



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
zSt. Louis	55	44-9-2	90	.818	237	144
xMahoning Valley	54	33-17-4	70	.648	214	164
Alpena	56	29-22-5	63	.563	179	172
USNTDP	54	26-24-4	56	.519	166	177
Marquette	54	26-25-3	55	.509	179	200
Traverse City	54	21-21-12	54	.500	163	188

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xTopeka	54	36-11-7	79	.731	220	125
xWichita Falls	55	38-15-2	78	.709	217	170
xFairbanks	54	36-15-3	75	.694	164	120
xTexas	57	20-32-5	45	.395	162	196
Alaska	56	16-36-4	36	.321	154	260
Kenai River	56	11-37-8	30	.268	139	248

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
yNorth Iowa	54	36-14-4	76	.704	185	129
xSo. Minnesota	54	28-18-8	64	.593	191	202
Springfield	53	25-24-4	54	.509	181	180
Alexandria	52	24-25-3	51	.490	191	209
Fargo-Moorhead	52	22-27-3	47	.452	178	179
Bismarck	54	18-30-6	42	.389	144	201

x - clinched playoff berth y - clinched division title z - clinched league title

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	53	32	57	89
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	55	39	46	85
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	54	23	58	81
Warda, Ben	STL	F	55	29	42	71
Peterson, Erik	ALP	F	54	24	47	71
Nesper, Luke	ALX	F	51	24	46	70
Everett, Grant	WIC	F	53	19	50	69
Graham, Derek	MVY	F	54	29	38	67
O'Kane, Kyle	STL	F	50	38	28	66
Lickteig, Mikael	ALX	F	52	30	33	63

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Moss, Robby	NIO	38	2224:22	26-6-4	1.92	.940
Reichard, Cody	FBX	48	2806:08	31-15-1	2.05	.932
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	41	2478:16	24-11-6	2.13	.904
Heeter, Cal	STL	31	1792:00	22-6-1	2.51	.915
Johnson, Mike	STL	26	1522:57	21-3-1	2.56	.909

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Salazar, Luke	WIC	F	55	39
O'Kane, Kyle	STL	F	50	38

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Walters, Shea	NIO	F	54	58
Cardwell, Adam	WIC	F	53	57

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Gens, Aaron	TPK	D	52	+40

(three players tied at +33)

Sweep lifts Phantoms

Mahoning Valley seals postseason berth

By Cameron Lee

After falling behind 3-0 in the first 20 minutes of their three-game series last weekend against the Traverse City North Stars, the Mahoning Valley Phantoms abruptly turned things around, outscoring the Stars 17-3 in the final eight periods to clinch home-ice advantage in the first round of next month's NAHL playoffs.



Kyle Bailey

"Clinching gives us a bit of a comfort level; we know we're going to have the home-ice advantage in at least the first round," said Phantoms assistant coach **Curtis Carr**. "It gives us some breathing room and an opportunity maybe to pull guys in and out of the lineup so we don't have to play guys with bumps and bruises, and make sure we're healthy for the playoffs."

Entering Friday's game, the Stars had gone 9-0-1 in their previous 10 games. After **Kyle Bonis** notched two and **Eric McLintock** buried a rebound to put Traverse City up 3-0 with less than two minutes remaining in the first period, it appeared they were just going to keep on rolling.

Kyle Bailey's power-play goal midway through the second period, however, and then two in a row by **Stefan Salituro**, including the game-tying goal at 6:47 of the final frame, brought the Phantoms back and forced extra time. **Brian McGinty's** snipe in the eighth round of a shootout finally won it 4-3.

"Hats off to them. They sprung a break, scored, and got us away from our game plan for about 10 minutes there," said Phantoms coach-GM **Bob Mainhardt** after Friday's game. "But we were able to re-gather our composure and come out and play a very solid 40 minutes after that."

Saturday's game looked as though it was going to be just as close as Friday's after the teams skated to a 1-1 tie at the first intermission. But a five-goal second period from the Phantoms and a physical third period sent fans at the Ice Zone into a frenzy and sealed a 7-2 triumph.

"Usually it takes the first period for us to get adjusted," said Carr after Saturday's win. "Each night, it seems like in the second period we have a good idea of what the game plan is going to be and we can go from there."

The second-period domination rolled over into Sunday afternoon as well. After a slow start and a scoreless first period, Bailey's hat trick and three points each from McGinty and Salituro led the Phantoms to a four-goal second period en route to the 6-1 decision.

It's been the play of the Phantoms' fourth-liners that has led the team to six wins in the last seven games.

Story continued at nahl.com...



LAST WEEK'S SCORES/HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, March 11

Southern Minnesota 4 @ Fargo-Moorhead 3 (OT) (SM: Falk, 3A, +1)
Alexandria 2 @ Fairbanks 5 (FBX: Guran, G, GWG, +2)
Alpena 2 @ USNTDP 3 (USA: Palmieri, 2A, +1)

Wednesday, March 12

Alexandria 6 @ Fairbanks 2 (ALX: Bahnemann, 2G, A, +3)
Wichita Falls 2 @ Topeka 4 (TOP: Hartmann, G, A, +2)
So. Minnesota 4 @ Fargo-Moorhead 3 (SM: Brodhag, G, GWG, +1)

