



# NORTH AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE WEEKLY RELEASE

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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   | 37 | 22-8-7  | 51  | .689 | 113 | 91  |
| Owatonna   | 34 | 18-13-3 | 39  | .574 | 106 | 115 |
| Alexandria | 32 | 14-14-4 | 32  | .500 | 85  | 88  |
| North Iowa | 34 | 13-17-4 | 30  | .441 | 101 | 137 |
| Albert Lea | 32 | 8-21-3  | 19  | .297 | 76  | 132 |

### North Division

| TEAM          | GP | W-L-OTL | PTS | PCT  | GF  | GA  |
|---------------|----|---------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Traverse City | 35 | 21-12-2 | 44  | .629 | 127 | 107 |
| Marquette     | 33 | 19-14-0 | 38  | .576 | 103 | 89  |
| Janesville    | 32 | 18-12-2 | 38  | .594 | 106 | 92  |
| Motor City    | 32 | 13-13-6 | 32  | .500 | 87  | 97  |
| Alpena        | 34 | 11-22-1 | 23  | .338 | 86  | 117 |

### South Division

| TEAM          | GP | W-L-OTL | PTS | PCT  | GF  | GA  |
|---------------|----|---------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Topeka        | 36 | 28-5-3  | 59  | .819 | 158 | 82  |
| St. Louis     | 32 | 26-5-1  | 53  | .828 | 114 | 66  |
| Springfield   | 37 | 14-18-5 | 33  | .446 | 109 | 118 |
| Texas         | 32 | 14-15-3 | 31  | .484 | 94  | 109 |
| Wichita Falls | 36 | 10-21-5 | 25  | .347 | 110 | 160 |

### West Division

| TEAM        | GP | W-L-OTL | PTS | PCT  | GF  | GA  |
|-------------|----|---------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| Wenatchee   | 39 | 31-6-2  | 64  | .821 | 133 | 83  |
| Fairbanks   | 37 | 24-12-1 | 49  | .662 | 149 | 112 |
| Alaska      | 35 | 17-12-6 | 40  | .571 | 111 | 106 |
| Kenai River | 35 | 7-26-2  | 16  | .229 | 79  | 138 |

## LEADING SCORERS

| PLAYER           | TEAM | P | GP | G  | A  | PTS |
|------------------|------|---|----|----|----|-----|
| Juola, Michael   | FBX  | F | 37 | 16 | 39 | 55  |
| Higby, Erik      | TPK  | F | 36 | 20 | 31 | 51  |
| Pustin, Mark     | FBX  | F | 36 | 18 | 28 | 46  |
| Rickord, Jared   | SPR  | F | 37 | 18 | 24 | 42  |
| Fabian, Jason    | BIS  | F | 37 | 15 | 24 | 39  |
| Curry, Nick      | SPR  | F | 35 | 14 | 25 | 39  |
| Sheehan, Brian   | WIC  | F | 36 | 22 | 15 | 37  |
| Larson, Jared    | FBX  | F | 36 | 19 | 17 | 36  |
| Hagaman, Alec    | TPK  | F | 30 | 19 | 17 | 36  |
| Jubinville, Jeff | WNE  | F | 39 | 18 | 18 | 36  |

## 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  | 15  | 907:18  | 12-2-1  | 1.92 | .902 |
| Jaeger, Brandon  | WNE  | 16  | 890:07  | 12-1-1  | 1.95 | .928 |
| Bruggeman, Tyler | STL  | 21  | 1268:18 | 13-5-2  | 2.13 | .927 |
| Faragher, Ryan   | BIS  | 28  | 1553:13 | 16-4-6  | 2.16 | .918 |

## GOALS

| PLAYER         | TEAM | P | GP | G  |
|----------------|------|---|----|----|
| Sheehan, Brian | WIC  | F | 36 | 22 |

(two players tied with 20)

## ASSISTS

| PLAYER         | TEAM | POS | GP | A  |
|----------------|------|-----|----|----|
| Juola, Michael | FBX  | F   | 37 | 39 |
| Higby, Erik    | TPK  | F   | 36 | 31 |

## PLUS/MINUS

| PLAYER      | TEAM | POS | GP | +/- |
|-------------|------|-----|----|-----|
| Higby, Erik | TPK  | F   | 36 | +24 |
| Ryan, Kevin | TPK  | D   | 36 | +24 |

## Motor City Making Noise

### Metal Jackets skate to first-ever weekend sweep

Hanging tough in the NAHL's tightly contested North Division, the Motor City Metal Jackets took another step in the right direction last weekend with two victories over the Marquette Rangers.

