



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Alexandria	16	11-4-1	23	.719	63	45
North Iowa	15	9-5-1	19	.633	49	50
Bismarck	16	7-8-1	15	.469	39	40
Owatonna	13	6-7-0	12	.462	40	41
Albert Lea	13	1-11-1	3	.115	28	56

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Traverse City	16	13-3-0	26	.813	55	38
USNTDP	16	9-6-1	19	.594	61	44
Mahoning Valley	13	8-3-2	18	.692	46	35
Marquette	16	5-8-3	13	.406	48	58
Alpena	12	5-5-2	12	.500	33	40
Motor City	16	3-13-0	6	.188	31	67

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
St. Louis	16	14-1-1	29	.906	64	33
Topeka	15	12-3-0	24	.800	61	26
Wichita Falls	11	5-5-1	11	.500	33	39
Springfield	16	4-9-3	11	.344	46	59

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	14	7-4-3	17	.607	51	44
Alaska	10	8-2-0	16	.800	46	36
Kenai River	15	5-9-1	11	.367	48	74
Wenatchee	7	1-5-1	3	.214	11	28

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	16	9	16	25
George, Jordan	TPK	F	15	8	17	25
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	16	3	18	21
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	16	11	9	20
Greco, Kyle	STL	F	16	11	8	19
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	15	9	10	19
Hagaman, Alec	TPK	F	15	9	10	19
Block, Austin	FBX	F	14	9	10	19
Gaffney, Jon	SPR	F	16	7	11	18

(two players tied with 17)

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	7	418:55	6-1-0	1.43	.942
Yanakeff, Will	USA	6	358:35	3-3-0	1.67	.918
Tibbett, Jordan	MVY	7	421:43	5-2-0	1.85	.936
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	10	591:00	9-1-0	1.93	.932
Bosner, David	BIS	14	827:15	7-5-1	1.96	.930

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	16	13

(two players tied with 11)

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	16	18
George, Jordan	TPK	F	15	17

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	16	+16
Kirchhevel, Justin	STL	F	16	+16

Ice Dogs Begin to Bark

West Division leaders pick up five more points

Always dangerous at home, the West Division-leading Fairbanks Ice Dogs used the Big Dipper to their benefit again last weekend, collecting five of six points in a three-game set against the Wichita Falls Wildcats.

"We're starting to get things going in the right direction," said Ice Dogs head coach **Josh Hauge**, whose team improved to 7-4-3 on the season. "We have a big advantage playing in front of our fans and it's important we get as many points as possible when we're home."

A crowd of 1,455 watched the Ice Dogs skate to a 5-3 win on Wednesday. **Steve Zierke** (two goals), **Andrew McCabe** (two assists) and **Brad McCabe** (goal, assist) each recorded two-point nights in the victory, and goaltender **Phil Cook** turned aside 31 shots.



Andrew McCabe

After picking up a point in a shootout loss on Friday, the Ice Dogs wrapped up their week the next night with a 4-1 triumph over the Wildcats in front of 2,314 fans. **Austin Block** tallied two goals for Fairbanks, and Andrew McCabe, Brad McCabe and **Drew Darwitz** each chipped in two assists. Cook made 27 saves between the pipes.

Hauge, whose team has ushered in an entirely new defensive core after losing six defensemen from last year to Division I hockey, was pleased to see his club allow only five goals in regulation against Wichita Falls.

"Our team defense has been much better lately," said the coach. "This group is gaining confidence and growing as a unit."

Cook, who was acquired in a trade over the summer from Springfield, has been a difference-maker. The 18-year-old from Mason, Mich., is filling the void left in the Ice Dogs' crease by last year's league MVP **Cody Reichard**, who is now stopping pucks at Miami University.

"It all starts from the net out and Phil has been outstanding for us," said Hauge. "He gives us a chance to win every night. He's very athletic and uses his size (6-foot-4, 200 pounds) to his advantage; he takes up a lot of the net. He'll be a Division 1 goalie next year."

The Ice Dogs are also getting steady offensive production from the McCabes - Andrew, a third-year University of Nebraska-Omaha recruit, and Brad, an NAHL veteran who played in 27 games with the University of Alaska-Anchorage last season before returning to the junior ranks.

"They're special talents," said Hauge of the pair (the two are not related). "They're no question two of the top players in the league this year and they both will be key components to any success we have."

As will Block, an Air Force Academy recruit and the Ice Dogs' leading scorer with 19 points on nine goals. Now in his second season, the 19-year-old from California has blossomed into one of the NAHL's top forwards.

"Austin has taken the next step to becoming an elite player," said Hauge. "He's learned to use his speed to his advantage and that's why you'll see him near the top of the league in scoring. He's a natural goal-scorer and will be a great addition to Air Force next year."

Story continued on NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

Alexandria forward **Jon Swavely** rang up a goal and four assists as the Blizzard skated to a three-game sweep over Marquette. On Thursday, the Reading, Pa., native recorded two assists in a 4-2 triumph. The next night, the 19-year-old added another assist as the Blizzard again doubled up the Rangers, 4-2. Swavely connected for the overtime winner and an assist in Alexandria's 4-3 victory on Saturday. He was also a plus-1 on the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Bismarck forward **John Wickman**

sherwood north player of the week

Traverse City forward **Kyle Jean** tallied two game-winning goals as the North Stars fashioned a 2-1 record against Mahoning Valley. On Friday, the Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., native scored the only goal of the game in a 1-0 triumph. After being held scoreless the next night, the 18-year-old Lake Superior State recruit scored the overtime game-winner on Sunday as the North Stars bested the Phantoms, 5-4.



