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Empire Junior Report: Friday, November 25, 2011

Volume 1 Issue 12 Week ending Sunday, November 20, 2011

Upcoming Weekend Games:

There are only 2 games on tap this Holiday Weekend as the Jersey Hitmen and Jersey Wildcats face-off in a pair of games.

A complete schedule of league games can be found on line at:

<http://www.pointstreak.com/stats/pro/leagueschedule.html?leagueid=362&seasonid=7391>

Visit the Empire Junior Hockey League 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:

Goaltender: Drew Michals - Jr Bruins
Defense: Chad Malonowski - Brewster
Forward: DJ Thomas - Florida Blades

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 November 20, 2011)



Goaltender - Drew Michals - Junior Bruins - 95 (Newton, MA)

Drew Michals and the Junior Bruins faced off against the Green Mountain Glades this past Sunday. Michals was particularly sharp in the first two periods when the B's were either tied or up by a goal. The Glades also went 0-5 on the PP and Michals was the B's best penalty killer making several big stops while the team was shorthanded. Michals ranks in the top 5 in the league in both save % and GAA. Michals turned back 41 of 43 Glades shots en-route to the win.



Defense - Chad Malonowski - Brewster - 95 (Cortland Manor, NY)

Chad scored twice against Applecore. More importantly, the team played with only 4 defensemen for the games this weekend. Chad averaged 30 minutes of ice both games and was instrumental in shutting down Applecore in Sunday's 6-1 win



Forward – DJ Thomas – Florida Jr Blades – 92 (Greensboro, NC)

DJ Thomas a native of Greensboro, NC has found his niche in South West Florida. DJ is the anchor of one of the most offensively potent lines in the Empire League. This past weekend Thomas helped the Blades to four wins in Rochester, NY. DJ had five points against the competition. Thomas also lead the way defensively by having a Plus/Minus of a +8.



Before turkey could be enjoyed, the **Philadelphia Revolution** had a big weekend as they took on the 1st place NJ Wildcats. Empire points leader Sean Fleming did not waste time putting Philly on the board as he looked off a D man on a 3 v 2 rush before beating Wildcats goaltender low far side, giving Philly an early 1 - 0 lead. Minutes later Frank Lanni added to the lead when he aimed and fired a laser that burnt the top right corner of the net to put the Revs up by 2. After Pete Malamud found Michael Young on the backdoor for his first of the night the wildcats pulled their goalie and struck back to narrow the lead.

In the 2nd, Kyle Jennings redirected a point shot on the power play that found its way into the back of the net. Young increased the Revolution lead with his second on the night. Things were looking good for Philly when Frank Lanni pulled in inside out move off the rush before releasing a backhand shot that beat NJ's goalie high, far side for the highlight of the night. However, the Wildcats had plans of their own as Nicholas Brachina scored 3 unanswered goals turning the game into a 6 - 5 nail biter. Ultimately, goaltender Joe Marshall and the Philly squad was able to hold onto the lead and the 2 points.

The Wildcats travelled to Warwick rink for part 2 of the home and home series with the Revolution. Game 2 was a tighter, more defensive game as Revolution defense man Jon Houk was the only player able to get his team on the score board in the 1st period. Houk let go a slap bomb off the rush that blew by Wildcats goaltender and nearly blew through the back of the net. Thanks to the forechecking and net front traffic of the meat train line, consisting of Lanni, Glanding and Kotlarczyk, defense man Jon Houk was able to score his 2nd goal of the night as he wristed a top shelf shot from the blue line.

In the third the meat train pulled into the station once again as their physical forechecking created a turnover and Lanni was able to find Kotlarczyk in the slot who made no mistake burying his shot in the far corner of the net. However history would not repeat itself as Philly was not able to hold onto their lead this time. Wildcats forward Scott Mogerley added a pair of goals to give his team the lead for the first time in the weekend. Despite immense pressure applied from Philly late in the third, Wildcats goaltender Mark Specia, was able to close the door to get the win, and force a split on the weekend.



The **Hampton Roads Whalers** took on the Frederick Freeze this past weekend at the Chilled Ponds. In game one of the weekend John Davies got the Whalers off to a good start with a goal at 12:27 from Jonathon Jones. The Freeze would tie it up at 7:42 to send in 1-1 into the intermission. In the second period the Whalers came out with authority. Alphee' Herion scored at 17:48 from Jonathon Jones and John Davies to make it 2-1. Then Taylor Paasch picked up a power play goal at 16:26 from Chris Neff and Yari Neitenbach to make it 3-1. In the 3rd Ryan Gullett sealed the win with a goal at 3:37 from Jeremy Wilson.

