



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
ySt. Louis	49	39-8-2	80	.816	215	130
Mahoning Valley	47	27-16-4	58	.617	178	146
Alpena	48	26-17-5	57	.594	159	146
Marquette	48	24-21-3	51	.531	162	176
USNTDP	44	23-19-2	48	.545	147	149
Traverse City	47	17-19-11	45	.479	141	167

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xWichita Falls	48	34-12-2	70	.729	197	143
xTopeka	47	30-10-7	67	.713	189	113
xFairbanks	44	29-12-3	61	.693	131	102
Texas	51	17-30-4	38	.373	146	178
Alaska	48	15-31-2	32	.333	132	219
Kenai River	48	10-31-7	27	.281	123	217

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xNorth Iowa	48	32-12-4	68	.708	165	117
Springfield	47	24-19-4	52	.553	168	159
So. Minnesota	46	22-16-8	52	.565	165	179
Alexandria	43	19-21-3	41	.477	156	179
Fargo-Moorhead	46	19-25-2	40	.435	156	158
Bismarck	49	17-27-5	39	.398	131	183

x - clinched playoff berth

y - clinched division title

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	46	29	50	79
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	48	35	40	75
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	48	20	50	70
Peterson, Erik	ALP	F	46	22	44	66
Warda, Ben	STL	F	49	24	41	65
Everett, Grant	WIC	F	47	18	46	64
O'Kane, Kyle	STL	F	44	36	22	58
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	47	26	32	58
Leone, Mike	STL	F	46	12	44	56
Jendras, Corey	TPK	F	46	25	30	55

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Moss, Robby	NIO	34	1984:22	23-5-4	1.97	.937
Reichard, Cody	FBX	39	2289:37	25-12-1	2.12	.931
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	35	2127:13	19-10-6	2.26	.900
Heeter, Cal	STL	27	1552:00	19-5-1	2.47	.917
Johnson, Mike	STL	24	1397:57	19-3-1	2.66	.906

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
O'Kane, Kyle	STL	F	44	36
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	48	35

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	46	50
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	48	50

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Merrifield, Mike	STL	F	49	+33
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	46	+32

North Stars shine bright

Traverse City finds winning formula

They might sit in last place in the NAHL's North Division, but with a 6-3-1 record in their last 10 games, including two home victories over the Alpena IceDiggers last weekend, don't count the Traverse City North Stars out just yet.

"For our fans, I'm sure that two straight sweeps of one of our biggest rivals was nice, but for us it's just important to compete hard and execute every night, no matter who we're playing," said North Stars coach-GM **Anthony Palumbo**, whose team improved to 17-19-11 on the season.



Nate Urbaniak

Kyle Bonis potted two goals as the North Stars doubled up the IceDiggers on Friday, 4-2. Jonathan Sheridan tallied the game-winning goal, while goaltender **Chris Paliafito** turned back 17 shots.

The next night, Traverse City bested Alpena, 5-4, in a 10-round shootout. **Harrison Niemann** and **Kory Kaunisto** each rang up a goal and an assist in the triumph, with **Jameson Raymond** scoring the game-winner in the shootout. Paliafito made 27 saves in regulation and six of 10 in the shootout to secure the victory.

"We got solid defense, great goaltending and some very timely goals," said Palumbo. "We seem to be learning how to win."

Are they ever. With their victory on Saturday, the North Stars set a team record for points in a season with 45, eclipsing last year's mark of 43.

Individually, **Nate Urbaniak**, 19, set a team mark for most points in a season with 53, surpassing the 46 points **Patrick Nagorsen**, now a freshman at Western Michigan, totaled a year ago. Urbaniak, a Top Prospects Tournament participant, has 18 points in his last 10 games.

"Nate's a guy who is responsible defensively and creative on the offensive end," said Palumbo. "He's really a complete package."

Bonis also had an outstanding weekend for the North Stars, delivering two goals and an assist, along with a plus-3 rating. The 19-year-old from Lindsay, Ontario, has 11 points in his last 10 contests.

"Kyle's been as consistent an offensive threat as we have pretty much from the day he got here, and last weekend was no different," said Palumbo.

Between the pipes, Paliafito has been outstanding the last few weeks, assuming the bulk of the minutes for the injured Brandon Stephenson.

"Chris has really started to come into his own right now," said Palumbo.

Story continued at nahl.com...



LAST WEEK'S SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS

Wednesday, February 20

Topeka 11 @ Alaska 1 (TOP: Hayes, 3G, GWG, A, +3)

Thursday, February 21

Fargo-Moorhead 5 @ Alexandria 2 (FM: Beaudette, G, 2A, +1)

Friday, February 22

Topeka 4 @ Alaska 1 (TOP: Hayes, G, A, +2)
Alexandria 2 @ Bismarck 5 (BIS: Maggard, G, 2A, +2)
Texas 2 @ Fairbanks 5 (FBX: McRae, G, 3A, +3)
Wichita Falls 4 @ Kenai River 3 (WF: McKenzie, 2A, +1)
Fargo-Moorhead 3 @ Southern Minnesota 4 (SM: Spalding, G, GWG)
North Iowa 3 @ Springfield 1 (NI: Moe, GWG)
Alpena 2 @ Traverse City 4 (TC: Bonis, 2G, +2)
Marquette 6 @ USNTDP 4 (MAR: Chad Pietila, 2G, A, +3)

