

One hand on the Mann

by Paul Barnsley

BRANTFORD - The Six Nations Chiefs came out smoking in game 5, Tuesday night at the Civic Centre, en route to a convincing 16-8 victory and a 3 games to 2 lead in the series.

The Mann Cup could be in Six Nations hands as early as tonight.

Maybe the way the Chiefs played on Sunday night lulled the New Westminster Salmonbellies to sleep. Maybe they thought they were cruising. Maybe the Chiefs really did pick up their game that many notches - it's hard to say.

What was easy to see for the close to 2,000 fans at the arena and tens - maybe hundreds - of thousands at home watching on TSN was that it was the Chiefs night.

Derek Graham cashed in John

Tavares rebound to open the score just 70 seconds into the game. Tavares then fired a 25 footer past Bellie goalkeeper Rick Mang to increase the early lead to two. Tavares scored again short-handed after Paul Gait put on a tremendous display of penalty killing as he held the ball for over a minute, killing the clock as two or, sometimes three Salmonbellies desperately assaulted him. Rich Kilgore ran the home sides lead to 4-0 on the powerplay.

The teams traded goals in the remaining 8 minutes of the opening frame to bring the score after the first to 6-2.

Any chance the western champs had to swim upstream against the Six Nations onslaught disappeared when the Chiefs scored on the powerplay less than two min-

utes in to increase their lead to 7-2.

By the halfway mark in the second period it was 10-4 and Rick Mang was gone in favour of back-up goalie Doug Zack.

Even defensive specialist and set up man John Rosa got into the act when he scored his first Mann Cup goal as the Chiefs built up a 13-4 lead after two. Paul gait scored his fourth and fifth of the night late in the second.

New Westminster battled back - in more ways than one: there was a pier six brawl in the last frame to entertain the folks at home -to win the final period.

Game 6 should be a thriller. Both teams have gotten their stinkers out of their system.