Grant Laihrey continued his strong play in net, picking up another win stopping 23 of 24 Freeze shots. The Whalers held a 38-24 shot on goal advantage. The Whalers killed off 5 Frederick power plays. The Whalers were 1 for 3.

Despite outshooting Frederick 45-31 in game two of the weekend the Whalers couldn't overcome a slow start, falling behind 4-0 in the 1st period. Special teams were the name of the game. The Whalers picked up 2 power play goals but surrendered 3 power play goals and 2 shorthanded goals in the 5-3 loss. The Whalers got goals from Keegan Howver, Nick Zellmer, and Jackson Braniff. Yari Neitenbach, Michael Addison, Jackson Braniff, and Chris Neff all picked up assists. Justin Lindgren took the loss in net with 6 saves on 10 shots. Alan Johnson stopped 20 of 21 Freeze shots in relief.

Next up for Whalers will be yet another series with the East Coast Eagles following the Thanksgiving break. The Whalers will travel to Raleigh for a Dec.3rd game at 5:00pm and a Dec.4th game at 10:20 am both games can be seen on Fasthockey.com.





The **Boston Bandits** have been playing well but have not been seeing the results they want. Playing two games this past weekend against quality opponents, NE Huskies and South Shore Kings, the Bandits could not come up with a win. Against the Huskies the Bandits had an early 2-0 lead in the game, both goals scored by Niall Caparon 92', only to fall 3-2. Defenseman Dakota Menslage 95' added two assists.

In the Kings game, the Bandits gave it their all. Playing shorthanded due to call ups and injuries, they battled hard. Having leads of 1-0, 2-1, 3-2, 4-3, they ran out of gas and would eventually fall 7-4. Defenseman Sam Kent 93' had two goals, Dylan Santos 92' a goal and an assist and Harry Connelly 93' had two assists.

Empire Bandits called up to EJ Bandits:

Empire Bandits top two scorers Tyler Drevitch 95' (5-17-22) and Paul Fregeau 93' (11-10-21) both got called up to the EJ Bandits team this week. This was the second time Drevitch has been called up and the first for Fregeau. Both players played a regular shift in the EJ Bandits 6-5 shootout win. Fregeau had a game for the ages as he scored twice in regulation and then got the game winner in the shootout.

JR. BLADES SUPPORT MEN'S HEALTH



Estero, Fla.—The **Florida Jr. Blades** are proud to announce their participation in the November campaign.



Jr. Blades Michael DiVico, J.P. Larmoyeux, Ross Kovacs and Josh Stanclift.

Things are getting a little hairy at Athletic Republic-Germain Arena this month as the facilities staff and the Florida Jr. Blades grow mustaches to support men's health and the fight against prostate cancer.

Spearheaded by director of training Nick Westcott, the Jr. Blades are raising awareness and funds for men's health issues.

"When I approached the team in late October about growing moustaches and joining the cause, the idea got a warm reception," says Westcott. "I was not surprised that everyone was willing to grow a moustache. What did surprise me was everyone's willingness to actively promote men's health issues and raise money for such a great cause."

So far the team has raised over \$750 and are hoping that as their mustaches grow so to do the donations. "It's a bonding experience for the whole team and a really important cause," says forward Josh Stanclift. "It's funny because some of the younger guys can't grow them (mustaches) yet. They're just as excited as the rest of us."



The **Syracuse Stars** traveled west down the New York State Thruway to Rochester this past weekend to face the Empire League's other Stars team from Buffalo in the Rochester Showcase at The Sports Center.

Saturday's game, the first game of the season between these two teams, was all Syracuse as they scored the first 5 goals of the game en route to a 7-1 victory over Buffalo. Scoring for Syracuse with a pair of goals were Alex Tuch, Casie Garrison, and Josh Sova. Picking up the other tally was Luke Kirwan.

Sunday was the same result as Syracuse defeated Buffalo 9-4. Jeremy Marginsky paved the way for the S-Stars with a hat trick. Others that contributed to the offensive attack were Alex Tuch (2), Trent Yule, Casie Garrison, Nick Mercurio, and Josh Sova.

The S-Stars outshined the Buf-Stars by picking up the two wins to improve their record to 16-6-0. They are currently tied for first place with the Jersey Wildcats in the Western Conference.

These two teams will continue this series following the Thanksgiving holiday break as the action shifts to the Cicero Twin Rinks on December 3 & 4.



Empire South Report

Friday, November 18th:

Atlanta Jr. Knights 8, East Coast Eagles 5

Richard Privette scored 4 goals to pace the Knights attack, while Sean Davis made 48 saves.

