

Matadors hockey shocked again by College of the Canyons

By Travis Van Noty- Daily Sundial Sports Reporter

Panorama City, Calif. – For the third straight home game against College of the Canyons the CSUN Hockey Team had a lead going into the third period.

For the third straight time they couldn't hang on.

Tyler Gilmore skated the puck end-to-end from the right wing, stepped into the slot and fired the puck under Matadors goalie Geronimo Cebrero at 3:35 of overtime to complete a 6-5 comeback victory for the Cougars.

Two years ago COC ruined CSUN's perfect season with four unanswered goals in the third to win 6-4. Last season the Matadors had a 4-1 lead in the final frame but the Cougars came back again to win that game 5-4 in overtime.

"I was definitely having flashbacks to the previous games," said senior forward Jason Bobich. "I can't believe it happened again."

CSUN opened the scoring at 11:28 of the first period on a breakaway goal by Sean Park.

Dusty Jordan doubled the Matadors lead on another breakaway at 13:29 of the second. Daniel Chao got COC on the board but late in the period Steven Stoll gave CSUN the two goal lead back.

Park scored his second goal of the game 1:25 into the third increasing the lead to three. But just two minutes later Victor Luka started the COC comeback. Two minutes after that goal Gilmore scored his first cutting the lead to 4-3. Halfway through the period Eric Stelnick potted one on the power play to tie the game.

"We started running around more in the third which caused us to be out of position and that created more traffic in front of me," said Cebrero.

CSUN got the lead back at 5:17 on a controversial goal. Chris Gale made a centering pass from the right wing to Bobich. The puck deflected off Bobich's left skate and into the net. It is illegal to kick the puck into the net but the referee ruled that it was a good goal.

"I was surprised it was called a goal," said Bobich. "I was trying to kick the puck up to my stick and then shoot it but it ricocheted into the net instead."

The lead was short lived as Michael Crow converted on a 5-on-3 power play with just 2:29 remaining in regulation to tie the game at five.

COC won the special teams battle going 2-for-7 on the man advantage while CSUN finished 0-for-5.

Cebrero made 33 saves but the loss dropped his record to 3-2-1.

"Geronimo has been a No. 2 goalie his whole career but now he's realizing his time has come to be the No. 1," said junior captain John Paul Gale. "Unfortunately we let him down tonight."

The loss dropped the Matadors record in the Pacific Collegiate Hockey Association to 6-1-1. They are now in second place in the south division behind COC.

CSUN begins the second half of the season with an away game Jan. 17 against UC Irvine.