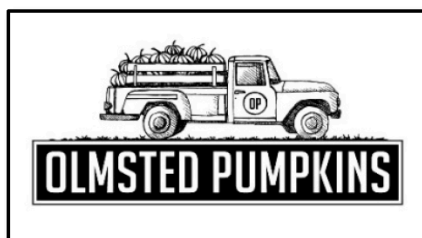


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ready. Word is they heard about the Cyclones performance earlier that day and were afraid to take the ice. After a 10-minute delay, the Pirates finally joined the Cyclones on the ice, and the puck was dropped to begin the Semi-Finals. Most of the first period was a close game. Cyclones had a couple of chances but could not find the back of the net. With a couple of minutes left in the 1st, the Pirates opened the scoring with a hard, high shot over the head of Layla Sample.

The Cyclones did not back down, trying their best to tie the game up in the second period. With 5 minutes left in the second, the Pirates scored again and unfortunately, things became unglued on the Cyclones bench. "You could feel the panic set in", Coach Ryan said after the game. Adding, "Emotions were high. We wanted to win, there is no denying that, but we faced some adversity and we did not respond in the proper fashion." Whitby scored 3 more goals in the final 4 minutes of the second period. Coach Ryan continued, "Those 5 minutes were awful. They were beginning to turn on each other out there as they could feel the game slipping away. We wanted to call a time-out to get the focus back, but there were no time-outs allowed." At the second intermission, Coach Ryan gathered the girls at the bench and told them all to relax, saying "Everyone here wants the same thing, so keep it positive and encourage each other. Don't quit out there, that's not fair to our goalie who isn't quitting on you. Just relax and play the way you know how."

The "reset" seem to help the girls, but the damage was done and as the final buzzer went, a disappointed Cyclones team left the ice. The final score was 5-0 for the Pirates who went on to win the tournament. Coach Ryan confessed, "I was a little worried before the game, I could see the energy levels were low for some players in the dressing room. It's usually a good indication on how the game will go. But, we never lose, we either win or we learn." The coaches had no trouble deciding on the hardest worker for this game, as Hailey Kovacs was awarded the "Hardest

Worker" jacket for an effort that was unbelievable. She left everything on the ice as she tried to will the team into the game. "She was outstanding throughout the tournament, she does everything we ask of her. She can't win the games on her own, but she is leading by example with her effort and the girls will respond positively to that", a proud Coach Ryan said after the game. "It wasn't the finish we wanted for the tournament, but we can take a lot from this weekend that will help us be successful in the regular season. We are a different team than we were at the start of the weekend."



IT'S BACK! CYCLONES DAY RETURNS NOVEMBER 26TH

We need to provide a Gift Basket for the raffle table, with a minimum value of \$50

Suggestions? Let Sara, Jess or Ryan know!