



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Alexandria	17	12-4-1	25	.735	68	47
North Iowa	16	9-5-2	20	.625	52	54
Bismarck	18	9-8-1	19	.528	43	42
Owatonna	16	8-7-1	17	.531	51	48
Albert Lea	16	1-14-1	3	.094	33	69

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Traverse City	16	13-3-0	26	.813	55	38
Mahoning Valley	15	9-4-2	20	.667	52	39
USNTDP	16	9-6-1	19	.594	61	44
Alpena	15	7-6-2	16	.533	39	45
Marquette	19	6-10-3	15	.395	53	64
Motor City	18	4-14-0	8	.222	35	73

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
St. Louis	19	16-2-1	33	.868	75	39
Topeka	15	12-3-0	24	.800	61	26
Springfield	19	5-11-3	13	.342	52	70
Wichita Falls	14	5-7-2	12	.429	40	51

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	14	7-4-3	17	.607	51	44
Alaska	12	8-4-0	16	.667	52	45
Kenai River	17	7-9-1	15	.441	57	80
Wenatchee	10	4-5-1	9	.450	23	35

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	17	9	17	26
George, Jordan	TPK	F	15	8	17	25
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	18	12	11	23
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	19	4	19	23
Greco, Kyle	STL	F	19	13	9	22
Curry, Nick	SPR	F	19	6	14	20
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	19	8	11	19

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	8	481:43	6-2-0	1.74	.938
Bosner, David	BIS	15	892:15	8-5-1	1.88	.931
Rocker, Lyle	TPK	7	429:19	5-2-0	1.96	.923

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	19	14
Greco, Kyle	STL	F	19	13

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	19	19

(two players tied with 17)

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	17	+17
Greco, Kyle	STL	F	19	+17

Wild Answers Call

Wenatchee returns to action with three wins

Despite a two-and-a-half-week layoff, the Wenatchee Wild didn't show any signs of rust last weekend on its way to three wins over the Wichita Falls Wildcats.

"That was a great reward for the work our players put in over the break," said Wild associate head coach **Ryan McKelvie**, whose team improved to 4-5-1 on the season. "They worked hard and stayed motivated to become a better team."

The Wild opened its week on Wednesday with a 3-2 victory over the Wildcats. **DJ Vandercook** struck for two goals in the win, with linemates **Nic Dowd** and **Michael Voran** each recording two assists. Between the pipes, goaltender **Mathieu Dugas** turned back 27 shots.



Michael Voran

Defenseman **Brandon Burrell** potted two goals and Dowd added two more assists as the Wild skated to a 5-2 victory on Friday. **Junior Cadiz** added a goal and an assist for Wenatchee, and Dugas made 21 saves.

Voran connected for two goals in regulation in the Wild's 4-3 shootout win over Wichita Falls on Saturday. Dowd came through with another two points (goal, assist), and Dugas stopped 37 shots and four of five in the shootout to collect his third win of the week.

"The work ethic of our players was excellent," said McKelvie. "We played well defensively by not giving up too many quality scoring chances and when we did, Mathieu came up big."

"Also, we've improved significantly in our ability to create offense. Our players showed patience with the puck, played with speed and used each other to create chances."

Dowd has certainly helped the cause upfront. In just five games since joining the Wild from the USHL, the 18-year-old from Huntsville, Ala., already has eight points (two goals).

"Nic has been a huge addition," said McKelvie. "He plays with a lot of intensity and wants to be the best player on the ice every time he's out there."

The Wild was also excited to see Voran get on track offensively. With only a goal and an assist in his first seven games to start the season, the 18-year-old from Livonia, Mich., came alive with two goals and three assists against Wichita Falls.

"It was only a matter of time before he started to score for us," said McKelvie. "Michael is an excellent person and is one of the leaders of this hockey team. He works as hard as he can in everything that he does, and he makes sure that his teammates are doing the same."

At the other end of the ice, Dugas also proved his worth. The 20-year-old from Quebec made the expected saves - as well as some unexpected - to keep a dangerous Wichita Falls offense at bay.

"Mathieu's mental preparation is excellent," said McKelvie. "He's ultra-competitive and he has great physical abilities. He's a veteran leader on our team who helps push our players to be their best every day."

Story continued on NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

Owatonna forward **Cory Thorson** rang up two goals and two assists as the Express fashioned a 2-0-1 record. On Friday, the Crystal, Minn., native recorded an assist in a 2-1 overtime loss to Bismarck. The next night, the 18-year-old tallied the overtime game-winner and two assists as the Express bested North Iowa, 4-3. Thorson put home another goal in Owatonna's 6-2 win over Albert Lea on Sunday. He was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Bismarck forward **John Wickman**

sherwood north player of the week

Alpena forward **Erik Peterson** notched three goals and an assist as the IceDiggers won two of three games over Marquette. On Thursday, the Alpena native scored a goal in a 3-2 loss. The next night, the 20-year-old put home a goal and an assist as the IceDiggers edged the Rangers, 3-2. On Sunday, Peterson scored the only goal of the game in Alpena's 1-0 triumph over Marquette.



