



# NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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## STANDINGS

### Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Bismarck	39	26-12-1	53	.679	123	83
North Iowa	40	24-13-3	51	.638	148	121
Owatonna	40	21-18-1	43	.538	151	140
Alexandria	38	20-15-3	43	.566	129	127
Albert Lea	38	2-32-4	8	.105	77	188

### North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Mahoning Valley	39	26-10-3	55	.705	147	116
Traverse City	38	24-9-5	53	.697	127	104
USNTDP	35	21-11-3	45	.643	142	98
Alpena	40	20-15-5	45	.563	105	123
Marquette	44	19-20-5	43	.489	119	129
Motor City	38	6-31-1	13	.171	81	157

### South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Topeka	44	35-5-4	74	.841	163	96
St. Louis	45	31-8-6	68	.756	174	103
Wichita Falls	39	16-16-7	39	.500	110	140
Springfield	40	11-24-5	27	.338	114	148

### West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	41	26-10-5	57	.695	159	112
Wenatchee	34	17-15-2	36	.529	98	120
Alaska	35	16-18-1	33	.471	119	136
Kenai River	39	12-23-4	28	.359	116	161

## LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
George, Jordan	TPK	F	44	23	32	55
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	38	12	39	51
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	43	23	25	48
Block, Austin	FBX	F	41	20	28	48
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	43	15	32	47
Paul, Jack	NIO	F	38	17	28	45
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	44	14	31	45
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	36	14	31	45
Bonis, Kyle	TNS	F	37	22	22	44

(four players tied with 41)

## LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	24	1364:01	18-2-3	1.80	.925
Bosner, David	BIS	25	1477:15	17-6-1	1.87	.933
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	31	1847:52	22-4-4	1.98	.926
Grogan, Matt	BIS	16	873:08	9-6-0	2.20	.924
Yanakeff, Will	USA	14	850:15	8-4-2	2.26	.903

## GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	40	24

(three players tied with 23)

## ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	38	39

(two players tied with 32)

## PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Clark, John	BIS	D	37	+29
Reinthal, Kris	STL	D	41	+28

# Avalanche Heating Up

## Alaska rides five-game winning streak into February

It might be the dead of winter, but few teams are hotter right now than the Alaska Avalanche, which has rolled off five wins in a row, including two last weekend against the Wichita Falls Wildcats.

"Those were important points for us," said Avalanche coach **Dave Boitz**, whose team improved to 16-18-1 on the season. "And to get them against a big, strong team from the South Division is a big confidence-booster for our young team."

**Logan Rounds** (game-winner), **Thomas Erlacher** and **Robb Haider** each rang up a goal and an assist as the Avs opened with a 5-3 victory on Friday. Along with turning aside 31 shots, goaltender **Nate Pellegrino** added two assists in the win.



**Robb Haider**

The next night, **Sean McNeely**, **Dan Hildbrandt** (game-winner) and Haider connected for goals as Alaska dropped the Wildcats, 3-1. Pellegrino made 36 saves to pick up his second win of the weekend.

The victories also helped vault the Avalanche back into the race for second place in the West Division with Wenatchee - Alaska sits three points behind the Wild having played one more game - while distancing itself from Kenai River, which has five fewer points than Alaska having played four more games.

"Our special teams are much improved and we have a balanced attack where we're consistently rolling four lines," said Boitz, whose team went 7-3 in January. "We've also been getting better goaltending than the weeks leading up to the (holiday) break."

And the Avs have Pellegrino to thank. With his two wins last weekend, the 20-year-old from Woodlyn, Pa., who started his NAHL career with Alaska back in 2006-07 has now won his last four starts.

"He has the ability to be as good as anyone, and he's working on being prepared mentally everyday in practice and in games," said Boitz. "If he stays consistent, he could be one of the top goalies in the league. He knows that, so the ball is in his court."

Haider has also come around to become a big piece of the Avs' puzzle. A highly regarded first-year forward who hit some bumps in the road early on, the Anchorage product has risen to the challenge, posting four goals and three assists in his last four games.

"He's responded like a champ," said Boitz, who also credits Haider's linemates, Rounds and **Justin Giles**. "He's better in all areas of the ice than I would've ever imagined and now he's becoming one of the biggest offensive threats we have."

"We've had different guys get hot at different times and right now, although we don't have that one guy who's going to carry us offensively, we have a number of guys who can score at any time."

On the defensive side of the puck, McNeely, from Minnesota, and **Jason Cohen**, from Anchorage, have drawn rave reviews.

Story continued at NAHL.com

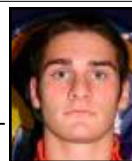
## sherwood central player of the week

North Iowa forward **Kurt Weston** tallied four goals and an assist as the Outlaws celebrated a pair of wins over Springfield. On Friday, the Roseau, Minn., native recorded a hat trick and an assist in a 6-5 triumph. The next night, the 20-year-old netted another goal as the Outlaws downed the Jr. Blues, 3-2. He was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



## sherwood north player of the week

Mahoning Valley forward **Brandon Saad** put home four goals and three assists as the Phantoms skated to a two-game sweep over Alpena. On Friday, the Gibsonia, Pa., native connected for a goal and an assist in a 6-1 victory. The next night, the 16-year-old recorded a hat trick, including the game-winning goal, and two assists as the Phantoms blitzed the IceDiggers, 9-2. He was also a plus-4 on the weekend.



