



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

For Immediate Release • December 14, 2009

Press Release Prepared By Brian McDonough, NAHL Director of Communications
Phone: (469) 252-3800 • Fax: (214) 975-2250 • bmcDonough@nahL.com • NAHL.com

STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Bismarck	30	16-8-6	38	.633	89	75
Owatonna	27	15-10-2	32	.593	89	95
North Iowa	28	13-13-2	28	.500	88	114
Alexandria	25	9-13-3	21	.420	60	70
Albert Lea	29	7-20-2	16	.276	70	124

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Traverse City	27	16-9-2	34	.630	96	87
Marquette	25	16-9-0	32	.640	74	64
Janesville	26	14-10-2	30	.577	86	76
Motor City	26	10-11-5	25	.481	71	78
Alpena	26	10-16-0	20	.385	70	78

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Topeka	29	21-5-3	45	.776	122	70
St. Louis	25	19-5-1	39	.780	86	52
Texas	28	14-12-2	30	.536	86	93
Springfield	31	12-15-4	28	.452	90	100
Wichita Falls	27	8-14-5	21	.389	90	113

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Wenatchee	34	27-5-2	56	.824	109	71
Fairbanks	33	20-12-1	41	.621	129	100
Alaska	31	17-8-6	40	.645	102	83
Kenai River	33	7-24-2	16	.242	74	130

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Juola, Michael	FBX	F	33	14	34	48
Pustin, Mark	FBX	F	32	17	27	44
Larson, Jared	FBX	F	32	19	16	35
Sheehan, Brian	WIC	F	27	21	12	33
Rickord, Jared	SPR	F	31	13	20	33
Higby, Erik	TPK	F	29	13	20	33
Curry, Nick	SPR	F	31	11	22	33
Bohrer, Ryan	NIO	F	28	8	24	32
Thorson, Cory	OWA	F	27	15	16	31
Fabian, Jason	BIS	F	30	14	17	31

LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Bartus, Garrett	STL	17	880:01	11-4-0	1.91	.925
Jaeger, Brandon	WNE	15	830:07	11-1-1	2.02	.923
Kamal, Chris	ALX	17	968:56	7-6-2	2.04	.928
Bruggeman, Tyler	STL	15	906:26	7-5-2	2.12	.932
Faragher, Ryan	BIS	21	1122:27	10-4-5	2.14	.919

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Sheehan, Brian	WIC	F	27	21
Larson, Jared	FBX	F	32	19

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Juola, Michael	FBX	F	33	34
Pustin, Mark	FBX	F	32	27

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Ryan, Kevin	TPK	D	29	+19

Blizzard Back in Business

Alexandria builds momentum after snapping 6-game slide

Mired in a six-game losing streak - five of which were decided by 2-1 counts - the Alexandria Blizzard took the Upper Midwest by storm last weekend, unleashing for 14 goals on its way to three much-needed victories.

"It's nice to see the players rewarded for their hard work," said Blizzard head coach **Doc Delcastillo**, whose team improved to 9-13-3 on the season. "Losing six in a row was very frustrating because we were playing pretty good hockey at the time."

The Blizzard opened its weekend with a 6-2 victory over North Iowa on Friday. **Tommy Westmark**, **Steve Zierke** and **Simon Cedersborg-Nilsson** (game-winner) each connected for a goal and an assist in the win, and goaltender **Chris Kamal** turned aside 30 shots.



Chris Kamal

Westmark tallied the game-winning goal and an assist the next night as Alexandria downed the Outlaws, 4-3. **Kyle Clay** potted two goals in the victory, and Kamal made 39 saves.

On Sunday, Westmark added two more goals to his totals as the Blizzard doubled up the Albert Lea Thunder, 4-2. **Brett Wall** rang up the game-winning marker, and Kamal stopped 30 shots to pick up his third win in as many nights.

While not the record the Blizzard had hoped for 25 games into the season, with Delcastillo in his first season behind the Blizzard's bench and only three players returning from last season, the coach knew there would be a period adjustment.

"We're all pretty much new to the organization, but I've been happy with the foundation we've built for our team identity," said Delcastillo. "We work hard and we're very disciplined, on and off the ice, and we have a great group of young men who are very committed to the community of Alexandria."

Kamal, in his first season, has been a difference-maker for the Blizzard for much of the season. With his three wins last weekend, the 20-year-old netminder from Alpharetta, Ga., now holds a 7-6-2 record to compliment a 2.04 goals-against average (fourth among NAHL goaltenders) and a .928 save percentage.

"He's been very consistent for us and has given us a chance (to win) in every game we've played this season," said Delcastillo. "He works extremely hard in practice and he'll only continue to get better."

"If there's a Division I team looking for a goalie next year, Chris should be on their radar."

As should Clay, another college hopeful who leads the Blizzard in scoring with 10 goals for 21 points through 25 games.

"Kyle's an incredible leader," Delcastillo said of the 20-year-old from Henderson, Nev. "He's done a great job for us, on and off the ice, and he'll help a team at the Division I level next season. He has a great scoring knack around the net."

And he's also helped take the team under his wing, along with fellow captains **Tyler Swanson** and **Wall**, a Lake Superior State University (CCHA) recruit.

