



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Bismarck	41	28-12-1	57	.695	129	86
North Iowa	42	26-13-3	55	.655	161	124
Alexandria	40	21-16-3	45	.563	139	135
Owatonna	42	21-19-2	44	.524	154	146
Albert Lea	40	2-34-4	8	.100	79	202

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Mahoning Valley	42	28-10-4	60	.714	161	124
Traverse City	41	25-11-5	55	.671	135	118
Alpena	42	22-15-5	49	.583	114	129
USNTDP	35	21-11-3	45	.643	142	98
Marquette	44	19-20-5	43	.489	119	129
Motor City	40	6-33-1	13	.163	87	166

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Topeka	46	35-7-4	74	.804	166	106
St. Louis	46	32-8-6	70	.761	178	104
Wichita Falls	43	18-17-8	44	.512	123	151
Springfield	43	13-25-5	31	.360	125	155

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	43	27-10-6	60	.698	166	116
Wenatchee	36	18-16-2	38	.528	102	127
Alaska	36	17-18-1	35	.486	123	139
Kenai River	42	13-24-5	31	.369	123	171

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
George, Jordan	TPK	F	46	23	34	57
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	39	12	41	53
Block, Austin	FBX	F	43	21	31	52
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	44	24	25	49
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	45	15	34	49
Paul, Jack	NIO	F	40	18	29	47
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	45	14	33	47
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	38	14	33	47
Bonis, Kyle	TNS	F	40	22	23	45

(two players tied with 44)

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Bosner, David	BIS	25	1477:15	17-6-1	1.87	.933
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	25	1422:24	18-3-3	1.94	.921
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	32	1907:52	23-4-4	1.95	.927
Grogan, Matt	BIS	18	998:08	11-6-0	2.10	.930
Yanakeff, Will	USA	14	850:15	8-4-2	2.26	.903

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	43	26
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	44	24

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	39	41

(two players tied with 44)

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Clark, John	BIS	D	39	+30
Reinthal, Kris	STL	D	42	+28

Alpena Back On Track

IceDiggers end four-game slide with sweep

Losers of four straight games, the Alpena IceDiggers came back to life last weekend with a morale-inspiring two-game sweep over the Motor City Machine.

"Obviously, it was big for us to break out of that slump. That and the fact that every aspect of our game was struggling," said IceDiggers assistant coach **Josh Harrold**, whose team improved to 22-15-5 on the season. "It was nice to get back on track."

Erik Peterson's third-period goal lifted the IceDiggers to a 5-4 victory on Friday. Peterson also chipped in two assists, and **Ryan Timar** (goal, assist), **Sam Cheraso** (goal, assist) and **Jay Camper** (two assists) each recorded two-point nights. **Nick Graves** turned aside 20 shots to pick up the win in goal.



Erik Peterson

The next night, four different players lit the lamp for Alpena as it doubled up the Machine, 4-2.

Adam Bristol connected for the game-winning marker, and Graves made 18 saves.

"We played better defensively and, because of that, we created more opportunities offensively," said Harrold.

And Peterson took advantage. The 20-year-old from Alpena put home a goal and three assists last weekend to lead the team's offensive charge.

"It was nice to get Erik back on track," said Harrold of his team's leading scorer, now in his fourth season with the team. "He's struggled to find his scoring touch recently. Hopefully, it stays around."

A mainstay between the IceDiggers' pipes, Graves also rebounded last weekend, picking up his 17th and 18th wins of the season to go along with a 2.59 goals-against average and a .910 save percentage.

"Nick has been good all season, but, like everyone else around here, he's been struggling lately," said Harrold of the 20-year-old keeper from Hewitt, Wis. "It was good to see him bounce back, too."

Veteran defensemen **Ryan Sell**, **Jerrod Hartman** and **JC Gulch** also put forth better efforts last weekend, as did first-year blueliners **Jason Souva**, **Bristol** and **Scott Eberline**.

Offensively, **Tyler Pilmore**, **John Fritsche**, **Andy Yarber** and **Jim McCusker** have delivered with consistency all season, with Camper and Timar and Cheraso and **Jordan Miller** working well together on their respective lines. **Mike DeGrazia** has also proved his worth, connecting for some big goals lately.

The IceDiggers also got a big boost upfront with the recent additions **Jon Puskar** and **Richard Manley**, both of whom were acquired from the USHL's Lincoln Stars. Puskar, who played for Alpena last season, tallied a goal and an assist in his first two games last weekend; Manley picked up an assist.

"These two guys will bring some much-needed leadership and offense to our team, which we've struggled with in recent weeks," said Harrold.

Story continued at NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

North Iowa forward **Kurt Weston** struck for two goals and three assists as the Outlaws skated to two divisional wins. On Saturday, the Roseau, Minn., native netted a goal and two assists, including one on **Jack Paul's** game-winning marker, in 7-2 triumph over the Alexandria Blizzard. The next day, the 20-year-old scored a goal and an assist as the Outlaws downed the Albert Lea Thunder, 6-1.



