



# 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
North Iowa	32	19-10-3	41	.641	121	101
Alexandria	31	18-10-3	39	.629	110	96
Bismarck	30	18-11-1	37	.617	86	69
Owatonna	32	16-15-1	33	.516	111	110
Albert Lea	32	2-26-4	8	.125	67	152

### North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Mahoning Valley	31	20-8-3	43	.694	108	84
Traverse City	30	18-7-5	41	.683	102	89
Alpena	32	17-12-3	37	.578	83	91
Marquette	35	16-15-4	36	.514	99	106
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
St. Louis	37	27-7-3	57	.770	150	84
Topeka	34	27-4-3	57	.838	131	70
Wichita Falls	29	13-12-4	30	.517	83	108
Springfield	32	9-18-5	23	.359	89	118

### West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	30	20-6-4	44	.733	120	82
Wenatchee	22	12-9-1	25	.568	67	76
Alaska	27	11-15-1	23	.426	90	106
Kenai River	32	9-20-3	21	.328	90	137

## LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	31	9	37	46
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	36	22	22	44
George, Jordan	TPK	F	34	19	25	44
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	37	14	29	43
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	34	14	26	40
Paul, Jack	NIO	F	31	13	24	37
Block, Austin	FBX	F	30	13	24	37
DeLaurell, Kyle	WIC	F	29	10	27	37

(six players tied with 36)

## LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	18	1005:22	13-1-3	1.61	.936
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	26	1535:45	20-4-1	1.95	.928
Yanakeff, Will	USA	11	660:20	6-4-1	2.00	.918
Bosner, David	BIS	20	1177:15	12-6-1	2.09	.924
Grogan, Matt	BIS	12	633:08	6-5-0	2.18	.924

## GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	36	22
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	32	21

## ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	31	37
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	37	29

## PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Reinthal, Kris	STL	D	34	+26
Kirchhevel, Justin	STL	F	35	+23

# Bandits Keep Rolling

## St. Louis opens second half with four wins

Fresh off of the Christmas break, the St. Louis Bandits showed no signs of a holiday hangover on their way to four wins in five games last week to open the second half of the season.

"It was important that we got off to a good start because our division is so tight and competitive right now," said Bandits head coach **Jeff Brown**, whose team improved to 27-7-3 on the year. "And come the end of the season, every point could make a difference in the standings."

The Bandits opened the post-Christmas break with a pair of victories over the Topeka RoadRunners, followed by two wins and a loss against the Wichita Falls Wildcats with Sunday's contest - a 6-0 Bandits shutout - showcased in front of over 5,000 fans at Scottrade Center, home of the NHL's St. Louis Blues.



**Grant Gorczyca**

"I just think our guys came back refreshed and focused," said Brown. "It would've been easy for them have a slow start coming off break, but they've come back and really showed that they want to improve and make a nice run in the second half of the season."

**Andrew Hamburg** wasted no time getting back in the groove. The 19-year-old from Phoenix rang up a goal and six assists over the five games to take over the NAHL's scoring lead with 46 points.

"He's a high-end forward in this league and has been an offensive leader for us with his consistency and timely playmaking," said Brown of the Colorado College recruit. "Having only two players back from last year's national championship team (forward **Grant Gorczyca** is the other), we're looking for a guy like Andrew to show the rest of the players what it takes to win a championship at this level."

In his first year with the Bandits, goaltender **Keith Kinkaid**, a New York native, has been nothing short of dominant between the pipes. The 19-year-old picked up four wins for the Bandits last week and has now won his last 10 starts, three of which have been shutouts.

"Keith has been very consistent for us," said Brown. "He's been making the saves he should make and giving us a chance to win every night."

"What separates Keith from a lot of goaltenders is his work ethic and preparation, and we expect him to keep playing solid hockey as the stretch run approaches."

Defensively, St. Louis has bolstered its blue line in recent weeks with the acquisitions of **Shawn Jameson** from Wichita Falls and **Danny Weiss** from the USHL.

"Adding guys like Shawn and Danny gives us stability on the blue line and also boosts our power-play unit," said Brown.

**Kris Reinthal** has impressed on the backend all season long. The 20-year-old defenseman from Graz, Austria, leads the entire NAHL with a plus-26 rating.

"Kris brings a wealth of experience and skill to our defensive core," said Brown. "He's a vital piece to our puzzle and we expect him to elevate his game even more in the second half."

Story continued at NAHL.com

## sherwood central player of the week

North Iowa forward **Alex Carlson** unleashed for three goals and six assists as the Outlaws skated to a 2-0-1 record. On New Year's Eve, the Farmington, Minn., native set a team record for points in a game with seven (two goals, five assists) in a 9-3 triumph over Albert Lea. The 20-year-old added an assist in the Outlaws' 4-3 overtime loss to Alexandria on Friday before connecting for another goal in a 5-4 victory over the Blizzard the next night.



## sherwood north player of the week

Mahoning Valley forward **Nick Kenney** struck for three goals and three assists as the Phantoms posted a 1-2 mark against Traverse City. On Friday, the Wixom, Mich., native recorded two goals and an assist in a 5-4 overtime loss. The next night, the 20-year-old collected the game-winning goal and an assist as the Phantoms downed the North Stars, 5-3. On Sunday, Kenney added another assist in a 4-2 defeat.



