



# NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

For Immediate Release • January 4, 2010

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	35	21-8-6	48	.686	108	87
Owatonna	31	17-11-3	37	.597	101	106
North Iowa	32	13-15-4	30	.469	97	129
Alexandria	29	11-14-4	26	.448	73	83
Albert Lea	32	8-21-3	19	.297	76	132

### North Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Traverse City	34	20-12-2	42	.618	120	105
Marquette	31	19-12-0	38	.613	98	81
Janesville	30	18-10-2	38	.633	102	85
Motor City	30	11-13-6	28	.467	79	92
Alpena	33	11-21-1	23	.348	84	110

### South Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Topeka	34	26-5-3	55	.809	150	78
St. Louis	30	24-5-1	49	.817	107	62
Springfield	37	14-18-5	33	.446	109	118
Texas	30	14-14-2	30	.500	90	101
Wichita Falls	33	9-19-5	23	.348	100	147

### West Division

TEAM	GP	W-L-OTL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
Wenatchee	36	29-5-2	60	.833	120	73
Fairbanks	35	22-12-1	45	.643	137	105
Alaska	33	17-10-6	40	.606	104	94
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
Higby, Erik	TPK	F	34	18	27	45
Pustin, Mark	FBX	F	34	17	27	44
Rickord, Jared	SPR	F	37	18	24	42
Curry, Nick	SPR	F	35	14	25	39
Fabian, Jason	BIS	F	35	15	22	37
Sheehan, Brian	WIC	F	33	22	13	35
Larson, Jared	FBX	F	34	19	16	35

(three players tied with 34)

## LEADING GOALTENDERS

PLAYER	TEAM	GPI	MINS	W-L-OTL	GAA	SPCT
Bartus, Garrett	STL	17	880:01	11-4-0	1.91	.925
Karambelas, Evan	TPK	14	849:48	11-2-1	1.91	.901
Jaeger, Brandon	WNE	15	830:07	11-1-1	2.02	.923
Bruggeman, Tyler	STL	19	1148:18	11-5-2	2.14	.928
Faragher, Ryan	BIS	26	1430:36	15-4-5	2.18	.918

## GOALS

PLAYER	TEAM	P	GP	G
Sheehan, Brian	WIC	F	33	22

(four players tied with 19)

## ASSISTS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	A
Juola, Michael	FBX	F	35	36

(two players tied with 27)

## PLUS/MINUS

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	+/-
Ryan, Kevin	TPK	D	34	+24
Higby, Erik	TPK	F	34	+22

## Bandits Ring In New Year Right

*St. Louis starts second-half push with three-game sweep*

Returning from the holiday break, the St. Louis Bandits wanted nothing more than to get the New Year off on the right foot.

They got their wish, picking up three wins over the Springfield Jr. Blues to keep pace with the South Division-leading Topeka RoadRunners, who also celebrated three victories last weekend.

"Anytime you can pick up a three-game sweep over a talented team like Springfield, you have to be pleased," said Bandits assistant coach **Rocky Russo**, whose team improved to 24-5-1 on the season. "It was important for us to get the ball rolling in the right direction to start the second half, and we did that."



**Jordan Bourgojne**

The Bandits rang in 2010 with a 4-3 victory on New Year's Day.

**Dan Olszewski** (goal, assist) and defenseman **Patrick Raley** (two assists) each fashioned two-points games, and goaltender **Tyler Bruggeman** turned aside 20 shots.

The next night, three different players scored for St. Louis and **Ryan Belonger** chipped in two assists as the Bandits skated to a 4-1 triumph over the Jr. Blues. **Craig Kitto** connected for the game-winning marker, and netminder **Tom Komunale** stopped 32 shots to pick up the win in his first NAHL start.

On Sunday, Kitto struck for two more goals and assisted on **Chris Ciotti's** game-winner as the Bandits celebrated another 4-1 victory. Bruggeman stopped 25 shots between the pipes.

"We have a good mix of veterans and young guys who are contributing," said Russo. "We've had the opportunity to watch our rookies grow over the last three months and they're becoming big pieces to our puzzle."