For the first-year Metal Jackets, it marked the first-ever weekend sweep in the program's history.

"That was an important weekend for our organization," said Metal Jackets head coach **David Cole**, whose team improved to 13-13-6 on the season. "Getting those divisional points in the standings is obviously huge this time of year, but to get that sweep meant a lot for our morale."

**RJ Kleiman** struck for two goals and an assist as the Metal Jackets skated to a 5-3 win on Friday. **John Scordia** notched the game-winning marker, and goaltender **Randy Willis** turned back 26 shots between the pipes.



RJ Kleiman

The next night, **Eric Millisor** connected for a pair of goals, including the game-winner, in the Metal Jackets' 3-2 victory over the Rangers. **Petrus Sipila** notched the other Motor City goal, and netminder **Jason Torf** made 33 saves.

"I think we've been playing better than our record indicates, so we figured it was just a matter of time for us to put some back-to-back wins together," said Cole, whose team has suffered five shootout losses this season. "We're competitive every night; perhaps we just needed a break here and there."

Kleiman, the Metal Jackets' leading scorer, has been a steady offensive force the entire season. The 19-year-old from Dewitt, Mich., who will skate in the upcoming Sherwood/NAHL Top Prospects Tournament in Ann Arbor, Mich., now has 14 goals for 31 points through 32 games this season.

"RJ is a very important part of what we're doing here," said Cole. "He's consistently one of our best players, with and without the puck."

Another Top Prospects selection, defenseman **Mike Monfredo** has also impressed. The 19-year-old from Shirley, N.Y., has 16 points (two goals) to his credit after 32 games and his plus-18 rating ranks sixth in the entire NAHL.

"Mike is one of the top defensemen in the league, no question," said Cole. "He's such a versatile player with so much potential."

The Jackets' goaltending tandem of Torf, an 18-year-old from Hermosa Beach, Calif., and Willis, a 20-year-old from Fond du Lac, Wis., is meeting expectations as well. Both hold save percentages of over .900.

"These two guys are playing well and the rest of the team has a lot of confidence playing in front of them," Cole said of his netminders. "They make all the saves they need to and some they shouldn't, and that's the sign of a good goaltender."

Forwards **Steve Brancheau**, a 19-year-old Top Prospects-bound player from River Rouge, Mich., and **Cody Wydo**, an 18-year-old from Allen Park, Mich., are also making timely contributions at both ends of the ice.

"This is a very tight-knit team that's been one of the most enjoyable groups I've ever been involved with," said Cole. "We've been fortunate to recruit and acquire athletes who are good people from good families."

Story continued at [NAHL.com](http://NAHL.com)

## sherwood central player of the week

Alexandria forward **Steve Zierke** recorded a goal and five assists as the Blizzard skated to three victories. On Friday, the Brooklyn Park, Minn., native rang up two assists in a 5-2 win over North Iowa. The next night, the 19-year-old netted a goal as the Blizzard downed the Outlaws, 3-2. On Sunday, the Sherwood/NAHL Top Prospects Tournament selection picked up three more assists in a 4-1 triumph over the Owatonna Express. Zierke was also a plus-4 on the weekend.



## sherwood north player of the week

Motor City forward **RJ Kleiman** struck for two goals and an assist as the Metal Jackets downed Marquette on Friday, 5-3. Held scoreless the night - a 3-2 victory over the Rangers - the 19-year-old from Dewitt, Mich., was a plus-1 for the weekend. He will represent the North Division at next week's Sherwood/NAHL Top Prospects Tournament.



## sherwood south player of the week

Topeka forward **Erik Higby** potted two goals and three assists as the RoadRunners celebrated a two-game sweep over Texas. On Friday, the New Braunfels, Texas, native scored a goal and two assists in a 5-2 victory. The next night, the 20-year-old Sherwood/NAHL Top Prospects Tournament selection notched the overtime game-winning marker and an assist as the RoadRunners downed the Tornado, 3-2.



## sherwood west player of the week

Wenatchee forward **Jeff Jubinville** connected for four goals and two assists as the Wild skated to a 2-1 record against Wichita Falls. On Wednesday, the Edmonton native put home the game-winning goal and an assist in a 4-3 victory. Two nights later, the 20-year-old recorded a hat trick, including the game-winning marker, as the Wild dropped the Wildcats, 6-1. A Bemidji State University recruit, Jubinville wrapped up his week with an assist in a 6-3 loss on Saturday. He was also a plus-2 on the weekend.



