

Hats off to Morgan Frost at World Junior Championship



By Jake Courtepatte

A tip of the hat to one of Aurora's finest.

It took just over 21 minutes of play in the 2019 IIHF World Junior Championship for Dana Frost to make her way down to ice level at Vancouver's Rogers Arena and toss her red and white Team Canada hat onto the ice, a tribute to the hat trick just record by her son, Morgan. His father's hat, that of former Toronto Maple Leafs arena announcer Andy Frost, was not far behind.

It was Frost who opened the scoring for Canada against the Danes in a heavily lopsided matchup, one which the red and white eventually won 14 ? 0. Left wide open behind the play in front of the Danish net, a turnover at the blue line led to plenty of time alone with the puck to deke Danish goaltender Mads Soegaard out of his drawers.

A setup to teammate Owen Tippett ensured a multipoint night for Frost just a short few minutes later, before a wrist shot from in close put Canada up 3 ? 0 with less than a minute remaining in the first period.

It was at the 1:50 mark of the second period when the Frost family hats went flying, along with dozens more inside the Vancouver Canucks' home rink. Surprisingly, it was Frost's first three-goal night as a junior player.

Despite the heavy accolades, the future star remained modest when swarmed for a post-game media scrum.

?I think I'm definitely a playmaker, but it's nice to put the puck in the net once in a while,? said Frost, who has never scored a hat trick in his 231-game OHL career. ?[There were] some great set-ups by my teammates, and fortunately they went in.?

The Aurora native, drafted 27th overall by the Philadelphia Flyers in the 2017 NHL Entry Draft, has slotted in at the second line on the Canadian forward regiment, along with WHLer Brett Leason and fellow Sault. Ste. Marie Greyhound Brett Hayton. Despite never stepping foot in the same rink as Leason before the tournament, the two combined for nine points in the opening night romping of Denmark.

?That was kind of our first full game together, with him, Hayton and I,? said Frost. ?Barrett and I kind of read off each other, and Brett's a guy that can put the puck in the back of the net, so if we can find him in good areas, there's a good chance it's going to go in.?

Yet it was Frost who stole the show on a night when all but two names on the Canadian roster got onto the scoresheet, with the Canadian faithful chanting ?Frosty, Frosty, Frosty? after his third goal, with a TSN camera pointed on a smiling mother as hundreds of thousands of Canadians watched on the broadcast.

?I had chills,? Frost told TSN in Canada after the victory. ?It was just a crazy feeling the whole game. The fans chanting my name. That was just the coolest moment I've ever been a part of.?

Aurora Mayor Tom Mrakas extended his congratulations to the nineteen-year old via Twitter, saying ?Big game by @Town_of_Aurora's own Morgan Frost,? adding the hashtag #AuroraProud.

Playing at almost a point-per-game pace in the OHL prior to his draft, the newly-drafted Frost upped his offensive game immensely in the 2017-18 season, putting up 112 points in 67 games to finish second in league scoring. He has amassed a whopping 256 points in his OHL career, playing at a 1.12 points per game pace.