

Dear all,

On today's press conference HDD Tilia Olimpija's management present our view on Hebar case and all the procedures that followed.

We were very surprised that Penalty Senate made the decision and published it to press in such a short time period. We find this very unusual because this is not just a common case ... we are talking about the highest penalty in the history of the EBEL league. And when you prohibit someone to work for more than half of the season and basically take his bread away ... decision absolutely should be made after considering all the facts, not just after watching one video and making some phone calls.

We would like to enlighten some facts, which led to the Hebar's case. This is a view of Olimpija's management based on a lot of Information from different sources; hockey players, fans from Slovenia, Austria and other countries, journalists, media representatives, hockey experts, etc.

1.) Referees were absolutely not at the level of the game. They made too much mistakes.

- \* Referees disallowed two regular goals of Olimpija when Red Bulls were leading 2:0. The result was that Olimpija team have to score

Four (4) goals to equalize the result on 2:2.

- \* Right after equalizing goal of Olimpija referees penalized Žiga Pance for slashing. Only the referees saw this foul (we looked at the video of the game several times and no one saw this foul).

- \* Referees made a lot of mistakes and allowed pretty rough game. The biggest mistake was made when the referees didn't whistle for a brutal check of Kevin Puschnik on Andrej Hebar. If referee would do his job correctly Andrej Hebar most probably wouldn't react as he did.

2.) Inconsistency of Penalty Senate decisions

- \* We reviewed a lot of cases from this and previous seasons and we found two cases, which can be in the range of Hebar's incident. Last season Trattinig (Salzburg) received 10 matches penalty for checking to the throat (full frontal hit), and this year highest penalty till now is judged to Lukas (Linz), who checked Gratton from behind without any direct reason.

- \* We found a lot of cases, where Penalty Senate didn't react with any penalty (good example is checking Frank Banham from behind – he was seriously injured and missed three games)

- \* Rodman (Vienna) received 6 games penalty after hard check to the Dervaric's head – he was out for 18 games.

- \* Ex-Red Bull Sikklenka made almost identical penalty as Hebar in the Swedish league – he was penalized with 2+2 minutes.

3.) Brutal Kevin Puschnik's check to Andrej Hebar led (together with bad referee decision) to the final incident

- \* Photo 1- It shows Kevin Puschnik's intention to brutally attack the player without a puck. Andrej Hebar gave away the puck to the teammate about two seconds ago. Luckily Andrej Hebar saw his intention and react well to preserve his face.

This photo also shows the speed and the force of the oncoming impact.

\* Photo 2 - Kevin Puschnik hit Andrej Hebar with full speed. Andrej Hebar managed to jump a bit so Puschnik couldn't hit him with Elbow in his face.

\* Photo 3 - This picture is showing absolute intention of Puschnik to hit Hebar in the head. Be aware of the position of Andrej Hebar's skates. One of the skates is 10 cm of the ice and the other is higher than the boards. Even he managed to jump and to avoid the hit with elbow and the hockey stick, Puschnik's hands were in the height of Hebar's head.

\* Photo 4 - This fault led to the reaction of Andrej Hebar. This picture clearly shows that Andrej didn't hit Puschnik in unprotected part of the body but he hit Puschnik's helmet.

\* Photo 5 - This photo can show how seriously injured Puschnik was after Hebar's foul.

4.) Pierre Page judged instead of Penalty Senate

\* We got the information that Penalty Senate made a decision based on video clip from Laola. We can't get rid of a feeling that Page's interview at the end of this clip influenced a lot to the decision of the Senate.

\* Page moralized about Hebar's behavior, but he forgot that his players injured two Slovenian goalies in Playoffs (Westlund and Yates), that his players injured at least four of Jesenice players on last RBS:HKJ game in Salzburg and that Trattnig last year also did something very similar to Hebar (maybe even more dangerously).

5.) Andrej Hebar confessed his mistake and apologized to Puschnik

\* Andrej Hebar saw the video clip of the incident on Saturday after Olimpija's morning training session. When he saw how big mistake he did in an affect, he asked coach to get him Puschnik's phone number. Hebar called Puschnik Saturday at the afternoon and apologized for the mistake he made.

Although we know that there are not possible legal actions against decision of the Penalty Senate, we are appealing to the Senate to reconsider Hebar's case in the light of new facts. Not only because of Andrej Hebar ... but also to preserve credibility of EBEL's Penalty Senate and the League itself.

Best regards,

Matjaž Sekelj, GM  
HDD Tilia Olimpija