



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
xBismarck	48	33-13-2	68	.708	156	104
xNorth Iowa	48	30-15-3	63	.656	185	140
xOwatonna	49	26-21-2	54	.551	187	160
xAlexandria	49	22-22-5	49	.500	155	170
Albert Lea	48	3-41-4	10	.104	91	249

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xMahoning Valley	50	33-12-5	71	.710	196	148
Traverse City	48	28-14-6	62	.646	150	139
USNTDP	43	26-14-3	55	.640	167	112
Alpena	47	23-19-5	51	.543	128	148
Marquette	50	21-22-7	49	.490	136	145
Motor City	48	10-37-1	21	.219	108	203

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xTopeka	49	38-7-4	80	.816	179	113
xSt. Louis	52	37-9-6	80	.769	192	110
xWichita Falls	49	20-21-8	48	.490	136	169
xSpringfield	50	19-26-5	43	.430	153	164

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xFairbanks	49	30-12-7	67	.684	185	132
xWenatchee	46	27-17-2	56	.609	145	152
xAlaska	44	19-23-2	40	.455	144	171
xKenai River	51	14-30-7	35	.343	146	210

x clinched playoff berth

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Block, Austin	FBX	F	49	24	37	61
George, Jordan	TPK	F	49	24	35	59
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	45	12	45	57
Paul, Jack	NIO	F	46	20	34	54
Gaffney, Jon	SPR	F	48	22	30	52
Freismuth, Jerry	ALX	F	47	15	37	52
Shafer, Steve	TPK	F	48	16	35	51
Brodhag, Brandon	NIO	F	46	25	25	50
Bourbonais, Clinton	STL	F	51	17	33	50

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	37	2207:52	27-5-4	1.82	.933
Bosner, David	BIS	27	1595:48	18-7-1	1.88	.932
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	26	1479:50	19-3-3	1.99	.919
Yanakeff, Will	USA	17	1030:15	11-4-2	2.10	.916
Grogan, Matt	BIS	23	1304:27	15-6-1	2.25	.926

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	50	32
Thorson, Cory	OWA	F	49	27

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	45	45

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Clark, John	BIS	D	46	+35
Reinthal, Kris	STL	D	48	+29

Wild in Wenatchee

First-year team celebrates first sellout with win

Wenatchee is certainly wild about its hockey. Just ask the sellout crowd of 4,277 who watched their team take down the West Division-leading Fairbanks Ice Dogs on Saturday, 5-2.

"It was absolutely electric in the rink from start to finish," said Wild head coach **Paul Baxter**. "The energy our fans bring to our players has been a huge factor in our team's success."

In the victory, which completed a two-game sweep over the Ice Dogs, **Adam McKenzie** connected for a goal and three assists, including one on **Michael Voran's** game-winning marker, and **Cam Severson** added a pair of goals. Between the pipes, **Mac Carruth** made 36 saves.



Adam McKenzie

For the expansion Wild, which leads the NAHL in both total (63,700) and average attendance (2,548) through 25 games, celebrating its first packed house in team history was a gratifying moment.

"It was amazing," said Wild president **Bill Stewart**. "We've had good crowds all season, but it was nice to finally have an official sellout."

The Wenatchee Valley Medical Center, Saturday's game-night sponsor, brought over 800 people to Town Toyota Center for the contest. Plenty of group sales also contributed to the success at the turnstiles.

"Our sales staff did an incredible job bringing in groups for the game," Stewart added. "We had close to 2,000 group tickets sold, and the Wenatchee Valley Medical Center certainly showed its support and we thank them for that."

What's more, the Wild presented a check for \$25,000 to the Mike Utley Foundation that night. In less than a year, the NAHL club has already helped raise over \$100,000 for local churches, schools, outreach programs and other non-profit organizations.

"Bill and the entire staff have put together an excellent game production and script that's second to none in junior hockey," praised Baxter. "Combine that with a successful on-ice product and our loyal fans' exceptional support and it's a thrilling night for hockey every night the puck is dropped at the TTC."

The night prior, **Nic Dowd's** overtime goal lifted the Wild to a 3-2 triumph. **Duncan McKellar** (goal, assist), **Brandon Burrell** (goal, assist) and **Junior Cadiz** (two assists) all registered two-point nights, and goaltender **Mathieu Dugas** turned aside 22 shots.

In second place in the West with 56 points, the Wild has rattled off six straight wins while posting an impressive 10-2 mark in February. The sweep over the Ice Dogs solidified the team's second-place position in the standings, guaranteeing it home-ice advantage in the first round of the Robertson Cup Playoffs.

"Over the last two months, we've gotten solid performances from many of our primary offensive scorers as well as our secondary scorers," said Baxter, whose team is assembling one of the best records in history for an NAHL expansion team.

Baxter also credits Wild associate head coach **Ryan McKelvie**, who has played a key role in the team's skill development and conditioning, and goaltending coach **Chris Clark** for much of the club's season-long promise.