## sherbrook goalie of the week

Alexandria goaltender **Chris Kamal** backstopped the Blizzard to three victories, turning aside 80 of 85 shots. On Friday, the Alpharetta, Ga., native made 28 saves in a 5-2 triumph over North Iowa. The next night, the 20-year-old stopped 23 shots as the Blizzard downed the Outlaws, 3-2. Kamal, a Sherwood/NAHL Top Prospects Tournament selection, made 29 saves in Alexandria's 4-1 win over the Owatonna Express on Sunday.



## the week ahead *all times local*

### Tuesday, January 12

Albert Lea @ Owatonna, 7:00 pm

### Thursday, January 14

Kenai River @ Fairbanks, 7:00 pm

### Friday, January 15

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

### Saturday, January 16

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

## around the nahl

**ALASKA AVALANCHE:** In his only game of the weekend, forward **Beau Walker** (West Richland, Wash.) connected for a goal and an assist in the Avs' 5-4 loss to Fairbanks on Saturday.

**ALBERT LEA THUNDER:** With last weekend off, the Thunder returns to action on Tuesday for a game against Owatonna followed by a two-game set against Marquette beginning on Friday.

**ALEXANDRIA BLIZZARD:** Forward **Alex Altenbernd** (Moorhead, Minn.) put home three goals and an assist as the Blizzard rolled off three victories.

**ALPENA ICEDIGGERS:** Forward **Ryan Timar** (Novi, Mich.), an Air Force Academy recruit, scored both goals for the IceDiggers in their 7-2 loss to Traverse City on Saturday.

**BISMARCK BOBCATS:** Defenseman **Sam Rendle** (Grand Rapids, Minn.), a Bemidji State University recruit, picked up two assists, including one on **Brett Bower's** game-winning goal, in the Bobcats' 3-1 victory over Owatonna on Friday.

**FAIRBANKS ICE DOGS:** Forward **Kyle Politz** (Apple Valley, Minn.) connected for a goal and four assists as the Ice Dogs skated to a two-game sweep over Alaska. "Kyle is a pure skater who has game-changing speed," said head coach **Josh Hauge**.

**JANESVILLE JETS:** Forward **Pat Dalbec** (Superior, Wis.) struck for two goals as the Jets dropped a two-game set against St. Louis.

**KENAI RIVER BROWN BEARS:** The Brown Bears, who haven't played since Dec. 19, will travel to Fairbanks this week for a three-game series beginning on Thursday.

**MARQUETTE RANGERS:** Forward **Tanner Kero** (Hancock, Mich.), a Michigan Tech University recruit, and defenseman **Nate Taurence** (Trenton, Mich.) each fashioned three-point weekends as the Rangers dropped a pair of games to Motor City.

**MOTOR CITY METAL JACKETS:** Goaltender **Jason Torf** (Hermosa Beach, Calif.) turned aside 33 shots in the Metal Jackets' 3-2 triumph over Marquette on Saturday.

**NORTH IOWA OUTLAWS:** Defenseman **David Mylrea** (Brooklyn Park, Minn.) rang up a goal and an assist in the Outlaws' 5-2 loss to Alexandria on Friday.

**OWATONNA EXPRESS:** Defenseman **Jake Suter** (Oregon, Wis.) potted the overtime game-winning goal in the Express' 3-2 victory over Bismarck on Saturday.

**SPRINGFIELD JR. BLUES:** Off last weekend, the Jr. Blues return to action on Friday to begin a two-game series against South Division-leading Topeka.

**ST. LOUIS BANDITS:** Goaltender **Tyler Bruggeman** (Mankato, Minn.) backstopped the Bandits to a two-game sweep over Janesville, turning aside 42 of 46 shots.

**TEXAS TORNADO:** Forward **James Howard** (Canfield, Ohio) tallied a goal and an assist as the Tornado dropped two games to Topeka.

**TOPEKA ROADRUNNERS:** Goaltender **Cooper Frederick** (Tulsa, Okla.) made 40 saves in regulation and overtime as the RoadRunners bested the Tornado on Saturday, 3-2.

**TRAVERSE CITY NORTH STARS:** Forward **Garrett Thompson** (Woodhaven, Mich.) tallied three goals in the North Stars' 7-2 win over Alpena on Saturday. "Garrett continues to be a leader, both on and off the ice," said head coach **Anthony Palumbo**.

**WENATCHEE WILD:** In his only start last week, goaltender **Brandon Jaeger** (Champlin, Minn.) made 38 saves in the Wild's 6-1 victory over Wichita Falls on Friday.

**WICHITA FALLS WILDCATS:** Defenseman **Zach Ledford** (Folsom, Calif.), a Bentley University recruit, recorded three assists in the Wildcats' 6-3 victory over Wenatchee on Saturday.