## sherwood south player of the week

Topeka defenseman **Eric Artman** rang up two goals as the RoadRunners skated to a two-game sweep over St. Louis. On Friday, the East Lansing, Mich., native notched the overtime game-winner in a 3-2 triumph. The next night, the 19-year-old added another goal as the RoadRunners again bested the Bandits, 3-2. The Air Force Academy recruit was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



## sherwood west player of the week

Fairbanks forward **Austin Block** rang up two goals and three assists as the Ice Dogs fashioned a 2-1 mark against Wenatchee. On Wednesday, the 19-year-old recorded two assists, including one on **Paul Kirtland's** game-winning goal, in a 5-2 victory. The Northridge, Calif., product followed that up with a two-goal effort in another 5-2 Ice Dogs win on Friday. The next day, the Air Force Academy recruit added an assist as Fairbanks fell to the Wild, 4-3. He was also a plus-1 on the weekend.



## gdi goaltender of the week

Alaska goaltender **Nate Pellegrino** backstopped the Avalanche to a pair of victories over Wichita Falls, turning aside 67 of 71 shots. On Friday, the Woodlyn, Pa., native made 31 saves in a 5-3 victory. The next night, the 20-year-old stopped 36 shots as the Avalanche bested the Wildcats, 3-1.



## the week ahead all times local

### Tuesday, February 3

Wichita Falls @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

### Thursday, February 5

Wichita Falls @ Kenai River, 7:05 pm

### Friday, February 6

Topeka @ Springfield, 7:30 pm  
Traverse City @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm  
Wichita Falls @ Kenai River, 7:30 pm  
Wenatchee @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm  
Owatonna @ Bismarck, 7:30 pm  
Motor City @ Alpena, 7:00 pm  
Alexandria @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm

### Saturday, February 7

Topeka @ Springfield, 7:30 pm  
Alexandria @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm  
Traverse City @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm  
Wichita Falls @ Kenai River, 7:30 pm  
Wenatchee @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm  
Owatonna @ Bismarck, 7:00 pm  
Motor City @ Alpena, 7:00 pm

### Sunday, February 8

Springfield @ St. Louis, 2:00 pm  
Traverse City @ Mahoning Valley, 3:00 pm  
North Iowa @ Albert Lea, 2:00 pm

## around the nahl

**ALASKA AVALANCHE:** The Avalanche has come from behind in more than half of its 16 wins this season. "They don't quit," head coach **Dave Boitz** said of his team.

**ALBERT LEA THUNDER:** **Derek Docken**, **Jimmie Perkins** and **Niko Kapetanovic** scored for the Thunder as it dropped a pair of games to Bismarck.

**ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD:** **Jerry Freismuth** tallied three goals and three assists as the Blizzard split a two-game set with Owatonna.

**ALPENA ICEDIGGERS:** **Mike DeGrazia**, **Erik Peterson** and **Andy Yarber** connected for goals in the IceDiggers' two losses to Mahoning Valley.

**BISMARCK BOBCATS:** Defenseman **John Avino** tallied a goal and two assists, along with a plus-5 rating, as the Bobcats won two games over Albert Lea. "John is rock solid in his own end and has one of the best work ethics I've ever seen," said head coach **Byron Pool**. "He's a true competitor in every sense of the word."

**FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS:** California-born **Michael Juola** put away three goals and an assist as the Ice Dogs went 2-1 against Wenatchee.

**KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS:** Idle last weekend, the Brown Bears host Wichita Falls for three games on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

**MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS:** **Garrett Bartus** made 34 saves in the Phantoms' 6-1 win over Alpena on Friday. He's now won six of his last seven starts. "With the guys out there scoring so much, I was just able to relax and have some fun in net," he said.

**MARQUETTE RANGERS:** Defenseman **Kevin Gravel** has been added to the U.S. National Under-17 Team that will compete at the Vlad Dzurilla Under-18 Tournament in Piestany, Slovakia Feb. 5-7.

**MOTOR CITY MACHINE:** The Machine acquired forward **Jon Bobb** from Springfield. Now in his second NAHL season, the Arizona native has committed to Army (Atlantic Hockey) for next season.

**NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS:** The Outlaws first-ever "Put Cancer on Ice" weekend raised nearly \$2,000. "It always means something to us when we have a chance to give back, because we're in a position to help," said forward **Kurt Weston**.

**OWATONNA EXPRESS:** **Tony McDonald** potted a goal and three assists as the Express split a two-game set with Alexandria. He was also a plus-2.

**SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES:** The NAHL's leading goal-scorer, **Trent Frey**, put home two more in the Jr. Blues' 6-5 loss to North Iowa on Friday. He now has 24 goals on the year.

**ST. LOUIS BANDITS:** Colorado College recruit **Andrew Hamburg** recorded a goal and an assist as the Bandits lost two one-goal decisions to Topeka.

**TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS:** Goaltender **Bryce Merriam** backstopped the RoadRunners to two wins over St. Louis, turning aside 33 of 37 shots. "He's playing with a lot of confidence and he continues to work hard to get even better," said head coach **Scott Langer**. "He's a veteran with a lot of tools and he's definitely finding his groove."

**TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS:** **Nate Urbaniak** (two goals, assist) and **Kyle Bonis** (goal, two assists) both put together three-point weekends in the North Stars' two-game sweep over Motor City.

**TEAM USA:** **Matt Nieto** rang up two goals and an assist as the Under-17 Team downed Marquette on Saturday, 4-3.

**WENATCHEE WILD:** **DJ Vandercook** collected two goals and two assists as the Wild went 1-2 against Fairbanks. "DJ, along with his linemates (**Nick Dowd** and **Michael Voran**), are distinguishing themselves as three of the top 1990-born players in the league," said head coach **Paul Baxter**.

**WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS:** **Brett Hartung** (goal, assist), **Zach Rourke** (two assists) and **Adam Kuhn** (two assists) all fashioned two-point nights in the Wildcats' 5-3 loss to Alaska on Friday.