

Austin, Texas
April 19, 2009

ALLEN EAGLES TAKE HIGH SCHOOL STATE TITLE FOR 2008/2009

The Allen Eagles took to the ice this past weekend in Austin, Texas on a quest to bring home the second state Varsity Gold hockey title in 3 years. When the weekend was over the "Texas Cup" was held high at center ice by the Allen Eagles on Sunday, April 19th at the Chaparral Ice complex.

The road to the state title was not easily attained. Just a week before the state play down in Austin, the Eagles were upset by Southlake Carroll 6-3 in the "Dallas City" championship round. As the Eagles finished the regular season with the best overall record they received the "at large" bid to advance to the Texas Cup finals regardless of this loss. However, because of their loss in the "cities" they would be seeded last (8th) in the state play down. This meant the Eagles would face the winner of the Dallas City Champion in the 1st round of the single elimination state tournament in Austin.

ALLEN vs. Flower Mound

On Friday April 17th the Eagles faced the #1 seed, Flower Mound, for their first test. The hockey faithful from both teams anxiously awaited the faceoff to start the game. Once the puck dropped, the fans on both sides of the ice didn't have to wait long to get a glimpse of what kind of night is was going to be. With only 52 ticks off the clock and on the 1st shift of the game, the Eagles lit the lamp. Sr. Trent Ritchie scored on a nice feed from Jr. Ryan Holloway. Not only did this 1st shift goal set the tone for this game, it was a "theme" and an event to be repeated again in later rounds by the Eagles. What transpired after the first goal was a dominating display of hustle, forechecks and unselfish play that propelled Allen past Flower Mound with a 6-0 victory. Leading the charge was Ritchie who finished the night with a hat-trick. Ritchie's third goal and number 4 for the Eagles was a demoralizing "Shorty" that all but put a "fork" in the competition. Sr. Chase Michaels contributed a goal and a "helper" registering two points in the game. Jr. Alex Garrison scored 10 mins. into the 1st period putting the Eagles up 2-0. Jr. Defenseman Brian Clinton was credited with an assist in the 1st and a goal with an "extra effort" diving to the ice/shot to register his first goal of the tourney. The Master brothers, Garrett and Grayson were not to be denied either. Grayson assisted on the 5th goal of the game and then for the final goal of the game Grayson and Garrett got the "helpers" for the last dagger and goal of the game in the 2nd. The Eagles outshot Flower Mound 30-19 and Allen's net minder, Soph., Spencer Harris logged a perfect game

ALLEN vs. Jesuit

In the second round the Eagles faced the very determined and disciplined 2008 state defending champs from Jesuit. The start of the first period saw action early on in both ends as both teams appeared to be wound tight trying to find the opportunities. It didn't

take long for the action to start. Three minutes into the 1st period the Eagles struck as Sr. Robbie Lopes scored on a beautiful shot and assist from #21 Chase Michaels. Once again the Eagles found themselves on the board first and setting the tone. Sr. Chase Michaels would go on to score two goals and another assist to register 4 points on the night. Just before the end of the 1st Jr. Ryan Holloway scored off of assists from Grayson Master and Trent Ritchie sending the Rangers into a panic just before the Zamboni hit the ice between periods 1 and 2. Although the Eagles led 3-0 at the end of the 1st the game was far from over as 26 minutes of hockey remained. The second period found the Eagles in “Penalty Kill” mode for almost half of the period including a 5 on 3. Every attempt in the 2nd by the Rangers on their Power Play was thwarted by the stingy and hardworking “D”. When the Eagles were out of the box, they managed to post the only twine tickler in the 2nd period on a power play goal by Michaels with assists from Garrett Master and Lopes. With the Eagles leading 4-0 going into the 3rd period the Rangers were looking for some life. Allen’s Goalie, Spencer Harris and the penalty killing efforts of the “D” had held up under pressure. All knew that the Rangers would not go down with out a fight and the third period was their last chance to swing the momentum and tide of the game. Allen had other plans. Once again the Eagles started the 3rd with momentum as Defensive Soph. Christopher Boswell picked up the puck at the point and rifled a snappy wrister past the Jesuit net minder 2 minutes into the period after receiving the assist from Michaels. This would be the Eagles final and 5th goal of the game, but it was still not over as the hard fighting Rangers were looking to capitalize on any Allen mistakes and make the most of the 11 minutes left in the game. Two Eagle penalties later and 10 secs. into a Jesuit 5 on 3 power play, they got their wish and stuffed one in the Eagle net. With two minutes left in the game, the Rangers made the most of another power play opportunity and brought the score within 3 points. In the end it was not enough. The score ended 5-2 and the Eagles were returning to the title game again.

ALLEN vs. Southlake Carroll (STATE FINAL)

The Eagles knew that setting the tone and playing their up tempo game early in this contest could prove to be the difference in the final for the title. 35 seconds after the puck dropped Trent Ritchie once again, on the first shift of the game, beat the Southlake goalie on an unassisted goal. The stunned Dragons tried to regain their composure as the Eagle faithful went wild. A few minutes into the period, the Dragons who were one of the least penalized teams in the AT&T Metro league was sent to the “sin bin”. Smelling an opportunity to get up by two early in the 1st, the Eagle power play line went to work. 30 seconds later the Dragons were digging the puck out of the back of their net. Michaels one timed a back door pass from a 1-2-3- setup w/ assists from Holloway and Lopes. 9 minutes into the period and on another Eagle power play. Clinton scored on a well timed shot from the point as the assist came from Soph. Grayson Master. The 1st period ended with the Eagles ahead 3-0 and they went “flying” into the 2nd full of confidence as the Dragons were left to ponder how to neutralize their opponent. While Dragons were trying to figure how to get on the board early in the 2nd period on their power play, they forgot to check #10 Garrett Master and #56 Ryan Holloway who crushed Southlake with the second short handed goal of the tourney. Master buried the puck after receiving the feed from Holloway. Dragon parents slumped and the Eagle capacity crowd went bonkers.

The Eagles continued their pressure on both ends of the ice thru the balance of the 2nd and Harris, the Eagles goalie showed no signs of mercy between the pipes as he turned back every opportunity when Southlake created a shot. As the 3rd period started, the Eagles were smelling victory. 2 Minutes into the 3rd period, Garrett Master and Trent Ritchie on a two on one refreshed the Eagle fans once again on what teamwork looks like in a hockey game and what the result is when you work together. Ritchie had an opportunity to shoot the puck but instead laced the puck to #10 Master who carved up the Dragons on the offside of the net lighting the lamp for the Eagles 5th goal. Not to be undone, Sr. Robbie Lopes, 9 minutes into the 3rd on an Eagle power play produced the last “crowd pleaser” of the game as he buried a slapshot from the point. As the period ran down, it was evident that the Eagles came to play, unselfishly and with reckless intention to dismantle the opposition. With 17 goals for and 2 goals against in 3 games, including two shutouts, two shorthanded goals, no even strength goals allowed and multiple PK’s with no goals scored, it proved to be a dominating effort in every phase of the game.

Congratulations to the 2008/2009 Allen Varsity Gold Eagles!

clay boswell
eagle fan