



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xBismarck	52	37-13-2	76	.731	176	110
xNorth Iowa	54	33-17-4	70	.648	207	162
xOwatonna	54	28-23-3	59	.546	206	179
xAlexandria	53	23-25-5	51	.481	165	186
Albert Lea	53	4-45-4	12	.113	101	273

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xMahoning Valley	53	34-14-5	73	.689	208	157
xTraverse City	53	30-17-6	66	.623	163	159
xUSNTDP	48	30-14-4	64	.667	185	123
Alpena	52	26-21-5	57	.548	141	160
Marquette	54	23-23-8	54	.500	151	157
Motor City	52	11-39-2	24	.231	115	217

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xTopeka	54	40-9-5	85	.787	195	126
xSt. Louis	54	39-9-6	84	.778	199	112
xWichita Falls	54	23-22-9	55	.509	152	186
xSpringfield	54	22-27-5	49	.454	168	175

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
yFairbanks	54	34-12-8	76	.704	206	142
xWenatchee	54	32-19-3	67	.620	178	175
xAlaska	52	22-27-3	47	.452	162	200
xKenai River	56	14-34-8	36	.321	160	239

x clinched playoff berth
y clinched division title

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Block, Austin	FBX	F	54	28	40	68
George, Jordan	TPK	F	54	27	37	64
Paul, Jack	NIO	F	52	23	39	62
Gaffney, Jon	SPR	F	52	27	32	59
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	47	12	47	59
Brodhag, Brandon	NIO	F	52	29	28	57
Carlson, Alex	NIO	F	48	23	32	55

(three players tied with 54)

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	38	2272:52	28-5-4	1.82	.933
Bosner, David	BIS	30	1780:48	21-7-1	1.82	.933
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	30	1680:08	21-3-4	1.96	.917
Phillippi, Joseph	FBX	23	1104:22	12-2-3	2.01	.939
Grogan, Matt	BIS	24	1364:27	16-6-1	2.24	.924

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	54	33

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	47	47
Block, Austin	FBX	F	54	40

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Clark, John	BIS	D	50	+37
Reinthal, Kris	STL	D	50	+31

Playoff Picture Takes Shape

One postseason bid yet to be determined

With two weeks remaining in the regular season, all but two postseason fates have yet to be decided.

That's in the North Division, where the Alpena IceDiggers and Marquette Rangers are vying for the NAHL's final Robertson Cup Playoffs bid.

With a three-point lead and two games in hand over Marquette, the IceDiggers are sitting in an enviable position, but aren't making any April plans just yet.

"We're breaking it down to playing our game one shift at a time and staying focused on doing things right," said IceDiggers head coach **Jack Fritsche**, whose team helped its cause last weekend with a two-game sweep over the Motor City Machine.



Alpena is staring at a daunting schedule to close the season, with three games against the U.S. National Team, two with division-leading Mahoning Valley and one against second-place Traverse City.

"We have some big games ahead," Fritsche added. "We just need to stay motivated, stay healthy, give a 110 percent and let the chips fall where they may."

With the deck stacked against the Rangers, who finish with four home games - two against Motor City followed by a pair with Traverse City - Marquette's focus is solely on what it can control.

"We understand that in order to get in, we need to win out and get some help, but, with that said, we haven't stopped playing," said Rangers head coach **Kenny Miller**.

"The guys have been competing in practice and every person in that dressing room thinks we still have a shot at getting in, even though we're not where we want to be in the standings. Our guys haven't quit; they're very optimistic."

Also still up for grabs is the NAHL's regular-season championship, in which South Division powerhouses Topeka and St. Louis have been battling back and forth all season.

With 85 points, the RoadRunners hold a one-point edge over the two-time defending Robertson Cup champion Bandits with four games to play, including two the final weekend of the season in St. Louis.

"The regular-season championship is something we've been working towards since training camp, and we're on track," said RoadRunners head coach **Scott Langer**. "St. Louis has been right on our heels, which has forced us to stay sharp."

A league championship brings with it home ice throughout the playoffs. With Topeka playing in front of an average crowd of 1,690 a night at the Kansas Expocentre, that incentive isn't lost on the RoadRunners.

"Obviously, the home ice is important for any team, and with the support we get at home, it maybe even more so here," Langer added.

The Bandits, who won last year's regular-season championship, host Mahoning Valley for two games this weekend before welcoming Topeka to town to close out the regular season.

