



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Bismarck	44	30-13-1	61	.693	135	90
North Iowa	44	27-14-3	57	.648	169	132
Owatonna	45	23-20-2	48	.533	167	154
Alexandria	43	22-17-4	48	.558	143	141
Albert Lea	43	2-37-4	8	.093	81	220

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Mahoning Valley	45	30-11-4	64	.711	171	132
Traverse City	43	25-12-6	56	.651	138	123
Alpena	42	22-15-5	49	.583	114	129
USNTDP	36	22-11-3	47	.653	150	98
Marquette	47	20-21-6	46	.489	127	139
Motor City	43	8-34-1	17	.198	92	177

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Topeka	46	35-7-4	74	.804	166	106
St. Louis	48	34-8-6	74	.771	184	106
Wichita Falls	45	18-19-8	44	.489	125	157
Springfield	45	15-25-5	35	.389	138	157

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Fairbanks	45	29-10-6	64	.711	172	118
Wenatchee	40	21-17-2	44	.550	115	138
Alaska	40	17-21-2	36	.450	130	154
Kenai River	44	14-25-5	33	.375	129	175

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
George, Jordan	TPK	F	46	23	34	57
Block, Austin	FBX	F	45	21	33	54
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	41	12	42	54
Gorczyca, Grant	STL	F	46	24	25	49
Paul, Jack	NIO	F	42	19	30	49
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	45	15	34	49
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	47	15	33	48
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	41	14	34	48
Bonis, Kyle	TNS	F	42	22	24	46

(three players tied with 44)

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Bosner, David	BIS	26	1535:48	17-7-1	1.88	.933
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	33	1967:52	24-4-4	1.92	.928
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	25	1422:24	18-3-3	1.94	.921
Grogan, Matt	BIS	20	1123:08	13-6-0	1.98	.937
Motte, CJ	TNS	22	1241:35	13-6-2	2.32	.914

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	45	29

(two players tied with 24)

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	41	42

(three players tied with 34)

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Clark, John	BIS	D	42	+32
Reinthal, Kris	STL	D	44	+30

The Great Outdoors

First-of-its-kind junior game earns high marks

An experience neither players nor spectators will soon forget, the first-ever USA Hockey-sanctioned outdoor junior game hosted by the Fairbanks Ice Dogs on Friday certainly lived up to the hype.

"Up to this point, that's been the most amazing thing I've ever been a part of in hockey," said Ice Dogs head coach **Josh Hauge**. "It truly was an honor to be a part of that game."

And it felt even better to win it. **Josh Nelson, Eric Kraft** and **Andrew McCabe** scored the Fairbanks goals and net-minders **Phil Cook** and **Joe Phillippi** combined to stop 34 shots as the home team skated to a 3-1 victory over the Alaska Avalanche.



"We tried to approach the game similar to any other, but realized early on that the puck was a lot more active in the air and was difficult for the goalies to pick up," said Hauge. "Also, the chain-link fence instead of glass made for quite an adventure at some points."

Over 2,000 spectators came out for the first-of-its-kind spectacle, which also helped kick off Hockey Weekend Across America, a USA Hockey initiative designed to celebrate hockey and generate more interest in the game.

Temperatures hovered in the single-digits with plenty more than hockey to keep the Fairbanks faithful entertained, including a number of exotic promotions and an appearance by Alaska Gov. **Sarah Palin**, who dropped the ceremonial first puck.

"The energy from warm-ups to the end of the game was unreal," said Hauge. "It was a huge day for hockey in Fairbanks and to see the community's support and their appreciation for the event was great."

"It was unbelievable," added Ice Dogs general manager **Rob Proffitt**, who orchestrated much of the day's activities. "Being the first time we've done this, I expected a few pretty big hiccups, but it was fantastic. Just awesome."

The Avalanche was also impressed with the events that surrounded the historic game.

"It was an outstanding experience for our players," said Avalanche head coach **Dave Boitz**, who noted that many of his players' parents from both Alaska and the Lower 48 make the trek to Fairbanks for the weekend. "Everybody from our team was really excited about being there and actually thought it was even better than anticipated. There was incredible buzz and energy throughout the town when we arrived."

"The Ice Dogs did an outstanding job marketing the event," he added. "There was barely a detailed missed. Prof (Proffitt), as always, did an incredible job thinking things through."

And Proffitt is already thinking about ways to make the outdoor game even bigger and better in 2010.

"When you go through an event like this for the first time, you kind of get some more ideas rolling through your head," he said. "There's some more things we can do, but I couldn't be happier with how everything went."

Story continued at NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

Owatonna defenseman **Jake Sloat** connected for two goals and two assists as the Express fashioned a 2-1 record. After being held scoreless in a 6-2 loss to North Iowa on Friday, the Louisville, Colo., native recorded an assist the next night as the Express dropped the Outlaws, 6-2. On Sunday, the 18-year-old tallied two goals, including the game-winner, and an assist as Owatonna blanked the Albert Lea Thunder, 5-0. He was also a plus-5 on the weekend.



sherwood north player of the week

Mahoning Valley forward **Brandon Saad** struck for five goals and two assists as the Phantoms finished with a 2-1 mark against Marquette. On Thursday, the Gibsonia, Pa., native recorded a goal and two assists, including one on **Robert Harrison's** overtime winner, in a 3-2 victory. The next night, the 16-year-old scored the Phantoms' lone goal in a 5-1 loss. On Sunday, Saad rang up a natural hat trick as Mahoning Valley downed the Rangers, 6-1.



