Broz at 3:43, tying the game 2-2. This goal was assisted by defenseman Isaac Belliveau and center Sam Poulin. The next goal was scored not too long after by Boris Katchouk at 5:23 making it his second of the game. This goal was assisted by Dan Renouf and Vasily Ponomarev. This goal gave the Penguins the lead at 3-2 with 15 minutes left to go in the third period.

The Penguins were not done there. Their next goal was only 70 seconds later scored by Boko Imama at 6:38 and was assisted by Jonathan Gruden and Nate Clurman bringing the Penguins' lead to 4-2. 3 unanswered goals in only 6 minutes into the third period.

Brady Katchouk tallied his third goal of the night at 8:43 completing the hat-trick. This hat-trick by Katchouk is the second in three games by the Penguins as a team. This goal was assisted by

Sam Poulin and Ville Koivunen. Katchouk's goal brings the score to 5-2 lead by the Penguins. An absolutely clinical comeback for Wilkes-Barre so quickly into the third period.

The Checkers did not leave the third period empty-handed, however. At 17:02 a goal scored by winger Wilmer Skoog assisted by Sandis Vilmanis and Zac Dalpe brought the score to 5-3. Soon after the Checkers score again, this time by John Leonard, assisted by Rasmus Asplund and Trevor Carrick. With just one minute and 30 seconds the Checkers look to make a comeback of their own, bringing the score to 5-4.

Unfortunately for the Checkers; in an attempt to score with an extra attacker on the ice, Boris Katchouk shuts down any hope for a Checkers' comeback by scoring an unassisted empty net goal at 19:32. This goal made it his fourth of the game and rightfully earning him the first star. Penguins' coach Kirk MacDonald had this to say about Katchouk, "He understands what it takes to win...credit to him for finding a way to be great...you need veteran guys to step up no matter what and he did a great job of it tonight."

The first period had only one goal which was scored by Katchouk in a penalty shot at 12:41. This helped the Penguins get out to an early lead. This was cut short by two back-to-back goals just a minute apart by the Checkers in the second period. The first was by Zac Dalpe assisted by Wilmer Skoog and Tobias Bjornfot at 7:55. The next was scored by Mikulas Hovorka assisted by Riley Hughes and Wilmer Skoog at 8:49. This gave the Checkers the lead halfway through the second period at 2-1.

A couple of unfortunate penalties and defensive breakdowns by the Checkers helped the Penguins prevail in this rivalry match. Also, credit to the Penguins' goalie Joel Blomqvist for a

38-save game on 42 shots. An exciting game ending in a Penguins win keeps them in 2nd place in the Atlantic division.