Story continued at NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

Bismarck forward **John Wickman** connected for three goals and three assists as the Bobcats skated to a two-game sweep over Albert Lea. After being held scoreless in a 3-0 victory on Friday, the 19-year-old from Garland, Texas, recorded a hat trick and three assists, including one on **Kevin Harris'** game-winning goal, as Bismarck bested the Thunder, 10-2. He was also a plus-6 on the weekend.

sherwood north player of the week

Traverse City forward **Kyle Bonis** put home five goals as the North Stars skated to a 2-1 record against Mahoning Valley. After tallying in a 9-2 loss on Friday, the Lindsay, Ontario, native struck for two goals, including the game-winner, as the North Stars downed the Phantoms, 4-1. The next night, the 20-year-old connected for two more goals, including another game-winner, in a 3-2 triumph.

sherwood south player of the week

Topeka forward **Alec Hagaman** potted a goal and three assists as the RoadRunners split a two-game set with Springfield. After being held scoreless on a 4-1 loss on Friday, the 19-year-old from Peoria, Ill., tallied the game-winning goal and three assists the next night as the RoadRunners downed the Jr. Blues, 6-1.

sherwood west player of the week

Wenatchee forward **Michael Voran** struck for four goals and four assists as the Wild skated to a 4-1 record. On Tuesday, the Livonia, Mich., native recorded two goals in a 3-2 shootout win over Alaska. After being held scoreless in a 3-2 loss to the Avalanche on Wednesday and sitting out Friday's 6-1 victory over Kenai River, the 18-year-old recorded an assist the next night in the Wild's 3-2 shootout win over the Brown Bears. Voran wrapped up his week with a two-goal, three-assist performance as Wenatchee downed Kenai on Sunday, 11-4.

gdi goaltender of the week

Traverse City goaltender **CJ Motte** backstopped his team to two wins in his two starts over Mahoning Valley, turning aside 69 of 72 shots. On Friday, the St. Clair, Mich., native made 29 saves in a 4-1 victory. The next night, the 17-year-old stopped 40 shots as Traverse City edged the Phantoms, 3-2.

the week ahead *all times local*

Tuesday, March 17

USNTDP @ Mahoning Valley, 6:00 pm
Motor City @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 18

Alaska @ Wenatchee, 7:05 pm

Thursday, March 19

Wichita Falls @ Topeka, 7:05 pm

Friday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 21

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

Sunday, March 22

Alaska @ Wenatchee, 5:05 pm
Traverse City @ Alpena, 3:00 pm
Bismarck @ Alexandria, 5:00 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: **Dylan Jones** and **Jake Parenteau** scored for the Avalanche as it dropped a pair of games to Fairbanks.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: **BJ McLellan** and **Nikita Feoktistov** connected for goals in the Thunder's 10-2 loss to Bismarck on Saturday.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: **Taylor Vichorek** struck for two goals, including the game-winner, as Alexandria snapped a 10-game losing streak with a 5-2 victory over Marquette on Saturday.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: **Richard Manley** rang up a goal and three assists, as well as the only goal in Saturday's 2-1 shootout win, as the IceDiggers skated to a two-game sweep over Motor City.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: Goaltender **David Bosner**, an Air Force recruit, picked up his sixth shutout of the season in a 3-0 victory over Albert Lea on Friday (15 saves).

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: **Mike Juola** recorded two goals and three assists as the Ice Dogs skated to a two-game sweep over Alaska. "Mike's been great for us and his vision and hand skills are some of the best in the entire NAHL," said head coach **Josh Hauge**. "He'll be a big part of our run in the playoffs."

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: Californian **Chris Annunziato** rang up two goals and an assist as the Brown Bears lost three games to Wenatchee.

MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS: Robert Morris recruit **Stefan Salituro** was the Phantoms' high scorer in their 9-2 victory over Traverse City on Friday, connecting for a goal and three assists.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: **Collin Saint-Onge** put home a goal and two assists, including one on **Kevin Gravel's** game-winner, in the Rangers' 5-2 triumph over Alexandria on Friday.

MOTOR CITY MACHINE: **Ryan Misiak** and **Cody Holzworth** collected goals for the Machine as it finished with a 0-1-1 mark against Alpena last weekend.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: **Brandon Brodhag** racked up his 28th and 29th goals of the season in the Outlaws' 4-2 triumph over Owatonna on Friday.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: Virginia native **Chris Darnell** tallied two goals and three assists as the Express fashioned a 2-1 mark against North Iowa.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: **Brandon Bahnemann** collected three assists, including one on **Jon Gaffney's** game-winning goal, in the Jr. Blues' 4-1 triumph over Topeka on Friday.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: Goaltender **Erick Cinotti**, from New Jersey, picked up his second shutout of the season in the Bandits' 4-0 victory over Wichita Falls on Saturday (10 saves).

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: Head coach **Scott Langer** likes his team's chances as the league-leading RoadRunners close in on the regular-season championship. "Good teams get to this position, great teams win," he said. "We control our own destiny, and you can't ask for more than that."

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: With a 2-1 record at Mahoning Valley last weekend, the North Stars clinched a playoff berth for the first time in the team's four-year history.

TEAM USA: Idle last weekend, the U.S. National Team still has 10 games remaining on its NAHL schedule starting Tuesday against Mahoning Valley (U18) and Motor City (U17).

WENATCHEE WILD: Goaltender **Mac Carruth**, a University of Minnesota Duluth recruit, won all three of his starts last week against Alaska and Kenai River, turning aside 73 of 80 shots. "Mac continues to excel and improve," said Wild head coach **Paul Baxter**. "As a 1992-born, he's playing a major role in our success and has certainly proven that UMD made an excellent choice in their commitment to him."

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: **Sean McKenzie** and **Matt Kenline** tallied for the Wildcats as they went 0-1-1 against St. Louis last weekend.