



# NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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## STANDINGS

### North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
St. Louis	25	19-5-1	39	.780	109	72
Mahoning Valley	29	18-8-3	39	.672	116	86
Marquette	26	16-9-1	33	.635	99	92
USNTDP	28	13-13-2	28	.500	97	103
Alpena	26	13-12-1	27	.519	79	85
Traverse City	23	9-9-5	23	.500	70	78

### South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	28	17-9-2	36	.643	80	61
Wichita Falls	26	17-8-1	35	.673	89	75
Topeka	23	13-7-3	29	.630	73	56
Alaska	26	13-12-1	27	.519	80	99
Kenai River	29	6-17-6	18	.310	75	126
Texas	28	7-18-3	17	.304	66	98

### Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
North Iowa	23	18-4-1	37	.804	89	46
Springfield	27	16-9-2	34	.630	106	86
So. Minnesota	26	12-9-5	29	.558	97	99
Bismarck	26	11-13-2	24	.462	72	89
Fargo-Moorhead	25	9-15-1	19	.380	81	96
Alexandria	22	6-14-2	14	.318	72	103

## LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	29	23	20	43
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	23	12	30	42
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	24	13	24	37
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	26	17	18	35
Pietila, Aaron	MAR	F	26	14	19	33
Peterson, Erik	ALP	F	26	8	25	33
Warda, Ben	STL	F	25	7	26	33
Everett, Grant	WIC	F	26	11	21	32
Bozoian, Sam	STL	F	24	11	21	32
Boeckman, Chad	MVY	C	29	6	26	32

## LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Moss, Robby	NIO	20	1197:57	16-3-1	1.95	.938
Reichard, Cody	FBX	24	1420:50	14-9-0	2.07	.932
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	20	1205:15	10-7-3	2.29	.903
Jarboe, Mike	WIC	22	1306:13	14-6-1	2.53	.919
Bartus, Garrett	MVY	17	1010:38	11-3-2	2.61	.914

## GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	29	23
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	22	19
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	26	17

## ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	23	30
Warda, Ben	STL	F	25	26
Boeckman, Chad	MVY	C	29	26

## PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Jundt, Tyler	NIO	D	23	+22
Mobley, Max	NIO	F	23	+18
Morin, Matt	NIO	D	23	+18

## Blizzard gets on track

*Spirits high in Alexandria after weekend sweep*

Competitive but struggling to find the win column, the Alexandria Blizzard was rewarded for its efforts last weekend with two morale-boosting victories over the Southern Minnesota Express.

"It was a great weekend for our players' confidence," said Blizzard coach-GM **Brad Willner**, whose team improved to 6-14-2 on the season. "We've been playing well and not winning games. It's nice to finally get a few bounces and get some wins."

On Friday, **Luke Nesper** and **Noah Nemgar** each tallied a goal and an assist as the Blizzard doubled up the Express, 4-2. **Mikael Lickteig** added two assists in the win, and goaltender **Ryan Leets** steered aside 18 shots.



Luke Nesper

The next night, Alexandria overcame a five-goal, third-period deficit to best Southern Minnesota in overtime, 9-8. **Pawel Zurek** and Lickteig each notched two goals and two assists in the triumph, with **Garrett Grimstad** striking for the game-winner in the extra session. **RJ Heath** picked up the win between the pipes.

"We've been playing well and just not getting it done in the third to win," said Willner, whose team got December off on the right foot with a 6-2 victory over Fargo-Moorhead on Dec. 1. "We finally have a calmness spreading throughout the team and playing to win instead of playing not to lose."

The Blizzard's top line of Lickteig, Nesper, who is on a seven-game point-scoring streak (13 points), and **Jerry Freismuth** has motivated the team in more ways than one.

"They've really been playing well together," said Willner. "They're all veteran leaders of this team, both on and off the ice. Those guys have kept the team positive during the tough times and have instilled a never-quit attitude in the locker room."

Grimstead, Nemgar and **Brandon Bahnemann** have also proved to be an effective line combination upfront, along with the trio of Zurek, **Jascha Pettit** and **Kyle Clement**.

"Those two lines stepped up big on Saturday and spurred our comeback," said Willner.

The Blizzard still occupies the last-place spot in the NAHL's Central Division, but Willner is encouraged with the team's renewed attitude the past few weeks.

"I thought we had a good team going into the season and I didn't expect to be where we are," said the coach. "We've played well enough to win games, but somehow found ways to lose them."

Story continued at [nahl.com](http://nahl.com)...



## LAST WEEK'S SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS

### Thursday, December 6

USNTDP 4 @ Alpena 3 (USA: Calabrese, GWG, A, +1)  
North Iowa 2 @ Bismarck 1 (NI: Mobley, GWG, A, +1)

### Friday, December 7

Southern Minnesota 2 @ Alexandria 4 (ALX: Nesper, G, A, +2)  
North Iowa 5 @ Bismarck 0 (NI: Maginnis, 21 saves)  
Kenai River 0 @ Fairbanks 6 (FBX: Reichard, 21 saves)  
Mahoning Valley 3 @ Marquette 4 (OT) (MAR: Grogan, GWG, A, +2)  
Texas 2 @ Springfield 4 (SPR: Globke, 3A, +2)  
St. Louis 6 @ Wichita Falls 1 (STL: Rabbani, 3G, +3)

