



Contact: VP Marketing/Media Relations: Peter Preteroti [sportsniag@aol.com](mailto:sportsniag@aol.com)  
716-685-1122 Empire League site: [www.empirehockey.com](http://www.empirehockey.com)

## Empire Junior Report: Friday, December 16, 2011

Volume 1 Issue 14 Week ending Sunday, December 11, 2011

### Upcoming Weekend Games:

Another really busy weekend for Empire teams as there are 31 games on the schedule.

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

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

Visit the Empire Junior Hockey League at:

[www.empirehockey.com](http://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: Jordan Hulahan- Jersey Hitmen**

**Forward: Jack Eichel - Jr Bruins**

**Defense: Sam Kent - Boston Bandits**

See their write up's next page.

Congratulations to these fine players.

Make submissions, along with picture to Pete Preteroti at: [SportsNiag@aol.com](mailto:SportsNiag@aol.com)

## **PLAYERS OF THE WEEK (Week ending December 11, 2011)**



**Forward - Jack Eichel - Junior Bruins - 96 (Chelmsford, MA)**

Eichel followed up an 8 point weekend (Dec 2/3) with a 9 point weekend that included a 4 goal/1 assist game against the South Shore Kings. The Bruins, who held a one point lead over the Kings, needed a win to stay in first place. Eichel was a force all game with the 5 point effort in a 7-4 win over Valley. Eichel is one of the youngest players in the league having just turned 15 in October.



**Defense - Sam Kent - Boston Bandits - 93 (Sandwich, MA)**

Sam helped lead the Boston Bandits to four wins at the NE Huskies Showcase. Playing great defense all weekend. Sam killed penalties, block shots and made great outlet passes. He had 4 assists in the four victories and was a combined +10.



**Goaltender - Jordan Hulahan - Jersey Hitmen - 94 (Wayne, NJ)**

Hulahan complete his first weekend sweep of the season by turning away 53 of the 56 shots Buffalo threw his way. Hulahan made many spectacular saves while keeping the Stars at bay.

## EIGHT JR. BLADES NAMED TO ALL-STAR TOURNAMENT ROSTER



Estero, Fla.– The **Florida Jr. Blades** organization along with general manager and head coach Tad O’Had are proud to announce eight Jr. Blades have been selected to represent the southern division in the 2011-2012 All-Star tournament.



“It is a tremendous honor as an organization to have eight players selected,” says O’Had. “I believe it all has to do with the players, personnel and culture that they have helped create.”

The tournament will feature North, South, East and West Empire teams. Each team will be composed of 12 forwards, eight defenseman and two goaltenders. The selection committee evaluated players based on their performance prior to December 6.

The Jr. Blades will not only send eight players to the tournament, but also head coach Tad O’Had. “It’s a great honor to have been named the head coach of the Empire-South All-Stars. It’s even sweeter knowing that I will be heading north with several deserving Jr. Blades.”

Jr. Blade forwards journeying north for the tournament include D.J. Thomas (19-22-14-36), Joshua Koerner (12-23-21-44), J.P. Larmoyeux (19-11-23-34) and Eryn Siracusa (19-10-21-31). “Offensively potent are the words that come to mind when you think of those four names,” says O’Had. “They’ve been an exciting group to watch this season and as they continue forward and gel together it excites the whole bench.”

Florida will also be supplying the team with three stellar defensemen. Team captain James Hyatt (19-6-12-18), alternate captain Ross Kovacs (19-3-6-9) along with Ty Lasker (19-5-13-18) will help anchor Empire-South’s blue line throughout the tournament. “These guys are the heart and soul of the Jr. Blades they are rock steady and play with an edge every night,” says O’Had. “They continue to provide leadership on and off the ice and love setting the tone.”

Starting goaltender Joe Keyser (GAA 1.21/ SV% .936) will also make the trip. “This has been two years in the making for Joe Keyser,” says associate coach Jake Laime. “Joe lead the Jr. Blades to nationals in their inaugural season (2010-2011) and came back for his sophomore season to prove his athleticism, drive and talents are unmatched.”

Laime is credited with much of the Jr. Blades success. “Associate coach Jake Laime is one of the hardest working coaches out there. His tireless work ethic in the player development and recruiting process is unmatched,” says O’Had. “He is able to spot talent and is a master in getting the best out of our players.”

