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## Empire Junior Report: Friday, January 27, 2012

Volume 1 Issue 17 Week ending Sunday, January 22, 2012

### Upcoming Weekend Games:

The Empire League will have 26 games on tap this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

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](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: Eric Sagrue - Florida Blades**

**Forward: Marcus Ortiz - Florida Blades**

**Defense: No submission this week**

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)

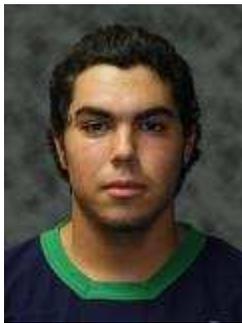
## PLAYERS OF THE WEEK (Week ending January 22, 2012)



### **Forward – Marcus Ortiz – Florida Jr Blades – 1992 (Garland, TX)**

Marcus Ortiz was an instrumental part of the Florida Jr Blades success this past week with two games in two nights, Ortiz went on a tear with 6 pts. Marcus helped the Jr. Blades advance to a record of 30-1-0-1 by beating Palm Beach Hawks on Saturday and Sunday.

Since joining the Jr. Blades from the Odessa Jackalopes (NAHL) Marcus has been trying to find his niche. It seems like Marcus has finally done so with line-mates Dan Thompson and Chris Lepore. Marcus finished the weekend with 6 points in total: Marcus in 18 games has scored 13 goals, 16 assists for a total of 29 points. Marcus is a native of Garland, Texas and a product of the Dallas Stars AAA program.



### **Goalie-Eric Sugrue- Florida Jr Blades- 1993 (Naples, FL)**

Eric continued his winning ways by playing stellar in goal with a pair of wins this past weekend against the Palm Beach Hawks. Eric shutdown the goal on Sunday giving the Jr Blades his second shutout with a 12-0 win and only allowed two goals on Saturday with a 15-2 win. So far this season Eric has been tremendous in net with a 11-1 record and two shutouts. "Eric is a true competitor and his fierce demeanor gives his teammates a great deal of confidence." stated Head Coach Tad O'Had. Eric is in his rookie year of junior hockey since coming from prep school in Connecticut. Eric is a native of Naples, FL and is a product of the Florida Junior Everblades organization.

**There was no defensive submission this week.**

## Florida Junior Blades News



Estero, Fla.-- Midway through their second season the **Florida Jr. Blades** organization is beginning to be synonymous with success. Having already secured a play-off berth the team has an impressive record of 31-1-1.

“We’ve had a lot of success this season,” says head coach/GM Tad O’Had. “We’re able to recruit top talent and it shows in the team we put on the ice each game.”

The current Jr. Blade roster has players from 10 different states, 17 different organizations, six junior programs and five AAA programs. The diversity of talent is often credited to associate coach Jake Laime.

“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.

“When we look to assemble a team we recruit a player who has the qualities to play at a higher level, but might fall short of a regular shift in the NAHL or EJHL,” says Laime. “We identify those players and provide them the game minutes they need and help prepare them so they can be successful at the next level.”

As a team focused on the development of players it is no surprise that already two Jr. Blades alums are finding success. Two members of the inaugural Jr. Blades roster Mike Canacari and Oleg Kuzmin have both moved onto higher levels of play.

Canacari chose the collegiate route and is currently playing for Southern New Hampshire University. Meanwhile, Kuzmin returned to his native Russia to play minor pro.

“We are able to offer athletes the opportunity to play in an environment that surrounds itself with pride, success, and a very well maintained and structured practice and training regimen,” says Laime. “We provide the tools for players to find success at any level.”

## Buffalo Stars make a visit to Buffalo Children's Hospital



### Buffalo Stars Brighten the Day at Women and Children's Hospital

The **Buffalo Stars Junior** hockey team had the privilege to give back to the community and put smiles on children's faces when they visited **Women and Children's Hospital of Buffalo** in January.

The team brought gifts to the patients and spent time visiting with them and their families. All items passed out to the patients were donated by the generous families and teams of the **Buffalo Stars Youth Hockey Organization**. The Junior players represented the Stars organization with class and definitely had a positive impact on everyone they encountered. Thanks to Stars Mom Donna Harris for organizing this event. It was truly a remarkable and rewarding experience for all. Way to go Stars!

## **Boston Bandits continue to win - Climb in Standings**



The **Boston Bandits** went 2-0-1 this week against division foes. In the first game against the Baystate Breakers the Bandits came out firing and took a 2-0 lead on goals by forward Paul Fregeau (93) and Defenseman Grant Gallo (93). Controlling much of the play, the Bandits looked good but then a four minute lapse turned the game around. The Breakers would score four unanswered goals to take the lead 4-2. The Bandits would regroup after a much needed timeout. They would tie up the score on goals from Fregeau and defenseman JB Sweeney (94). The game would go to overtime and the Breakers would score fourteen seconds in. The Bandits came out with a point but were very disappointed. Forwards Tyler Drevitch (95) added 3 assists and Niall Caparon (93) had 2 assists. **BANDITS 4 Breakers 5 in OT**

