



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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Press Release Prepared By Brian McDonough, NAHL Director of Marketing & Communications
Phone: (214) 387-5650 • Fax: (214) 975-2250 • bmcDonough@nahL.com • NAHL.com

STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Alexandria	13	8-4-1	17	.654	51	38
North Iowa	13	8-4-1	17	.654	44	42
Bismarck	14	6-7-1	13	.464	31	35
Owatonna	11	4-7-0	8	.364	33	37
Albert Lea	11	1-9-1	3	.136	24	49

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Traverse City	13	11-2-0	22	.846	47	28
USNTDP	14	7-6-1	15	.536	51	41
Mahoning Valley	10	7-2-1	15	.750	36	27
Marquette	13	5-6-2	12	.462	41	46
Alpena	12	5-5-2	12	.500	33	40
Motor City	14	3-11-0	6	.214	28	57

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
St. Louis	15	13-1-1	27	.900	61	31
Topeka	13	10-3-0	20	.769	56	25
Springfield	13	4-7-2	10	.385	43	51
Wichita Falls	8	4-3-1	9	.563	27	29

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Alaska	8	6-2-0	12	.750	30	29
Fairbanks	11	5-4-2	12	.545	41	38
Kenai River	13	5-7-1	11	.423	41	58
Wenatchee	7	1-5-1	3	.214	11	28

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
George, Jordan	TPK	F	13	8	15	23
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	13	7	16	23
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	15	11	10	21
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	15	3	18	21
Greco, Kyle	STL	F	15	11	7	18
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	13	8	10	18
Hagaman, Alec	TPK	F	13	8	10	18
Kirchhevel, Justin	STL	F	15	6	11	17
Gaffney, Jon	SPR	F	13	6	10	16

(two players tied with 15)

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	6	358:55	5-1-0	1.67	.932
Yanakeff, Will	USA	4	238:35	2-2-0	1.76	.909
Bosner, David	BIS	12	708:32	6-4-1	1.86	.933
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	9	531:00	8-1-0	1.92	.934
Tibbett, Jordan	MVY	5	302:32	4-1-0	1.98	.931

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	13	12

(two players tied with 11)

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	15	18
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	13	16

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Greco, Kyle	STL	F	15	+16
Kirchhevel, Justin	STL	F	15	+16

Jr. Blues Get On Track

Eight-game slide ends with sweep in Wichita Falls

Losers of eight straight, the tide finally turned for the Springfield Jr. Blues last weekend as they skated to a two-game sweep over the Wichita Falls Wildcats.

"Those wins were very big for us," said Jr. Blues head coach **Chris Wyler**, whose team improved to 4-7-2 on the season. "Anytime you can sweep the weekend on the road, it's a great accomplishment."

Jon Gaffney rang up the game-winning goal and an assist in the Jr. Blues' 6-2 victory on Friday. **Nick Curry** added a goal and assisted on Gaffney's marker, with **Austin Coldwell** recording two assists. Between the pipes, **Matt Wichorek** turned back 35 shots.

Curry and Gaffney struck again in regulation and in the shootout as Springfield came away with a 4-3 victory the next night. **Alex Rasmussen** chipped in two assists, and goaltender **CJ Groh** made 22 saves in regulation and overtime and three of four in the shootout.

"I don't think our record is indicative of how we've been playing," said Wyler. "We have five one-goal loses which tells me that we're very close. We're a young team and we compete every night and that's what important early in the season."

Both Gaffney, a 20-year-old from New Jersey, and Curry, an 18-year-old Iowa native, were right in the thick of Springfield's success in Wichita Falls.

"Jon is the catalyst every team needs," said Wyler. "He brings his game to the rink everyday. He's that guy that every team hates to play against, but would love to have in their lineup."

"Nick is tremendously skilled and has great ice awareness and the ability to score," Wyler added. "He's scored some impressive goals so far this season... highlight-reel stuff."

Speaking of scoring, nobody's doing it any better than **Trent Frey**. After scoring 100 career goals at River Falls (Wis.) High School, the 19-year-old already has 12 in 13 games to lead the NAHL.

"He could be one of the best natural goal-scorers I've ever coached," said Wyler. "He has a tremendous shot and knows how to find the soft areas in the offensive zone."

The Jr. Blues also like with they have in goal, with Wichorek (eight appearances) and Groh (six) both seeing their fair share of minutes.

"Both are giving us a chance to win every night," said Wyler.

The coach is also impressed with his core of youngsters. Coldwell and fellow defenseman **Jack Callahan** have wasted little making regular contributions, with first-year forwards **Mike Schaber**, **Brian Prost** and **Rob Dongara** also showing plenty of promise.

"We're a young team that gets better everyday and, from a coaching perspective, that's exciting," said Wyler. "The season is a marathon, not a sprint, and I believe that we'll be tough down the stretch."

