



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

For Immediate Release • January 7, 2008

Press Release Prepared By Brian McDonough, NAHL Director of Marketing & Communications
 Phone: (612) 929-2171 • Fax: (214) 975-2250 • bmcDonough@nahl.com • www.nahl.com

STANDINGS

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
St. Louis	33	26-6-1	53	.803	145	86
Marquette	33	20-11-2	42	.636	123	119
Mahoning Valley	31	19-9-3	41	.661	126	94
Alpena	33	19-12-2	40	.606	110	100
USNTDP	32	15-15-2	32	.500	113	118
Traverse City	33	11-14-8	30	.455	95	119

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Wichita Falls	34	22-11-1	45	.662	123	103
Fairbanks	32	20-10-2	42	.656	88	69
Topeka	29	16-8-5	37	.638	91	74
Alaska	33	15-16-2	32	.485	99	121
Texas	36	10-23-3	23	.319	94	133
Kenai River	32	8-18-6	22	.344	89	137

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
North Iowa	30	22-7-1	45	.750	115	72
Springfield	36	18-15-3	39	.542	128	126
So. Minnesota	32	15-11-6	36	.563	123	124
Bismarck	33	12-18-3	27	.409	90	123
Fargo-Moorhead	32	12-18-2	26	.406	111	119
Alexandria	28	11-15-2	24	.429	101	127

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	32	20	32	52
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	30	12	39	51
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	31	23	24	47
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	34	21	25	46
Peterson, Erik	ALP	F	31	12	32	44
Warda, Ben	STL	F	33	11	32	43
Everett, Grant	WIC	F	33	13	29	42
Greco, Kyle	SPR	F	35	16	23	39

(three players tied with 38)

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	28	1660:45	17-10-0	2.06	.932
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	25	1518:12	12-8-5	2.29	.899
Johnson, Mike	STL	16	908:30	12-2-1	2.31	.913
Bartus, Garrett	MVY	18	1070:38	12-3-2	2.52	.917

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	31	23
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	34	21
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	28	21

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	30	39

(three players tied with 32)

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Merrifield, Mike	STL	F	33	+20
Morin, Matt	NIO	D	30	+20

(three players tied at +19)

Outlaws rolling along

First-place North Iowa picks up two more wins

Even with the league's top goaltender **Robby Moss** on the shelf, the first-place North Iowa Outlaws continue to go about their business in the NAHL's Central Division, posting two more wins last weekend against the Fargo-Moorhead Jets.

"Those were huge wins and a big four points for us," said North Iowa coach **Dave Boitz**, whose team improved to 22-7-1 on the season. "We needed that momentum."

Tyler Jundt (two goals), **Alex Carlson** (goal, assist) and **Max Mobley** (two assists) all recorded two-point nights in a 6-4 triumph on Friday. Goaltender **Matt Beggs** picked up the win in net, making all 20 saves in two periods of relief.



Max Mobley

The next night, Mobley connected for the game-winning goal and an assist as the Outlaws grounded the Jets, 3-2. **Krystian Dziubinski** and **Bryant Skarda** added the other North Iowa markers, while Betts turned aside 34 shots between the pipes.

"We got a balanced scoring attack and that always helps us out," said Boitz. "We had a bunch of guys put the puck in the net, which is something we'd gotten away from the last few weeks, but we're getting it back."

The Outlaws have gone a respectable 5-3 without Moss, the league's leader in goals-against average (1.95) and save percentage (.938) who has been out of the lineup since early December.

"To win without Robby, the best goalie in the league, says a lot about the guys, their level of play and what they're capable of doing," said Boitz.

Boitz, who will serve as head coach of the Central Division at next month's NAHL Top Prospects Tournament, expects his prized netminder to be back between the pipes in the next few weeks.

"But you never want to rush a guy back, especially a player of his caliber," he noted. "And, with the way we're playing, there isn't a rush."

North Iowa has been getting steady performances from Beggs, who was acquired last month from Alexandria.

"We were happy with the way Matt stepped in on Friday and got the win, and then again on Saturday," said Boitz.

It was an extra special weekend for Mobley. With his four points against the Jets, the third-year forward became the Outlaws' all-time leading scorer with 118 points, eclipsing former teammate **Steve Mcleod's** mark.

Story continued at nahl.com...



LAST WEEK'S SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Alpena forward **Erik Peterson** struck for three goals and five assists as the IceDiggers skated to two wins last weekend. On Friday, the 19-year-old recorded four assists, including one on **Russell Anderson's** game-winning goal, in a 7-3 victory over Marquette. On Sunday, the Alpena native tallied two goals, as well as the game-winner in the shootout, and an assist as the IceDiggers bested Traverse City, 4-3. He was also a plus-4 for the weekend.

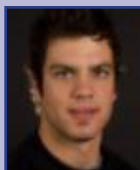


"Erik is playing with a lot of confidence and is leading our team right now," said IceDiggers coach-GM **Kenny Miller**. "He's a threat to score every time he's on the ice."

HONORABLE MENTION: Alpena goaltender **Nick Graves**

SOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Texas forward **Ben Van Lare** tallied three goals and two assists last weekend as the Tornado split a pair of games with Wichita Falls. On Friday, the 20-year-old recorded a hat trick, including the game-winning goal, in a 4-3 triumph. The next night, the Richardson, Texas, native assisted on two goals as the Tornado fell to the Wildcats, 7-5. He was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



"Ben is a strong, veteran player who gives 100 percent every time he touches the ice and his efforts are showing in his stats," said Tornado coach-GM **Dwight Mullins**.

