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Cardinals win second straight SUNYAC title

PLATTSBURGH – Tournament MVP **Riley Hill** (Markham, Ont./Markham Waxers) and fellow All-Tournament selection **Joey Wilson** (Newmarket, Ont./Newmarket Hurricanes) each scored a goal and an assist as the Plattsburgh Cardinals defeated Oswego, 5-4 in overtime, on Saturday in the State University of New York Athletic Conference ice hockey championship game. Cardinal coach Bob Emery has now won 12 SUNYAC titles.

Plattsburgh, the top seed, won the title partly due to saves made by sophomore goaltender **Bryan Hince** (Tillonsburg, Ont./St. Mary's Lincolns), who made 55 saves in playoff wins over two-seed Oswego and four-seed Brockport. Hince also made the All-Tournament team.

In the championship game, the Cardinals fell behind in the first period by as many as two goals, the first by sophomore **Chris Laganiere** (Owego/Pembroke Lumber Kings), the second by All-Tournament selection **Eric Selleck** (Shanely, Ont./Pembroke Lumberkings), who scored unassisted. The Cardinals answered back on a score by **Dan Sliasis** (Georgetown, Ont./Guelph Dominators).

The Lakers boosted their lead back to two goals on a score in the second by Zalewski. Plattsburgh scored two goals in a 2:18 span to tie the game at 3-3. **Kyle VanderMale** (Brentwood, N.H./New England Huskies) scored first, followed by Wilson's tying goal. Oswego took the lead back less than two minutes later when **Ryan Ellis** (Georgetown, Ont./Oakville Blades) tallied a goal. With a little over a minute left, Hill scored and tied the game once again at 4-4.

Neither team could capitalize on opportunities in the third period, leading the game into overtime. Four minutes and twenty seconds into the twenty minute overtime, Plattsburgh's **Vick Schlueter** (Palmerston, Ont./Kingston Voyageurs) scored, assisted by VanderMale, to win the game 5-4.

Plattsburgh received the SUNYAC automatic bid into the NCAA tournament field; however they will be the only SUNYAC representative in the national tournament. They will face the winner of the Elmira-Neumann matchup on Wednesday, March 11. The Cardinals will host the winner on Saturday, March 14. They also will be the host of the semifinals and finals of the NCAA tournament, which will play their games for the second straight year at the Herb Brooks Arena Olympic Center in Lake Placid, NY.

2008 SUNYAC Ice Hockey All-Tournament Team

Riley Hill, F, Plattsburgh (MVP)

Eric Selleck, F, Oswego

Joey Wilson, F, Plattsburgh

Rich Zalewski, D, Oswego

Ryan Corry, D, Plattsburgh

Bryan Hince, G, Plattsburgh