

THE COASTAL PIRATES RULE YET AGAIN

The Brooms Are Out, as Top-Seeded Flyers Are Swept



There are times when you look at a situation, and scratch your head. The fact that the Sunday Coastal Pirates nearly missed out on an opportunity to play in the Playoffs is one of those situations. Here the Pirates were — sporting one of their most potent rosters ever — and we had to sneak in on a tiebreaker on the final game of the season against the last place Jaguars. Another area that might make you think is the Pirates opponent for the Best-of-7 Championship series was none other than the last place team in the A-division (you might ask how a team that competes in the Eastern Division ends up playing for the Western Division Championship?). In the end though, I guess it was the right move, as the Pirates were able to dis-

handly outscore them 12-5 in the process. The Story of this Championship begins back in the final game of the regular season when the Pirates faced those last-place Jags while teetering on the brink of elimination. Up until this point it had been a frustrating season, as the team seemed to underachieve and only play good enough to stay close in a few games instead of pushing over the top (opponents like the Blackhawks, Flyers and Micro come to mind); strong efforts only to be dashed that extra something. All through the season we showed we belonged to play with the big boys, but couldn't do more than merely be competitive, while eventually going down to defeat. All that started to change in that Jaguar

game. The Jaguars of last season can't be put in the same category as those teams I previously mentioned, but after the 1st period of that game their roster was peppered with members of the Bruins (who had the next game and decided to get a little extra skating in); the thing is it made no difference as the Pirates continued to dominate the game, rolling on towards the playoffs. Fast forward a few weeks, and the Pirates had dispensed of the Zombies in a dramatic fashion with a come-from-behind shootout victory, setting up the matchup for the Western Division Title. **GAME 1 COASTAL PIRATES 7, FLYERS 2** (Pirates lead best-of-3 series 1-0) The Pirates started this game with



THE SHORE'S
SUNDAY BEST

*Western Division
Crown Captured
At GoodSports*

ROUSING COMEBACK
VICTORY MARKS
FINAL, 5-2

*First, the Zombies
In a Shootout,
Then the Flyers
In a Romp*

SEIGEL EARNS
CONN SMYTHE

Who Dares Win
SEVENTH HEAVEN