

German squad brings international flair to SAC tournament



By Jake Courtepatte

A weekend marked on the St. Andrew's hockey calendar all year, the 2018 incarnation of the Macpherson Tournament had some extra special guests in its 35th year.

A tournament that never fails to attract teams from across North America, last weekend's tournament hosted Jungadler Mannheim, a German squad and a familiar foe to the SAC Saints.

Having faced Jungadler, which translates to Young Eagles, in the DEL Junior Cup in Germany the last two years, it was the German squad's first trip across the pond to LaBrier Arena.

"We've been going to their event the last couple of years," said coach David Manning. "They're great hosts.

"They beat us 5-3 in our most recent matchup in August. They're the number one team in Germany."

Calling Jungadler "a good test" for his varsity Saints, Manning's team met the German squad in a Friday night matchup following a ceremonial puck drop.

The Saints got their revenge with the help of a pair of powerplay goals, off the sticks of Ian MacLean and Matthew Stienburg, while Brendan Bowie had an even-strength marker in a 3 ? 1 Saints win.

It was the first time in tournament history that a team from outside North America had participated in the tournament.

"It adds a nice element to the tournament," said Manning.

Though the Saints started the tournament with a pair of wins, adding an 8 ? 1 drubbing of Brighton Academy on Friday morning, back-to-back losses to Edge School and Upper Canada College left the Saints out of medal contention in the tournament.

They were the silver medal winners the two years prior, having last won the home tournament in 2014.

Jungadler, whose only loss of the round robin came at the hands of the Saints, reached the championship game before falling 7 ? 2 to Edge School.

Two forwards and a defenseman from the German squad were named to the tournament All-Star lineup.