



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

For Immediate Release • December 15, 2008

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STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Alexandria	27	16-9-2	34	.630	96	85
Bismarck	27	16-10-1	33	.611	79	63
North Iowa	27	15-10-2	32	.593	92	86
Owatonna	27	14-12-1	29	.537	97	90
Albert Lea	27	2-22-3	7	.130	54	119

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Traverse City	25	15-5-5	35	.700	80	69
Mahoning Valley	24	16-6-2	34	.708	80	61
Marquette	31	14-13-4	32	.516	89	95
USNTDP	26	14-10-2	30	.577	94	73
Alpena	25	14-9-2	30	.600	66	68
Motor City	27	5-21-1	11	.204	54	107

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Topeka	27	23-3-1	47	.870	112	53
St. Louis	30	21-6-3	45	.750	118	76
Wichita Falls	24	11-9-4	26	.542	74	87
Springfield	27	8-14-5	21	.389	78	97

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	26	18-4-4	40	.769	103	68
Wenatchee	20	10-9-1	21	.525	57	69
Kenai River	30	9-18-3	21	.350	86	130
Alaska	23	9-13-1	19	.413	79	92

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
George, Jordan	TPK	F	27	16	24	40
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	30	11	27	38
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	24	8	29	37
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	29	18	18	36
Delaurell, Kyle	WIC	F	24	9	26	35
Block, Austin	FBX	F	26	13	21	34
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	26	11	23	34
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	27	14	18	32
Greco, Kyle	STL	F	30	15	15	30
Kirchhevel, Justin	STL	F	28	11	19	30

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	13	783:55	11-1-1	1.53	.938
Tibbett, Jordan	MVY	15	916:53	13-2-0	1.90	.928
Bosner, David	BIS	19	1117:15	11-6-1	2.09	.924
Yanakeff, Will	USA	10	600:20	5-4-1	2.10	.914
Graves, Nick	ALP	17	1030:24	11-5-1	2.21	.920

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	27	19
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	29	18

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	24	29
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	30	27

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Wolfgang, Caleb	TPK	D	27	+20
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	30	+19

Road Warriors

RoadRunners skate to six-game sweep in Alaska

For teams in the Lower 48, winning games in Alaska is no simple task, making the Topeka RoadRunners' perfect 6-0 jaunt through the state, including three wins last week over the Alaska Avalanche, all the more impressive.

"The Alaska swing is not easy, no matter how much you plan for it," said RoadRunners head coach **Scott Langer**, whose team improved to an NAHL-best 23-3-1. "This is something our guys can be proud of."



Bryce Merriam

After winning three straight over the Kenai River Brown Bears the week prior, the RoadRunners headed north to Wasilla where they opened with a 6-3 triumph over the Avs

on Wednesday. **Steve Shafer** notched two goals, including the game-winner, and an assist, with **Alec Hagaman** recording two goals of his own. Between the pipes, **Bryce Merriam** turned aside 19 shots.

On Friday, Hagaman rang up two more goals, including the game-winner, and **Jacob Poe** added a goal and two assists as the Roadrunners bested the Avalanche, 6-5. Goaltender Lyle Rocker made 25 saves to pick up the win in net.

Merriam stopped all 30 shots the next night as Topeka blanked Alaska, 3-0. **Bryon Paulazzo** connected for a goal and assisted on **Matt Hartmann's** game-winning marker, with Shafer adding two more assists to his weekend totals.

"We had 20 players to dress and all 20 contributed," said Langer. "We had a very tired lineup, but that didn't stop us from blocking shots and staying opportunistic on our scoring chances."

Wins and losses aside, the 13-day voyage to Alaska was also the perfect opportunity for the RoadRunners to build team unity and strengthen relationships away from the rink.

"All we have is one another on a trip like that," said Langer. "We do everything as a team with no distractions. It's a good time for everyone to really get to know one another."

One player who got himself familiar with the scoresheet against the Avs was Shafer. The 19-year-old from Rochester, Mich., led Topeka's offensive charge with three goals and four assists in the three games.

"Steve is a high-end player who has gifted vision and a real good feel for the game," said Langer of his second-year forward. "He's been a real big part of this team's success dating back to last season. There's no way he should go unnoticed to colleges; he's a player who will make someone real happy at the next level."

Goal-less in eight straight games heading into the week, Hagaman came alive against the Avs to the tune of four goals and one assist, giving the first-year forward from Peoria, Ill., 13 goals on the season (27 points).

"Hags has adapted very quickly to the speed of the game at this level and he pulled himself out of that small drought through hard work," said Langer of the 19-year-old. "He has a knack for the net and the grit to go along with it."