Friday, March 14

Alaska 1 @ Fairbanks 2 (OT) (FBX: Block, GWG, +1)
Alexandria 7 @ Kenai River 5 (ALX: Grimstad, G, GWG, +2)
Traverse City 3 @ Mahoning Valley 4 (SO) (MV: Salituro, 2G, +1)
Alpena 3 @ Marquette 4 (MAR: Chad Pietila, 2G, +2)
Southern Minnesota 2 @ North Iowa 6 (NI: Walters, GWG, 3A, +3)
Fargo-Moorhead 2 @ Springfield 6 (SPR: Greco, GWG, 3A, +2)
USNTDP 4 @ St. Louis 1 (USA: Brown, G, GWG, A, +3)
Wichita Falls 2 @ Topeka 3 (TOP: Kamrass, 2G)

Saturday, March 15

Alaska 1 @ Fairbanks 8 (FBX: McCabe, 2G, +3)
Alexandria 2 @ Kenai River 4 (KEN: Englebright, G, A, +1)
Traverse City 2 @ Mahoning Valley 7 (MV: Salituro, G, GWG, +1)
Alpena 3 @ Marquette 2 (ALP: Puskar, G, GWG, +3)
Southern Minnesota 2 @ North Iowa 1 (SM: Falk, GWG, +1)
Fargo-Moorhead 6 @ Springfield 2 (FM: Harrie, 2G, A, +1)
USNTDP 1 @ St. Louis 4 (STL: Ceccacci, G, A, +1)
Wichita Falls 0 @ Topeka 9 (TOP: Paulazzo, 2G, 2A, +3)

Sunday, March 16

Traverse City 1 @ Mahoning Valley 6 (MV: Bailey, 3G, +4)

NORTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Mahoning Valley forward **Stefan Salituro** struck for four goals and three assists last weekend as the Phantoms skated to a three-game sweep over Traverse City. On Friday, the 17-year-old scored two goals, including the game-winner, in a 4-3 shootout victory. The next night, the Willowdale, Ontario, native notched two more goals, including the game-winner, as the Phantoms bested the North Stars, 7-2. Salituro wrapped up his weekend with a three-assist effort, including one on **Johnny Meo's** game-winning marker, in a 6-1 triumph on Sunday. He was also a plus-4 on the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Alpena forwards **Joe Puskar** and **Andy Yarber**; Mahoning Valley forward **Kyle Bailey**; U.S. Under-18 Team forward **Jordan Schroeder**

SOUTH PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Topeka forward **Josh Kamrass** netted three goals and three assists last weekend as the RoadRunners skated to a three-game sweep over Wichita Falls. On Wednesday, the 20-year-old connected for a goal in a 4-2 victory. The Atlanta native followed that up with a two-goal performance in the RoadRunners' 3-2 win over the Wildcats on Friday. The next night, Kamrass recorded three assists, including one on **Corey Jendras'** game-winning goal, as Topeka blanked Wichita Falls, 9-0. He was also a plus-3 on the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Topeka goaltender **Bryce Merriam**

CENTRAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Southern Minnesota forward **Teddy Falk** struck for a goal and four assists last weekend as the Express fashioned a 3-1 record. On Tuesday, the 18-year-old recorded three assists in a 4-3 win over Fargo-Moorhead. The next night, the Homestead, Wis., native picked up another assist in another 4-3 win over the Jets. After being held scoreless on Friday – a 6-2 loss to North Iowa – Falk tallied the game-winning goal the next night as the Express downed the Outlaws, 2-1. He was also a plus-1 on the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Fargo-Moorhead forward **Marc Harrie** and defenseman **Eric Galt**

THE WEEK AHEAD

all times local

Friday, March 21

Bismarck @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
Kenai River @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm
Alpena @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Fargo-Moorhead @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm
Topeka @ Southern Minnesota, 7:00 pm
St. Louis @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm
Marquette @ USNTDP, 7:30 pm
Springfield @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 22

Bismarck @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
Kenai River @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm
Alpena @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Fargo-Moorhead @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm
Topeka @ Southern Minnesota, 7:00 pm
St. Louis @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm
Marquette @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm
Springfield @ Wichita Falls, 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 23

Fargo-Moorhead @ Alexandria, 5:00 pm

AROUND THE NAHL

BANDITS SEAL REGULAR SEASON TITLE: With a two-game split with the U.S. Under-17 Team last weekend, St. Louis secured its second straight NAHL regular-season championship. The Bandits hold a 44-9-2 record with three games to play.

CROWD PLEASERS: Topeka's crowd of 2,922 on Saturday – a 9-0 win over Wichita Falls – was the largest in team history. The RoadRunners drew 43,222 fans at Kansas Expocentre this year, surpassing the 40,582 the team drew in their three seasons in Santa Fe combined.

SALAZAR HEADING HOME: Second-year Wichita Falls forward **Luke Salazar**, 19, has committed to the University of Denver (WCHA) for next season. After 55 games this year, the Denver native leads the NAHL with 39 goals good for 85 points.

BROOKS TO ROBERT MORRIS: St. Louis forward **Tom Brooks**, 20, has committed to Robert Morris University (CHA) for next season. Brooks, a St. Louis native who played for Texas from 2005-07, has nine goals for 16 points in 32 games this year.

BLUES SIGN BISHOP: The St. Louis Blues have signed goaltender **Ben Bishop** (Texas, 2004-05), who recently completed his junior season at the University of Maine where he recorded a 13-18-3 record along with a 2.43 goals-against average and a .920 save percentage.

ALUMNI COP COLLEGE HONORS: A number of former NAHL players were recognized by the CCHA on its All-CCHA First, Second and Rookie Teams. See the complete list of alumni winners at nahl.com.