sherwood north player of the week

Mahoning Valley forward **Nick Kenney** rang up four goals as the Phantoms went 2-0-1 against Traverse City. After being held scoreless on Friday - a 4-1 Phantoms win - the Wixom, Mich., native notched a goal the next night in a 6-5 overtime loss. On Sunday, the 20-year-old recorded a hat trick as the Phantoms bested the North Stars, 5-1. He was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



sherwood south player of the week

Springfield forward **Kyle Verbeek** totaled two goals and two assists as the Jr. Blues fashioned a 2-1 record. On Friday, the Bloomfield, Mich., native recorded two assists in a 4-0 win over the Topeka RoadRunners. The next night, the 20-year-old potted a pair of goals as the Jr. Blues doubled up the RoadRunners, 6-3. Verbeek was held scoreless the next night in 4-1 loss to the St. Louis Bandits.



sherwood west player of the week

Wenatchee forward **DJ Vandercook** connected for a goal and two assists as the Wild split a two-game-set with Fairbanks. On Friday, the Farmington Hills, Mich., native recorded an assist in a 5-1 loss. The next night, the 18-year-old struck for the game-winning goal in overtime and an assist as the Wild bested the Ice Dogs, 3-2.



gdi goaltender of the week

Bismarck goaltender **Matt Grogan** backstopped the Bobcats to a two-game sweep over Owatonna, turning aside 81 of 84 shots. On Friday, the Gilbert, Ariz., native made 35 saves in regulation and overtime and four of five in the shootout in a 4-3 victory. The next night, the 20-year-old stopped all 46 shots as the Bobcats blanked the Express, 2-0.



the week ahead *all times local*

Tuesday, February 10

Wenatchee @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 11

Wenatchee @ Alaska, 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 12

Alexandria @ Bismarck, 7:00 pm
Mahoning Valley @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Friday, February 13

St. Louis @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm
Owatonna @ North Iowa, 8:00 pm
Traverse City @ Motor City, 7:10 pm
Wenatchee @ Kenai River, 7:30 pm
Alaska @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm
Alexandria @ Bismarck, 7:30 pm
Springfield @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm
Mahoning Valley @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 14

St. Louis @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm
North Iowa @ Owatonna, 7:00 pm
Traverse City @ Motor City, 7:10 pm
Wenatchee @ Kenai River, 7:30 pm
Alaska @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm
Bismarck @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
Springfield @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm
Mahoning Valley @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 15

Albert Lea @ Owatonna, 5:00 pm
USNTDP @ Motor City, 5:10 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: **Kyle Pichler** picked up two assists in the Avs' only game of the week, a 4-3 shootout win over Wichita Falls on Tuesday.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: **Niko Kapetanovic** and **Mikita Feaktsistau** scored the Thunder's only goals as it dropped two games to Alexandria and North Iowa.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: Goaltender **Ryan Leets**, a Michigan native who played in last month's Top Prospects Tournament, has committed to Army (Atlantic Hockey) for next season.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: The IceDiggers play 11 of their final 16 regular-season games on the road.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: **David Bosner** was named the NAHL/GDI Goaltender of the Month for January after posting a perfect 5-0 record, including two 33-save shutouts, to compliment a 1.00 goals-against average and a .967 save percentage in five appearances.

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: The Ice Dogs will host the first-ever USA Hockey-sanctioned outdoor junior game this Friday (Feb. 13) against Alaska.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: Nevada native **Kyle Clay** struck for two goals, including the game-winner, and two assists in the Brown Bears' 4-3 triumph over Wichita Falls on Saturday.

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: **Jordan Tibbett** backstopped the Phantoms to a pair of wins over Traverse City, allowing only two goals against. "As usual, Jordan was stellar for us between the pipes when we needed big wins," said head coach **Bob Mainhardt**.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: Idle last weekend, the Rangers host a three-game set with Mahoning Valley beginning on Thursday. Eleven of Marquette's final 14 regular-season games are at home.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: The Machine traded forward **Josh Bussell** to Mahoning Valley for first-year defenseman **Dustin Hopfner**, an 19-year-old from East Pointe, Mich.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: Forward **Dan Durham**, recently acquired from the USHL's Fargo Force, recorded an assist in his first game win the Outlaws on Saturday (a 7-2 win over Alexandria). The Chicago native is committed to the Air Force Academy.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: **Dan Cecka** tallied a pair of goals as the Express fell to Bismarck in a shootout on Friday, 4-3. He has 15 points (seven goals) in his first 10 games with the team.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: Top Prospects Tournament participant **Trent Frey**, the league's leading goal-scorer, has committed to Mercyhurst College (Atlantic Hockey) for the 2010-11 season.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: Goaltender **Keith Kinkaid** picked up his league-leading 23rd win of the season in the Bandits' 4-1 victory over Springfield on Sunday (22 saves).

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: **Travis Stevens**, **Alec Hagaman** and **Andy Inderieden** scored all three RoadRunners goals as they dropped two games to Springfield.

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: **Phil Wendecker** potted the overtime game-winner in the North Stars' 6-5 victory over Mahoning Valley on Saturday.

TEAM USA: The Under-18 Team captured its third straight first-place finish at the Five Nations Tournament in Sweden, while the Under-17 Team took first place at the Vlad Dzurilla Under-18 Tournament in Slovakia.

WENATCHEE WILD: The Wild acquired forward **Mitch Torrel** from Albert Lea. The 18-year-old who played in last month's NAHL Top Prospects Tournament recorded an assist in Wenatchee's 3-2 overtime win over Fairbanks on Saturday.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: With a 2-1-1 record last week, the Wildcats wrapped up their six-game trip to Alaska with a 2-3-1 mark. Goaltender **Phil Graveline** picked up two of those wins last week over Kenai River, stopping 82 of 85 shots.