Saturday, February 23

Topeka 3 @ Alaska 1 (TOP: Shafer, G, A, +1)
Traverse City 5 @ Alpena 4 (SO) (TC: Niemman, G, A, +2)
Alexandria 6 @ Bismarck 5 (SO) (ALX: Freismuth, 2G, A, +2)
Texas 2 @ Fairbanks 4 (FBX: McCabe, GWG, A, +3)
Wichita Falls 10 @ Kenai River 5 (WF: Henderson, 2G, GWG)
Fargo-Moorhead 2 @ Southern Minnesota 3 (SM: Spalding, GWG, A)
North Iowa 0 @ Springfield 7 (SPR: Patterson, 2G, 3A, +1)
Mahoning Valley 1 @ St. Louis 5 (STL: Heeter, 28 saves)
Marquette 1 @ USNTDP 2 (USA: Golembiewski, GWG)

Sunday, February 24

USNTDP 2 @ Alpena 0 (USA: Clemente, 40 saves)
North Iowa 1 @ Springfield 4 (SPR: Globke, GWG, A)
Mahoning Valley 1 @ St. Louis 5 (STL: Warda, G, GWG, +2)

NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

U.S. Under-17 Team goaltender **Michael Clemente** recorded a pair of wins last weekend, turning back 57 of 58 shots. On Saturday, the 18-year old made 17 saves in a 2-1 triumph over Marquette. The next night, the Great Falls, Va., native stopped all 40 shots as the U.S. team blanked Alpena, 2-0.



HONORABLE MENTION: Alpena forwards **Jimmy McCusker** and **Erik Peterson**; Traverse City goaltender **Chris Paliافتو**

SOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Topeka forward **Eriah Hayes** struck for five goals and three assists last week as the RoadRunners skated to three wins over Alaska. On Wednesday, the 19-year-old recorded four goals, including the game-winner, and an assist in an 11-1 triumph. On Sunday, the La Crescent, Wis., native tallied a goal and assisted on **Dennis Brown's** game-winning marker as the RoadRunners bested the Avalanche, 4-1. Hayes wrapped up his week with an assist in Topeka's 3-1 triumph on Saturday. He was also a plus-6 for the week.



HONORABLE MENTION: Wichita Falls forward **Mike Henderson**

CENTRAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Springfield goaltender **Phil Cook** backstopped the Jr. Blues to a 2-1 record against division-leading North Iowa last weekend, turning aside 89 of 93 shots. After making 26 saves in a 3-1 loss on Friday, the 20-year-old rebounded the next night with a 24-save shutout (7-0). On Sunday, the Wheaton, Ill., native turned aside 39 shots as the Jr. Blues downed the Outlaws, 4-1.



HONORABLE MENTION: Alexandria defenseman **Taylor Vichorek**; Bismarck forward **Kyle Maggard**; Fargo-Moorhead forward **Andrew Harrison** and defenseman **Mark Johnson**; Southern Minnesota defenseman **Robby Spalding**

THE WEEK AHEAD

all times local

Monday, February 25

Wichita Falls @ Fairbanks, 7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 26

Wichita Falls @ Fairbanks, 7:00 pm
Texas @ Kenai River, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 27

Traverse City @ USNTDP, 7:30 pm

Thursday, February 28

Wichita Falls @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Friday, February 29

Wichita Falls @ Alaska, 7:00 pm
Southern Minnesota @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
Fargo-Moorhead @ Bismarck, 7:05 pm
Texas @ Kenai River, 7:00 pm
Alpena @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Springfield @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm
North Iowa @ Topeka, 7:05 pm
Marquette @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm

Saturday, March 1

Texas @ Alaska, 7:00 pm
Southern Minnesota @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
Fargo-Moorhead @ Bismarck, 7:05 pm
Fairbanks @ Kenai River, 7:00 pm
Alpena @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
St. Louis @ Springfield, 7:00 pm
North Iowa @ Topeka, 7:05 pm
Marquette @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm

Sunday, March 2

Texas @ Alaska, 4:00 pm
Bismarck @ Alexandria, 5:00 pm
Fairbanks @ Kenai River, 3:00 pm
Alpena @ USNTDP, 3:00 pm

AROUND THE NAHL

TOP PROSPECTS CONCLUDES: The USNTDP and the North Division finished with 2-1 records at last week's NAHL Top Prospects Tournament in Ann Arbor, Mich., while the Central and South Divisions posted 1-2 marks.

WARDA TO MICHIGAN STATE: Second-year St. Louis forward **Ben Warda**, 20, has committed to Michigan State University (CCHA) for next season. The Top Prospects Tournament participant from Lake Orion, Mich., ranks fifth in league scoring this season with 24 goals for 65 points after 49 games.

WENATCHEE GRANTED CONDITIONAL APPROVAL: The NAHL's Board of Governors has voted to grant conditional approval for an expansion franchise to Wenatchee (Washington) Junior Hockey LLC to begin play next season.

PITTSBURGH WINS MIDGET SHOWCASE: The Pittsburgh Hornets won the third and final tournament of this year's NAHL Midget Showcase Series in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Hornets finished with a perfect 6-0 record, including a 4-2 win over the Chicago Young Americans in the championship game.

SPALDING IMPRESSES ON D: Southern Minnesota defenseman **Robby Spalding**, 20, rang up three goals, including the game-winner on Friday, and an assist as the Express skated to a two-game sweep over Fargo-Moorhead last weekend. "Robby has a lot of options for next year," said Express coach-GM **Matt Romaniski**. "He's either looking at going to school or possibly starting a professional career in the minors."