Richmond hammers Red Deer

RED DEER, Alta. (CP) — Dave Tomlinson scored three goals to pace the Richmond Sockeyes to a 9-1 thrashing of the Red Deer Rustlers Thursday and win the Centennial Cup Western best-of-seven semifinal 4-3.

The teams were tied 0-0 after the first period, but Richmond exploded for five goals in the second.

Rob Clarke, Mike Claringbull, Jason Phillips, Jim Gunn, Mike McCormick and Tony Bobbitt also tallied for the Sockeyes, who outshot the Rustlers 39-34.

Red Deer's Pete DeGraaf spoiled goaltender Jamie Stewart's shut-out bid at 13:17 of the third period.

The Sockeyes took 17 of 32 minor penalties. Each team had a major, while Red Deer took one misconduct and two of three game misconducts.

Richmond now goes on to play the Humboldt Broncos in the Western best-of-seven final. Humboldt will automatically advance to the Centennial Cup final as host team, but the series is a must-win for the Sockeyes.