sherwood south player of the week

St. Louis forward **Kyle Greco** potted a goal and three assists as the Bandits skated to a two-game sweep over Wichita Falls. On Friday, the Delafield, Wis., native collected a goal and two assists in a 4-1 victory. The next night, the 20-year-old assisted on **Justin Kirchhevel's** game-winning goal as the Bandits downed the Wildcats, 2-1.



sherwood west player of the week

Kenai River forward **Kevin Wentland** struck for three goals as the Brown Bears split a two-game set with Wenatchee. On Friday, the Columbia Heights, Minn., native scored the Brown Bears' only goal in a 3-1 loss. The next night, the 19-year-old put home two more goals, including the game-winner, as Kenai River bested the Wild, 5-1.



gdi goaltender of the week

Bismarck goaltender **Matt Grogan** won both of his starts over Alexandria, turning aside 78 of 80 shots. On Thursday, the Gilbert, Ariz., native made 40 saves in a 3-1 victory. Two nights later, the 20-year-old stopped 38 shots and all three in the shootout as the Bobcats took down the Blizzard, 2-1.



the week ahead *all times local*

Wednesday, February 18

Kenai River @ Wenatchee, 7:05 pm
Owatonna @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm

Thursday, February 19

Motor City @ Mahoning Valley, 7:10 pm

Friday, February 20

Kenai River @ Wenatchee, 7:05 pm
Wichita Falls @ Springfield, 7:30 pm
Motor City @ Mahoning Valley, 7:10 pm
North Iowa @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm
Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm
Alpena @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm
Traverse City @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Saturday, February 21

Kenai River @ Wenatchee, 7:05 pm
Alpena @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm
Wichita Falls @ Springfield, 7:30 pm
Bismarck @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm
North Iowa @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm
Fairbanks @ Alaska, 7:00 pm
St. Louis @ USNTDP, 3:30 pm
Traverse City @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Sunday, February 22

Kenai River @ Wenatchee, 5:05 pm
Alpena @ Motor City, 5:10 pm
Bismarck @ Alexandria, 5:00 pm
Owatonna @ Albert Lea, 5:00 pm
St. Louis @ USNTDP, 3:00 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: **Sean McNeely** scored the Avalanche's lone goal in its 3-1 loss to Fairbanks in the first-ever USA Hockey-sanctioned outdoor junior game on Friday.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: **Mikita Feaktsistau** and **Chris Cass** lit the lamp for the Thunder as it dropped three games last weekend.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: **Joe Knoepke** tallied a shorthanded goal and two assists as the Blizzard fashioned a 1-1-1 record against Bismarck.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: With last weekend off, the IceDiggers hit the road this weekend for two games against the U.S. Under-17 Team and one against Motor City.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: Air Force recruit **Jason Fabian** scored the game-winning goal in the Bobcats' 3-1 win over Alexandria on Thursday.

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: The Ice Dogs play six of their last 13 games on the road, starting this weekend with a two-game series in Alaska.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: **Kyle Clay** recorded two assists in the Brown Bears' 5-1 win over Wenatchee on Saturday. Clay, the team's leading scorer, now has points in his last four games (two goals, six assists).

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: Goaltender **Jordan Tibbett** notched his 20th victory of the season in the Phantoms' 3-2 win over Marquette on Thursday. "Wins are the biggest thing I can get as a goalie, so every time I pick one up I feel good about myself and our team, but getting to 20 is pretty special," he said.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: **Garrett Ladd** rang up four goals in three games against Mahoning Valley, including a hat trick in the Rangers' 5-1 triumph over the Phantoms on Friday.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: **Jake Friedman** connected for the overtime game-winner in the Machine's 3-2 victory over Traverse City on Friday. "I told Jake with five minutes to go in the third that he was due and a goal was coming for him," head coach **Sean Clark** said.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: Preparations continue for the Robertson Cup Championship Tournament, which will be hosted by North Iowa from April 28-May 3. "I can't say enough for what the business community has done to make this happen," said Outlaws co-owner **Mark Motz**.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: Goaltender **Fredrik Bergman** backstopped the Express to both of its wins last weekend, steering aside 48 of 50 shots. The 19-year-old from Virginia is 5-2-1 in eight appearances this season.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: Goaltender **C.J. Groh** stopped all 21 shots as the Jr. Blues blanked Albert Lea on Friday, 8-0. The 18-year-old from Cincinnati has now won his last three starts.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: Top Prospects Tournament participants **Tyler Elbrecht** (Minnesota State-Mankato, WCHA) and **Keith Kinkaid** (Union College, ECAC) have committed to Division I schools for the 2009-10 season.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: **Bryce Merriam**, who played in last month's Top Prospects Tournament, has committed to Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute (ECAC) for next year.

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: **Dan Radke**, **Chris Heineman** and **Eric O'Hearn** scored for the North Stars as they dropped a pair of games to Motor City.

TEAM USA: **Michael Mersch** tallied two goals and two assists and goaltender **Jack Campbell** made all 22 saves as the Under-17 Team blanked Motor City on Sunday, 8-0.

WENATCHEE WILD: Arizona native **Duncan McKellar** led Wenatchee's offensive charge last week with two goals and two assists as the Wild went 3-1 against Alaska and Kenai River.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: Goaltender **Nick Hopper**, a University of Nebraska-Omaha recruit, made his first start on Saturday - a 2-1 loss to St. Louis - after being acquired from the Omaha Lancers of the USHL.