



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
St. Louis	15	13-2-0	26	.867	64	32
Marquette	15	9-6-0	18	.600	60	54
USNTDP	15	8-6-1	17	.567	49	44
Mahoning Valley	14	8-5-1	17	.607	50	46
Alpena	15	8-6-1	17	.567	49	50
Traverse City	13	6-4-3	15	.577	40	40

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Wichita Falls	16	12-3-1	25	.781	60	40
Fairbanks	15	8-6-1	17	.567	42	39
Topeka	14	6-5-3	15	.536	37	36
Texas	16	6-9-1	13	.406	46	56
Alaska	15	5-9-1	11	.367	40	61
Kenai River	16	3-11-2	8	.250	42	73

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
North Iowa	12	9-2-1	19	.792	45	23
Fargo-Moorhead	15	8-6-1	17	.567	63	53
So. Minnesota	13	7-3-3	17	.654	48	45
Springfield	15	7-7-1	15	.500	56	50
Bismarck	13	4-8-1	9	.346	34	59
Alexandria	13	3-10-0	6	.231	33	57

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	16	14	11	25
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	16	8	17	25
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	14	10	13	23
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	15	12	10	22
Everett, Grant	WIC	F	16	6	15	21
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	12	9	11	20
Peterson, Erik	ALP	F	15	5	15	20
McCabe, Andrew	FBX	F	15	6	13	19
Mihulka, Marc	FMH	F	15	6	13	19
Rowe, Darren	SPR	D	15	4	15	19

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Moss, Robby	NIO	10	606:52	8-1-1	1.78	.936
Heeter, Cal	STL	8	480:00	7-1-0	2.13	.922
Johnson, Mike	STL	7	421:17	6-1-0	2.14	.918
Callaghan, Thomas	TXS	5	300:00	3-2-0	2.20	.929
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	13	785:38	5-5-3	2.21	.910

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	16	14
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	15	12
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	14	10

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	16	17

(three players tied with 15)

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	15	+13
Merrifield, Mike	STL	F	15	+12

Avalanche coming alive

Alaska earns pair of confidence-building wins

Struggling to find any sort of consistency out of the gate, the Alaska Avalanche has finally built some winning momentum after stringing together two wins last weekend for the first time this season.

"We're getting better on a daily basis and these victories are monumental for our team's confidence," said Avs coach-GM **Jamie Smith**, whose team improved to 5-9-1 on the season. "We're a young team and we're starting to buy into the fact that hard work on both ends of the ice will pay dividends."



Scott Barrera (game-winner), **Tyler Currier** and **Michael McCurtain** all fashioned two-goals nights as the Avalanche downed the Texas Tornado on Saturday, 8-1. **Kent Detlefsen** added a goal and an assist, while goaltender **Nathan Corey** turned aside 17 shots.

Tyler Currier

The next night, Barrera scored the only goal of the shootout as Alaska came away with a 3-2 win over the Kenai River Brown Bears. **Kyle Pichler** and **Alex Rasmussen** scored in regulation for the Avalanche, and goaltender **Dusan Sidor** made 30 saves and was a perfect 6-for-6 in the shootout.

"Everybody chipped in on every part of the game, and that's why we were successful," said Smith.

Smith attributes his team's slow start to a number of factors, one being that the Avalanche had to recruit 23 new players this year and build chemistry from within. That and Alaska boasts one of the youngest teams in the NAHL.

"And opening up on the road for 28 days doesn't help," he added.

The Avalanche hasn't stood pat, however. The club made some key additions to its defense over the past few weeks, including Detlefsen, Alaska's leading-scorer with 13 points whom the Avs acquired from Alexandria, as well as **Vince Stratte** and **John Strahle**.

"Those guys have helped us tremendously in terms of stabilizing our blue line and bringing us depth," said Smith. "The entire defensive core, really, has started to settle in and play better."

Upfront, the line of Currier, McCurtain and Rasmussen, which combined for five goals and four assists last weekend, is starting to come alive. Currier, who notched two goals and three assists last weekend, now has five goals for nine points after 14 games.

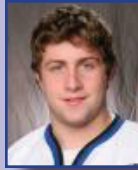
"He played unbelievable last weekend," Smith said of the 19-year-old from Anchorage. "He made a commitment on both ends of the ice and it paid off for him on the scoresheet." *Story continued at nahl.com...*



LAST WEEK'S SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

St. Louis forward **Kyle O'Kane** struck for five goals and an assist last weekend as the Bandits skated to a pair of wins over the U.S. Under-17 Team. On Friday, the 20-year-old scored two goals and an assist in St. Louis' 8-0 victory over Team USA. The next night, the St. Louis native scored all three Bandit goals in a 3-1 win over the U.S. squad. O'Kane was also a plus-6 for the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Alpena forward **Erik Peterson**; Mahoning Valley forward **Derek Graham**; St. Louis goaltender **Cal Heeter**; Traverse City forward **Clinton Bourbonais**

SOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Alaska forward **Tyler Currier** rang up two goals and three assists last weekend as the Avalanche won back-to-back games for the first time this season. On Saturday, the 19-year-old tallied two goals and two assists as Alaska downed Texas, 8-1. The next night, the Anchorage native recorded an assist in the Avs' 3-2 shootout win over Kenai River. Currier was also a plus-3 for the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Kenai River forward **Jeff Harris**; Texas forward **Ben Van Lare**; Topeka forward **Reed Seckel**; Wichita Falls goaltender **Mike Jarboe**

CENTRAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Fargo-Moorhead forward **Marc Mihulka** scored three goals last weekend as the Jets split a pair of games with Southern Minnesota. On Friday, the 20-year-old notched two goals in a 6-4 loss. The next night, the Grand Forks, N.D., native scored the game-tying goal, as well as one in the shootout, as the Jets bested the Express, 3-2. Mihulka was also a plus-1 for the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Bismarck forward **Joel Whited** and defenseman **Andy Keogh**; Fargo-Moorhead defenseman **Brandon Bukowski**; North Iowa forwards **Tyler Romasco** and **Shea Walters**; Southern Minnesota forward **Ben Beaudoin**

THE WEEK AHEAD

all times local

Tuesday, October 30
Mahoning Valley @ USNTDP, 7:30 pm

Thursday, November 1
USNTDP @ Alpena, 7:00 pm
North Iowa @ Fargo-Moorhead, 7:35 pm

Friday, November 2
Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm
North Iowa @ Fargo-Moorhead, 7:35 pm
Bismarck @ Kenai River, 7:00 pm
St. Louis @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Southern Minnesota @ Springfield, 7:30 pm
Wichita Falls @ Texas, 7:30 pm
Traverse City @ USNTDP, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 3
Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm
Bismarck @ Kenai River, 7:00 pm
St. Louis @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Southern Minnesota @ Springfield, 7:00 pm
1 Traverse City @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm
Texas @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 25

Texas 8 @ Kenai River 3 (TEX: Van Lare, 3G, A, +4)
Alpena 3 @ Marquette 2 (ALP: Peterson, G, A, +1)

Friday, October 26

North Iowa 2 @ Alexandria 3 (ALX: Pettit, GWG, A)
Marquette 6 @ Alpena 4 (MAR: Aaron Pietila, 2G, 2A, +3)
Texas 2 @ Kenai River 4 (KEN: Englebright, G, A, +1)
Fargo-Moorhead 4 @ So. Minnesota 6 (SM:Beaudoin, 3G, +1)
Bismarck 3 @ Springfield 8 (SPR: Patterson, 2G, GWG, +2)
USNTDP 0 @ St. Louis 8 (STL: Heeter, 21 saves)
Mahoning Valley 6 @ Traverse City 2 (MV: Graham, 2G, A, +1)
Topeka 2 @ Wichita Falls 3 (WF: Krefski, GWG, A, +1)

Saturday, October 27

Texas 1 @ Alaska 8 (ALK: Barrera, G, GWG, +2)
Alexandria 2 @ North Iowa 8 (NI: Romasco, G, 4A, +4)
Fargo-Moorhead 3 @ So. Minnesota 2 (SO) (FM: Mihulka, G, SOG)
Bismarck 4 @ Springfield 1 (BIS: Falk, G, A, +2)
USNTDP 1 @ St. Louis 3 (STL: O'Kane, 2G, GWG, +3)
Mahoning Valley 5 @ Traverse City 6 (TC: Stephens, 2G, A, +1)
Topeka 2 @ Wichita Falls 1 (TOP: Seckel, GWG, A, +2)

Sunday, October 28

Kenai River 2 @ Alaska 3 (SO) (ALK: Sidor, 30 saves)

AROUND THE NAHL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE: Eleven (11) NAHL players were recognized on the NHL Central Scouting Bureau's "Player to Watch" list for 2008 draft-eligibles released last week.

BONNETT TO BENTLEY: Second-year Mahoning Valley defenseman **Trent Bonnett**, 19, has committed to Bentley College (Atlantic Hockey) for the 2008-09 season. The Butler, Pa., native has a goal and three points after 14 games this year.

RANGERS' JERSEY AUCTION A HIT: The Rangers' "Paint the Place Pink" jersey auction held after Thursday night's Marquette-Alpena game raised nearly \$9,000 for the Marquette General Hospital Cancer Center.

A NEED FOR REED: Topeka forward **Reed Seckel**, 18, figured in three of the RoadRunners' four goals last weekend (a goal and two assists) in a two-game split with Wichita Falls. "Reed has attributes that can't be taught," said RoadRunners coach **Scott Langer**. "He works hard every shift and he contributes in a lot of different ways."

ROMASCO IMPRESSES: North Iowa forward **Tyler Romasco**, 20, potted a goal and three assists in the Outlaws' 8-2 win over Alexandria on Saturday. "He's a great offensive player," said Outlaws assistant coach **Jeff Crouse**. "He's patient with the puck and has good vision."

BIG BEN: Texas forward **Ben Van Lare**, 19, tallied four goals and an assist in the Tornado's 8-3 win over Kenai River on Thursday. He was also a plus-3 on the night. "Ben is becoming a very solid performer for us night in and night out," said Tornado coach **Dwight Mullins**.

JARBOE KEEPS ROLLING: Wichita Falls goaltender **Mike Jarboe**, 19, picked up his league-leading ninth victory of the season in the Wildcats' 3-2 triumph over Topeka on Friday. "Mike has been the key ingredient to our team's early success and we hope he continues his excellent play," said Wildcats coach **John Bowkus**.