

PATRICK KANE'S
CALL TO ARMS

PAST MEETS PRESENT
ON THE POND

SAVING A
D.C. LANDMARK

APRIL/MAY 2019 \$3.95

USA Hockey



BEHIND THE

BIG DANCE



What Makes
USA Hockey's
National
Championships
So Special?



PHOTO BY Jim Hibbard

Living 'A

Competing At
Nationals The
Culmination Of
A Lot Of Hard
Work And
Dedication

**NATIONALS
BY THE
NUMBERS**



25

CHAMPIONS
CROWNED

633

GAMES PLAYED

11.8%

Of The Games
Needed Extra
Time To Decide
A Winner

42

GAMES DECIDED
IN OVERTIME

33

GAMES DECIDED
IN A SHOOTOUT

g DREAM

by JEFF CARPENTER

AFTER SCORING the game-tying goal late in Compuware's quarterfinal game of the Chipotle USA Hockey Youth Tier I 14U National Championship, Seamus Casey made a bold prediction.

"I know that we're going to win this thing," he said.

While that confidence was not enough to carry his team to the ultimate prize—his squad lost to the Florida Alliance, 2-0, in the semifinal—it is likely carry him far in his hockey career.

Like so many players competing for a National Championship trophy, just being there is an opportunity of a lifetime.

"It's a dream," he said.

For many competing at the 14U level, it marks their first time on a national stage. And whether their team flames out early or

is holding the championship trophy after the final buzzer, being able to compete under the USA Hockey National Championship banner will leave a lasting impression on every player.

Not only do players get to compete against the top teams from around the United States, it also provides a measuring stick for talented players, like Casey, to gauge where their game is at.

A gifted skater and puck handler, Casey finished the tournament tied for second in points with 11. Six of those points were goals, as he triggered the Compuware offense from his blueline perch.

"I've been a defenseman my whole life," he said. "I think I'm a pretty dynamic forward, too, but I help whenever I can."

A native of Estero, Fla., Casey wears No. 91 in honor of Tampa Bay Lightning forward Steven Stamkos. He is part of a growing number of highly skilled players to hail from the Sunshine state.

"The rink that I'm from is home for me, and we've got a lot of good players there," Casey said. "Everyone that has helped me deserves a lot of praise for growing the game down there."

After playing for Compuware the past two seasons, Casey has found a new home in Michigan. It's likely to stay that way as he sets his sights on one day playing at the University of Michigan.

His head coach with Compuware, former-NHL player Pat Peake, is well aware of the talent Casey has and the bright future that lies ahead of him.

"It almost like a man against boys [at times], he's that skilled," Peake said. "Some of the plays he makes in tight are really special. But most importantly it's his willingness to compete and learn. This kid just wants to learn and learn and learn. He's been an absolute treat to coach. The potential for him is unreal."

With drive like that, it's no surprise that Casey was looking to use his time at Nationals as a launching pad into the future.

"It's been everything I hoped for," he said. ☆



"Some of the plays he makes in tight are really special. But most importantly it's his willingness to compete and learn. This kid just wants to learn and learn and learn."

4,159

GOALS SCORED



131

SHUTOUTS
RECORDED

THE
DISTANCE
BETWEEN
HOST SITES IN
AMHERST, N.Y.,
AND IRVINE,
CALIF.



2,543
MILES

327

TEAMS PARTICIPATED