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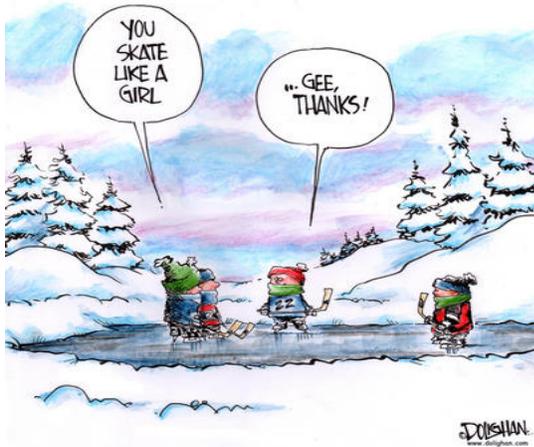
Empire Junior Report: Friday, September 28, 2012

Volume 2 Issue 1 (Week ending September 23, 2012)

Upcoming Weekend Games:

A total of 23 league games are on tap for this weekend.

For a complete schedule make sure to visit us on line at: www.empirehockey.com



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

This section will be used to promote our **Players of the Week**. Each week the League will select a Forward, Defense and Goaltender as Players of the Week.

Teams are to make nominations no later than Tuesday of each week by 6pm. Players of the Week will be announced on Friday's.

This week's Players are:

Forward: Kevin DiMagno (Maksymum)

Defense: None nominated

Goalie: Justin Kapelmaster (Applecore)

See their write up's next page.

Congratulations to these fine players.

Make submissions, along with picture to Pete Preteroti at: SportsNiag@aol.com

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK (Week ending 09/23/12)



Forward: Kevin DiMagno (Maksymum) 1995 from Fairport, NY

Kevin is a 1995 playing in his 2nd empire season. In his first season Kevin played in 40 games totaling 29 points. In the first week of 2012-13 season Kevin has played in 7 games totaling 7 goals and 9 assists for 16 points. Two of his goals were game winners. He ranks 2nd on his team with a +8.



Goaltender: Justin Kapelmaster (Applecore) 1995 from Coral Springs, Florida

Justin had 2 outstanding performances this past weekend at the Junior Bruins Showcase. Kapelmaster made many incredible saves against two of the league's top offensive teams, the Florida Everblades and Junior Bruins. His numbers from this past weekend were outstanding, 1-1 with a 1.20 GAA and .939 save % which included a 1-0 shutout victory over the Junior Bruins. The 1995 birth year and Coral Springs, FL native is poised to have a fantastic year.

Apple Core starts regular season



Marlboro, MA - This past weekend, the **New York Apple Core Empire** team traveled to the New England Sports Center for the **2012 Boston Junior Bruins Shootout**. With four regular season games on schedule over the next three days, the newly anticipated 2012 regular season was here.

The **Florida Jr. Blades** were up first for the Apple Core, and the team knew this was going to be a tough, physical battle, against a strong Florida Blades team who lost only one game in regulation the previous season, an incredible achievement. During the first period, the game was back and forth, but the two teams went into the intermission scoreless. At the start of the second half, Apple Core found themselves in an early 2-0 hole. With the game down to its last five minutes, Apple Core goaltender and Florida native, Justin Kapelmaster stopped a critical penalty shot, that eventually led to his team scoring their first goal of the game, a Cale Schoenberg goal with assists going to fellow line mate Jon Kaszuba and defenseman Jonas Toupal, cutting their teams deficit in half. After a strong, late push by the 'Core pressed for time, the Blades skated away with the 2-1 win.

On Saturday the Empire team looked to rebound and they did just that and got their first win of the season by beating the **Portland Jr. Pirates** by the score of 3-2. After failing to score the first goal yet again, Apple Core found themselves down 1-0 to the feisty Pirates. The 'Core responded well scoring three unanswered goals, two by Apple Core defenseman Andrew Barroso and Jonas Toupal, and one by center John Stevenson, securing them win number one of the season.

The night match-up between the **Springfield Pics** and Apple Core turned out to be one of the most exciting games of the weekend. The score was all knotted up at two after the first half in a game where Apple Core was out shooting the Pics 20-10. In the second, Apple Core kept up the pressure, but saw a 5-3 lead on goals by Cale Schoenberg, Liam Pues, and Jon Kaszuba, diminish on some unlucky bounces and all of a sudden the game was tied up at five. In just their third game of the regular season, Apple Core was headed to overtime. With shots on goal reaching 40-19 in favor of the 'Core, the line of Jon Kaszuba, Cale Schoenberg, and Blake Manginell had been buzzing

all night. In just under three minutes into the extra period, it was defenseman Jonas Toupal, a Czech native, who put home the pass from Kaszuba and Manginell that sent the Apple Core bench onto the ice congratulating their teammates. Goaltender Christoph Mutschin would get his second win in as many games.

