

Knights make history

AURORA, Ont. (CP) — Penticton Knights became the first team from British Columbia ever to win a game in the 15-year history of the Centennial Cup Junior A hockey final when they defeated Cole Harbour Colts 9-6 Monday night.

The Knights, western Canadian champions, evened their record at 1-1 while the Colts fell to 0-2 in the four-team single round-robin tournament.

Orillia Travelways and Aurora Tigers, who each won their opening games, meet tonight in Orillia.

The Knights twice blew three-goal leads and had to rally from a 6-5 deficit with four goals in the final eight minutes, two of them into the empty net after the Nova Scotia team pulled goalie Marc LeBlanc for an extra attacker.

"Stupid mistakes cost us the game," said Colt coach Moochie Friesen. "I'd say we gave them the last four goals by throwing the puck away."

"On the first empty net goal we won the draw and our defencemen didn't pinch to hold the puck in. I didn't actually think we were out of it at 5-2, but the whole thing is just disappointing."

The Knights were led by Murray Winicki who had three goals and two assists. Ed Cristofoli and Scott Rawson had two goals each for B.C..

MURPHY CHOSEN

Singles goals went to Todd Brost and Joe Murphy, who was chosen as the game's first star with four assists.

Alan Baldwin, Tony Van Norden, Reg Bowes, Kevin Grasse, Steve Trider and Alan MacIsaac shared the scoring for the Colts.

"It was a tough game for us," said Penticton coach Rick Kozuback. "After losing to Aurora (8-4) the way we did, we fought it a lot."

"We just felt that after a loss like that there was a lull in our players. We couldn't maintain our lead tonight. This kind of game might be good for us. We had to overcome adversity but it was adversity that we created for ourselves."

The Colts outshot the Knights 45-41 in the wide-open game.