



NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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STANDINGS

Central Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Bismarck	32	18-8-6	42	.656	97	79
Owatonna	29	15-11-3	33	.569	95	103
North Iowa	30	13-15-2	28	.467	92	122
Alexandria	26	10-13-3	23	.442	65	74
Albert Lea	30	8-20-2	18	.300	73	126

North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Marquette	28	18-10-0	36	.643	87	70
Janesville	28	16-10-2	34	.607	93	80
Traverse City	29	16-11-2	34	.586	100	94
Motor City	28	10-12-6	26	.464	76	87
Alpena	29	11-18-0	22	.379	76	91

South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Topeka	31	23-5-3	49	.790	130	74
St. Louis	27	21-5-1	43	.796	95	57
Springfield	34	14-15-5	33	.485	104	106
Texas	30	14-14-2	30	.500	90	101
Wichita Falls	30	9-16-5	23	.383	96	127

West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Wenatchee	34	27-5-2	56	.824	109	71
Fairbanks	35	22-12-1	45	.643	137	105
Alaska	31	17-8-6	40	.645	102	83
Kenai River	35	7-26-2	16	.229	79	138

LEADING SCORERS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G	A	PTS
Juola, Michael	FBX	F	35	15	36	51
Pustin, Mark	FBX	F	34	17	27	44
Rickord, Jared	SPR	F	34	16	24	40
Higby, Erik	TPK	F	31	15	23	38
Curry, Nick	SPR	F	34	14	24	38
Larson, Jared	FBX	F	34	19	16	35
Fabian, Jason	BIS	F	32	14	21	35
Sheehan, Brian	WIC	F	30	22	12	34
Bohrer, Ryan	NIO	F	30	8	25	33
Thorson, Cory	OWA	F	29	16	16	32

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
Karambelas, Evan	TPK	13	789:48	10-2-1	2.05	.894
Faragher, Ryan	BIS	23	1242:27	12-4-5	2.12	.920
Kissaw, Kevin	MAR	19	1088:05	12-7-0	2.15	.938

GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Sheehan, Brian	WIC	F	30	22
Larson, Jared	FBX	F	34	19

ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Juola, Michael	FBX	F	35	36
Pustin, Mark	FBX	F	34	27

PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Ryan, Kevin	TPK	D	31	+22
Higby, Erik	TPK	F	31	+17

Top Prospects Positions Finalized

Rosters for next month's event to be announced on December 29

For a number of teams, last weekend's games meant a whole lot more than heading into the holiday break on a high note; they also dictated how many players each could send to next month's prestigious Sherwood/NAHL Top Prospects Tournament.

This year's event, which annually attracts over 100 college and professional coaches and scouts, will be held January 18-20 at the Ice Cube in Ann Arbor, Mich., and again feature all-star teams from the NAHL's Central, North, South and West Divisions competing in a three-game, round-robin tournament.



The number of invites each team gets to Top Prospects is based on each team's winning percentage as of December 20, with higher percentages translating into more representation. The NAHL Top Prospects Tournament Selection Committee will announce the rosters, which will be comprised of 20 players each, on December 29.

For the West Division-leading Wenatchee Wild, which finished the first half of its season with a NAHL-best 25-5-2 record, the selection process was a definite motivator heading into the holidays.

"I think this was important to everybody on our team, whether they thought they'd be selected for the event or not, because they want to see their teammates get the opportunity to be noticed," said Wild associate head coach **Ryan McKelvie**. "The Top Prospects Tournament is another excellent showcase event for college and pro scouts to see some of the top players in our league."

With the wildcard pick - the selection committee will choose one from each of the four divisions to round out the rosters - the Wild, which already has a league-high seven players from this year's team committed to Division I schools, will send seven players to Top Prospects - all of whom should have bright futures in the collegiate ranks, according to McKelvie.

"I feel that all of them are legitimate Division I prospects," said the coach.

Bismarck Bobcats head coach **Byron Pool**, whose team also put a lot of emphasis on the Top Prospects roster deadline, will send at least six players to Ann Arbor thanks to his club's first-place standing in the Central.

"One of the goals we set for ourselves was to be in first place at Christmastime - the sole reason being the amount of players we'd be able to send to the Top Prospects Tournament," said Pool, whose Bobcats hold an 18-8-6 record (42 points) in their division.

Nearly 30 players who competed in last year's Top Prospects Tournament committed to Division I schools after the event - a stat not lost on Pool, who already has three players on this year's team with college deals in place.

"Just look at the number of players who've played in the tournament the last two years who've went onto play Division I college hockey and you realize it's an outstanding opportunity for our players to showcase their skills to coaches at the next level," said the coach. "We're extremely excited and proud that we're able to send six players to this prestigious tournament."

As are the Marquette Rangers, who locked down the top spot in the North Division with two wins last weekend.

Story continued at NAHL.com

sherwood central player of the week

Bismarck forward **Dominic Panetta** rang up a goal and four assists as the Bobcats celebrated a two-game sweep over North Iowa. On Friday, the Grand Rapids, Mich., native registered a pair of assists in a 3-2 victory. The next night, the 18-year-old potted a goal and two more assists as the Bobcats bested the Outlaws, 5-2. He was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



sherwood north player of the week

Marquette forward **Josh Bussell** connected for two goals and five assists as the Rangers fashioned a 2-1 record against Alpena. On Friday, the Detroit native recorded a goal and two assists, including one on **Tanner Kero's** game-winning marker, in a 3-2 victory. The next night, the 20-year-old recorded two assists, including one on **Andrew Kolb's** game-winner, as the Rangers downed the IceDiggers, 8-1. Bussell picked another goal and an assist in a 3-2 loss on Sunday. He was also a plus-5 on the weekend.