On Sunday, in their fourth and final afternoon game, Apple Core found themselves going head to head with the currently undefeated, host home team: the **Boston Jr. Bruins**. In a highly anticipated match on a rink where many people would say is weighted in the history between these two teams in favor of Apple Core, it would turn out exactly as those who thought. After a scoreless first period, both teams came out with a little more urgency in the second knowing that one goal might end up being enough, and it was. A long shot from the point by Cameron Giertych, assisted by Nick Mardirossian, found its way through the legs of Jr. Bruins goaltender Erik Wurman. This would be all Apple Core goaltender Justin Kapelmaster needed to secure the win, stopping 15 of 15 shots for his first shutout of the season.

Looking Ahead: Apple Core will play their home opener at the Long Beach Ice Arena on Saturday, September 29th against the **Frederick Freeze** at 8pm. Sunday 9/29 at 11:30am they will finish up their two game series with the Freeze.



Stars Juniors gear up for the season

After what seemed like an endless Training Camp and Pre Season, the **Buffalo Stars Empire Junior** team is set to go into full season mode as they play the next 8 straight weekends. The Stars travel to Raynham, Mass this weekend to take on the always tough **Mass Maple Leafs** in a pair of non league games.

The Stars will participate as part of the Leafs Opening Weekend festivities which includes an All Star game. The Stars U15 team will also participate taking on a HS Club team as part of the activities.

Buffalo enters the weekend having already played 3 league games, winning one and losing 2. The Stars are currently 1-4 overall. "The team is hungry" said Stars Head Coach Jerry Wheeler. "It seems like forever since we have played and the boys just want to get going". Well, going they will as they will play 19 games, including 15 league games over the next 8 weeks.

Following this weekend, the Stars will travel to Hookset, NH over the Columbus Holiday to participate in the **New Hampshire Monarchs Showcase**. With 4 league games over a 40 hour period, the Stars will certainly get the challenge they have been looking for as they will face off against the defending National Champion New Hampshire Monarchs; the defending Empire League Champion Florida Junior Blades; as well as Salem and Bay State.

The 2012-2013 Stars team is their youngest ever. With only 4 veterans: Brandon Boyle, Mike Harris, Angelo Sarro and Patrick Schmelzinger, the Stars are quite inexperienced. The average age of the Stars team is 16 years, 6 months, making them quite possibly the youngest team in the league.

Stars Notes:

Stars veteran Luke Swimline has made the **University at Buffalo ACHA** team and will suit up for them this season. Best wishes to Luke.

The Stars Juniors will join the rest of the organization and GO PINK the entire month of October as part of the Buffalo Stars month long Cancer Awareness Event. All teams will participate in various activities to raise awareness of Breast Cancer, as well as raise money for the American Cancer Society. The Juniors will wear pink jerseys at the end of the month and auction the jerseys off to raise money for the cause. A full list of activities can be found on the Buffalo Stars website at: www.buffalostars.com

SUCCESS IS A MARATHON: ONE SHIFT AT A TIME

Jr. Blades Welcome the All Challengers



Estero, Fla.--Coming off a record setting season, expectations were running high for the 2012-13 Jr. Blades team. The Blades are no strangers to pressure, having made national championship appearances in both of their first two seasons.

“Every year we go into the season looking to win,” said head coach and general manager Tad O’Had. “This year we ramped up the schedule and when we win, our opponents won’t have any excuses.”

The Jr. Blades season begins with 11 games in the month of September- all against northern opponents.

“Last year we had a great season and people tried to take that away from us,” said team captain Joshua Koerner. “They’d say you play “southern teams”. Well, we are a “southern team” and we’re prepared to go head-to-head with any team, from any conference. Geography doesn’t matter.”

The players started their season at the Woodchuck Classic in Burlington, Vermont. The team went 3-1 and had convincing wins over the Adirondack Jr. Wings (6-1), Jersey Wildcats (5-4) and the Syracuse Stars (2-1). Their only loss of the weekend came at the hands of the New Jersey Hitmen.

