

Tide turns in Spirit's favour

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bringing the revved-up Stouffville squad to within a goal with a blast from the blueline at the period's midway mark.

Will Chang's shot from the top of the face-off circle trickled through the legs of Hurricanes' goalie Chad Lynch and across the goal line with four minutes left to send the game into overtime.

"We knew if we got one goal, that more would come," said Large, adding he joked with teammate Mike Tucciarone on the way to the rink that the game would go into overtime and he would get the winning goal.

Spirit assistant coach Craig Donovan said he could feel the tide turn as the third period wore on. "The score was 4-0 but we deserved better. Half way through the third I knew it was going to be our game."

Michel Bond engineered the series-winning goal when he won a face-off deep in the Spirit zone and led a two-on-one break with Large into the Hurricanes' end.

"Michel took it wide and I went to the net," Large said. "He passed it to me and I put it in the short side between the post and his (Lynch's) blocker."

The Spirit held a 28-21 advantage in shots on goal during the first two periods, hitting several goal posts and crossbars, but couldn't solve Lynch. They ended up with a 47-32 edge in shots.

Bond, who was a prominent force all night, said it was a matter of the Spirit going for broke in the



CHRIS LARGE

third period.

"We had nothing to lose so we went all out and pulled it off. We finally got the intensity that we didn't have in the first two periods. It was fun."

Bond admitted things looked bleak after 40 minutes.

"To be down 4-0 is the worst thing. We had no momentum."

Large credited Spirit goalkeeper George Eliopoulos with keeping the spark alive when he made an outstanding save on a breakaway after Stouffville had cut the lead to 4-2.

Oshell said his team recovered to shut down the Hurricanes' explosive offence in the third period and the overtime.

"We picked it up in the third. They (Newmarket) couldn't get anything going," said the burly defenceman.

Perrin said his team might have difficulty preparing for the conference finals after the emotional high of downing their Newmarket archrivals. "It's going to be tough to refocus for Couchiching."

The Spirit and Terriers begin their set Friday night in Orillia.

Former NHL superstar Bobby Orr was among the 1,000 spectators who took in Sunday's game. Orr, a Boston-based player agent, was on hand to watch his clients George Eliopoulos and Dan Speer. Orr is the uncle of Spirit centre Doug Orr.

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