sherwood south player of the week

Springfield forward **Jared Rickord** put home three goals and four assists as the Jr. Blues picked up five of six points against Wichita Falls. On Friday, the Skokie, Ill., native notched a goal and an assist in a 4-0 victory. The next night, the 20-year-old tallied another goal and two more assists as the Jr. Blues downed the Wildcats, 7-2. Rickord, a Bentley University recruit, recorded two points (goal, assist) in a 4-3 overtime loss on Sunday.



sherwood west player of the week

Fairbanks forward **Joe Krause** registered four assists as the Ice Dogs skated to a two-game sweep over Kenai River. On Friday, the Hermantown, Minn., native rang up a pair of assists, including one on **Justin Kirchhevel's** game-winning goal, in a 3-2 triumph. The next night, the 20-year-old recorded two more assists as the Ice Dogs bested the Brown Bears, 5-3. He was also a plus-3 on the weekend.



sherbrook goalie of the week

St. Louis goaltender **Tyler Bruggeman** backstopped the Bandits to a two-game sweep over Motor City, turning aside 48 of 53 shots. On Friday, the Mankato, Minn., native made 25 saves in a 4-1 victory. The next night, the 18-year-old who was picked up in a trade from Fairbanks earlier in the season, stopped 23 shots as the Bandits downed the Metal Jackets, 5-4.



the week ahead *all times local*

Monday, December 28

Marquette @ Traverse City, 3:00 pm

Tuesday, December 29

Marquette @ Traverse City, 3:00 pm

Wednesday, December 30

Alpena @ Marquette, 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 31

Albert Lea @ Owatonna, 6:00 pm

Wichita Falls @ Topeka, 6:05 pm

Traverse City @ Alpena, 7:00 pm

Alexandria @ Bismarck, 7:15 pm

around the nahl

ALASKA AVALANCHE: With last weekend off, the Avalanche returns to NAHL action Jan. 2-3 for a two-game set at Wenatchee.

ALBERT LEA THUNDER: Forward **Stephen Obarzanek** (Macomb, Mich.) tallied the overtime game-winner and an assist in the Thunder's 3-2 victory over Owatonna on Saturday. He has points in his last four games (six).

ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD: Forward **Alex Altenbernd** (Moorhead, Minn.) put home a goal and three assists, including one on **Tyler Resch's** (Alexandria) game-winner, as the Blizzard downed Owatonna on Friday, 5-4.

ALPENA ICEDIGGERS: Forward **Kevin Crowe** (Galloway, N.J.) rang up the game-winning goal in the IceDiggers' 3-2 triumph over Marquette on Sunday.

BISMARCK BOBCATS: Goaltender **Ryan Faragher** (Fort Frances, Ontario) backstopped the Bobcats to a two-game sweep over North Iowa, turning aside 53 of 57 shots.

FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS: Brown University recruit **Michael Juola** (Lake Forest, Calif.), a forward, added to his league-leading point totals (51) with a goal and two assists in the Ice Dogs' 5-3 win over Kenai River on Saturday.

JANESVILLE JETS: Forward **Cam Severson** (Seattle) connected for three assists, including one on **Mike Shenfeld's** (Littleton, Colo.) game-winning goal, in the Jets' 5-3 victory over Traverse City on Saturday.

KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS: Goaltender **Dainis Vasiljevs** (Latvia) will represent his country at the upcoming World Junior Championships, which will take place from Dec. 26-Jan. 5 in Saskatoon and Regina.

MARQUETTE RANGERS: Goaltender **Kevin Kissaw** (Goodrich, Mich.) recorded a 2-1 record against Alpena, turning aside 71 of 76 shots. "Kevin is our backbone and once again he was rock solid all weekend," said head coach **Kenny Miller**. "He gives us a chance to win every night."

MOTOR CITY METAL JACKETS: Forward **R.J. Kleiman** (Dewitt, Mich.) tallied a goal in Motor City's 5-4 overtime loss to St. Louis on Saturday.

NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS: Forwards **Connor Gaarder** (Edina, Minn.) and **Tyler Klein** (Fargo, N.D.) each netted a goal and an assist as the Outlaws dropped a pair of games to Bismarck.

OWATONNA EXPRESS: Goaltender **Mike Shibrowski** (Edina, Minn.) will begin his Division I career at Colorado College (WCHA) after the holiday break.

SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES: Goaltender **Andrew Martin** (Stoughton, Wis.) stopped all 25 shots as the Jr. Blues blanked Wichita Falls on Friday, 4-0.

ST. LOUIS BANDITS: Forward **Craig Kitto** (Ashburn, Va.) connected for three goals, including the overtime game-winner in Saturday's 5-4 victory, as the Bandits skated to a two-game sweep over Motor City. "Craig has really elevated his game," said assistant coach **Rocky Russo**.

TEXAS TORNADO: Forward **Jack Prince** (United Kingdom) added to his team-leading point totals (29) with a goal and an assist in the Tornado's 5-3 loss to Topeka on Saturday.

TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS: Forward **Erik Higby** (New Braunfels, Texas) tallied two goals, including the game-winner in a 3-1 win on Friday, and three assists as the RoadRunners celebrated a two-game sweep over Texas.

TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS: Lake Superior State University recruit **Dan Radke** (Orinda, Calif.), a forward, registered a goal and an assist in the North Stars' 3-5 loss to Janesville on Saturday.

WENATCHEE WILD: With last weekend off, the NAHL-leading Wild will return to action Jan. 2-3 for a two-game set against Alaska.

WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS: Forward **Broderick Browne** (Coppell, Texas) connected for a goal and two assists as the Wildcats went 1-2 against Springfield.