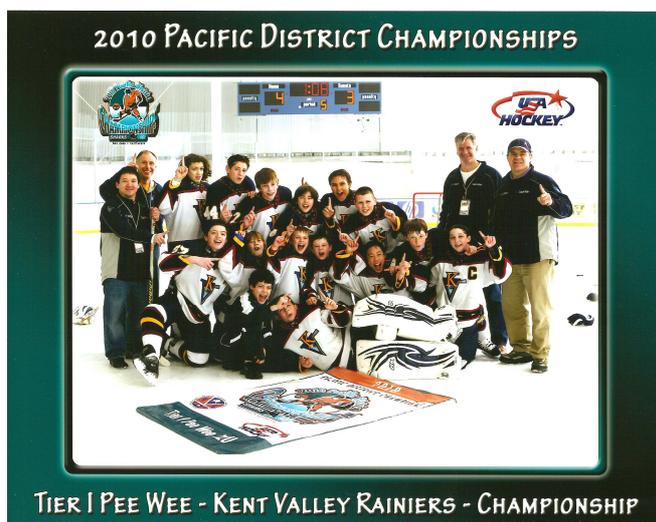


Rainiers Continue History - Making Season

Sharks Ice Arena, San Jose, California 21 March, 2010 – The Kent Valley Rainiers won the Pacific District Pee Wee Tier I Championship on Sunday with a heart-stopping double overtime victory over the LA Selects. The Rainiers become the first Washington team in more than 30 years to represent the Pacific District at the USA Hockey Tier I National Championships. Tier I is the highest level of youth hockey played in the US and includes teams from major hockey towns like Detroit, Chicago, Boston and New York.



The Rainiers were locked in a close competition against the LA Selects and LA Jr. Kings for the right to represent the Pacific District. All three teams played each other several times throughout the season with mixed results. Kent Valley opened the tournament with a convincing 4-1 win over the LA Selects in the round-robin. The Rainiers needed overtime to beat the LA Jr. Kings 4-3 to clinch a spot in the championship game. The Rainiers completed the round-robin undefeated by beating the winless SnoKing Jr. Thunderbirds.

The boys got an early wake-up call on Sunday morning to get ready for the

8:00 AM championship game against the LA Selects. The Selects have dominated the Pacific District over the past decade and produced several national champions. The Selects jumped off to a quick start and scored the opening goal within the first few minutes of the game. The Rainiers responded with a power play goal to even the score. The first period saw plenty of scoring chances as the Selects enjoyed an extended 5 on 3 power play. The Rainiers goaltender was up to the challenge as the first period ended knotted at one goal apiece.

The Rainiers came out strong in the second period and scored early to take a 2-1 lead. The rest of the period saw both teams with several excellent scoring chances only to have the goaltenders come up with great saves. As the clock was winding down, the Selects went on a power play and scored the tying goal with less than a minute to play in the period. The teams went back to the locker room during the ice cut to regroup for the third period.

Inside the locker room the coaches reminded the players of their goals which included making it to the USA Hockey Tier I National Championship. Fifteen minutes stood between the Rainiers and the fulfillment of a dream that started 3 years ago. The third period was fast and furious with both teams trying to score the next goal. The Selects broke through with less than 5 minutes remaining to take a 3-2 lead. The Rainiers were down to the final few minutes of their season if they couldn't score another goal before the end of the third period. With less than 3 minutes remaining, the Rainiers went on a power play. Rainiers' coaches decided to pull the goaltender and skate with a 6 on 4 player advantage. Hearts were racing as the Selects iced the puck, but the puck slid just past the goal keeping the Rainiers hopes alive. With the power play over, the Rainiers were able to continue their sustained pressure in the Selects offensive zone. With their goaltender still on the bench in favor of an extra skater, the Rainiers scored the tying goal with 43 seconds on the clock. Regulation ended with the score 3-3.

The Selects had the better of the play in the first overtime period including two power play opportunities. Once again, the Rainiers were able to survive with incredible goaltending and left the ice after the first overtime period still in pursuit of their dream. During the break

between overtime periods, the players discussed how important it was for them to make it to the National Championships. Despite the extra ice session, the Rainiers came out of the locker room with renewed energy and purpose. The momentum started to change with the Rainiers getting quality scoring opportunities. Finally, during a large pile-up in front of the Selects goal, the Rainiers knocked in the game winner with 1:08 left on the clock. The celebration started as the Rainiers were crowned Pacific District Pee Wee Tier I Champions.

The Rainiers are headed to Buffalo, NY to try and capture a National Championship on April 7-11. The Rainiers are proud to represent Kent Valley Hockey Association as the Pacific District champion. The Pacific District championship banner is headed to the rafters of the Kent Valley Ice Centre.

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