



# NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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## STANDINGS

### North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
St. Louis	27	21-5-1	43	.796	117	74
Mahoning Valley	29	18-8-3	39	.672	116	86
Marquette	28	16-10-2	34	.607	102	101
Alpena	28	15-12-1	31	.554	88	88
USNTDP	30	14-14-2	30	.500	105	108
Traverse City	25	10-10-5	25	.500	75	86

### South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	30	19-9-2	40	.667	84	62
Wichita Falls	28	19-8-1	39	.696	98	79
Topeka	25	15-7-3	33	.660	78	58
Alaska	28	13-14-1	27	.482	81	103
Kenai River	29	6-17-6	18	.310	75	126
Texas	30	7-20-3	17	.283	70	107

### Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
North Iowa	25	18-6-1	37	.740	91	54
Springfield	29	16-10-3	35	.603	108	91
So. Minnesota	28	14-9-5	33	.589	107	104
Bismarck	28	11-15-2	24	.429	77	99
Fargo-Moorhead	27	10-15-2	22	.407	90	104
Alexandria	24	7-15-2	16	.333	80	112

## LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	25	12	32	44
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	29	23	20	43
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	26	17	26	43
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	28	17	21	38
Warda, Ben	STL	F	27	8	28	36
Everett, Grant	WIC	F	27	12	23	35
Pietila, Aaron	MAR	F	28	14	20	34
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	24	20	13	33
Bozoian, Sam	STL	F	26	11	22	33
Peterson, Erik	ALP	F	26	8	25	33

## LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Reichard, Cody	FBX	26	1540:50	16-9-0	1.95	.936
Moss, Robby	NIO	20	1197:57	16-3-1	1.95	.938
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	22	1330:15	12-7-3	2.17	.907
Jarboe, Mike	WIC	24	1426:13	16-6-1	2.48	.921
Johnson, Mike	STL	14	788:30	10-2-1	2.51	.905

## GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	29	23
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	24	20

(two players tied with 17)

## ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	25	32
Warda, Ben	STL	F	27	28

(two players tied with 26)

## PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Jundt, Tyler	NIO	D	25	+19
Niemann, Harrison	TNS	F	23	+18
Gens, Aaron	TPK	D	24	+17

## Banner weekend in STL

*Bandits commemorate Robertson Cup with sweep*

With the NAHL Midget Showcase Series in town last weekend, the St. Louis Bandits took center stage to commemorate their 2007 national title with a ring and banner presentation highlighted by a two-game series against the Central Division-leading North Iowa Outlaws.

“Anytime you have a special event to honor a championship with a number of people from the league, colleges, the NHL and amateur hockey in attendance, you don’t want to go out and lay an egg,” said Bandits coach-GM **Jon Cooper**.



**Cal Heeter**

St. Louis did anything but, knocking off the Outlaws twice, starting with a 4-1 win on Friday. **Mike Merrifield** struck for two goals, including the game-winner, in that contest, while goaltender **Cal Heeter** turned aside 36 shots.

The next night, with St. Louis Blues defenseman **Erik Johnson** on hand to present the championship rings, the Bandits skated to another 4-1 victory. **Ben Miller** and **Kyle O’Kane** both recorded a goal and an assist for St. Louis, while Heeter and **Mike Johnson** combined to stop 43 shots.

“I think it was a good measuring stick for us,” said Cooper, whose team holds a league-best 21-5-1 record. “We’ve been playing a number of solid teams that are at the top of their divisions and to take points from a team like North Iowa is great for our confidence.”

The Bandits have been getting exceptional play from their veterans of late, in particular O’Kane, **Ben Warda**, **Mike Leone**, **Sam Bozoian** and **Mike Murray**.

“They’ve all started to elevate their play on the ice as well as their leadership and we’re going to need that in the second half if we want to stay where we are in an extremely tough and competitive North Division,” said Cooper.

The Bandits are also going to need continued clutch performances from their goaltending tandem of Heeter and Johnson. Both have 10 wins on the season with save percentages north of .900.

“We’ve been very fortunate over the years to have solid goaltending and this year has been no different,” said Cooper, whose team won its national championship last season with NAHL Rookie of the Year **Pat Nagle** between the pipes. “You can have 18 all-stars upfront, but if a team doesn’t have confidence in its goaltending, it’s hard to win games.

“Our team thrives off of those two and I can’t imagine where we’d be without them.”

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



## LAST WEEK'S SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS

### NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Alpena forward **Jimmy McCusker** struck for two goals and an assist last weekend as the IceDiggers skated to a two-game sweep over Marquette. On Friday, the 18-year-old notched two goals in a 3-2 overtime win. The next night, the Novi, Mich., native assisted on **Issac Vau**'s game-winning goal as Alpena downed the Rangers, 6-1.



"Jimmy is our leader and he leads by example," said IceDiggers coach-GM **Kenny Miller**. "He really stepped up his game last weekend. He plays with passion every night and it's nice to see him get rewarded."

**HONORABLE MENTION:** St. Louis goaltender **Cal Heeter**; U.S. Under-17 Team forward **Kenny Ryan**

### SOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Fairbanks goaltender **Cody Reichard** backstopped the Ice Dogs to a pair of victories over Alaska last weekend, turning aside 68 of 69 shots. On Friday, the 20-year-old posted his league-leading fifth shutout of the season in a 2-0 win (32 saves). The next night, the Celina, Ohio, native stopped 36 shots as the Ice Dogs doubled up the Avalanche, 2-1.

