



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

For Immediate Release • February 11, 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	45	36-8-1	73	.811	196	119
Mahoning Valley	43	26-13-4	56	.651	169	128
Alpena	43	25-15-3	53	.616	144	126
Marquette	46	23-20-3	49	.533	155	170
USNTDP	41	21-18-2	44	.537	139	142
Traverse City	43	14-19-10	38	.442	124	154

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Wichita Falls	44	30-12-2	62	.705	171	129
Topeka	40	25-9-6	56	.700	154	97
Fairbanks	40	25-12-3	53	.663	112	94
Texas	47	17-26-4	38	.404	136	157
Alaska	42	15-25-2	32	.381	123	185
Kenai River	43	8-28-7	23	.267	104	192

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
North Iowa	43	30-10-3	63	.733	155	102
So. Minnesota	42	20-14-8	48	.571	154	161
Springfield	42	20-18-4	44	.524	143	151
Alexandria	38	17-18-3	37	.487	143	158
Bismarck	44	16-25-3	35	.398	120	162
Fargo-Moorhead	40	15-23-2	32	.400	133	148

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	42	27	45	72
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	43	20	46	66
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	44	32	32	64
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	43	26	32	58
Peterson, Erik	ALP	F	41	19	39	58
Warda, Ben	STL	F	45	19	38	57
O'Kane, Kyle	STL	F	40	34	21	55
Everett, Grant	WIC	F	43	15	40	55
Nesper, Luke	ALX	F	38	19	33	52
Leone, Mike	STL	F	42	11	40	51

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Moss, Robby	NIO	31	1843:58	22-5-3	1.98	.936
Reichard, Cody	FBX	36	2109:41	22-12-1	2.16	.930
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	32	1947:15	17-9-6	2.22	.902
Heeter, Cal	STL	25	1429:10	18-5-0	2.48	.915
Graves, Nick	ALP	24	1395:08	15-4-4	2.49	.911

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
O'Kane, Kyle	STL	F	40	34
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	44	32

(two players tied with 27)

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	43	46
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	42	45

(two players tied with 40)

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	42	+27
Merrifield, Mike	STL	F	45	+27

(two players tied at +26)

Wildcats stay on course

Wichita Falls making most of extended homestand

The Wichita Falls Wildcats celebrated their highly anticipated Children's Miracle Network "Jersey Off Our Back" auction last weekend in more ways than one, rattling off two wins over the Kenai River Brown Bears while raising over \$80,000 for charity.



Skylur Jameson

"There's no question this was a great all-around weekend for the organization," said Wildcats coach-GM **John Bowkus**, whose team improved to 30-12-2 on the season. "Not only did we pick up four important points in the standings, but the way the fans and the community rallied around the auction was unbelievable."

The Wildcats opened their weekend with a 7-3 victory on Friday.

Mike Henderson recorded two goals, including the game-winner, while **Kyle Delaurell** (two goals, assist), **Adam Sponseller** (goal, two assists), **Skylur Jameson** (goal, two assists) and **Sean McKenzie** (three assists) each fashioned three-point games. Between the pipes, goaltender **Mike Jarboe** turned aside 21 shots.

The Wildcats followed that up with a 4-2 win over the Brown Bears on Saturday. Four different players scored in the victory, with **Matt Kenline** tallying a goal and an assist. Jarboe made 22 saves to earn his second win of the weekend.

Saturday also marked the team's annual Children's Miracle Network "Jersey Off Our Back" auction, in which the team wore special jerseys that were auctioned off after the game. All of the money raised, including the \$23,000 bid collected for Craze E Cat's jersey (the Wildcats' mascot), will be donated locally to the United Regional Health Care System.

"I'd have never believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes," said Bowkus. "What a great night."

And what a great all-around weekend on the ice for Sponseller. The 20-year-old from Mt. Pleasant, Mich., was the Wildcats' top point-getter against Kenai River with two goals and two assists.

"Adam really committed himself this season to becoming a well-rounded hockey player," said Bowkus. "I knew he had the offensive ability, but now I'm seeing him play real well defensively as well."

"He came into the season in great shape and has added to his strength with our in-season weightlifting program."

Given Sponseller's performance, Bowkus is encouraged to see other players outside of the Wildcats' top line of **Adam Cardwell**, **Grant Everett** and **Luke Salazar** contributing offensively.

Story continued at nahl.com...



LAST WEEK'S SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, February 7

Fargo-Moorhead 2 @ Bismarck 6 (BIS: Coldwell, 3A, +3)

Friday, February 8

Springfield 3 @ Alexandria 4 (SO) (ALX: Nesper, SOG, 3A, +2)

Marquette 6 @ Mahoning Valley 2 (MAR: Weight, GWG, A)

Southern Minnesota 1 @ North Iowa 4 (NI: Walters, 2G, +1)

St. Louis 2 @ Texas 1 (STL: Merrifield, GWG, A)

Kenai River 3 @ Wichita Falls 7 (WF: Henderson, G, GWG, +2)

Saturday, February 9

Alexandria 6 @ Bismarck 3 (ALX: Nesper, 4A, +3)

Topeka 6 @ Fairbanks 1 (TOP: Stoddard, 2G, +2)