In the second game of the week against the Valley Jr Warriors. The Bandits wasted no time to getting back to their winning ways. They jumped all over Valley and would come away with an 8-1 win. The Bandits would out shoot Valley 48-13. Multiple point scorers were Paul Fregeau (2-1-3), Tyler Drevitch (1-2-3), Niall Caparon (1-2-3), defenseman Dakota Menslage (95) (0-3-3), and Grant Gallo (1-1-2). Other goals were scored by JB Sweeney, forwards Harry Connelly (93) and Evan Jackson (94). **BANDITS 8 Warriors 1**

The third game of the week the bandits hosted Salem. In a game that started and ended real rough with lots of penalties. The Bandits would have control most of the game out shooting their opponent 46-23. Making a nice first impression was newly acquired goaltender Ryan McCarthy (93) stopping all 23 shots he faced for the shutout in his first game with the team. Forward Dylan Santos (92) would lead offensively with 2 goals with Will Platt (94) having a goal and an assist. **BANDITS 5 Ice Dogs 0**

### **Bandits climbing up in the standings**

The Boston Bandits continue to be red hot in the Empire league. Since December 4th the Bandits have a record of 10-1-1 in the Empire and 12-2-1 overall. The hot streak has propelled the Bandits to overtake the Baystate Breakers and the Springfield Pics in the standings. Currently in sixth place with three or four games in hand on the teams ahead of them, they look this week to continue their good team play at the Breakers Showcase at the Bog in Kingston, MA.

### **Bandits Up Coming Games:**

The Boston Bandits will participate at the Breakers Showcase at The Bog in Kingston, MA. Friday January 27 vs Atlanta (8:30pm), Saturday 28th vs Hampton Roads (6:50pm), Sunday vs Hampton Roads (10:20am)

## Philadelphia Revolution vs Buffalo Stars



Buffalo jumped out of the gate early, scoring on their first power play of the night on a redirected shot from the point. Clint Aussprung of the Revolution answered with his first goal of the night and Mike Young followed suit when new comer John Disantis one touched a pass into Young's wheel house, who unloaded a shot past Buffalo's goaltender. The lone goal in the second came from Aussprung when he redirected Brian Singmaster's shot out of mid air to put the Revs back in the lead. Ryan O'Malley scored on the power to increase the lead and bring his scoring streak to 5 goals in as many games. Aussprung put the final nail in the coffin and completed his hat trick with moments left in the game. Final score Philly 5 Buffalo 2.

Game 2 between Philly and Buffalo was a back and forth battle that came down to the wire. #74 John Disantis started the scoring and recorded his first goal of the season. Jennings, Billones and Fleming each contributed a tally and the Revolution headed into the 3rd period up 4 - 2. However back to back goals by Buffalo's Brian Ruff tied the score at 4 all. A game riddled with emotion, 5 on 3 power plays, injuries, and negated goals, came to a dramatic conclusion with 51 seconds remaining in the game. Philly defense man Jon Houck hammered a slap shot that pin balled its way through sticks, skates, and shin pads before finding its way past Buffalo's net minder to give the Revolution a 6 - 5 last minute victory.

## Empire South Report

Saturday, January 21st --

### **Hampton Roads Whalers 3, East Coast Eagles 0**

Jeremy Wilson, Connor Vazales and Jonathon Jones scored goals for Hampton Roads, Grant Laughrey made 33 saves. For the Eagles, Scott Jackson made 50 saves. Hampton Roads was 2 for 3 on the power play and 4 of 4 on the penalty kill.

### **Florida Junior Blades 15, Palm Beach Hawks 2**

D.J. Thomas tallied 4 goals and 1 assist for the Blades, who got a 33 save performance from the duo of Eric Sugrue and Bryan Canter. For the Hawks, Nicholas Doyle and Brett Yochum scored goals, Bobby Dugan and Sean Shriner combined for 49 saves. Florida was 2 for 4 on the power play and 7 of 8 on the penalty kill.

### **Tampa Bay Juniors 8, Atlanta Jr. Knights 7 (SO)**

The Juniors outscored Atlanta 6 to 4 in a wild second period, then had to go to the shootout to win. Ben Winter and Jeff Meyer each had 2 goals and 1 assist, Brendan Nicholson scored 2 goals, Michael Hirschauer had 4 assists and Kyle Gertz made 28 saves for the Juniors, who got the shootout winner from Dustin Disbro. For Atlanta, Justin Fisher scored twice, Dan Fendius and Harris Montayne had a goal and assist each and Zach Voskamp and Sean Davis combined for 27 saves. Both teams were 2 for 5 on the power play.

Sunday, January 22nd --

### **Atlanta Jr. Knights 4, Tampa Bay Juniors 1**

Brandon Harley scored twice and Sean Davis made 26 saves for Atlanta. For Tampa Bay, Alex McCoy scored and Aaron Wise made 26 saves. The Knights were 0 for 5 on the power play, the Juniors were 1 for 7.

### **Florida Junior Blades 12, Palm Beach Hawks 0**

A 6 goal first period helped boost the Blades to the win. For Florida, J.P. Larmoyeux scored three goals and added an assist, Josh Koerner and Josh Stanclift had 2 goals and 1 assist, Marcus Ortiz a goal and 3 assists and Eric Sugrue 21 saves. For Palm Beach, Joey DiBiase and Stephen Sundberg combined for 21 saves. The Blades were 1 for 5 on the power play and 4 of 4 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/>

**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**

