NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
St. Louis	35	28-6-1	57	.814	158	89
Alpena	35	21-12-2	44	.629	117	102
Mahoning Valley	33	20-10-3	43	.652	134	99
Marquette	35	20-13-2	42	.600	125	126
USNTDP	34	16-16-2	34	.500	118	126
Traverse City	33	11-14-8	30	.455	95	119

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Wichita Falls	36	24-11-1	49	.681	136	110
Fairbanks	32	20-10-2	42	.656	88	69
Topeka	29	16-8-5	37	.638	91	74
Alaska	35	15-18-2	32	.457	106	134
Texas	38	12-23-3	27	.355	101	134
Kenai River	34	8-20-6	22	.324	90	144

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
North Iowa	33	24-8-1	49	.742	126	83
Springfield	38	18-17-3	39	.513	131	139
So. Minnesota	34	16-12-6	38	.559	130	136
Alexandria	31	13-15-3	29	.468	116	134
Fargo-Moorhead	34	13-19-2	28	.412	118	127
Bismarck	35	12-20-3	27	.386	94	129

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	34	21	37	58
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	33	14	43	57
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	33	25	27	52
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	36	24	27	51
Warda, Ben	STL	F	35	13	34	47
Everett, Grant	WIC	F	35	15	30	45
Peterson, Erik	ALP	F	33	13	32	45
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	30	25	18	43
Jameson, Skylur	WIC	F	36	16	25	41

(four players tied with 40)

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Reichard, Cody	FBX	28	1660:45	17-10-0	2.06	.932
Moss, Robby	NIO	21	1233:58	16-3-1	2.14	.932
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	25	1518:12	12-8-5	2.29	.899
Johnson, Mike	STL	17	968:30	13-2-1	2.29	.914
Graves, Nick	ALP	17	1002:16	11-3-3	2.51	.908

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	33	25
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	30	25
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	36	24

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	33	43
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	34	37
Warda, Ben	STL	F	35	34

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	33	+21
OKane, Kyle	STL	F	30	+21
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	34	+20

IceDiggers stay hot
Alpena streaks into Phantoms Showcase

With a 9-1 record in their last 10 games, fewer teams are hotter right now than the Alpena IceDiggers, who stuck to their winning ways last weekend with a pair of victories over the Marquette Rangers.

"We realize it's only January, but this division is very tight so every point counts," said IceDiggers coach-GM **Kenny Miller**, whose team improved to 21-12-2 on the season. "But right now, we're concentrating on each game as it comes and not looking too far ahead."

Erik Peterson

Goaltender **Nick Graves** turned aside all 19 shots on Friday as the IceDiggers blanked the Rangers, 3-0. **Russell Anderson** tallied a goal and an assist in the win, with **Ryan Timar** (game-winner) and **Erik Peterson** notching the other Alpena goals.

The next night, **Jon Puskar** struck for two goals, including the game-winner, as the IceDiggers doubled up Marquette, 4-2. **Isaac Vaiu** added two assists, and goaltender **Nate Pellegrino** made 27 saves.

"We had solid goaltending both nights and you can tell the guys are coming to the rink ready to play every night," said Miller.

Graves, who was picked up earlier in the season from Southern Minnesota, and Pellegrino have been exceptional of late. Both hold save percentages over .900 and have been instrumental in Alpena's recent surge.

"The coaching staff and the players have total confidence in either guy that plays," Miller said of his tandem between the pipes. "They find ways to get the job done."

And that's led to a move up the North Division standings, where the IceDiggers now sit in second-place, 13 points behind the front-running St. Louis Bandits.

"We're getting solid play from both the veterans and the rookies; every guy has stepped up his game," said Miller. "Guys like Peterson, Anderson and Graves all the way down to the younger guys like (Tyler) Pilmore and (JC) Gulch are chipping in each night to give us a chance to win. The entire team is doing what it takes right now."

Timar and defenseman **Jerrod Hartman**, both first-year players, have also been playing keys roles in Alpena's success. The 18-year-old's constant improvement since Day 1 has drawn the praise of their coach.

"These two guys made major strides since we started the season," said Miller. "Both of them have been playing with lots of confidence since the holiday break."

Story continued at nahl.com...

NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

St. Louis forward **Ben Miller** rang up two goals and five assists last weekend as the Bandits skated to a two-game sweep over Springfield. On Friday, the 18-year-old notched a goal and four assists, including one on **Kyle O'Kane**'s game-winning marker, in a 10-1 victory. The next night, the Oakland Township, Mich., native tallied the game-winning goal and an assist as St. Louis downed the Jr. Blues, 3-2. He was also a plus-5 for the weekend.

HONORABLE MENTION: Alpena forwards **Jerrod Hartman** and **Ryan Timar**; Mahoning Valley forward **Derek Graham**; Team USA forward **David Wohlberg**

SOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Wichita Falls forward **Adam Cardwell** tallied a goal and five assists last weekend in a two-game sweep of Alaska. On Friday, the 20-year-old connected for a goal and an assist in a 6-3 triumph. The next night, the Long Beach, Calif., native assisted on four goals as the Wildcats bested the Avalanche, 7-4. He was also a plus-4 for the weekend.

