



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Alexandria	29	17-10-2	36	.621	102	88
North Iowa	29	17-10-2	36	.621	104	90
Bismarck	28	17-10-1	35	.625	81	63
Owatonna	29	14-14-1	29	.500	99	100
Albert Lea	30	2-25-3	7	.117	59	137

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Mahoning Valley	26	17-7-2	36	.692	87	68
Traverse City	26	15-6-5	35	.673	84	75
Alpena	27	16-9-2	34	.630	72	72
Marquette	33	15-14-4	34	.515	96	102
USNTDP	28	15-11-2	32	.571	103	78
Motor City	30	6-23-1	13	.217	64	117

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Topeka	29	24-3-2	50	.862	117	58
St. Louis	32	23-6-3	49	.766	128	78
Wichita Falls	26	12-10-4	28	.538	79	92
Springfield	29	9-15-5	23	.397	83	106

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	28	20-4-4	44	.786	113	72
Wenatchee	20	10-9-1	21	.525	57	69
Kenai River	30	9-18-3	21	.350	86	130
Alaska	25	9-15-1	19	.380	83	102

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
George, Jordan	TPK	F	29	17	24	41
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	31	18	21	39
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	32	11	28	39
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	26	8	31	39
Delaurell, Kyle	WIC	F	26	10	26	36
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	29	14	21	35
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	28	11	24	35
Block, Austin	FBX	F	28	13	21	34
Pietila, Chad	MAR	F	33	14	19	33

(four players tied with 41)

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	14	846:44	11-1-2	1.70	.933
Yanakeff, Will	USA	11	660:20	6-4-1	2.00	.918
Bosner, David	BIS	19	1117:15	11-6-1	2.09	.924
Tibbett, Jordan	MVY	16	976:53	13-3-0	2.09	.920
Grogan, Matt	BIS	11	573:29	6-4-0	2.09	.929

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	29	19
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	31	18

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	26	31
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	32	28

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Reinthal, Kris	STL	D	30	+23

(two players tied at plus-20)

TPT Invites Finalized

Rosters will be announced on December 29

For a number of NAHL teams, last weekend's games meant a lot more than heading into the holiday break on a winning note. The contests also dictated how many players each team could send to next month's heavily scouted NAHL Top Prospects Tournament.

The event, which attracted close to 100 college and professional scouts in its first go-round last year, will be held from Jan. 18-20, 2009 at the Ice Cube in Ann Arbor, Mich., and will feature all-star teams from the NAHL's Central, North, South and West Divisions competing in a three-game, round-robin tournament.



Matt Grogan

The number of invites each team gets to Top Prospects is based on each team's winning percentage as of Dec. 22, with higher percentages translating into more representation. The rosters will be announced by the NAHL Top Prospects Tournament Selection Committee on Dec. 29.

The Bismarck Bobcats, who controlled their own destiny heading into the weekend, sealed down the top spot in the Central Division with a 2-0 win over the Alexandria Blizzard on Saturday.

"As an organization, we're extremely excited for the opportunity," said Bobcats head coach **Byron Pool**, whose team will send six players to Top Prospects. "It's a great reward for the hard work all of our players put into the first half of the season."

"We're sending six players, but all 24 should be very proud of this accomplishment."

Second-year Bobcats goaltender **Matt Grogan**, a 20-year-old from Phoenix, stole the show against the Blizzard, turning back all 37 shots he faced to earn his first shutout of the season.

"Matt continues to prove that he's one of the best goaltenders in the Central Division," said Pool. "He has one of the best work ethics I've seen in any player. He's due a tremendous amount of credit for the way he's turned around his season."

Top Prospects implications also came down to the final weekend in the North Division, where Mahoning Valley's two-game split with the Marquette Rangers coupled with the Traverse City North Stars' loss to the Motor City Machine on Sunday earned the Phantoms a division-most six invites.

"Anytime you can provide your players with an opportunity like this it's very exciting, so it's very rewarding to our organization to have six players attending," said Phantoms head coach **Bob Mainhardt**.

Netminder **Garrett Bartus** helped Mahoning Valley nail down its 5-2 win over the Rangers on Saturday, stopping 29 shots in his only start of the weekend.

"In Garrett's last few starts, he's played really well and deserved the win, but we didn't give him much support," said Mainhardt. "It was nice to see him go out there and get that support. He played a great game."

Story continued at NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

North Iowa forward **Travis Peckskamp** rang up four goals and an assist as the Outlaws celebrated a two-game sweep over Albert Lea. On Friday, the Sauk Rapids, Minn., native notched two goals in a 4-2 triumph. The next night, the 20-year-old collected two more goals and assisted on **Brandon Brodhag's** game-winning marker as the Outlaws bested the Thunder, 8-2. He was also a plus-3 on the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Bismarck forward **Will Aide**

sherwood north player of the week

Motor City forward **Josh Bussell** recorded three goals and an assist as the Machine posted a 1-1 record. After being held scoreless in a 3-2 loss to the Alpena IceDiggers on Saturday, the LaSalle, Mich., native recorded a hat trick, including the game-winning goal, and an assist the next day as the Machine downed the Traverse City North Stars, 6-4. The 19-year-old was also a plus-2 for the weekend.