"The guys are a close group, on and off the ice, too, which is the most important part of the equation. They trust each other and always put the team before themselves."

And there's no better example than second-year forward **Jordan Bourgojne**. The Bandits captain might not put up jaw-dropping offensive numbers - the 20-year-old from Alberta has three goals for nine points after 25 games - but his leadership and work ethic have keyed St. Louis' first-half success.

"He's the heart and soul of our club," said Russo. "He's a fierce leader, on and off the ice, and he plays with such heart that his teammates can't help but feed off of his energy."

"He's a last-year (junior) guy, so it'll be tough to lose him, but he'll be a great addition to a Division I college program."

Speaking of college, the Bandits lost an important part of their team when goaltender **Garrett Bartus** left for the University of Connecticut (Atlantic Hockey) after the holiday break. Bruggeman, however, has answered the call.

The 18-year-old from Mankato, Minn., who started the season in Fairbanks has won his last four starts and holds an 8-1-1 record since coming over from the Ice Dogs.

Story continued at NAHL.com

## sherwood central player of the week

Bismarck forward **Ryan Jacobson** potted three goals and two assists as the Bobcats skated to three wins. On New Year's Eve, the Denver native recorded two goals in a 4-3 victory over the Alexandria Blizzard. The next night, the 19-year-old connected another goal and two assists, including one on **Dominic Panetta's** overtime game-winning marker, in a 4-3 triumph over North Iowa. Held scoreless on Saturday - a 3-2 win over the Outlaws - Jacobson was a plus-4 for the week.



## sherwood north player of the week

Traverse City forward **Garrett Thompson** struck for three goals and three assists as the North Stars fashioned a 4-1 record. On Monday, Dec. 28, the Traverse City native recorded a pair of goals and an assist in a 7-4 win over Marquette. The next night, the 19-year-old scored the game-winning marker as the North Stars downed the Rangers, 3-2. After tallying an assist in a 5-2 victory over the Alpena IceDiggers on New Year's Eve and being held scoreless in a 2-1 loss to Motor City on Saturday, Thompson added another assist on Sunday in a 4-1 triumph over the Metal Jackets. He was also a plus-3 for the week.



## sherwood south player of the week

Topeka forward **Erik Higby** connected for three goals and four assists as the RoadRunners celebrated a three-game sweep over Wichita Falls. After being held scoreless on New Year's Eve - a 5-2 RoadRunners win - the New Braunfels, Texas, native recorded two assists the next night, including one on **Nate Milam's** game-winning goal, in a 7-2 triumph. On Saturday, the 20-year-old rang up a hat trick and two more assists - another on a Milam game-winner - as the RoadRunners blanked the Wildcats, 8-0. He was also a plus-4 for the week.



## sherwood west player of the week

Wenatchee defenseman **Alex McLean** rang up a goal and three assists as the Wild skated to a two-game sweep over Alaska. On Saturday, the Duluth, Minn., native recorded three assists, including one on **Nolan Youngmun's** game-winning goal, in a 6-1 victory. The next day, the 19-year-old tallied a goal as the Wild downed the Avalanche, 5-1. He was also a plus-4 on the weekend.



## sherbrook goalie of the week

Traverse City goaltender **Drew Strandburg** won all three of his starts, turning aside 84 of 89 shots. On Tuesday, the Thunder Bay, Ontario, native made 23 saves in a 3-2 victory over the Marquette Rangers. Two nights later on New Year's Eve, the 20-year-old stopped 32 shots as the North Stars downed the Alpena IceDiggers, 5-2. On Sunday, Strandburg steered aside 29 shots in a 4-1 triumph over the Motor City Metal Jackets, downed the Metal Jackets, 5-4.