HONORABLE MENTION: Texas goaltender **Thomas Callaghan**; Wichita Falls forward **Luke Salazar**

CENTRAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Alexandria forward **Brandon Bahnemann** struck for four goals and two assists last week as the Blizzard fashioned a 2-0-1 record. On Thursday, the 19-year-old scored a goal and an assist in a 7-0 shutout of Southern Minnesota. On Saturday, the Rochester, Minn., native notched the game-winning goal and an assist in the Blizzard's 5-3 triumph over Fargo-Moorhead. The next night, Bahnemann recorded two more goals as Alexandria fell to the Jets in overtime, 4-3. He was also a plus-4 for the week.

HONORABLE MENTION: Fargo-Moorhead forward **Justin Kirchhevel** and defenseman **Mark Johnson**; North Iowa defenseman **Tyler Jundt** and goaltender **Matt Beggs**

THE WEEK AHEAD

all times local

Tuesday, January 15
Kenai River @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Friday, January 18
North Iowa @ Bismarck, 7:05 pm
Southern Minnesota @ Fargo-Moorhead, 7:35 pm
Marquette @ Mahoning Valley, 7:30 pm
Traverse City @ St. Louis, 4:00 pm
Fairbanks @ Texas, 7:30 pm
Alpena @ USNTDP, 12:00 pm
Alaska @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 19
St. Louis @ Alpena, 12:00 pm
North Iowa @ Bismarck, 7:05 pm
Southern Minnesota @ Fargo-Moorhead, 7:05 pm
USNTDP @ Marquette, 4:00 pm
Topeka @ Springfield, 7:00 pm
Fairbanks @ Texas, 7:30 pm
Mahoning Valley @ Traverse City, 7:30 pm
Alaska @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 20
Marquette @ Mahoning Valley, 7:30 pm
Topeka @ Springfield, 2:00 pm
Traverse City @ St. Louis, 4:00 pm
Alpena @ USNTDP, 12:00 pm

LAST WEEK'S SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, January 10
Southern Minnesota 0 @ Alexandria 7 (ALX: Leets, 26 saves)
Bismarck 3 @ North Iowa 4 (NI: Carlson, 2G)

Friday, January 11
Marquette 0 @ Alpena 3 (ALP: Graves, 19 saves)
USNTDP 3 @ Mahoning Valley 2 (USA: Wohlberg, 2G, +2)
North Iowa 5 @ Southern Minnesota 7 (SM: Willms, G, A, +2)
Springfield 1 @ St. Louis 10 (STL: Miller, G, 4A, +4)
Kenai River 0 @ Texas 2 (TEX: Callaghan, 25 saves)
Alaska 3 @ Wichita Falls 6 (WF: Skylur Jameson, G, GWG, +3)

Saturday, January 12
Marquette 2 @ Alpena 4 (ALP: Puskar, G, GWG. +2)
Alexandria 5 @ Fargo-Moorhead 3 (ALX: Lickteig, 3G, +2)
USNTDP 2 @ Mahoning Valley 6 (MV: Hirschfeld, 2G, A, +3)
Bismarck 1 @ North Iowa 2 (NI: Beggs, 30 saves)
St. Louis 3 @ Springfield 2 (STL: O'Kane, 2G, A, +1)
Kenai River 1 @ Texas 5 (TEX: Bengston, 2G, +3)
Alaska 4 @ Wichita Falls 7 (WF: Cardwell, 4A, +2)

Sunday, January 13
Fargo-Moorhead 4 @ Alexandria 3 (SO) (FM: Philipp, G, SOG)

AROUND THE NAHL

PHANTOMS SHOWCASE APPROACHES: The Phantoms Showcase will kick off on Friday at the Boardman Ice Zone in Boardman, Ohio. Visit nahl.com for more information on the four-day event.

GENS TO ALASKA-FAIRBANKS: Fourth-year Topeka defenseman **Aaron Gens**, 20, has committed to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (CCHA) for next season. The Baudette, Minn., leads the NAHL in scoring among defensemen with 32 points (nine goals) after 28 games.

NAHL ON NHL RADAR: Fourteen (14) players with NAHL ties were recognized by the NHL Central Scouting Bureau on its midterm rankings of 2008 draft-eligibles released last week, including second-year Mahoning Valley defenseman **Eric Ringel**, 17.

BOURBONAIS TO FLY WITH AIR FORCE: Traverse City forward **Clinton Bourbonais**, 18, has committed to the Air Force Academy (Atlantic Hockey) for the 2009-10 season. After 32 games this year, the Whitmore Lake, Mich., native has five goals for 17 points.

HARRIS BROTHERS TO BISMARCK: Bismarck traded forward **Kurt Weston**, 19, to Kenai River for twins **Jeffrey** and **Kevin Harris**, 19.

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 two goals and an assist in the RedHawks' two-game sweep of Nebraska-Omaha.

TOP PROSPECTS ROSTERS UPDATE: Rosters for the first annual Top Prospects Tournament, which will be held February 17-19 at the Ice Cube in Ann Arbor, Mich., will be released on Monday, January 21.

CALLAGHAN SHINES: Goaltender **Thomas Callaghan**, 19, continues to leads the Texas' resurgence, backstopping the Tornado two a pair of wins over Kenai River last weekend, including a 25-save shutout on Friday (2-0). "Tommy is playing the best hockey I've seen from him in two years and it's coming at a great time as we push to make the playoffs," Tornado coach-GM **Dwight Mullins** said.