Hockey team taking aim at MAAC title

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Three points out of first place. Two points close. The Crusaders were entering the previous weekend, a mere three points away from being in the first place of the MAAC ladder and overtaking number one ranked Mercyhurst. Flashback to nearly a year ago, when their coach Frank Cross was battling for their playoff lives, not merely for a higher place, but simply to stay in the league. The grueling battle was won, but fate, however, was not kind to them as the Crusaders were left watching from the sidelines. They finished the year, but not without the drop to fifth place.

In first place were the Holy Cross Crusaders in the MAAC standings. The goal was Rissmiller’s tenth on the year and having established his six game scoring streak to seven, coming at 85.3 of the first period. Rissmiller also ranks second in scoring with 23 goals for Holy Cross. Canisius, however, wasn’t finished in the opening stanza. On their first power play of the evening, Cunha was able to kick out a Chris Duggan shot from the point, but his rebound deflected onto the stick of Brad Kenny who was able to squeak a shot past the sprawling Cunha with 5:43 left to go in the first period. The Crusaders attempted come-tunes to go up by two but repeated Cunha saves kept Cani- sus at bay including a two-pad stack from right to left that ended with a dramatic glove save. Holy Cross was able to escape down one at the end of the first.

Holy Cross was able to accrue some momentum in the early goings of the second period but couldn’t find the back of the net on Worosz. It was a late Canisius goal coming just after the expiration of their power play that would thwart the Crusaders attempted comeback. This time it was Paul Dusza who would take a behind-the-net pass from Marc Bouffard and slide it through the pads of Cunha. The goal would prove to be the game winner.

The Crusaders put together a late third period effort but it wouldn’t be enough to overcome their two-goal deficit. Irving came sneaking over the blue line, left a drop pass for captain Tony Deluzio who dropped it for Worosz. The goal was Deluzio’s sixth of the year but it was as close as Holy Cross would get. Frequent third period penalties kept the Griffs on the power play and the Crusaders from reaching the back of the net. Saturday afternoon essentially became a must win situation for the Crusaders if they were going to hold onto second place in the MAAC. With 6:07 expired in the third, the Griffs connected once again, the Nevada Boxing Commission suspended his boxing license. That's when we lost the idea of boxing. Mike Tyson silences his critics. You try to think of an athlete who's been as distasteful to put more security onstage for such an event, and rob...