



# NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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## STANDINGS

### Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
yBismarck	55	40-13-2	82	.745	193	117
xNorth Iowa	56	33-18-5	71	.634	211	168
xOwatonna	56	29-23-4	62	.554	211	183
xAlexandria	56	25-25-6	56	.500	174	194
Albert Lea	55	4-46-5	13	.118	105	286

### North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xMahoning Valley	56	35-16-5	75	.670	216	166
xTraverse City	56	33-17-6	72	.643	177	168
xUSNTDP	54	33-16-5	71	.657	207	143
Alpena	55	26-23-6	58	.527	147	171
Marquette	56	25-23-8	58	.518	162	165
Motor City	55	11-42-2	24	.218	126	236

### South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
xSt. Louis	56	41-9-6	88	.786	207	116
xTopeka	56	41-10-5	87	.777	201	132
xWichita Falls	56	24-23-9	57	.509	158	192
xSpringfield	56	23-28-5	51	.455	172	180

### West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
yFairbanks	56	36-12-8	80	.714	216	147
xWenatchee	58	35-19-4	74	.638	197	182
xAlaska	56	23-30-3	49	.438	169	219
xKenai River	58	14-36-8	36	.310	165	249

x clinched playoff berth  
y clinched division title

## LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Block, Austin	FBX	F	56	28	44	72
George, Jordan	TPK	F	56	27	38	65
Gaffney, Jon	SPR	F	54	29	33	62
Paul, Jack	NIO	F	54	23	39	62
Brodhag, Brandon	NIO	F	54	30	30	60
Pietila, Chad	MAR	F	55	24	36	60
Juola, Michael	FBX	F	49	16	43	59
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	48	12	47	59

(three players tied with 56)

## LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Kinkaid, Keith	STL	39	2332:52	29-5-4	1.83	.933
Bosner, David	BIS	32	1910:48	23-7-1	1.85	.932
Merriam, Bryce	TPK	31	1739:40	22-3-4	1.97	.917
Phillippi, Joseph	FBX	24	1164:22	13-2-3	2.06	.937
Grogan, Matt	BIS	25	1424:27	17-6-1	2.23	.924

## GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Frey, Trent	SPR	F	56	34

## ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Hamburg, Andrew	STL	F	48	47

## PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Clark, John	BIS	D	53	+37

## Regular-season title on the line

### Bandits, RoadRunners go head-to-head for crown

One weekend left in the regular season, and still no champion.

That's what the NAHL looks like with only a handful of games to play, and the final act couldn't have been scripted any better with the St. Louis Bandits and the Topeka RoadRunners going head-to-head in a two-game set to decide the league champion.

"We fully expect our team to be treating these games like it's playoff hockey," said Bandits head coach **Jeff Brown**. "With the division title and the regular-season title and home ice throughout the postseason on the line, the playoffs begin Friday night."



"They'll be on the hunt against us," said RoadRunners head coach **Scott Langer**. "We'll have to be perfect in every aspect against them. Series like this is why we play the game."

For the Bandits, who hold a one-point edge over the RoadRunners in the South Division with 88 points, a sweep, split or a win and a shootout/overtime loss will give them their second consecutive regular-season title.

The RoadRunners need a sweep or a win and a shootout/overtime loss to win the championship.

That second scenario – a Topeka win and a shootout/overtime loss - would leave both teams with 90 points. With the first regular-season tiebreaker – most wins – still tied (49 each), the RoadRunners would hold the second tiebreaker – head-to-head points – with a 16-13 advantage over the Bandits.

For the RoadRunners, who are 6-3-1 in their last 10 games, they'll need to rebound from a two-game split with the Wichita Falls Wildcats last weekend.

"We've put ourselves in a tough spot, but, if we're competitive inside, we'll bounce back," said Langer.

St. Louis, which holds a 9-1 mark in its last 10, enters the weekend after celebrating two wins over the North Division-leading Mahoning Valley Phantoms.

"Sweeping Mahoning Valley, a team that we have so much respect for, was a good tune-up for this all-important weekend against Topeka," said Brown. "We were happy with the results, but feel that we still have yet to play our best hockey."

And the season-series between the two powerhouses has been nothing short of dramatic, with all but one of the teams' 10 games decided by two goals or fewer, with four of those determined in overtime or a shootout.

"Topeka is full of veterans and they have guys who've experienced playoff hockey before," said Brown of the RoadRunners, who represented the South Division at last year's Robertson Cup Championship Tournament. "They have a lot of depth and it should be another good test for our hockey club."

"St. Louis has been a consistent team all year," said Langer of the two-time defending Robertson Cup champions. "They haven't taken a night off since Christmas. They're hungry."

*Story continued at NAHL.com*

## sherwood central player of the week

Bismarck forward **Jason Fabian** connected for three goals and three assists as the Bobcats skated to a 3-0 record. On Friday, the Roseau, Minn., native recorded an assist and scored the game-winning shootout goal in a 3-2 victory over Albert Lea. The next night, the 19-year-old potted two goals and two assists as the Bobcats downed the Thunder, 10-2. On Sunday, the Air Force Academy recruit put home another goal in a 4-3 shootout win over the Alexandria Blizzard. He was also a plus-4 on the weekend.

## sherwood north player of the week

Marquette forward **Chad Pietila** struck for three goals and three assists as the Rangers skated to a two-game sweep over Motor City. On Friday, the Milford, Mich., native recorded two assists, including one on **James Gallagher's** game-winning goal, in a 5-3 triumph. The next night, the 20-year-old recorded a hat trick and an assist as the Rangers outlasted the Machine, 6-5. The Northern Michigan University recruit was also a plus-4 on the weekend.