Marquette 1 @ Mahoning Valley 4 (MV: Tibbett, 31 saves)

North Iowa 2 @ Southern Minnesota 3 (SO) (SM: Brodhag, G, SOG)

St. Louis 3 @ Texas 2 (SO) (STL: Johnson, 25 saves)

Kenai River 2 @ Wichita Falls 4 (WF: Kenline, G, A)

Sunday, February 10

Topeka 2 @ Fairbanks 1 (SO) (TOP: Hayes, SOG, A, +1)

Springfield 4 @ Alexandria 2 (SRP: Cook, 34 saves)

North Iowa 2 @ Southern Minnesota 1 (NI: Skinner, G, GWG)

NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

St. Louis forward **Mike Merrifield** rang up a goal and two assists last weekend as the Bandits skated to a two-game sweep over Texas. On Friday, the 18-year-old scored the game-winning goal and an assist in a 2-1 triumph. The next night, the Beverly Hills, Mich., native notched an assist as the Bandits bested the Tornado in a shootout, 3-2. He was also a plus-1 on the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Mahoning Valley goaltender **Jordan Tibbett**; Marquette goaltender **Beau Christian**

SOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Topeka goaltender **Bryce Merriam** backstopped the RoadRunners to a pair of wins in Fairbanks last weekend, turning aside 63 of 65 shots. On Saturday, the 20-year-old made 28 saves in a 6-1 victory. The next night, the Pittsburgh native stopped 35 shots - he also stopped five of six shots in the shootout - as the RoadRunners celebrated a 2-1 win over the Ice Dogs.



HONORABLE MENTION: Wichita Falls forward **Adam Sponseller**

CENTRAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Alexandria forward **Luke Nesper** struck for a goal and seven assists last weekend as the Blizzard fashioned a 2-1 record. In a 4-3 shootout win over Springfield on Friday, the 20-year old recorded a shootout goal and three assists. The next night, the Eagle River, Wis., native tallied four assists in Alexandria's 6-3 triumph over Bismarck. Nesper closed out his weekend with a goal in a 4-2 loss to the Jr. Blues in Sunday. He was also a plus-6 for the week.



HONORABLE MENTION: North Iowa forward **Dustin Skinner** and goaltender **Robby Moss**

THE WEEK AHEAD

all times local

Wednesday, February 13

Topeka @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 14

Fargo-Moorhead @ Bismarck, 7:05 pm

Friday, February 15

Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Bismarck @ Fargo-Moorhead, 7:35 pm

Topeka @ Kenai River, 7:00 pm

Traverse City @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm

Alexandria @ North Iowa, 8:00 pm

Springfield @ Southern Minnesota, 7:00 pm

Alpena @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm

Texas @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Saturday, February 16

Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Bismarck @ Fargo-Moorhead, 7:05 pm

Topeka @ Kenai River, 7:00 pm

Traverse City @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm

Alexandria @ North Iowa, 8:00 pm

Springfield @ Southern Minnesota, 7:30 pm

Alpena @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm

Texas @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Sunday, February 17

Topeka @ Kenai River, 3:00 pm

AROUND THE NAHL

TOP PROSPECTS JERSEY AUCTION ANNOUNCED: All game-worn player jerseys, as well as jerseys representing all six participating coaches, from next week's NAHL Top Prospects Tournament will be auctioned off through eBay. Bids can be placed at www.nahl.com/ auction starting on Tuesday, February 12.

TOP PROSPECTS ON B2 NETWORKS: All games at next week's NAHL Top Prospects Tournament, as well as the championship game of the Midget Showcase Series event, will be video broadcast live over the Internet through B2 Networks. Visit nahltpprospects.com for details.

THREE ICE DOGS MAKE D-I COMMITMENTS: Three more Fairbanks players have committed to Division I schools for next season: goaltender **Cody Reichard** (Miami University, CCHA), 20, and forwards **Caleb Harrison** (Holy Cross, Atlantic Hockey), 21, and **Aaron Stonacek** (Bentley College, Atlantic Hockey), 20.

KIRBY TO FLY WITH AIR FORCE: Second-year Southern Minnesota defenseman **Tim Kirby**, 19, has committed to Air Force (Atlantic Hockey) for next season. The Austin, Minn., native has five goals for 30 points in 40 games this year.

U17'S TAKE SECOND IN SLOVAKIA: The U.S. National Under-17 Team finished in second place at the Under-18 Vlad Dzurilla Tournament in Slovakia with a 2-1 record. **A.J. Treais** led Team USA with four points (two goals, two assists).

RUST PROOF: Making his first start since January 20, Mahoning Valley goaltender **Jordan Tibbett** turned aside 31 shots in the Phantoms' 4-1 win over Marquette on Saturday. "It goes a long way in showing how much he's matured, having not played in a while and then getting back in there and having his A-game ready," said Phantoms coach-GM **Bob Mainhardt**.

ALASKA DEALS DETLEFEN, SKINNER: Alaska traded defenseman **Kent Detlefsen**, 20, to Wichita Falls for forwards **Bill Colclough**, 19, **Pat Colclough**, 19, and **Tyler Tosunian**, 17. The Avalanche also dealt forward **Dustin Skinner**, 20, to North Iowa for a second- and third-round pick in this year's NAHL draft.