

SPORTS

SIJHL HOCKEY

Lakers repeat as Bill Salonen Cup champions

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Fort Frances Lakers have repeated as the Superior International Junior Hockey League's Bill Salonen Cup champions for the second year in a row after winning two games last weekend in the best-of-seven series finals.

Colten Spicer scored twice Friday night to help the Lakers win 6-3 over the Dryden Ice Dogs in game five at Ice for Kids Arena.

The Ice Dogs scored first less than 5 minutes into the game on a power-play goal from defenseman Kyle Pouncy assisted by Cole Golka and Jonathon Philley.

Nick Minerva tied the game for Fort Frances with a power-play goal at 13:45 of the first period.

Spicer gave the Lakers a 2-1 lead when he scored at 6:36 of the second period.

Fort Frances took a two-goal lead with just over a minute left in the second period on an unassisted goal from 2012 International Falls High School graduate Mason Meyer.

The Lakers increased their lead to 4-1 at 3:39 of the final period on a power-play goal from Dylan Robertson.

Dryden pulled within two goals when Eric Masters scored at 7:32 of third period.

Fort Frances scored again with 11:03 to play on a goal from Robbie Bonthron.

The two sides then traded goals in the final minutes when Philley scored for Dryden and Spicer picked up his second goal for the Lakers to close out the scoring.

Shots on goal favored Fort Frances, 37-33, with Nathan Park picking up the win and Tate Sproxtion recording the loss in net.



STAFF PHOTO BY KEVIN BONESKE

From right, Lakers forward Mason Meyer (9) of International Falls advances the puck to score Friday on Ice Dogs goalie Tate Sproxtion (30) in game five of the SIJHL's Bill Salonen Cup finals at Ice for Kids Arena.

LAKERS 3, ICE DOGS 1

In game six at Dryden's Memorial Arena, Wyatt Cota scored all three goals for the Lakers on Saturday to lead them to a 3-1 victory over the Ice Dogs.

The Lakers, who won the best-of-seven series 4-2, closed out the league finals

with three wins in a row.

Fort Frances scored first when Cota put in his sixth goal of the playoffs just past the 4-minute mark of the contest.

Cota added his second goal near the midway point of the first period to give the Lakers a 2-0 lead.

After a scoreless second period, the Ice Dogs finally put the puck past Park with 7 minutes remaining in regulation when Blake Peavey scored.

Dryden went on the power play with 50 seconds left and pulled Sproxtion out of the net to give the Ice Dogs one

final chance to tie the game, but Cota scored shorthanded into an empty net in the final seconds to clinch the Lakers' second straight Bill Salonen Cup crown.

Both teams had 28 shots on goal with Park picking up the win and Sproxtion recording the loss.

The season continues for both teams, who will be playing in the Dudley-Hewitt Cup in Fort Frances starting April 28.

They'll be joined by the champions of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League and Ontario Junior Hockey League.

NHL

Pominville, Parise give Wild 3-0 win over Blues

ST. PAUL (AP) — The St. Louis Blues have been busy trying to agitate the Minnesota Wild into costly mistakes.

With a sarcastic smile here and a timely goal there, the Wild have kept their cool and taken the series lead.

Devan Dubnyk made 17 saves, Jason Pominville and Zach Parise scored in the second period and the Wild cruised to a 3-0 victory over the Blues in Game 3 on Monday.

"We're here to play hockey. We're not here to fight and do all that," center Charlie Coyle said. "That stuff after the whistle doesn't win you games, so we're just focused on playing our game and playing it smart."

Mikael Granlund had two assists, Nino Niederreiter added an empty-netter and the Wild had the edge in every way, without being drawn into a single trip to the penalty box.

Steve Ott was ejected in

the closing seconds, his second game misconduct call of the series, and has 22 penalty minutes in three games.

"This is similar to what they did in Game 1, checked us really hard," Blues coach Ken Hitchcock said. "And they got us to crack."

St. Louis goalie Jake Allen stopped 21 shots, the over-capacity crowd taunting him with chants of his last name throughout the game, but the Blues lost on the road in the playoffs for the ninth straight time.

"We let him down," Blues defenseman Barret Jackman said, adding: "He made some big stops for us, but when you put a big goose egg up on the board it's hard to win."