### Saturday, December 8

Kenai River 0 @ Fairbanks 6 (FBX: Fuller, 31 saves)  
Mahoning Valley 8 @ Marquette 2 (MV: Graham-Blakey, 2G, A, +3)  
Alexandria 9 @ Southern Minnesota 8 (OT) (ALX: Zurek, 2G, 2A, +4)  
Texas 2 @ Springfield 3 (SPR: Crowder, GWG, A, +2)  
Alpena 3 @ Traverse City 2 (OT) (ALP: Grasso, GWG, A)  
St. Louis 3 @ Wichita Falls 4 (OT) (WF: Everett, G, 2A, +2)

## NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Mahoning Valley forward **Derek Graham** rang up three goals and two assists last weekend as the Phantoms fashioned a 1-0-1 record against Marquette. On Friday, the 19-year-old recorded a goal and an assist in a 4-3 overtime loss. The next night, the Schoolcraft, Mich., native scored two goals and an assist as the Phantoms cruised to an 8-2 win over the Rangers. The Ferris State University recruit was also a plus-5 for the weekend.



"Once again, Derek was our leader," said Phantoms assistant coach **Curtis Carr**. "He played very good offensively and defensively. He brought a lot of intensity and worked hard every shift. He competes in every zone, and he brings it every night."

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Alpena forward **Jimmy McCusker**

## SOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Fairbanks defenseman **Arthur Bidwill** tallied two goals and two assists last weekend as the Ice Dogs celebrated a pair of shutout victories over Kenai River. On Friday, the 20-year-old scored two goals as Fairbanks blanked the Brown Bears, 6-0. The next night, the Fontana, Wis., native recorded two assists in another 6-0 Ice Dogs victory. He was also plus-5 for the weekend.



"Arthur has been very solid on the power play and steady night in and night out," said Ice Dogs assistant coach **Josh Hauge**. "Our entire defensive core has been exceptional of late, and Arthur has played a big role for us."

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Wichita Falls forward **Grant Everett**

## CENTRAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Alexandria forward **Mikael Lickteig** struck for two goals and four assists last weekend as the Blizzard skated to a pair of wins over Southern Minnesota. On Friday, the 20-year-old registered two assists in a 4-2 win. The next night, the Little Falls, Minn., native tallied two goals and two assists as the Blizzard downed the Express in overtime, 9-8. He was also a plus-3 for the weekend.



"Mikael is a big part of this team, both on and off the ice," said Blizzard coach-GM **Brad Willner**. "He works hard and brings a real positive work ethic to the rink every day."

**HONORABLE MENTION:** North Iowa goaltender **Austin Macginnis**

## THE WEEK AHEAD

*all times local*

### Friday, December 14

Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm  
 Fargo-Moorhead @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm  
 Marquette @ Alpena, 7:00 pm  
 Bismarck @ Southern Minnesota, 8:00 pm  
 North Iowa @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm  
 Wichita Falls @ Texas, 7:30 pm  
 Springfield @ Topeka, 7:05 pm  
 USNTDP @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm

### Saturday, December 15

Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm  
 Alpena @ Marquette, 7:30 pm  
 Bismarck @ Southern Minnesota, 7:30 pm  
 North Iowa @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm  
 Wichita Falls @ Texas, 7:30 pm  
 Springfield @ Topeka, 7:05 pm  
 USNTDP @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm

### Sunday, December 16

Fargo-Moorhead @ Alexandria, 5:00 pm

## AROUND THE NAHL

**MIDGET SHOWCASE GAMES ON B2:** Select games at this week's NAHL Midget Showcase Series tournament, which will be held December 13-16 in Chesterfield, Mo., will be video broadcast over the Internet through B2 Networks. Visit [nahlmidgetshowcase.com](http://nahlmidgetshowcase.com) for details.

**TOP PROSPECTS DETAILS ANNOUNCED:** Details on the NAHL's first annual Top Prospects Tournament, which will be held February 17-19 at the Ice Cube in Ann Arbor, Mich., were announced last week. See more at [nahl.com](http://nahl.com).

**SCHROEDER TO WORLD JUNIORS:** Sixteen (16) members of the 2008 U.S. National Junior Team, which was announced last week by USA Hockey, spent time with USA Hockey's National Team Development Program, including current Under-18 Team forward **Jordan Schroeder**.

**ST. NICKS:** Alpena's acquisitions of forward **Nick Grasso**, 19, and goaltender **Nick Graves**, 19, paid immediate dividends last weekend. Grasso, picked up from Columbus of the USHL, scored the OT game-winner in the IceDiggers' 3-2 win over Traverse City on Saturday, while Graves, who was acquired in a trade from Southern Minnesota, made 20 saves in the victory, his first start with the team.

**OUTLAW STRIKES FOR POLAND:** North Iowa forward **Krystian Dziubinski**, 19, scored Poland's lone goal in its 6-1 loss to Austria on Sunday in the opening game of the World Junior Championships (Division I, Pool A).

**AUSTIN'S POWERS:** North Iowa goaltender **Austin Maginnis**, 19, made the most of his third start of the season on Friday, recording his first career shutout (21 saves) in a 5-0 win over Bismarck. "Austin has waited patiently all year long to get his chance, and he played strong, made a few big saves and got the shutout," said Outlaws coach **Dave Boitz**. "You can't ask much more of a kid."

**HIGH FIVES:** Fairbanks and Springfield are both riding five-game winning streaks after last weekend's two-game sweeps of Kenai River and Texas, respectively.

**WALTERS ON A TEAR:** North Iowa forward **Shea Walters**, 20, recorded five more assists in two wins over Bismarck last weekend. The Bemidji State University recruit now has points in his last 10 games dating back to Nov. 2 (22 total).