The future is bright for the Jr. Blades organization. “It’s rewarding to know we have an organization on the right track and it couldn’t be possible without the help of so many dedicated people,” says O’Had.

## Jersey Hitmen Keeping Momentum



This past weekend the Buffalo Stars made the trek to Wayne, NJ for a two game set with the **Jersey Hitmen**. The Hitmen had a week off after a road sweep of the rival Jersey Wildcats and coach Barling was hoping that the layoff wouldn’t slow the team’s momentum. After shaking off some early rust on Saturday the Hitmen would prove that their momentum hadn’t been slowed by the break.

After a shaky and scoreless first period on Saturday the Hitmen began to take over the game in the second. With Buffalo’s Tom Leistner in the box for interference John Redgate (’94) would deflect and Evan Byrnes (’93) point shot past Star’s goaltender Alex Willis at 5:05 to give Jersey the lead. Brendan Calello (’93) would also pick up an assist on the Redgate goal. Then at 6:51 Chris Fersini (’92) would score when he walked through the Buffalo center on an offensive zone faceoff and roofed the puck over the glove of Willis. Shortly after Robbie Marsanico (’96) would hammer home a rebound attempt with Fersini and Devon Duarte (’92) collecting assists on the goal. Luke Swimline would add a goal before the end of the period to pull Buffalo within two.

In the third the Hitmen continued to dominate the game, and added some insurance early on Marsanico’s second of the game just 1:06 into play. Fersini and Duarte once again picked up assists on the play. In the third the Hitmen outshot the Stars 14-7 and goaltender Jordan Hulahan (’94) turned away all Buffalo attempts to give the Hitmen a 4-1 win.

On Sunday the Hitmen came of swinging scoring two goals less than a minute apart halfway through the first period. Chris Fersini got Jersey on the board with the help of Connor O'Callahan ('94) and Jon Spada ('94) at 9:37. After that it was James Martello's ('94) turn to light the lamp with the help of Redgate and Calello. However, the pesky Stars continued to fight and Swimline netted his second goal of the weekend on the power play at 11:42 to bring the Stars within one.

In a relatively uneventful second period Buffalo would tally the stanza's only goal with just 18 seconds left to play in the frame. The goal would come off the stick of Jeremy Wyse and would send the two clubs to the break tied at two. In the third however, the Hitmen would take over outshooting Buffalo 20-8 in the final frame. Robbie Marsanico got things going with a power play goal at 7:06. That goal would later prove to be Marsanico's fourth game winning goal of the season. Then just 36 seconds later Brendan Calello would score a highlight reel goal with the help of Redgate and Martello to give Jersey some breathing room. At 9:55 Redgate would put home his second of the weekend before Devon Duarte closed the scoring with 22 seconds to play. The Jordan Hulahan picked up 27 saves in his second victory of the weekend .

**Notes:** The Hitmen will look to keep their winning streak alive this weekend when they host the red hot Green Mountain Glades in a two game set. The puck will drop on the weekend with a 2:00pm Saturday matinee, followed by Sunday morning's 8:00am contest...All games can be seen at [www.fasthockey.com](http://www.fasthockey.com)

## Stars Go 3-1 Over The Weekend



The **Syracuse Stars** traveled this past weekend to Fitchburg, MA to participate in the Huskies Invitational Tournament looking to extend their 5 game winning streak. Their first game was against the hosts Huskies and it didn't start off to well. The Stars fell behind 3-0 as the Huskies' Jason Dicey (2) and Zach D'Errico built up the lead early into the second half. Then the game changed in a span of 12 minutes. Jeremy Marginsky's goal at 5:59 of the second half was the beginning of the Stars comeback. The Stars then scored three consecutive goals from Josh Sova, Luke Kirwan, and Alex Brink to give them a 4-3 lead with 7 minutes remaining in the contest. With 5:23 remaining Dicey scored again giving him a hat trick as the Huskies tied the score and forced the game into overtime. A five minute scoreless overtime period didn't produce a winner so the game was then decided in a shootout as the Stars tallied 3 goals over the Huskies two goals to win the game, 5-4 and extend the winning streak to 6.