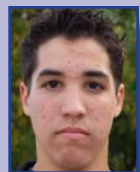


"Cody continues to prove himself as one of the top goaltenders in the entire league," said Ice Dogs assistant coach **Josh Hauge**. "We wouldn't be having the success we are this season without him."

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Topeka goaltender **Bryce Merriam**; Wichita Falls forward **Adam Cardwell** and goaltender **Mike Jarboe**

### CENTRAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Fargo-Moorhead forward **Jordy Trottier** tallied five assists last weekend as the Jets picked up three of four points in two games against Alexandria. On Friday, the 19-year-old had a hand in two goals in a 5-4 overtime loss. On Sunday, the Bozeman, Mont., native assisted on three more markers, including **Marc Harrie**'s game-winning goal, as Fargo-Moorhead snapped its eight-game losing streak with a 5-3 triumph over the Blizzard. He was also a plus-4 for the weekend.



"Jordy seems to always align himself with the play in front of him and makes good decisions on the ice, especially when we need them most," said Jets assistant coach **Aaron Kinslow**.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Fargo-Moorhead defenseman **Brandon Bukowski**; Southern Minnesota forward **Ben Beaudoin**

### THE WEEK AHEAD

*all times local*

#### Wednesday, December 19

Kenai River @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

#### Friday, December 21

Kenai River @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Traverse City @ Alpena, 7:00 pm

USNTDP @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm

St. Louis @ Springfield, 7:30 pm

Texas @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

#### Saturday, December 22

Kenai River @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

USNTDP @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm

Springfield @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm

Alpena @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm

Texas @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

#### Friday, December 14

Fairbanks 2 @ Alaska 0 (FBX: Reichard, 32 saves)

Fargo-Moor. 4 @ Alexandria 5 (SO) (ALX: Bahnemann, 2G, SOG, +1)

Marquette 2 @ Alpena 3 (OT) (ALP: McCusker, 2G)

Bismarck 1 @ Southern Minnesota 4 (SM: Beaudoin, G, GWG, +2)

North Iowa 1 @ St. Louis 4 (STL: Heeter, 36 saves)

Wichita Falls 3 @ Texas 2 (WF: Sponseller, G, GWG, A, +3)

Springfield 1 @ Topeka 2 (SO) (TOP: Merriam, 18 saves)

USNTDP 6 @ Traverse City 2 (USA: Bourque, GWG)

#### Saturday, December 15

Fairbanks 2 @ Alaska 1 (FBX: Waggoner, G, A, +1)

Alpena 6 @ Marquette 1 (ALP: Viau, GWG, A, +2)

Bismarck 4 @ Southern Minnesota 6 (SM: Falk, 2G, +1)

North Iowa 1 @ St. Louis 4 (STL: Miller, G, A, +2)

Wichita Falls 6 @ Texas 2 (WF: 2G, GWG, A, +4)

Springfield 1 @ Topeka 3 (TOP: Seckel, 2A, +1)

USNTDP 2 @ Traverse City 3 (TC: Niemann, 2G, +1)

#### Sunday, December 16

Fargo-Moorhead 5 @ Alexandria 3 (FM: Trottier, 3A, +2)

### AROUND THE NAHL

**MISSION, MERCER CROWNED MIDGET CHAMPS:** Chicago Mission (U18) and the Mercer (N.J.) Chiefs (U16) were crowned champions of the season's second NAHL Midget Showcase Series event held last weekend at The Summit Center in Chesterfield, Mo.

**LITKE RESIGNS:** **Dane Litke** resigned as Bismarck's head coach. He was replaced by **Byron Pool**, who accepted the position of interim head coach. Pool was serving as the Bobcats' assistant coach under Litke.

**MERRIAM PACES ROADRUNNERS:** Topeka goaltender **Bryce Merriam**, 19, backstopped the RoadRunners to a two-game sweep over Springfield last weekend, allowing only two goals in two starts. Topeka has won 10 of its last 12 games.

**CARDWELL KEEP CRUSING:** **Adam Cardwell**, 20, continues to shine offensively, racking up three more goals, including his league-leading sixth game-winner of the season, and two assists in two Wildcat wins over Texas last weekend. "Adam was great for us, both offensively and defensively," said Wildcats coach-GM **John Bowkus**. "He competes hard and is doing everything a true captain should do to help his team be successful."

**COLLEGES CALLING:** Wichita Falls goaltender **Mike Jarboe**, 19, picked up his league-leading 15th and 16th wins of the season last weekend against Texas, allowing only four goals on 70 shots. "He has lots of schools recruiting him and I feel that whoever gets him will see him becoming the No. 1 go-to guy very quickly," said Wildcats coach-GM **John Bowkus**.

**CAMPER HONORED BY CCHA:** University of Miami-Ohio freshman forward **Carter Camper** (Cleveland Jr. Barons, 2004-06) was named the CCHA Rookie of the Week after scoring three goals and two assists in two Redhawk victories last weekend.

**COOL HAND LUKE:** With a goal and two assists in Sunday's 5-3 loss to Fargo-Moorhead, Alexandria forward **Luke Nesper**, 20, extended his point-scoring streak to nine games (17 points).

**ON THE FAST TRACK:** Southern Minnesota forward **Ben Beaudoin**, 20, added to his team-leading point totals last weekend with two goals and two assists in the Express' two-game sweep of Bismarck.