## the week ahead *all times local*

### Wednesday, January 6

Wenatchee @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm

### Friday, January 8

North Iowa @ Alexandria, 7:00 pm  
Janesville @ St. Louis, 7:05 pm  
Wenatchee @ Wichita Falls, 7:05 pm  
Owatonna @ Bismarck, 7:15 pm  
Alaska @ Fairbanks, 7:30 pm  
Marquette @ Motor City, 7:30 pm  
Topeka @ Texas, 7:30 pm

### Saturday, January 9

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

### Sunday, January 10

Owatonna @ Alexandria, 5:00 pm

## around the nahl

**ALASKA AVALANCHE:** Forwards **Beau Walker** (West Richland, Wash.) and **Blake Huppert** (Wasilla, Alaska) scored the Avalanche's goals in its two losses to Wenatchee.

**ALBERT LEA THUNDER:** Forwards **Chris Cass** (Lakeville, Minn.) and **Anthony Iaquinto** (Brighton, Mich.) scored in regulation to help the Thunder pick up a point in a 3-2 shootout loss to Alexandria on New Year's Day.

**ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD:** Forward **Simon Cederborg-Nilsson** (Sweden) scored a goal in regulation and one in the shootout to help lift the Blizzard to a 3-2 win over Albert Lea on New Year's Day.

**ALPENA ICEDIGGERS:** Forward **Ryan Timar** (Novi, Mich.) tallied a goal and three assists as IceDiggers went 0-3-1 to start their second half of the season.

**BISMARCK BOBCATS:** Forward **Dominic Panetta** (Grand Rapids, Mich.) tallied three goals, including the overtime game-winner in the Bobcats' 4-3 victory over North Iowa on New Year's Day, in three wins.

**FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS:** Off since Dec. 19, the Ice Dogs return to action this weekend for a two-game set against Alaska beginning on Friday.

**JANESVILLE JETS:** Forward **Cam Severson** (Seattle) potted four goals in regulation and the only goal in Saturday's shootout - a 3-2 win - as the Jets skated two a two-game sweep over Alpena.

**KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS:** Off since Dec. 19, the Brown Bears will return to NAHL action on Jan. 14 when they begin a three-game series in Fairbanks.

**MARQUETTE RANGERS:** Forward **Josh Bussell** (Detroit) connected for two goals and two assists as the Rangers went 1-2 last week. "Josh is starting to heat up," said head coach **Kenny Miller**.

**MOTOR CITY METAL JACKETS:** Forward **Petrus Sipila** (Grosse Ile, Mich.) put home the game-winning goal - shorthanded in the third period - in the Metal Jackets' 2-1 victory over Traverse City on Saturday.

**NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS:** The Outlaws picked up two points against Bismarck with an overtime loss on New Year's Day and a shootout loss on Saturday.

**OWATONNA EXPRESS:** Goaltender **Matt Hemingway** (Alexandria, Minn.) picked up wins in his first two NAHL starts, turning aside 54 of 57 shots.

**SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES:** Forward **Ross Anderson** (River Falls, Wis.) tallied a pair of goals in the Jr. Blues' 4-3 loss to St. Louis on New Year's Day.

**ST. LOUIS BANDITS:** There's more to the Bandits success story than just their winning tradition, according to assistant coach **Rocky Russo**. "The local businesses are very supportive of the team and players, and the fans and billet families are committed to the team," he said.

**TEXAS TORNADO:** Off since Dec. 19, the Tornado returns to NAHL action this weekend for a two-game series against Topeka.

**TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS:** Forward **Nate Milam** (Westland, Mich.) unleashed for five goals, including a hat trick in an 8-0 win on Saturday, as the RoadRunners skated to a three-game sweep over Wichita Falls.

**TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS:** Playing five games in seven days after returning from the holiday break, the North Stars fashioned a 4-1 record to move into first place in the North Division.

**WENATCHEE WILD:** Goaltender **Brendan Jensen** (El Granada, Calif.) backstopped the Wild to a two-game sweep over Alaska, turning aside 48 of 50 shots. "Our team has a great deal of confidence in Brendan; he's proven night in and night out that he's an elite goaltender," said associate head coach **Ryan McKelvie**.

**WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS:** Despite registering only one assist in three losses to Topeka, forward **Brian Sheehan** (St. Louis) continues to lead the NAHL with 22 goals.