HONORABLE MENTION: Motor City forward **Nick Taurence**

sherwood south player of the week

St. Louis forward **Andrew Hamburg** collected a goal and four assists as the Bandits posted a 2-1 record against Springfield. On Friday, the Phoenix native scored a goal in a 3-2 triumph. The next night, the 19-year-old registered three assists as the Bandits downed the Jr. Blues, 6-1. The Colorado College recruit wrapped up his weekend with an assist in a 3-2 loss on Sunday. He was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



sherwood west player of the week

Wenatchee forward **Nic Dowd** struck for a goal and five assists as the Wild skated to three wins over Wichita Falls. On Wednesday, the Huntsville, Ala., product recorded two assists in a 3-2 victory. Two nights later, the 18-year-old posted two more assists as the Wild downed the Wildcats, 5-2. Dowd finished his weekend with a one-goal, one-assist effort in Wenatchee's 4-3 shootout win on Saturday. He was also a plus-3 on the week.



HONORABLE MENTION: Kenai River forward **Ryan Lemke**

gdi goaltender of the week

Wenatchee goaltender **Mathieu Dugas** backstopped the Wild to three wins over Wichita Falls, turning aside 79 of 86 shots. On Wednesday, the L'Assomption, Quebec, native made 27 saves in a 3-2 victory. Two nights later, the 18-year-old stopped 21 shots as the Wild bested the Wildcats, 5-2. On Sunday, Dugas turned back 31 shots – and four of five in the shootout – in Wenatchee's 4-1 triumph.



HONORABLE MENTION: Kenai River's **Jimmy Hamby**

the week ahead *all times local*

Friday, November 14

Topeka @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm
North Iowa @ Springfield, 7:30 pm
Albert Lea @ Owatonna, 7:00 pm
Wenatchee @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm
Bismarck @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
St. Louis @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Traverse City @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 15

Topeka @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm
North Iowa @ Springfield, 7:00 pm
Albert Lea @ Owatonna, 7:00 pm
Wenatchee @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm
Bismarck @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
St. Louis @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Traverse City @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 16

Motor City @ USNTDP, 3:00 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: Defenseman **Beau Braun** tallied a goal and two assists last weekend as the Avalanche dropped two games to Kenai River.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: Defenseman **Jeff Slusser** recorded a goal and an assist as the Thunder lost three games last weekend. He was also a plus-1.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: **Noah Nemgar** (two goals) and **Lane Bitz** (two assists) each picked up two points in the Blizzard's only game of the week - a 5-2 win over Albert Lea on Friday.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: Goaltender **Nick Graves** allowed only five goals against in three starts as the IceDiggers posted a 2-1 mark against Marquette.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: **Jason Fabian** connected for a goal and an assist in the Bobcats' 2-1 win over Albert Lea on Saturday. He was also a plus-2. "Jason is really starting to come into his own as a hockey player," said head coach **Byron Pool**. "His value can't be measured on the scoresheet."

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: With the weekend off, the Ice Dogs host Wenatchee for a pair of games on Friday and Saturday.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: Goaltender **Jimmy Hamby**, 18, backstopped the Brown Bears to a pair of wins over Alaska, turning back 58 of 64 shots. "Jimmy has been making great strides each week," said head coach **Brent Agrusa**. "This week was his best yet; he gave us an opportunity to win both nights and made big saves at key times."

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: The Phantoms will host the North Division Showcase at the Chevrolet Centre and the Ice Zone from November 28-30.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: Defenseman **Kevin Gravel**, from Kingsford, Mich., has committed to St. Cloud State University (WCHA) for the 2009-10 season.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: The Machine snapped a 13-game losing streak with its 3-2 win over Mahoning Valley on Saturday. "This was a long time coming," said forward **Nick Taurence**. "All week we worked hard and finally got this monkey off our backs."

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: **Jack Paul** potted two goals and an assist, along with a plus-3 rating, in the Outlaws' 4-3 overtime loss to Owatonna on Saturday. "Jack gave us a chance to win on Saturday and was a major reason why we earned at least one point," said head coach **Jeff Crouse**.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: Goaltender **Jason Horstman** won both of his starts between the pipes last weekend, stopping 45 of 50 shots.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: Jr. Blues' leading scorer **Nick Curry** connected for a goal and three assists last weekend as Springfield went 1-2 against St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: **Keith Kinkaid** was named the GDI/NAHL Goaltender of the Month for October after posting a 7-0 record to compliment a 1.85 goals-against average and a .932 save percentage.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: Idle last weekend, the RoadRunners head to Wichita Falls for a pair of games on Friday and Saturday, marking the first meeting of the season between the two clubs.

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: After nine straight home games, the North Division-leading North Stars hit the road this weekend for a pair of games at Marquette.

TEAM USA: The Under-17 Team finished in second place at the Under-17 Four Nations Cup in Monthey, Switzerland with a 2-0-0-1 record.

WENATCHEE WILD: The Wild did its best to work on some offensive concepts during its two-plus-week layoff. "I think our players really improved in these areas," said associate head coach **Ryan McKelvie**.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: Defenseman **Zach Trotman**, from Novi, Mich., has committed to Lake Superior State University (CCHA) for the 2009-10 season.