## sherwood south player of the week

St. Louis forward **Andrew Hamburg** registered a goal and six assists as the Bandits skated to a 4-1 record. In a 4-1 win over Topeka on Sunday, Dec. 28, the Phoenix native notched two assists. The 19-year-old tallied three more assists, including one on **Grant Gorczyca's** game-winning goal, in a 9-1 victory over Wichita Falls on Friday. Hamburg then delivered a one-goal, one-assist effort on Sunday in the Bandits' 6-0 win over Wichita Falls.



## sherwood west player of the week

Wenatchee forward **DJ Vandercook** rang up four goals as the Wild skated to a two-game sweep over Fairbanks. On Friday, the Farmington Hills, Mich., native scored a pair of goals, including the game-winner, in a 3-2 victory. The next night, the 18-year-old potted two more goals, including another game-winner, as the Wild bested the Ice Dogs, 7-5.



## gdi goaltender of the week

St. Louis goaltender **Keith Kinkaid** fashioned a 4-0 record, turning aside 86 of 89 shots. On Sunday, Dec. 28, the Farmingville, N.Y., native made 23 saves in a 4-1 win over Topeka. The next night, the 19-year-old stopped 31 shots as the Bandits bested the RoadRunners, 2-1. Kinkaid steered aside 20 shots in a 9-1 victory over Wichita Falls on Friday, and wrapped up his week with a 12-save shootout performance over the Wildcats on Sunday (6-0).



## the week ahead *all times local*

### Wednesday, January 7

Kenai River @ Wenatchee, 7:05 pm

### Thursday, January 8

Traverse City @ Alpena, 7:00 pm

### Friday, January 9

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

### Saturday, January 10

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

### Sunday, January 11

Mahoning Valley @ USNTDP, 3:00 pm  
North Iowa @ Alexandria, 5:00 pm

## around the nahl

**ALASKA AVALANCHE:** Goaltenders **Dylan Woodring** (18 saves) and **Nate Pellegrino** (19) both allowed only two goals against to earn victories in a two-game sweep over Kenai River.

**ALBERT LEA THUNDER:** **Jake Armijo** (goal, two assists) and **BJ McClellan** (three assists) were the Thunder's top point-getters last weekend as it dropped a pair of games.

**ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD:** **Joe Knoepke** tallied a goal and an assist, as well as a goal in the shootout, as the Blizzard knocked off North Iowa on Friday, 4-3.

**ALPENA ICEDIGGERS:** Goaltender **Nick Graves** steered aside all 33 shots in a 2-0 victory over Marquette on Friday, marking his fourth shutout of the season and tying him for most in the NAHL.

**BISMARCK BOBCATS:** First-year forward **Jason Fabian**, from Roseau, Minn., has committed the Air Force Academy (Atlantic Hockey) for the 2010-11 season.

**FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS:** The Ice Dogs traded defenseman **Brad Trembl** to Bismarck for **Josh Nelson**, a 19-year-old defenseman from Nekoosa, Wis., who played in 26 games for the Bobcats this season.

**KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS:** Defenseman **Jared Beers** struck for a goal and two assists as the Brown Bears dropped a pair of games to Alaska.

**MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS:** First-year forward **Cole Schneider**, from Williamsville, N.Y., has committed to the University of Connecticut (Atlantic Hockey) for the 2010-11 season.

**MARQUETTE RANGERS:** Goaltender **Dan Sullivan** stopped 55 of 59 shots in two games as the Rangers split a weekend set with Alpena. "Dan was on his game," said head coach **Kenny Miller**.

**MOTOR CITY MACHINE:** Idle last week, the Machine will kick off 2009 with a pair of games in Mahoning Valley on Friday and Saturday.

**NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS:** **Jack Paul** extended his franchise-record point-scoring streak to 15 games last weekend, which is the longest in the NAHL this season and nearing the league's modern record (20 held by three different players).

**OWATONNA EXPRESS:** Air Force recruit **Stephen Carew** rang up two goals, including the overtime game-winner, in the Express' 6-5 triumph over Albert Lea on Saturday.

**SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES:** Springfield's leading-scorer and Top Prospects Tournament selection **Nick Curry** racked up three assists in three losses to Topeka last weekend.

**ST. LOUIS BANDITS:** **Danny Wiess** has two goals and five assists in nine games with the Bandits after being picked up from the USHL's Lincoln Stars.

**TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS:** **Bryon Paulazzo** collected a goal and four assists last week as the RoadRunners fashioned a 3-1-1 record. "With the Top Prospects Tournament just around the corner, Bryon is a forward that everyone should have their eyes on," said head coach **Scott Langer**.

**TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS:** **Kyle Bonis** levied a goal and five assists as TC skated to a 2-1 mark against Mahoning Valley. "Kyle's consistently among our best forwards night in and night out, and a big part of everything we do," said North Stars head coach **Anthony Palumbo**.

**TEAM USA:** The U.S. National Under-17 Team (4-0-1-0) won the bronze medal at the 2009 World Under-17 Hockey Challenge held in Port Alberni, British Columbia.

**WENATCHEE WILD:** On a line together, **Mike Voran** and **DJ Vandercook** have been clicking offensively. "They have tremendous chemistry," said head coach **Paul Baxter**.

**WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS:** Second-year forward **Jeff McNeil**, from Mulliken, Mich., has committed to Ohio State University (CCHA) for next season.