Joshua Martinez led East Coast with a goal and 2 assists. Scott Jackson made 53 saves for the

Eagles, who were 2-for-7 on the power play. Atlanta was 1-for-6 with the man advantage.

Florida Junior Blades 2, Maksymum 1

Joshua Koerner's third period goal broke a 1-1 tie and stood up as the game winning for the

Blades, who also got a goal from Eryn Siracusa and a strong effort in goal from Joseph Keyser.

Anthony Harding scored for Maksymum. The Junior Blades were 1-for-7 on the power play and

8-of-8 on the penalty kill.

Saturday, November 19th:

Palm Beach Hawks 4, Space Coast Hurricanes 2

Palm Beach got two goals from Justin Anderson and one each from Timothy Camden and Nick

Noback, plus 21 saves from Nikita Chubukin in the win. Space Coast got goals from Tom Hammond and Jack Moran, plus 32 saves from Charles Ingram. Both teams were 0-for-7 on the power play.

Florida Junior Blades 4, Potomac Patriots 0

Joseph Keyser stopped all 19 shots he faced and Daniel Thompson scored twice for the Blades.

Alex Yutzler made 31 saves for the Pats.

Tampa Bay Juniors 4, Florida Eels 2

The Juniors overcame a 2-0 deficit after one, scoring four times in the second period, on their

way to a 4-2 win. Brendan Nicholson, Walter Stern, David Cross and Nicholas Reed scored the

goals, while Kyle Gertz made 35 saves. Tampa Bay was 0-for-5 on the power play and 2-of-2

on the penalty kill. Bryce Peterson and Nick Cormier scored for the Eels, Jacob Widmer and

Dylan Knox combined for 39 saves.

Atlanta Jr. Knights 8, East Coast Eagles 2

Cole Stallard scored 2 goals and added 3 assists, Justin Fisher chipped in 2 goals and 2 assists

and Taylor Brost made 32 saves for Atlanta, which scored 7 times in the first period, 5 of

those coming on the power play. Samuel Banasiewicz and Jonah Bolton scored goals for East Coast, which got 46 saves from the tandem of Cody Smargiassi and Spencer Braswell. The Knights were 5-for-8 on the power play and 10-of-10 on the penalty kill.

Florida Junior Blades 4, Maksymum 2

A 3-goal first half propelled the Blades to victory. Joshua Koerner had a goal and an assist for Florida, Joseph Keyser had 19 saves. Justim Simonelli scored twice for Maksymum, which got 33 saves from William Massey.

Sunday, November 20th:

Atlanta Jr. Knights 8, East Coast Eagles 3

Justin Fisher scored twice, Ryan Griggs, Dan Fendius and Charles Marcoe had a goal and assist each, Steven Patafio, Brandon Harley and Evan Booth once each for Atlanta, which got 33 saves from Sean Davis. For the Eagles, Samuel Banasiewicz, Brian Clare and Graff Richards scored goals, Cody Smargiassi made 31 saves. Atlanta was 4-for-5 on the power play and 5-of-6 on the penalty kill.

Palm Beach Hawks 9, Space Coast Hurricanes 3

A five-goal second period proved to be big for Palm Beach, which got 4 goals and 1 assist from Justin Anderson, 2 from Nick Mucerino and one each from Kyle Kohlhorst, Brendan Smith and Brian Bailey, who also added 3 assists. Bobby Dugan was called on to make just 8 saves. For Space

Coast, Marc

Vautour scored all 3 Space Coast goals. Tanner Elmore made 22 saves. Palm Beach was 3-for-8 on the power play, Space Coast was 2-for-8.

Florida Junior Blades 5, Buffalo Stars 2

DJ Thomas scored twice, Daniel Thompson, Sam Mancini and Blake O'Neill once each for the Blades, which got 31 saves from Joseph Keyser. The Stars goals were scored Thomas Leister and Jacob Bystrak. Alex Willis had 32 saves.

Here are some good Junior Blogs to follow:

USA Junior Hockey: <http://www.usacollegehockey.com/cgi-bin/UBBCGI/ultimatebb.cgi>

A great board for Junior Hockey discussion. I post in here all the time and am a moderator.

American Junior Hockey: <http://www.americanjuniorhockey.com/>

Another good site I always post in.

Wrist Shot Hockey: <http://www.wristshohockey.net/>

and of course our own blog at: <http://juniorhockeytalk.proboards.com/>

Please give us your feedback on this Newsletter and make sure to get it into the hands of your players and parents. This is only our first issue. It will only be as good as you make it. Make sure to keep news flowing in. sportsniag@aol.com

Pete Preteroti

AMERICA IS GREAT



GOD BLESS THE USA