HONORABLE MENTION: Topeka forward **Steve Shafer**

CENTRAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

North Iowa forward **Max Mobley** notched a goal and three assists last weekend, setting an all-time franchise record for points (118), as the Outlaws skated to a two-game sweep over Fargo-Moorhead. On Friday, the 20-year-old recorded two assists in a 6-4 win. The next night, the Glendale, Ariz., native rang up the game-winning goal and added an assist as the Outlaws downed the Jets, 3-2. He was also a plus-4 on the weekend.



"Max is full of energy and has a passion for the game," said Outlaws coach **Dave Boitz**. "He's the kind of player that every coach wants; he never quits on you, always gives 110 percent and is a huge asset to this team."

HONORABLE MENTION: Bismarck defenseman **Austin Coldwell**; Fargo-Moorhead forward **Jordy Trotter** and defenseman **Mark Johnson**

THE WEEK AHEAD

all times local

Thursday, January 10

Southern Minnesota @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
Bismarck @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm

Friday, January 11

Marquette @ Alpena, 7:00 pm
USNTDP @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
North Iowa @ Southern Minnesota, 7:00 pm
Springfield @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm
Kenai River @ Texas, 7:30 pm
Alaska @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 12

Marquette @ Alpena, 7:00 pm
Alexandria @ Fargo-Moorhead, 7:05 pm
USNTDP @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Bismarck @ North Iowa, 8:00 pm
St. Louis @ Springfield, 7:00 pm
Kenai River @ Texas, 7:30 pm
Alaska @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 13

Fargo-Moorhead @ Alexandria, 5:00 pm

Friday, January 4

Marquette 3 @ Alpena 7 (ALP: (Peterson, 4A, +1)
Alexandria 3 @ Bismarck 2 (ALX: Hartman, GWG)
Alaska 5 @ Fairbanks 1 (ALK: Dargis, G, GWG, +2)
Fargo-Moorhead 4 @ North Iowa 6 (NI: Jundt, 2G, +1)
St. Louis 3 @ Springfield 4 (SPR: Greco, GWG, 2A, +1)
Wichita Falls 3 @ Texas 4 (TEX: Van Lare, 2G, GWG, +3)
Southern Minnesota 4 @ Topeka 3 (OT) (SM: Lipinski, GWG)

Saturday, January 6

Alexandria 6 @ Bismarck 5 (SO) (ALX: Clement, 3G, +3)
Alaska 2 @ Fairbanks 3 (FBX: Stonacek, G, GWG, +1)
Fargo-Moorhead 2 @ North Iowa 3 (NI: Mobley, GWG, A, +2)
St. Louis 4 @ Springfield 1 (STL: Warda, GWG, A, +2)
Wichita Falls 7 @ Texas 5 (WF: Jameson, 4A, +1)
Southern Minnesota 4 @ Topeka 5 (SO) (TOP: Artman, 2G)
Marquette 5 @ Traverse City 4 (SO) (MAR: Chad Pietila, 2G)

Sunday, January 7

Traverse City 3 @ Alpena 4 (SO) (ALP: Peterson, 3G, SOG, A, +1)

AROUND THE NAHL

TOP PROSPECTS COACHES NAMED: St. Louis coach **Jon Cooper** (North Division), Wichita Falls coach **John Bowkus** (South) and North Iowa coach **Dave Boitz** (Central) will serve as head coaches at the NAHL Top Prospects Tournament, which will be held February 17-19 at the Ice Cube in Ann Arbor, Mich.

BALDASSARI TO HOLY CROSS: Second-year Fairbanks forward **Gianni Baldassari**, 20, has committed to Holy Cross (Atlantic Hockey) for next season. This year, the Fort Wayne, Ind., native has three goals for eight points after 23 games.

U17's TAKE SECOND AT WHC: The U.S. Under-17 Team (4-2) finished in second place at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge in Ontario. University of Notre Dame recruit **Cam Fowler** was selected to the tournament's all-star team.

PHANTOMS SHOWCASE COMING: Details on the Phantoms Hockey Showcase, which will be held January 18-21 at the Boardman Ice Zone in Boardman, Ohio, have been announced. Visit nahl.com for more information.

SHAFER IMPRESSES: Topeka forward **Steve Shafer**, 18, made some noise in the RoadRunners' two-game split with Southern Minnesota last weekend, recording two goals and an assist. "He's worked hard since camp to earn his position here, and he's become a player that's hard to keep out of the lineup," said Topeka coach-GM **Scott Langer**.

ALUM COPS ATLANTIC HOCKEY AWARD: Canisius sophomore forward **Josh Heidinger** (Bozeman Icedogs, 2005-06) was named the Atlantic Hockey Player of the Month for December after posting two goals for five points in four games.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL: Mahoning Valley traded first-year defenseman **Zack Barbis**, 18, to Alpena for second-year defenseman **Carl Nielsen**, 19.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL II: Marquette acquired defenseman **J.C. Richardson**, 17, from Alaska and forward **Jake Watchorn**, 18, from Wichita Falls.

JEAN DEALT TO TC: Traverse City picked up 17-year-old forward **Kyle Jean**, who was listed by NHL Central Scouting on its preliminary ranking for 2008 draft-eligibles, from Marquette for a pair of tenders.