In their second game of the tournament the Stars faced off against the Bay State Breakers. The Stars scored the first 4 goals of the game, Casie Garrison, Alex Tuch, Nick Mercurio, and Alex Fukes to give them a commanding 4-0 lead en route to a 6-2 victory. Scoring the other goals for the Stars were Tuch and Jesse Farabee.

The Stars then took on the Florida Eels in the third game of the weekend and cruised to an 8-0 win. Leading the way was Luke Kirwan with a hat trick and single tallies from Jeremy Marginsky, Stewart Brereton, Alex Tuch, Josh Sova, and Ryan Perry. Sharing the shutout were goaltenders Matt Schneider and Tyler Kraft. With the victory the Stars extended their current winning streak to 8 games.

In the final game of the weekend the Stars offense stalled as the Green Mountain Glades defeated the Stars 4-0; snapping the 8 game winning streak.

The Stars return home to the Cicero Twin Rinks this weekend to take on the Frederick Freeze. This will be the first meeting between the two teams.

## **Boston Bandits go Undefeated at Showcase**



The **Boston Bandits** continued their improved play over the weekend. At the NE Huskies Showcase in Fitchburg, MA the Bandits went 4-0 to bring their win streak to five games. During the streak the wins have come over the Breakers (last weekend), Space Coast, Florida Eels, Philadelphia and Maksymum. In the first of four games at the showcase, The Bandits wasted no time as they would score thirty one seconds into the game against Space Coast. The Bandits dominated the Hurricanes outshooting them 55 - 10 with several players having multiple point games. Led by Niall Caparon (92') a goal and 3 assists, Tyler Drevitch (95') 4 assists, Paul Fregeau (93') 3 goals and Dylan Santos (92') 2 goals and an assist.

### **BANDITS 10 Space Coast 2**

The Bandits continued to dominate their next opponent the Florida Eels. Again wasting no time the Bandits would score early. If not for the Eels goalie the score would of been much worse. The Bandits outshot the Eels 60 -10. With three points each the Bandits were led by Drevitch, Fregeau and Evan Jackson (94') and chipping in two goals was Will Platt (94') and Mike McGovern (92') had a goal and an assist.

### **BANDITS 8 Florida Eels 1**

The third game of the showcase was a hard hitting affair against Philadelphia. The game had great intensity as the two teams went at each other. The Bandits would take the lead ten minutes into the game on an Aahron Lara (94') goal assisted by Derek Ridgeway (93') and Evan Jackson. From there the game was taken over by the Bandits leading scorer, Tyler Drevitch with 4 points on 3 goals and an assist.

### **BANDITS 6 Philadelphia 1**

The final game of the showcase, against Maksymum the Bandits would again take the lead early, this time on a Grant Gallo (93') goal, assisted by Tyler Drevitch and Niall Caparon. Maksymum would come back and score the next three goals. With fifteen minutes to go in the game, the Bandits would call time out to regroup. It was character time and the Bandits were up for the challenge. Even though tired the Bandits gave it everything. They would come from behind for the victory. Goal scorers were: Gallo, McGovern, Fregeau and Caparon.

Drevitch had 3 assists and Sam Kent (93') had 2 assists. **BANDITS 5 Maksymum 3**

**Up next for the Bandits:** The Bandits travel to Baystate Breakers (12/16/11) and Boston Jr Bruins (12/17/11)

## **Empire South Report**

December 9th:

### **Boston Bandits 10, Space Coast Hurricanes 2**

A 7-goal first half put the game in control of the Bandits. Boston was led by Paul Fregeau's 3 goals and Matt Pearless's 8 saves. Jacob Kinsman and Marc Vautour scored goals for Space Coast, Ian Shidlofsky made 45 saves. Boston was 2-for-2 on the power play and 4-of-4 on the penalty kill.

### **New Hampshire Jr. Monarchs 7, Florida Eels 1**

The Monarchs scored 3 times in the first and 4 times in the second, led by 2 goals each by David Horan and Danny Moynihan. Dylan Palmer had 10 saves. Jacob Leppo scored the lone Eels goal and Dylan Knox made 47 saves. New Hampshire was 1-for-4 on the power play and 4-of-4 on the penalty kill.