Returning home, the team returned to training in preparation for the Jr. Bruins Shoot Out. At the Jr. Bruins Shoot Out the team increased their record to 7-2 with wins over the Springfield Pics (4-1), NY AppleCore (2-1), the Philadelphia Revolution (1-0) and the Connecticut Oilers (4-3).

The Jr. Blades sit on top of the Empire League with 14 points and three forwards in the top ten. “Our program is built on the principle that well developed hockey players win,” said O’Had. “Joshua Koerner, Troy Degler and Chaise Howard have all been with us for the last three season. Their placement in the top ten isn’t a fluke. They got their through hard work.”

The Jr. Blades finish their 11 game month with a two-game home stand against the Space Coast Hurricanes.



Jr. Whalers Empire Sweep East Coast Eagles

The **Jr. Whalers EmJHL** squad did not disappoint the fans in their home opener Saturday night at the Chilled Ponds in an exciting contest against the **East Coast Eagles**. The Whalers rode 4 PP goals en route to a 6-5 victory in a shoot out.

East Coast jumped out front first on a Jacob Weldon goal at 10:58. At 16:36 the Whalers tied the game with their first powerplay goal from rookie Zachary McDaniel unassisted. In the 2nd period, at 1:48 Jonathon Jones made it 2-1 Whalers with a PP marker from Michael Addison and Kyle Buchanan. Trent Carter extended the lead less than 3 minutes later with an unassisted PP goal to make it 3-1. The Eagles would not go quietly, responding with two PP goals of their own from Chris Grosvenor at 7:41 and Graf Richards at 10:22 to knot the game at 3-3. Jeremy Wilson gave the Whalers a 4-3 lead on the PP at 12:10 from Alex Dempsey and Kyle Buchanan on a goal line stuff attempt that found its way between the legs of the Eagles netminder. With less than two minutes to go in the period the Eagles tied things at 4 all as Riley Allen found the back of the net.

In the 3rd period at 14:10 Jonathon Jones scored a shorthanded marker from Kyle Buchanan to give the Whalers a 5-4 lead. The lead would be short lived, as the Eagles pulled the goalie at with 43 seconds left Matthew Burleson tied the game at 5-5. After a scoreless OT, the game went to a best of 3 shootout. In the 1st 3 rounds Burleson for the Eagles and Jeremy Wilson for the Whalers scored goals to send the shootout into sudden death. In round 4 Michael Addison scored for the Whalers and Taylor Brost came up big in net to give the Whalers the 6-5 victory. Brost finished with 44 saves on the night. The Whalers finished 4 for 6 on the Power Play while the Eagles were 2 of 5.

Game two of the weekend the Whalers looked to complete the sweep. Things didn't start off well for the boys from Hampton Roads as Graff Richards scored twice in the 1st period at 0:38 and 12:29 to give the Eagles a 2-0 advantage. Late in the period with 1:45 to go, Jonathon Jones cut the lead to 2-1, converting on a beautiful feed from Alex Dempsey. In the 2nd period, at 4:07 Trent Carter knotted the game at 2-2 on the PP from Alex Dempsey. Heading into the 3rd period tied at 2 all the Whalers would put the pedal down. Jonathon Jones scored his second of the night just 16 seconds into the period unassisted to make it 3-2 Whalers. Then at 7:54 Alex Dempsey converted in the PP from Jones to make it 4-2 Whalers. The Eagles would cut the deficit to 4-3 at 11:56 on Graff Richards's hat trick goal but Jones sealed the deal with 4:59 to play with a shorthanded breakaway goal from Kyle Buchanan.

Taylor Brost made 30 saves in net and the Whalers PP finished 2 for 8 while holding the Eagles to 0 for 3.

With the sweep the Whalers improve to 3-1 on the season and sit in 2nd place in the **EmJHL Southern Conference** behind the Florida Jr. Blades. The boys will travel to Prince William this coming weekend for a Saturday and Sunday showdown with their division rival **Potomac Patriots** (0-5-0).

Here are the deadline dates. Please adhere to them.

Submission for Forward, Defense, Goalie PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Submit your player information AND a head/shoulder photo. Give a short write up about why he has been selected.

Submit these NO LATER THAN Wednesday mornings at 10am.

You can submit one, two or all 3 positions.

We will not accept a nomination without an attached picture.

Players of the Week will be selected by: George Kelly, Dave Smolynicki and Pete Preteroti

Articles, Stories, News...

Submit in article format. Please be conscious of spelling, grammar, etc...

Submit photos where possible

Submit these NO LATER THAN Wednesday evening at 7pm.

AMERICA IS GREAT



GOD BLESS THE USA