

Tirone saves game for RoughRiders

Written by Ryan Suchomel

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TWACK! One puck hit the pad on his right leg.

THUNK! One off his left leg pad.

CRACK! And another hit his stick as he knocked the puck out of the air.

RoughRiders goalie Danny Tirone made three huge saves on three shots in a shootout Tuesday, helping deliver a 3-2 win for Cedar Rapids over Dubuque in The Stable.

"Danny stood on his head," RoughRider forward Carlos Fornaris said. "He's the guy."

Fornaris made his shootout goal to help deliver the win. The game was a continuation of a game that began on Oct. 12, but was postponed due to an injury.

Cedar Rapids (9-3-1) was leading Dubuque (9-3-1) 2-0 when the injury occurred and play was stopped. The officials dropped the puck on Tuesday with 11:58 left in the second period.

Official attendance for the game was 2,528, but only a fraction of that made it back to The Stable Tuesday.

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"It was a hard situation, I don't think any of us have been in before," Tirone said of playing half a game a month later. "We treated it like business as usual. We didn't want to sit back with the 2-0 lead."

However, Dubuque (9-3-1) became the aggressor in the third period, outshooting the RoughRiders 17 to 2.

"Our chances were there," Cedar Rapids Coach Mark Carlson said. "We played nine forwards tonight."



Dubuque got its first goal early in the third period. Jordan Klimek snapped one into the 5-hole with 15:09 to play.

Then the Saints got a short-handed goal with 3:37 to play when Dylan Gambrell raced past the Cedar Rapids power play unit and lit the lamp at the other end.

The 5-minute overtime produced just five shots on goal between the two teams, so the game went to a shootout.

"We were a little frustrated," Fornaris said of giving up the lead. "But we all knew what we needed to do. Come back and win."

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Tirone, who had 40 saves on the game, was sharp in the cage during the shootout. He denied shots from Alexx Privitera, Dylan Gambrell and Karson Kuhlman.

"That was the first (shootout) in the USHL," Tirone said. "I don't remember the last time I was in one."

Tirone prepares for each shooter by skating a few feet out in front of the cage.

"I don't want them to see much of the net from the beginning," Tirone said. "I don't want them to think they are ever going to score. Staying confident is a big key to it."

Tirone blocked two shots with his leg pads, and a third with his stick.

"He was mentally tough," Carlson said. "You have a lot better chance when you have mental toughness. If you're not mentally tough, you're not going to have success in this game."

"I just tried to stay patient and try not to give them anything," Tirone said. "I try to outwait them, and react to whatever they do."

Dubuque goalie Hayden Stewart saved his first shot, a stick save on a shot by Dylan McLaughlin, but then Fornaris got his through, faking one way, then shooting the other.

"When you get your number called, you want to do your team proud," Fornaris said. "I'm just happy we came out with a 'W.'"

Jack Rowe and Charlie Curti had the goals back on Oct. 12 to give the RoughRiders the lead.

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It was the second shootout of the season for Cedar Rapids. They lost the previous shootout on Oct. 27 at Chicago.

The RoughRiders are back in action this weekend in The Stable. They host Fargo (4-9-1) on Friday, and Dubuque on Saturday.

Dubuque and Cedar Rapids are each two points back of Team USA for first place in the Eastern Conference.

"It's going to be a challenge," Tirone said. "If we keep playing the way we know how, hopefully we'll get another one."

Dubuque	0	0	2	0	0	- 2
Cedar Rapids	1	1	0	0	1	- 3

CR - Jack Rowe (Jason Kalinowski) 19:44.

CR - Charlie Curti 3:12.

D - Jordan Klimek (Brett Boeing, Max McHugh) 4:51.

D - Dylan Gambrell (Brett Boeing) 16:23.

CR - Carlos Fornaris.