Story continued at NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

Alexandria forward **Joe Knoepke** struck for three goals and two assists as the Blizzard split a pair of games with Owatonna. On Friday, the Rochester, Minn., native put home a goal and an assist in a 7-2 loss. The next night, the 20-year-old scored two goals and added an assist as the Blizzard downed the Express, 5-3. He was also a plus-4 on the weekend.



sherwood north player of the week

Alpena forward **Erik Peterson** recorded two goals and two assists as the IceDiggers skated to a 2-1 record. On Thursday, the Alpena native assisted on the IceDiggers' lone goal in a 2-1 loss to Marquette. The next night, the 20-year-old collected an assist and scored the game-winning goal in the shootout in a 4-5 win over Traverse City. On Saturday, Peterson netted two goals in regulation as Alpena again downed the North Stars in a shootout, 4-3.



sherwood south player of the week

Topeka forward **Steve Shafer** struck for four goals and four assists as the RoadRunners celebrated a three-game sweep over Alaska. On Wednesday, the Rochester, Mich., native notched two goals, including the game-winner, and an assist in a 6-3 victory. The 19-year-old followed that up with a one-goal, one-assist effort as the RoadRunners downed the Avalanche on Friday, 6-5. The next night, Schafer added two more assists, including one on **Matt Hartmann's** game-winning marker, in a 3-0 victory.



sherwood west player of the week

Fairbanks defenseman **Brian Parson** registered four assists as the Ice Dogs went 2-0-1 against Kenai River. On Thursday, the Phoenix native assisted on both Ice Dogs goals in a 3-2 shootout loss. The next night, the 20-year-old tallied an assist in a 4-3 win. On Sunday, Parson collected another assist as the Ice Dogs topped the Brown Bears in overtime, 2-1. He was also a plus-2 for the week.



gdi goaltender of the week

Marquette goaltender **Kevin Kissaw** backstopped the Rangers to three wins last weekend, turning aside 73 of 78 shots. On Thursday, the Goodrich, Mich., native made 22 saves in a 2-1 victory over Alpena. The next night, the 19-year-old stopped 26 shots as the Rangers bested Motor City, 4-1. On Saturday, Kissaw steered aside 25 shots in Marquette's 4-3 triumph over the Machine.



the week ahead *all times local*

Thursday, December 18

St. Louis @ Owatonna, 7:00 pm
Albert Lea @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm

Friday, December 19

Topeka @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm
St. Louis @ Owatonna, 7:00 pm
Marquette @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Motor City @ Alpena, 7:00 pm
North Iowa @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm
Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm
Springfield @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm

Saturday, December 20

Topeka @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm
Albert Lea @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm
Marquette @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm
Alexandria @ Bismarck, 7:00 pm
Motor City @ Alpena, 7:00 pm
Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm
Springfield @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm

Sunday, December 21

Traverse City @ Motor City, 5:10 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: **Shawn McNeely** registered four assists as the Avalanche dropped three games to Topeka. The Minnesotan is tied for eighth in scoring among NAHL defensemen.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: The Thunder's leading scorer **Danny Wood** collected a goal and two assists as Albert Lea lost two games to North Iowa.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: St. Cloud State recruit **Bryce Ravndalen** struck for a goal and three assists in the Blizzard's two-game split with Owatonna. He was also a plus-3 for the weekend.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: Goaltender **Nick Graves** backstopped the IceDiggers to a pair of shootout wins over Traverse City, stopping a combined nine of 10 shots in the shootouts.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: Idle last weekend, the Bobcats return to action on Saturday to face off against Central Division-leading Alexandria.

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: **Jared Larson** tallied two goals and two assists in two games against Kenai River. The 19-year-old from Minnesota was also a plus-2.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: First-year forward **Patrick Sullivan** has committed to Canisius College (Atlantic Hockey) for the 2010-11 season. He's the first Brown Bears player in the program's two-year history to commit to a Division I program.

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: **Jordy Trottier** scored the game-winning goal and an assist in the Phantoms' 2-1 triumph over the U.S. Under-17 Team on Friday. "Jordy has consistently been one of our hardest workers this season," said head coach **Bob Mainhardt**.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: **Jim Gallagher** collected two goals and two assists as the Rangers skated to three wins last week. "Jimmy had one of his best all-around weekends," said head coach **Kenny Miller**.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: **Josh Bussell** netted a pair of goals in the Machine's 4-3 loss to Marquette on Saturday. "Josh took advantage of his playing time against his former team and made his efforts count," said interim head coach **Sean Clark**.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: The Outlaws' nine goals scored their 9-3 triumph over Albert Lea on Saturday is the most North Iowa has ever scored in a single game in its three-plus-year history.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: Defenseman **Tim Smith** put home two goals and two assists in the Express' two-game split with Alexandria.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: With last weekend off, the Jr. Blues travel to Ann Arbor, Mich., for a pair of games against the U.S. Under-17 Team on Friday and Saturday.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: **Grant Gorczyca** answered with the overtime game-winner and an assist in the Bandits' 4-3 victory over Wichita Falls on Friday.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: **Bryce Merriam** backstopped the RoadRunners to two wins over Alaska, including a 30-save shutout on Saturday (3-0). "Bryce has always been a great goaltender," said head coach **Scott Langer**. "He's been very consistent for us."

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: **Kyle Bonis** added three more goals to his team-leading point totals as Traverse City fell twice to Alpena in shootouts.

TEAM USA: **Chase Balisy** rang up the game-winning goal and an assist in the Under-17 Team's 2-1 win over Mahoning Valley on Saturday.

WENATCHEE WILD: Nearly 1,800 stuffed animals were collected after the Wild's first ever "Teddy Bear Toss" held on Dec. 7 against the Northern Pacific Junior League All-Star Team.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: **Brett Hartung** connected for three goals in two games against St. Louis. He now has points in his last eight games (11 goals for 16 points). "Brett has been working extremely hard and it's paying off for him," said head coach **John Bowkus**.