Story continued at NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

Alexandria forward **Tommy Westmark** registered four goals and two assists as the Blizzard skated to three wins. On Friday, the Appleton, Wis., native notched a goal and an assist in a 6-2 victory over North Iowa. The next night, the 19-year-old scored the game-winning goal and added an assist as the Blizzard downed the Outlaws, 4-3. On Sunday, Westmark connected for two more goals in a 4-2 triumph over the Albert Lea Thunder.



sherwood north player of the week

Marquette forward **Andrew Kolb** struck for two goals and four assists as the Rangers skated to a 2-1 record against Traverse City. On Thursday, the Toledo, Ohio, native tallied a pair of goals in a 5-2 victory. The next night, the 19-year-old recorded three assists as the Rangers downed the North Stars, 5-4. Kolb picked up another assist in a 3-2 loss on Saturday. He was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



sherwood south player of the week

Topeka forward **Tony Thomas** connected for four goals and two assists as the RoadRunners celebrated a three-game sweep over Owatonna. On Thursday, the South Lyon, Mich., native put home two goals and assisted on **Edgars Lipsbergs'** overtime game-winner in a 5-4 victory. The next night, the 19-year-old assisted on **Michael Hill's** game-winning marker as Topeka bested the Express, 3-1. Thomas tallied two more goals in a 7-2 triumph on Saturday. He was also a plus-4 on the weekend.



sherwood west player of the week

Fairbanks forward **Justin Kirchhevel** rang up two goals and two assists as the Ice Dogs split a two-game series against Kenai River. On Saturday, the Brookings, S.D., native potted a goal and an assist in a 4-2 loss. The next day, the 20-year-old scored another goal and assisted on **James Saintey's** game-winner as the Ice Dogs bested the Brown Bears, 5-3. Kirchhevel, who was acquired recently in a trade with St. Louis, was also a plus-4 on the weekend.



goaltender of the week

St. Louis goaltender **Garrett Bartus** backstopped the Bandits to a two-game sweep over Springfield, turning aside 47 of 48 shots. On Friday, the St. Charles, Ill., native made all 23 saves as the Bandits blanked the Jr. Blues, 3-0. The next night, the 20-year-old stopped 24 shots in a 3-1 victory.



the week ahead *all times local*

Friday, December 18

Marquette @ Alpena, 7:00 pm
Traverse City @ Janesville, 7:00 pm
Wichita Falls @ Springfield, 7:00 pm
Motor City @ St. Louis, 7:05 pm
Texas @ Topeka, 7:05 pm
North Iowa @ Bismarck, 7:15 pm
Kenai River @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm
Alexandria @ Owatonna, 8:00 pm

Saturday, December 20

Owatonna @ Albert Lea, 7:00 pm
Marquette @ Alpena, 7:00 pm
Traverse City @ Janesville, 7:00 pm
Wichita Falls @ Springfield, 7:00 pm
Motor City @ St. Louis, 7:05 pm
Texas @ Topeka, 7:05 pm
North Iowa @ Bismarck, 7:15 pm
Kenai River @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 20

Marquette @ Alpena, 3:00 pm
Wichita Falls @ Springfield, 3:00 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: Forward **Blake Huppert** (Wasilla, Alaska) connected for a goal and three assists as the Avalanche split a pair of games against Kenai River.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: Forward **Brett Meyers** (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) potted two goals, including the game-winner, and an assist as the Thunder skated to a 7-3 victory over Bismarck on Friday.

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: Defenseman **Chris Franks** (Apple Valley, Minn.) chipped in two assists in three Blizzard wins, tying him for 11th in league scoring among defensemen with 14 points.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: With their game against Motor City postponed last weekend due to inclement weather, the IceDiggers will host Marquette for three games beginning on Friday.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: Forward **Casey Kleisinger** (Edwards, Colo.) struck for three goals and an assist as the Bobcats split a two-game series with Albert Lea. "Casey is becoming one of the most complete players in the NAHL," said head coach **Byron Pool**.

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: In his first start of the season on Saturday, goaltender **Joe Phillippi** (Shoreview, Minn.) made 33 saves in a 5-3 win over Kenai River.

JANESVILLE JETS: With their two-game series against Motor City postponed last weekend due to inclement weather, the Jets will host Traverse City for a pair of games beginning on Friday.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: Forward **Johan Skinnars** recorded four goals last week in his first three games with the team, including two (game-winner) in the Brown Bears' 4-2 win over Fairbanks on Saturday.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: Returning from injury, goaltender **Kevin Kissaw** (Goodrich, Mich.) made 27 saves in the Rangers' 5-2 win over Traverse City on Thursday. It was his first start since Oct. 30.

MOTOR CITY METAL JACKETS: With their three games last weekend postponed due to inclement weather, the Metal Jackets will travel to St. Louis for a two-game set beginning on Friday.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: Forward **Markus Gander** (Italy) assisted on three goals as the Outlaws dropped a two-game set against Alexandria. He was also a plus-3 on the weekend.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: Forward **Cory Thorson** (Crystal, Minn.) connected for a goal and three assists as the Express dropped three games to Topeka.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: Forward **Ross Andersen** (River Falls, Wis.) scored the Jr. Blues' only goal of the weekend as they dropped two games to St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: In his first game with the Bandits - a 3-0 win over Springfield on Friday - defenseman **Patrick Raley** (Inverness, Ill.) notched the game-winning goal.

TEXAS TORNADO: Forward **Scott Deur** (Big Rapids, Mich.) put home a goal in regulation and one in the shootout as the Tornado downed Wichita Falls on Saturday, 5-4.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: Forward **Erik Higby** (New Braunfels, Texas) racked up seven points (goal, six assists) as the RoadRunners skated to a three-game sweep over Owatonna.

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: Forward **Doug Clifford** (Woodhaven, Mich.) tallied three goals, including the game-winner in the North Stars' 3-2 triumph on Saturday, as Traverse City split a pair of games with Marquette.

WENATCHEE WILD: Defenseman **Kyle Brodie** (Northglenn, Colo.), the league's leading scorer among blueliners, has committed to Bemidji State University (CHA) for next season when the program joins the WCHA.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: Forward **Brian Sheehan** (St. Louis) connected for two goals - he leads the league with 21 - and an assist as the Wildcats picked up three points in two games against Texas.