Story continued at NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

Albert Lea forward **Nikita Feoktistov** struck for three goals and an assist as the Thunder split a two-game set with Bismarck. On Friday, the 18-year-old tallied a goal in a 6-3 loss. The next night, the Belarus native connected for two goals, including the overtime game-winner, as Albert Lea bested the Bobcats, 5-4.



sherwood north player of the week

Mahoning Valley defenseman **David Chaney** potted three goals and two assists as the Phantoms skated to a two-game sweep over Motor City. On Friday, the Shelby Township, Mich., native registered an assist in an 8-4 win. The next night, the 19-year-old recorded a hat trick, including the game-winning goal, and an assist as the Phantoms downed the Machine, 9-3.



sherwood south player of the week

Springfield forward **Jon Gaffney** unleashed for five goals and two assists as the Jr. Blues won three straight over Alexandria. On Friday, the Dover, N.J., native tallied two goals in a 4-2 victory. The next night, the 20-year-old potted a goal and assisted on **Trent Frey's** game-winner as the Jr. Blues bested the Blizzard, 4-1. On Sunday, Gaffney scored two more goals, including the game-winner, and an assist in a 3-1 triumph.



sherwood west player of the week

Wenatchee defenseman **Adam McKenzie** tallied a goal and four assists as the Wild celebrated a two-game sweep over Fairbanks. On Friday, the Petaluma, Calif., native assisted on **Nic Dowd's** game-winning goal in overtime in a 3-2 win. The next night, the 18-year-old connected for a goal and three more assists as the Wild skated to a 5-2 victory over the Ice Dogs.



gdi goaltender of the week

Mahoning Valley goaltender **Garrett Bartus** backstopped the Phantoms to a two-game sweep over Motor City, turning aside 65 of 72 shots. On Friday, the St. Charles, Ill., native steered aside 21 shots in an 8-4 triumph. The next night, the 19-year-old made 44 saves as the Phantoms downed the Machine, 9-3.



the week ahead *all times local*

Tuesday, March 3

Alaska @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm

Wednesday, March 4

Alaska @ Topeka, 7:05 pm

Thursday, March 5

Wenatchee @ Fairbanks, 7:00 pm

Friday, March 6

Kenai River @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm

Traverse City @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm

Alaska @ Topeka, 7:05 pm

Albert Lea @ Springfield, 7:30 pm

Alexandria @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm

Marquette @ Motor City, 7:10 pm

Wenatchee @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm

Owatonna @ Bismarck, 7:30 pm

USNTDP @ Alpena, 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 7

Kenai River @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm

Traverse City @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm

Alaska @ Topeka, 7:05 pm

Albert Lea @ Springfield, 7:30 pm

Alexandria @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm

Marquette @ Motor City, 7:10 pm

Wenatchee @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm

Owatonna @ Bismarck, 7:00 pm

USNTDP @ Alpena, 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 8

USNTDP @ Alpena, 3:00 pm

North Iowa @ Albert Lea, 7:30 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: **Tyler Currier** registered a five-point night (goal, four assists) in the Avalanche's 6-4 win over Wichita Falls on Friday.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: The Thunder's 5-4 overtime win over Bismarck on Saturday snapped a 23-game losing streak.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: **Jerry Freismuth** put home a goal and two assists as the Blizzard dropped three games to Springfield.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: Ice Diggers' leading scorer **Erik Peterson** connected for a goal and three assists in Alpena's 6-3 win over Traverse City on Friday.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: **Tim Serratore** potted three goals and an assist as the Bobcats split a two-game set with Albert Lea. "It's always nice to see a first-year player have a breakout weekend," said head coach **Byron Pool**. "Hopefully, it will be a sign of things to come for Tim."

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: **Steve Zierke** notched a goal and two assists as the Ice Dogs lost a pair of games to Wenatchee.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: **Ryan Lemke** and **Nick Simson** each collected a goal and an assist in the Brown Bears' 5-4 shootout loss to Topeka on Thursday.

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: **Nick Kenney** put home four goals and two assists in the Phantoms' two-game sweep over Motor City, including a hat trick in Friday's 8-4 triumph. "Our line (of Kenney, **Jordy Trottier** and **Nick Shkreli**) spent an extra hour last week reviewing game tape," said Kenney. "Watching the tape helped me be more patient out there; it gave us a lot to work on and we worked it out well."

MARQUETTE RANGERS: Goaltender **Kevin Kissaw** turned aside all 35 shots as the Rangers blanked Traverse City, 5-0, in their only game of the week on Thursday. "Kevin was the reason we were able to win," said Rangers head coach **Kenny Miller**.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: Tufts University-bound defenseman **Trevor John** registered three assists as the Machine dropped two games to Mahoning Valley.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: With 25 goals on the season, **Brandon Brod-hag** is one away from matching the team's one-year-old single-season record set by **Bryant Skarda**. "What Brandon brings to this team each weekend is a consistent approach and it's paid off with not only all his goals, but the other offensive chances he either sets up or generates," said head coach **Jeff Crouse**.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: **Cory Thorson** struck for three goals and an assist as the Express split a pair of games with North Iowa.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: Goaltender **C.J. Groh** backstopped the Jr. Blues to a pair of wins in his two starts against Alexandria, turning aside 40 of 43 shots.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: **Soren Jonzzen** and **Anthony Schooley** scored the Bandits goals in their 2-1 win over the U.S. Under-17 Team on Friday.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: **Matt Hartmann** and **Edgars Lipsbergs** both fashioned two-goal, three-assist weekends in the RoadRunners' three-game sweep over Kenai River.

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: Lake Superior State University recruit **Kyle Jean** figured in every North Stars goal in their 3-1 triumph over Alpena on Saturday (two goals, assist).

TEAM USA: The U.S. National Team Development Program will no longer play a full season schedule in the NAHL starting in 2009-10.

WENATCHEE WILD: The Wild allowed only four goals against in its two-game sweep over Fairbanks. "We were fully aware that, to be successful against them, we'd have to be very strong defensively," said head coach **Paul Baxter**.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: Third-year forward **Brett Hartung**, from Tallahassee, Fla., has committed to Bentley University (Atlantic Hockey) for next season.