### **Boston Bandits 8, Florida Eels 1**

Paul Fregeau and Will Platt scored twice each for the Bandits, who broke open the game with a 5-goal second half. Chris Lamont made 9 saves for Boston. Dominick Rovito scored for the Eels, Travus McDonald made 52. There were no power play goals.

### **Brewster Bulldogs 9, Space Coast Hurricanes 0**

A six goal first half put the game away for Brewster, who were led by Nicholas Alexander's 3 goals and Zachary Gellar in goal. Ian Shidlofsky manned the net for Space Coast. Brewster scored once in 4 power plays, Space Coast was 0-for-2.

December 10th:

### **NY Apple Core 8, Florida Eels 3**

Four goals in each half propelled Apple Core to the win. Joseph Naclerio tallied 3 goals and 2 assists, Justin Kaplemaster and Brian August combined for 19 saves. For the Eels, Dominick Rovito, Sean Whiteman and Frank Ryan scored goals and Dylan Knox made 33 saves. The Eels were 2-for-5 on the power play and 1-of-1 on the penalty kill.

### **Philadelphia Revolution 2, Atlanta Jr. Knights 1**

Ian Robertson scored twice for the Revolution, the second coming 59 seconds into the second half to put Philadelphia on top. Brandon Harley scored for Atlanta. Robert Palzer had 27 saves for the Revolution, Zachary Voskamp made 28 saves for the Knights. There were no power play goals.

### **Syracuse Stars 8, Florida Eels 0**

Luke Kirwan's 3 goals and 19 saves from the tandem of Matt Schneider and Tyler Kraft, plus a 6-goal second half sent Syracuse on to the win. Dylan Knox made 40 saves for the Eels. There were no power play goals.

### **Tampa Bay Juniors 6, Palm Beach Hawks 2**

A three goal third for Tampa Bay broke open a tight game. Nick Reed, Brian Rotherberger, Chad Page, Patrick Rodgers, Jeff Meyer and Daniel Fritz scored goals, Kyle Gertz made 28 saves for Tampa Bay. Joseph Lokken and Nick Mucerino scored for Palm Beach Bobby Dugan and Stephen Sundberg combined for 39 saves for Palm Beach. Tampa Bay was 0-for-6 on the power play, Palm Beach was 0-for-2.

### **Salem Ice Dogs 9, Space Coast Hurricanes 0**

Maxwell Barr's 14 saves, plus 2 goals each from Joshua Saber and Miles Wood led Salem, which went 2-for-7 on the power play and 2-of-2 on the penalty kill. Ian Shidlofsky and Ethan Loo combined to make 58 saves for Space Coast.

### **Atlanta Jr. Knights 2, Green Mountain Glades 1**

Justin Fisher scored in the second half for Atlanta to tie the game, then again in the shootout to win it. Colby Laperle scored in the first half for Green Mountain. Sean Davis made 33 saves for the Knights, Evan Eitel 30 for the Glades. Atlanta was 1-for-7 on the power play and 6-of-6 on the penalty kill.

### **Hampton Roads Whalers 4, Potomac Patriots 2**



The Whalers won despite trailing 2-0 in the second. Christopher Neff, John Davies, Jeremy Wilson and Michael Addison scored goals, Grant Laughrey made 31 saves for the Whalers, who were 2-for-8 on the power play and 8-of-8 on the penalty kill. Trevor Harrington and Andrew Turgeon scored goals, Dustyn Moyer made 37 saves for Potomac.

December 11th:

### **Bay State Breakers 5, Space Coast Hurricanes 1**

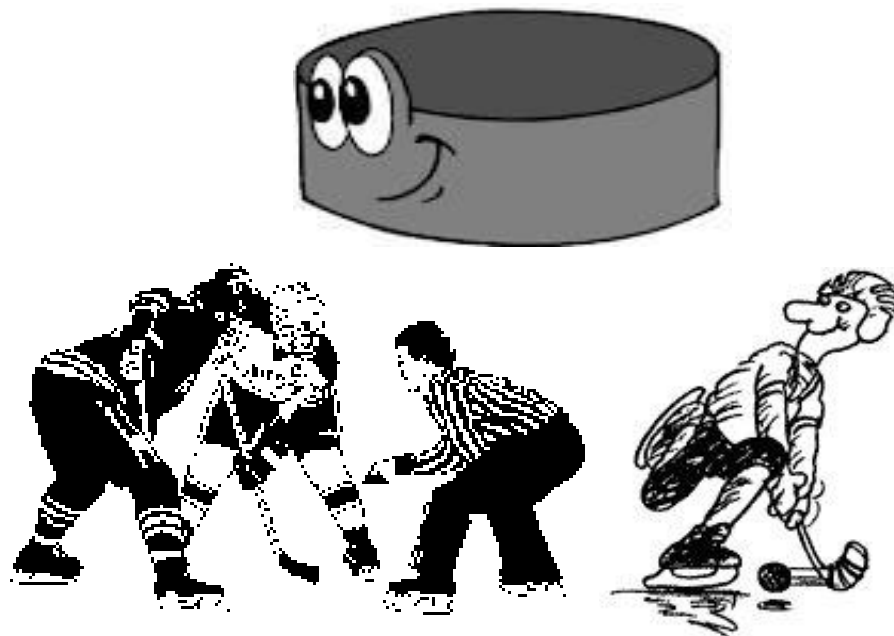
Brendan Kirk scored twice and Jake Berry made 25 saves to lead Bay State. For Space Coast, Jacob Hildebrand scored and Ethan Loo made 38 saves. Bay State was 2-for-4 on the power play and 2-of-2 on the penalty kill.

### **Potomac Patriots 4, Hampton Roads Whalers 2**

A two goal third period pushed Potomac to the win. Alexander Grose had a goal and 2 assists, Dustin Moyer 28 saves for the Patriots. For Hampton Roads, Taylor Paasch and Alexander Dempsey scored goals, Alan Johnson had 30 saves for the Whalers. Hampton Roads was 1-for-5 on the power play and 2-of-2 on the penalty kill.

### **Tampa Bay Juniors 7, Palm Beach Hawks 4**

A 2 goal first period and a 3 goal second helped Tampa Bay to the win. For the Juniors, Daniel Fritz scored twice and assisted once, Wade Simon scored twice, David Cross had a goal and 2 assists, Jeff Meyer and Joseph Fabec a goal each. The Hawks got goals from Jeremy Canonica, Nick Mucerino, Brett Yochum and Brad Knight. Aaron Wise had 26 saves for Tampa Bay, Sean Shriner and Joey DiBiase combined to make 35 saves for Palm Beach. Tampa Bay was 1-for-6 on the power play, 3-of-3 on the penalty kill.



## 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.

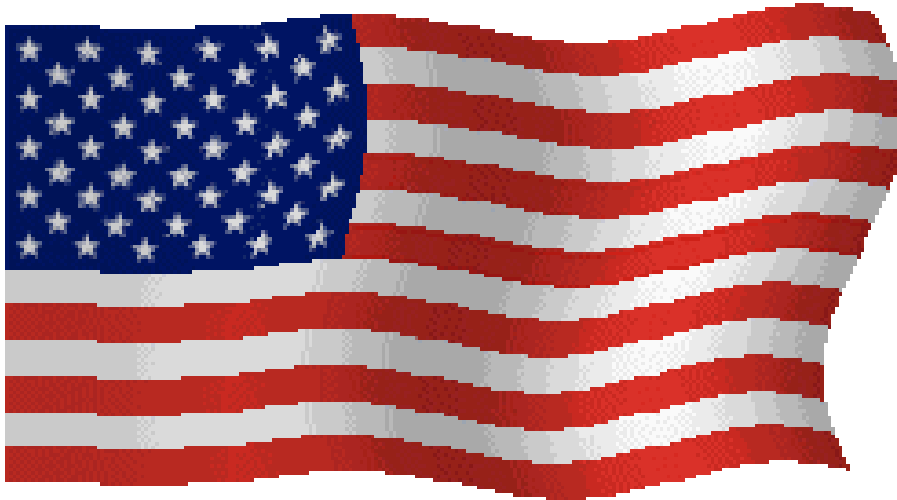
**Wrist Shot Hockey:** <http://www.wristshothockey.net/>

**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](mailto:sportsniag@aol.com)

Pete Preteroti

## AMERICA IS GREAT



## GOD BLESS THE USA