## sherwood south player of the week

St. Louis defenseman **Conor Allen** tallied a goal and two assists as the Bandits skated to a two-game sweep over Mahoning Valley. On Friday, the Chicago native scored a goal in a 3-2 victory. The next night, the 19-year-old registered two assists as St. Louis bested the Phantoms, 5-2. He was also a plus-4 on the weekend.

## sherwood west player of the week

Wenatchee forward **Junior Cadiz** rang up four goals and six assists as the Wild skated to a 3-0-1 mark against Alaska. On Wednesday, the Los Angeles native recorded two assists in a 5-4 overtime loss. Two nights later, the 20-year-old tallied two goals in a 4-1 victory. Cadiz notched another goal and three more assists in a 7-0 triumph over the Avalanche on Saturday, and wrapped up his week with a one-goal, one-assist effort in a 4-1 win on Sunday. He was also a plus-5 for the week.

## gdi goaltender of the week

Wenatchee goaltender **Mac Carruth** backstopped the Wild to a pair of wins in his two starts over Alaska, turning aside 52 of 54 shots. On Friday, the Shorewood, Minn., native made 16 saves in a 4-1 victory. Two nights later, the 16-year-old University of Minnesota Duluth recruit stopped 36 shots in another 4-1 triumph over the Avalanche.

## the week ahead all times local

### Tuesday, March 24

Motor City @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm

### Thursday, March 26

Alexandria @ Bismarck, 7:00 pm

Alpena @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm

### Friday, March 27

Springfield @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm

Topeka @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm

Albert Lea @ North Iowa, 7:30 pm

USNTDP @ Motor City, 7:10 pm

Alaska @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm

Owatonna @ Bismarck, 7:30 pm

Alpena @ Mahoning Valley, 7:15 pm

Traverse City @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

### Saturday, March 28

Springfield @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm

Motor City @ USNTDP, 7:00 pm

Topeka @ St. Louis, 7:15 pm

Alaska @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm

Owatonna @ Bismarck, 7:00 pm

Albert Lea @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm

Traverse City @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

### Sunday, March 29

Albert Lea @ North Iowa, 5:00 pm

Alpena @ USNTDP, 3:00 pm

END OF REGULAR SEASON

## around the nahl

**ALASKA AVALANCHE:** Kyle Pichler and Tyler Currier scored for the Avalanche in its three losses to Wenatchee last weekend.

**ALBERT LEA THUNDER:** Nikita Feoktistov put home a goal and an assist in the Thunder's 10-2 loss to Bismarck on Saturday.

**ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD:** Texas native Kyle Clement tallied two goals, including the game-winner, in the Blizzard's 3-2 win over North Iowa on Saturday.

**ALPENA ICEDIGGERS:** Jimmy McCusker tallied a goal and an assist as the IceDiggers fashioned an 0-2-1 record against the U.S. Under-18 Team and Traverse City.

**BISMARCK BOBCATS:** With 25 points in 39 games since joining the Bobcats from Fairbanks earlier this season, Isaiah Bennis has been a welcome addition to the lineup. "He's a big body (6-foot-4, 210) that has a lot of skill and has performed very nicely for us," said head coach Byron Pool.

**FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS:** California native Mark Pustin notched two goals and three assists as the Ice Dogs skated to a two-game sweep over Kenai River.

**KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS:** Ryan Lemke and Kevin Wentland each connected for a goal an assist as the Brown Bears wrapped up their regular season with a pair of losses to Fairbanks.

**MAHONING VALLEY PHANTOMS:** Josh Bussell tallied two goals in three games last weekend, including one in the Phantoms' 4-1 victory over the U.S. Under-17 Team on St. Patrick's Day.

**MARQUETTE RANGERS:** NAHL Top Prospects Tournament participants Chad Pietila (Northern Michigan University) and Reed Rushing (Bowling Green State University) have committed to CCHA programs for next season.

**MOTOR CITY MACHINE:** Ryan Misiak, an NAHL Top Prospects Tournament participant, has committed to Mercyhurst College (Atlantic Hockey) for the 2011-12 season.

**NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS:** With two home games left, the Outlaws are 1,154 fans away from passing last season's record attendance mark. North Iowa needs to average 577 in attendance over its last two games to break the record.

**OWATONNA EXPRESS:** Air Force recruit John Kruse struck for the game-winning goal in the Express' 5-3 win over Springfield on Saturday.

**SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES:** Goaltender CJ Groh turned back all 27 shots in the Jr. Blues' 1-0 overtime victory over Owatonna on Friday. "CJ has played very well for us the last few months and has been the rock of this hockey team down the stretch," said head coach Andy Maher.

**ST. LOUIS BANDITS:** Defenseman Danny Weiss, from Ballwin, Mo., has committed to Niagara University (College Hockey America) for next season.

**TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS:** Andrew Blazek tallied two goals and an assist as the RoadRunners split a pair of games with Wichita Falls. "Andrew is consistent and a great asset for us heading into the playoffs," said head coach Scott Langer.

**TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS:** Forward Dan Radke, from Orinda, Calif., has committed to Lake Superior State University (CCHA) for next season.

**TEAM USA:** The Under-17 and Under-18 Teams combined for a 3-2-1 record in six games against North Division opponents last week.

**WENATCHEE WILD:** Two Wild players who competed in the NAHL Top Prospects Tournament have committed to Bemidji State University (College Hockey America): forward Duncan McKellar and goaltender Mathieu Dugas.

**WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS:** Kyle Gallegos recorded two assists, including one on Ryan Amin's game-winning goal, in the Wildcats' 4-2 triumph over Topeka on Friday.