HONORABLE MENTION: Mahoning Valley forward **Stefan Salituro**; Marquette forwards **Aaron Pietila** and **Chad Pietila**

sherwood south player of the week

St. Louis forward **Brooks Bertsch** tallied two goals and an assist in the Bandits' 5-2 win over Owatonna on Friday. The 18-year-old from Dubuque, Iowa, who did not dress the night prior (a 5-0 Bandits win over the Express) was also a plus-4 for the game.



HONORABLE MENTION: Wichita Falls forward **Adam Kuhn**

sherwood west player of the week

Fairbanks forward **Jon Waggoner** connected for three goals as the Ice Dogs skated to a two-game sweep over Alaska. On Friday, the Fairbanks native scored two goals, including the game-winner, in a 3-0 victory. The next night, the 19-year-old tallied another goal in the Ice Dogs' 7-4 triumph over the Avalanche. He was a plus-3 on the weekend.



gdi goaltender of the week

Alpena goaltender **Nick Graves** backstopped the IceDiggers to a pair of wins over Motor City, turning aside 55 of 59 shots. On Friday, the Hewitt, Wis., native made 28 saves in a 3-2 triumph. The next night, the 20-year-old stopped 27 shots as Alpena again downed the Machine, 3-2.



HONORABLE MENTION: Bismarck's **Matt Grogan**; Fairbanks' **Joe Phillippi**; Mahoning Valley's **Garrett Bartus**; St. Louis' **Keith Kincaid**

the week ahead all times local

Sunday, December 28

Topeka @ St. Louis, 2:00 pm
Alpena @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm

Monday, December 29

Topeka @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm
Alpena @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm

Wednesday, December 31

Springfield @ Topeka, 6:30 pm
Bismarck @ Owatonna, 6:30 pm
Albert Lea @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm
Traverse City @ Alpena, 7:00 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: **Matt Friese** (two goals) and **Adam Friese** (two assists) both recorded two points in the Avs' 7-4 loss to Fairbanks on Saturday.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: **Anthony Brown** notched a goal in each of the Thunder's two losses to North Iowa last weekend. He has scored in his last three games.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: **Taylor Vichorek** put home two goals, including the game-winner, in the Blizzard's 6-1 victory over Albert Lea on Thursday.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: **Jay Camper** rang up two goals for the IceDiggers in a two-game sweep over Motor City, including the game-winner in Saturday's 3-2 victory.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: **Will Aide** assisted on both goals in the Bobcats' 2-0 triumph over Alexandria on Saturday. "Will really has all the skills to be a very good player in this league, plus he plays the role of agitator very well," said head coach **Byron Pool**.

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: Goaltender **Joe Phillippi** earned his first NAHL shutout after stopping all 34 shots in the Ice Dogs' 3-0 win over the Avalanche on Friday. "He had an outstanding game for us," said head coach **Josh Hauge**.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: Heading into the holiday break, **Jed McGlasson** leads the Brown Bears in scoring with 25 points (10 goals).

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: **Stefan Salituro** potted a goal and two assists in the Phantoms' 5-2 win over Marquette on Saturday. "Stefan had one of his best games of the season," said head coach **Bob Mainhardt**.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: **Aaron Pietila** rang up a goal and three assists as the Ice Diggers split a pair of games with Mahoning Valley. "Aaron is our leader and this weekend he proved just that," said head coach **Kenny Miller**.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: The Machine picked up its sixth win of the season on Sunday, dropping Traverse City, 6-4. "It's a boost of confidence going into break and it's something to build on for the second half," forward **Josh Bussell** said.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: Goaltender **Thomas Callaghan** picked up both wins in net for the Outlaws as they skated to a two-game sweep over Albert Lea.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: Air Force recruit **Stephen Carew** tallied a goal and an assist in the Express' 5-2 loss to St. Louis on Friday.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: Former Jr. Blues defenseman **Darren Rowe**, an NAHL All-Rookie Team selection last year, has committed to the University of Massachusetts (Hockey East).

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: Goaltender **Keith Kincaid** made all 27 saves in the Bandits' 5-0 win over Owatonna on Thursday, marking his third shutout of the season.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: **Alec Hagaman** struck for two goals in two games against Wichita Falls, including the game-winner in the RoadRunners' 2-1 victory on Friday.

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: **Eric McLintock** struck for two goals in the North Stars' 6-4 loss to Motor City on Sunday. He now has five goals in his last four games.

TEAM USA: The U.S. National Under-17 Team will travel to the Alberni Valley in British Columbia for the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge from December 29, 2008-January 4, 2009.

WENATCHEE WILD: **Nic Dowd** leads the Wild in scoring heading into the holiday break with 18 points (seven goals).

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: Defenseman **Adam Kuhn** recorded two goals as the Wildcats split a pair of games with Topeka. In his first six games with Wichita Falls, he has three goals and an assist.