Story continued on NAHL.com



Nick Curry

sherwood central player of the week

Alexandria forward **Brandon Bahnemann** struck for two goals, including the game-winner, and an assist in the Blizzard's 5-4 victory over Albert Lea on Friday. The 20-year-old from Rochester, Minn., was also a plus-2.



sherwood north player of the week

Marquette defenseman **Ryan McGrath** rang up a goal and five assists as the Rangers fashioned a 2-1 record. On Thursday, the Pittsburgh native tallied four assists in a 6-3 win over Motor City. The next night, the 18-year-old notched a goal and another assist as the Rangers bested the Machine, 6-4. He was held scoreless in the Rangers' 3-0 loss to Alpena on Sunday, but was a plus-two for the weekend.



sherwood south player of the week

Springfield forward **Nick Curry** notched two goals and an assist as the Jr. Blues skated to a two-game sweep over Wichita Falls. On Friday, the Bettendorf, Iowa, native put home a goal and assisted on **Jon Gaffney's** game-winning marker in a 6-2 triumph. The next night, the 18-year-old scored a goal in regulation and the winner in the shootout as the Jr. Blues downed the Wildcats, 4-3.



sherwood west player of the week

Fairbanks forward **Austin Block** connected for two goals and two assists as the Ice Dogs skated to a 2-0-1 record over Kenai River. After being held scoreless in a 4-3 win on Thursday, the Northridge, Calif., native recorded an assist in a 3-2 overtime loss the next night. On Saturday, the 19-year-old Air Force recruit tallied two goals and an assist as the Ice Dogs doubled up the Brown Bears, 4-2. He was also a plus-5 on the weekend.



gdi goaltender of the week

Fairbanks goaltender **Phil Cook** backstopped the Ice Dogs to a pair of wins in his two starts against Kenai River, turning aside 68 of 73 shots. On Thursday, the Mason, Mich., product made 37 saves in a 4-3 triumph. The 18-year-old returned to the nets on Saturday, stopping 31 shots as the Ice Dogs doubled up the Brown Bears, 4-2.



the week ahead all times local

Tuesday, October 28

Springfield @ St. Louis, 10:30 am

Wednesday, October 29

Wichita Falls @ Fairbanks, 7:00 pm

Thursday, October 30

North Iowa @ Bismarck, 7:00 pm

Marquette @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm

Friday, October 31

Mahoning Valley @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm

Topeka @ Springfield, 7:30 pm

Alaska @ Kenai River, 7:30 pm

Wichita Falls @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm

Marquette @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm

Owatonna @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm

Motor City @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 1

Mahoning Valley @ Traverse City, 7:05 pm

Topeka @ Springfield, 7:30 pm

Albert Lea @ Owatonna, 7:00 pm

Alaska @ Kenai River, 7:30 pm

Wichita Falls @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm

North Iowa @ Bismarck, 7:00 pm

Marquette @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm

USNTDP @ Motor City, 7:10 pm

Sunday, November 2

Mahoning Valley @ Traverse City, 12:35 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: With last weekend off, the Avalanche heads to Kenai River for the fifth and six games of an eight-game stretch against the Brown Bears.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: Albert Lea picked up its first win in team history on Saturday, a 3-1 triumph over Bismarck.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: Texas native **Kyle Clement** connected for two third-period goals in the Blizzard's 6-4 win over Albert Lea on Friday.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: Goaltender **Nick Graves** made all 35 saves as the IceDiggers blanked Marquette on Saturday, 3-0.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: **Jordan Singer** collected three goals as the Bobcats went 1-1 last weekend. "When we acquired Jordan, we thought he could be a potential 30-goal guy," said head coach **Byron Pool**. "With weekends like this, you can see why we think he could be a special player in not only our league, but at the next level."

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: The West Division-leading Ice Dogs play their next seven games at home, starting this weekend with a three-game set against Wichita Falls.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: Michigan native **Ryan Lemke** put home the overtime winner in the Brown Bears' 3-2 victory over Fairbanks on Friday.

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: Netminder **Garrett Bartus** turned back 30 shots in the Phantoms' 3-2 win over the U.S. Under-17 Team on Saturday. "I got a great look at almost every puck," said Bartus. "The 'D' was doing the hard work in front of me, clearing out bodies so I could see."

MARQUETTE RANGERS: **Josh Bussell** recorded his first NAHL hat trick and an assist on Thursday in the Rangers' 6-3 victory over Motor City. "He's a very streaky player and when he's firing the puck, good things happen for him and the team," said head coach **Kenny Miller**.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: **Marco Ruggeri** tallied two goals and an assist as the Machine dropped a pair of games at Marquette.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: The Outlaws' 4-2 win over the Express on Saturday is just their fifth in Owatonna in four seasons. "We've been a little snake-bitten at that barn in previous years, but it began to change last season and hopefully we'll be having more success there this season," said head coach **Jeff Crouse**.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: **Jacob Sloat** and **Cory Thorson** scored for the Express in its 4-2 loss to North Iowa on Saturday.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: The Jr. Blues held Wichita Falls' No. 1-ranked power play scoreless in a pair of wins last weekend. "Our penalty kill was very good," said head coach **Chris Wyler**.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: **Erick Cinotti** (27 saves) and **Keith Kinkaid** (26 saves) each picked up a win in goal as the Bandits won two games in Topeka.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: **Alec Hagaman**, **Edgars Lipsbergs** and **Steve Shafer** scored the only goals for the RoadRunners as Topeka dropped a pair of games to St. Louis.

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: Goaltender **C.J. Motte** logged the first shutout of his junior career in a 3-0 victory over Alpena on Friday (22 saves). "C.J. made big saves when we needed him to, and I think it's safe to say the kid's a goalie," said head coach **Anthony Palumbo**.

TEAM USA: California product **Emerson Etem** tallied two goals, including the game-winner, in the Under-17 Team's 4-2 win over Mahoning Valley on Friday.

WENATCHEE WILD: Idle last weekend, the Wild's next three games will be at home against Wichita Falls starting on Wednesday, Nov. 5.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: **Shawn Jameson** netted a pair of goals as the Wildcats dropped two games to Springfield last weekend.