Game 4 is in Minnesota tonight. Then the series shifts south to St. Louis on Friday for Game 5.

"We were expecting our crowd to be a lot like they were, and our guys feed off

that," Wild coach Mike Yeo said, adding: "That's got to be our game. That's got to be the way that we're playing. We're built around speed."

After getting a hat trick in the Game 2 victory at home for the Blues on Saturday, Vladimir Tarasenko was held without a shot on goal, just as he was in Game 1.

Meanwhile, the Wild's big-money scorers came through in the middle of the game after some big rebounds allowed early by Allen weren't converted.

Granlund put a slick move on Tarasenko and sped past the prolific right wing on the rush. His shot was blocked by Carl Gunnarsson, but the ricochet went to Parise, who threaded a perfect pass to Pominville for the simple tap-in at 14:08.

On their next shift, Parise was tied up with Blues defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk in the slot when he managed to snap the puck

past Allen for the two-goal lead with 3:47 remaining in the second period.

Granlund nearly matched his line mates when Parise and Pominville set him up with a wide-open net. The young center was too fast to score, just a little too deep, and his shot hit the near post and bounced back.

"Their team speed, when you let them have time and space to make plays and zip the puck around, it's dangerous," Blues captain David Backes said.

The Blues had to be happy at the first intermission, having kept the game scoreless for the first 20 minutes despite being outshot 9-4, outhit 16-10 and penalized once for a Wild power play. The Blues blocked eight shots in the first period, but

Allen was plenty busy.

The intensity between these similarly constructed Central Division opponents has been palpable, sure to heighten the rivalry once it resumes again next season.

The Wild have deftly avoided the penalty goading the Blues have tried, another sign of the confidence and discipline this team has displayed since their mid-January turnaround.

Jason Zucker, one of several Wild players Ott has tried to provoke in this series, irritated Shattenkirk with a mild whack at Allen as he skated by in the first period. Shattenkirk gave Zucker a light shove, and Zucker stuck his tongue out with a big, sarcastic smile.

Ott attempted a check on Jonas Brodin in front of the

Wild bench in the second period, and Matt Dumba mischievously tugged on Ott's stick, riling up the veteran center as he returned to the play.

"We prepped for this, we expect it and I think our guys have done a good job of handling it so far," Yeo said.

NOTES: This was the third playoff shutout in Wild history. ... Backes led the Blues with three shots on goal. ... Sean Bergenheim and Justin Fontaine replaced Jordan Schroeder and Matt Cooke on the Wild's ever-changing fourth line. ... The Blues most recently won in the playoffs on the road on April 19, 2012, at San Jose. They're 2-17 in their past 19 road playoff games.

FALLS HUNGER COALITION IS SEEKING A VISIONARY, EXPERIENCED LEADER TO SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Applicants must have college degree in relevant field or 2-3 years work equivalent, present a professional demeanor under a variety of conditions, develop positive relationships with organizations within our Coalition. A successful candidate must be able to manage the operational components of the food shelf, possess excellent written and oral communication skills and oversee/coordinate numerous volunteers. Knowledge of Quick Books, grant seeking/writing, reporting and public relations is necessary. This Position requires the ability to stay informed about Government laws and programs. The director must be able to attend meetings, work on special projects and fundraising, have the ability to be creative as well as a strategic thinker, conduct tours, and meet deadlines.

RESUMES MAY BE SENT TO:

FALLS HUNGER COALITION
1000 5th St, Int'l Falls, MN 56649
Application deadline will be May 6th, 2015



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Wednesday, May 13, 2015 • Noon - 4 p.m.

At the Recycling/Transfer Facility

Hazardous Waste from businesses will NOT be accepted on this day.

Safely dispose of household hazardous waste at no charge.

ACCEPTABLE HOME WASTE	NON ACCEPTABLE HOME WASTE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paint (all types)• Home & Garden pesticides• Button & Rechargeable Batteries• Thinners, Solvents, Flammables• Fluorescent Tubes• Household Cleaners• Adhesives, Hobby Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tires• Alkaline Batteries• Empty Containers• Propane Tanks• Bullets/Explosives• TV's/Computers/Electronics• Appliances/Microwave

No products accepted before noon.

Sponsored by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in partnership with Koochiching County.

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