



Contact: VP Marketing/Media Relations: Peter Preteroti sportsniag@aol.com
716-685-1122 Empire League site: www.empirehockey.com

Empire Junior Report: Friday, February 10, 2012

Volume 1 Issue 18 Week ending Sunday, February 5, 2012

Upcoming Weekend Games:

The Empire League will have 28 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

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: None nominated

Forward: Chris Howland - Potomac

Defense: Ty Lasker - Florida Jr 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 February 5, 2012)



Defense-Ty Lasker- Florida Jr Blades - 92 (Pembroke Pines, FL)

Ty Lasker took control of defensive scoring for the Empire Junior Hockey League by adding 6 pts to his already impressive season numbers. Ty leads the league for d-men with 36 games played 12 goals, 30 assists and 42 points. The Empire-South All-Star is offensively potent and continues to showcase his potential. Ty added 5 points on Sunday against Tampa and another assist on Saturday helping the Jr Blades to their overall record of 34-1-0-1. "Ty is a staple on the Jr Blades blue line he possesses the puck so well and his smooth skating ability and shooting accuracy creates potent attack from the blue line" stated O'Had.



Forward - Chris Howland - Potomac - 94 (Fairfax, VA)

Chris has been huge over the past few weeks for the Patriots. On January 21st he netted the GWG in OT versus Applecore then this past Sunday his two goals and one assist led the Pats to a come from behind 5-4 OT win over the Hitmen. Chris sparked the comeback with a goal with roughly 11 minutes left to make the game 4-2. He assisted on the game tying goal with 3 minutes left, then scored the game winner on a great breakaway move a minute into OT. P-Pats!

Fersini To Stay With EJ Squad



The **Jersey Hitmen** are proud to announce that Empire team captain Chris Fersini will remain with the EJHL team through the remainder of the season. Fersini has made huge strides since his arrival with the organization last year.

“In a year and a half with our club Chris has gone from a 4th/5th line Empire player to someone who has proven he can compete at the EJHL level. Last year he spent the season in and out of the lineup and posted a total of 10 points in the regular season. This year he has not only lead our team in points but has been a great captain on and off the ice. It will certainly hurt our club to lose him, but this is a great opportunity for him and once that is well deserved. I wish Chris all the best and look forward to seeing what he can do at the next level.”

Fersini has spent most of the second half playing with the EJHL team with a few Empire games spotted in. He scored his first EJHL against the Springfield Pics on January 21st. With the roster freeze just a few days away it was decided last night that the move to the EJ team would be permanent.

Howland, Veltri Lead Pats in OT Victories



Since January 21st, 2012 the **Potomac Patriots** Empire team has gone to overtime in three consecutive weekends with three very successful programs. The outcome in all three has been in favor of the Pats. January 21st the Pats took on Applecore at home. With roughly 8 minutes left Applecore scored to go up 1-0. A minute later the Pats would tie the game and force OT. In the OT frame Chris Howland scored to give the Pats an enormous victory. The next weekend the Pats would defeat Maksymum 3-2 on an OT goal by defenseman Peter Veltri. On February 5th the Pats scored 3 goals in the last 11 minutes to force OT with the Hitmen where Chris Howland would bury a breakaway feed from Peter Veltri to give his team its 3rd consecutive OT win!

Florida Junior Blades



Estero, Fla.--The **Florida Jr. Blades** (34-1-0-1) continued to roll with two victories over the Tampa Bay Juniors (17-18-0-2). The Jr. Blades earned four points with a 13-2 victory at the Ellenton Ice Rink and a 20-3 win at Germain Arena.

The home-and-home series began on Tampa's ice. The resulting contest which ended 13-2 in favor of the Jr. Blades saw 10 different Junior Blades score.

"To build a strong team your recruitment process has to be strong," says head coach/GM Tad O'Had. "We've recruited talented players and provided them with an environment for success."

Recruit Marcus Ortiz joined the team midseason after playing with Odessa of the North American Hockey League (NAHL) and has made a huge impact. Ortiz's Saturday hat trick brought his season total to 20 goals and 16 assists in 21 games.

On Sunday the series returned to Germain Arena where the Jr. Blades are 19-0-0-0. The Blades scored a season high 20 goals and out-shot the Tampa Bay Juniors 78-28. Tampa's Aaron Wise, while splitting time with goaltending partner Kyle Gertz, absorbed the loss.

