

Tuesday December 02, 2008

Bantam Eagles win title in Ogden

POST REGISTER

The Idaho Falls Bantam hockey team fought hard, was hit hard and still won at the Golden Spike Thanksgiving Shootout held Nov. 28 to 30 in Ogden, Utah.

The tournament started out with a 5-0 Idaho Falls win over the Rock Springs Miners from Wyoming. Zane Blank and Mason Durfee both scored two goals, and Cory Hott added one goal. Assists were made by Zach Davis, Lucas Heady, Chris Lehto and Blank.



Courtesy photo - The Idaho Falls Bantams celebrate their championship at the Golden Spike Thanksgiving Shootout in Ogden, Utah.

The Eagles' second day started with a 3-3 tie against the Salt Lake County Lightning. Mason Bailey, Davis and Durfee all recorded one goal each, and Blank and Durfee received assists.

Later that day, Idaho Falls faced the Boise Junior Steelheads and won 4-3. Garrett Wheeler earned his first hat trick of the season with three goals, and Durfee scored one goal. Assists were recorded by Kevin Heilig, Durfee and Hott.

The Eagles' third and final day started with a 7 a.m. game against Ogden's hard-hitting Golden Spike Junior Wildcats.

Despite all the bodies from both teams flying around the ice and hitting the glass, Idaho Falls won 7-3. Billy Heaton had two goals from the blue line, and Hott, Garrett Wheeler, Davis, Keegan Renfro and Durfee all put in one apiece. Durfee, Wheeler and Blank also added assists.

This win gave the Eagles the second seed and the chance to play the Lightning for the championship.

After 42 minutes of playing, the championship game was tied 2-2 after goals from Garrett Wheeler and Mason Bailey and assists from Hott and Durfee.

The stalemate resulted in a sudden death period, which went scoreless on both sides. After a short break, the shootout began. Goalie Jaeger Jensen helped the Eagles earn the victory by stopping five of the six shots. Blank and Davis both scored in the shootout as Idaho Falls won 4-3.

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I.F. upsets Ice Dogs

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The Idaho Falls Eagles Midget AA (U18) travel hockey team continued its winning ways this weekend with back-to-back upset victories over the defending Montana state champion Bozeman Ice Dogs on Bozeman's home ice.

The Eagles opened up the scoring in game one of the two-game set with a first-period goal before falling behind 2-1 in the second. They rallied to take a surprising 5-2 win.

Goals were scored by Devin Crighton, Zeke Cole, Dylan Sherick, Ben Claver and Jared Latham. Claver, Cole and Sherick each tallied two assists apiece. Jake Belnap, Jared Hergesheimer and Logan Winterholler also had assists.

In the final game, two goals within a minute and a half span in the second period were all the Eagles needed to fend off the pesky Ice Dogs and earn a hard-fought 2-1 victory.

The initial goal in the contest was provided by Latham, assisted by Devin Davis and Donny MacLachlan. The winning goal came from team captain Cole with an assist from assistant captain Sherick.

Austin Mooso continued his strong goalie play by turning away 52 of the 55 shots the Ice Dogs fired at him over the course of the two games. Other defensive contributions to the weekend upsets came from Ed Anderson, Tyler Belnap, Josh Forbush, Ryan Henderson and Josh Moon.

The Eagles play this weekend in Sun Valley.

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I.F. Eagles White take third

POST REGISTER

The Idaho Falls Youth Hockey squirt division -- players ages 9 and 10 -- took two teams to Ogden, Utah, over Thanksgiving weekend to competed in the 2008 Thanksgiving Shootout.

Hosted by the Ogden Junior Wildcats, the tournament also included the Salt Lake County Lightning, the Boise Junior Steelheads, the WMAHA Grizzlies of Salt Lake and the TAHA Predators of Provo, Utah.

The Idaho Falls Eagles White team finished in third place after an exciting playoff game that went into overtime and then a shootout. Goals and assists were recorded by Logan Carpenter, Coleson Dobson, Alex Dogal, Payton Hayes, Robby Heaton, Ryland Jackman, Ethan Johnson, Wyatt Koller, Hunter Leavitt, Colter Miller and Kendall Olson.

The Eagles Black team competed with heart and finished with smiles on their faces.

The next tournament for both teams will be Dec. 13 and 14 in Idaho Falls. Competition will include the Jackson Hole Brown and Jackson Hole Gold Teams, the Boise Hawks, the Salmon Squirt Team, the Bozeman Ice Dogs and the Butte Squirt Team. Admission is free.