

Blazers edge Nordiques 5-4 in playoff bid

Half-price tickets, half-price hot dogs and Pie Face McKenzie.

These were some of the ingredients Philadelphia Blazers used Saturday to defeat Quebec Nordiques 5-4 in overtime to keep their playoff hopes simmering in the World Hockey Association.

McKenzie, snubbed-nosed former Boston Bruin, tipped in a shot by Irv Spencer in overtime to end a penalty-infested game, attended by 8,412 fans, largest crowd of the season at Philadelphia which was at least partly attracted by low prices.

Victory lifted Blazers into a tie with Ottawa Nationals for fifth place in the Eastern Division.

In other games, Winnipeg Jets, leaders of the Western Division, defeated Los Angeles Sharks 6-5, also in overtime; Cleveland Crusaders crushed New York Raiders 8-4 and Chicago Cougars shut out Houston Aeros 3-0.

After a boisterous second period in which four major penalties were assessed for fighting, the teams settled down at Philadelphia. There were no goals and no penalties in the third period.

Francois Lacombe's goal in the second pulled Quebec into a 4-4 tie that sent the game into overtime.

Ron Plumb, Don Herriman and Danny Lawson, with his 41st goal of the season, scored to push the Blazers into a quick 3-0 lead. Irv Spencer was the other Philadelphia sniper.

Quebec's other scorers were Alain Caron, Jean-Guy Gendron and Robert Guindon.

Seven seconds were left in regulation time when Dunc Rosseau scored to save Jets from defeat at Los Angeles. Norm Beaudin accounted for the winning goal—his 25th of the season—at 6:07 of the extra period.

Bobby Hull set the winning course for Winnipeg by scoring twice in the first nine minutes to get Jets off to a 2-0 lead. Ab McDonald and Milt Black were the other goalgetters for Winnipeg.

The Crusaders, who enjoyed a five-point lead in the East, rallied for three goals in the third period for their triumph.