HONORABLE MENTION: Mahoning Valley forward **John Houston**

sherwood south player of the week

Topeka forward **Matt Hartmann** struck for a goal and an assist as the RoadRunners skated to a two-game road sweep in Springfield. After being held scoreless on Friday, the Hugo, Minn., native notched the game-winning marker and an assist in Saturday's 3-0 victory. The 19-year-old was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



sherwood west player of the week

Alaska forward **Kyle Pichler** collected three goals as the Avalanche celebrated a pair of wins over Kenai River. On Friday, the Anchorage native tallied two goals in a 7-4 triumph. The next night, the 19-year-old put home another goal as the Avs downed the Brown Bears, 9-3. He was also a plus-5 on the weekend.



gdi goaltender of the week

Traverse City's **Brandon Stephenson** picked up two wins over Mahoning Valley last weekend, stopping 62 of 68 shots. On Friday, the Saline, Mich., native made all 24 saves, including a penalty shot, in a 1-0 victory. After making 13 saves on 15 shots in relief the next night, the 20-year-old turned aside 31 shots on Sunday as the North Stars defeated the Phantoms in overtime, 5-4.



HONORABLE MENTION: Mahoning Valley's **Jordan Tibbett**

the week ahead *all times local*

Wednesday, November 5

Wichita Falls @ Wenatchee, 7:05 pm

Thursday, November 6

Alpena @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Friday, November 7

Wichita Falls @ Wenatchee, 7:05 pm
Springfield @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm
Bismarck @ Owatonna, 7:00 pm
Mahoning Valley @ Motor City, 7:10 pm
Alexandria @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm
Kenai River @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Saturday, November 8

Alpena @ Marquette, 3:00 pm
Wichita Falls @ Wenatchee, 7:05 pm
St. Louis @ Springfield, 7:30 pm
Owatonna @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm
Mahoning Valley @ Motor City, 7:10 pm
Alpena @ Marquette, 7:30 pm
Bismarck @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm
Kenai River @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Sunday, November 9

Springfield @ St. Louis, 2:00 pm
Albert Lea @ Owatonna, 5:00 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: **Jason Cohen** racked up two goals and an assist as the Avalanche skated to a two-game sweep over Kenai River. "Pretty good numbers for a defenseman," said head coach **Dave Boitz**.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: **Ryan Johnson**, from Jamestown, N.Y., connected for two goals in the Thunder's 4-3 loss to Owatonna on Friday.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: Goaltender **Ryan Leets** allowed only four goals against (64 saves) in his two starts against Marquette last weekend, both wins.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: With the weekend off, the IceDiggers head to Marquette for a three-game series starting on Thursday.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: Texas native **John Wickman** recorded a hat trick and an assist in the Bobcats' 5-1 win over North Iowa on Thursday. "John and his linemates have been our most consistent line over the past few weeks," said head coach **Byron Pool**. "It was nice to see all their hard work and effort finally rewarded with a great game."

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: After starting the season in the USHL, University of Minnesota recruit **Brandon Martell** has two assists in his first four games with the Ice Dogs.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: **Ryan Lemke**, from Michigan, collected two goals and an assist in the Brown Bears' 7-4 loss to Alaska on Friday. He has four goals in his last four games.

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: In three games against Traverse City, defenseman **John Houston**, from Pittsburgh, recorded a goal and was a plus-4 for the weekend.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: The Rangers traded forward **Josh Bussell** and a third-round pick in the 2009 NAHL Entry Draft to Motor City for forward **Andy Inderieden** and defenseman **Reed Rushing**.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: Goaltender **Joe Rogers**, from Marysville, Mich., has committed to the University of Notre Dame (CCHA) for next season.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: Head coach **Jeff Crouse** is high on his team's balanced attack upfront. "We have plenty of offensive firepower, which surprises teams because they look at the stats and don't necessarily see a guy with high numbers, but there's a reason for that and it's depth," he said.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: Defenseman **Tim Smith**, from Superior, Wis., put home a goal and three assists as the Express skated to a pair of wins over Albert Lea. "Tim's play gets better every week because of his work ethic and very good hockey instincts," said head coach **Pat Cullen**.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: **Nick Curry** figured in all three Jr. Blues goals last weekend with a goal and two assists in three losses.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: **Dan Olszewski**, from Janesville, Wis., tallied the game-winning goal in St. Louis' 3-2 win over Springfield on Tuesday. It was the Bandits' only game of the week.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: Pittsburgh native **Bryce Merriam** picked up his second shutout of the season on Saturday as the RoadRunners blanked Springfield, 3-0 (26 saves).

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: North Stars' leading-scorer **Kyle Bonis** potted a goal and two assists as Traverse City finished with a 2-1 mark against Mahoning Valley.

TEAM USA: **Jason Zucker** and **Stuart Higgins** each scored two goals in the Under-17 Team's two-game sweep of Motor City last weekend.

WENATCHEE WILD: Idle last weekend, the Wild commences a three-game series at home against Wichita Falls on Wednesday. Wenatchee has only played seven games this season, the fewest in the league.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: Air Force recruit **Kyle Delaurell** scored two goals, along with the only shootout tally in the Wildcats' 2-1 win over Fairbanks on Friday, as Wichita Falls went 1-2 against the Ice Dogs.