The Blades doubled their season average three first-period tallies with six unanswered goals. The offense continued to baffle Tampa net-minders as the team recored an additional seven goals in the second and third periods for a final score of 20-3.

Florida natives Troy Degler (3g,4a) and Eryn Siracusa (1g,6a) both recorded seven points in the contest. Several other Junior Blades also had multipoint efforts: J.P. Larmoyeux (6), Marcus Ortiz (5), Joshua Koerner (5), D.J. Thomas (5), Ty Lasker (5), Chaise Howard (3), James Hyatt (3), Kristian Avellanet (3), Ross Kovacs (2), Bobby Ruddie (2) and Josh Stanclift (2).

"The truly remarkable thing about our team isn't how good we've been, it's how good we can be" says associate coach Jake Laime. "We're built to be contenders and look forward to the playoffs."

Boston Bandits Qualify for Playoffs



The Boston Bandits qualified for the playoffs this week with a win over Salem Ice Dogs. The win gave the Bandits enough points to mathematically qualify with six games remaining. Now the Bandits are playing for seeding, currently in seventh place with a record of 18-13-3. The Bandits are a point back of the Springfield Pics with a game in hand and the teams play on the last day of the regular season. The Bandits can climb as high as fourth.

This past week the Bandits played three games beating Salem (4-2) and losing to the Springfield (2-6) and South Shore (2-4). This marked the first time since November that the Bandits had a weekend below .500.

The offensive leaders for the weekend with three points were Tyler Drevitch 95' (1-2-3), Paul Fregeau 93' (1-2-3) and two goals each from Niall Caparon 93' and Mike Taormina 96'. In net Matt Pearless 93' got the win against Salem.

Empire Bandit gets called up to EJ:

Tyler Drevitch got called up again to the parent EJ Bandits team. this was the fifth time he has been called up. Playing a regular shift against EJ Applecore, Drevitch collected one assist in helping the EJ Bandits to a 3-2 win. In the five games with the EJ team, the Empire Bandits leading scorer, has three assists.

Bandits Upcoming Games:

The Bandits travel to Vermont to play Green Mountain Glades for two games. The Glades are in fourth place and the Bandits are trying to catch them as well as the two teams have a good chance of seeing each other in the playoffs.



Empire South Report

Saturday, February 4th

East Coast Eagles 6, Hampton Roads Whalers 3

A two-goal third period helped boost the Eagles to the win. Dakota Beaulieu led the Eagles with 3 goals and 1 assist, Robert Paddock scored twice and Spencer Braswell made 27 saves. For the Whalers, Jonathan Jones had two goals and Grant Laughrey made 35 saves. Hampton Roads was 1 for 3 on the power play and 4 of 4 on the penalty kill.

Florida Junior Blades 13, Tampa Bay Juniors 2

The Junior Blades scored five goals in both the first and third periods. Marcus Ortiz scored three goals and Eryn Siracusa 1 goal and 4 assists for the Blades, who got a 24 save effort from Joseph Keyser. Tampa Bay got two goals from Wade Simon and a combined 61 save night from Aaron Wise and Kyle Gertz. The Blades were 3 for 4 on the power play and 6 of 6 on the penalty kill. The Blades outshot Tampa Bay 74 to 26.

Sunday, February 5th

Florida Junior Blades 20, Tampa Bay Juniors 3

The Blades sprinted out to a 6-0 lead after one and never let up, scoring 7 times in both the second and third periods. For the Junior Blades, Troy Degler had 3 goals and 4 assists, DJ Thomas had 3 goals and 2 assists, JP Larmoyeux 2 goals and 4 assists, Josh Koerner 2 goals and 3 assists, Chaise Howard 2 goals and 1 assist and Eric Sugrue 25 saves. Dustin Disbro scored all three goals for Tampa Bay, Kyle Gertz and Aaron Wise combined to make 58 shots. The Blades outshot Tampa Bay 78 to 28 and were 1 for 4 on the power play, while the Juniors were 0 for 4.

Space Coast Hurricanes 3, Florida Eels 2

The Hurricanes scored once in the second to break a 2-2 tie after one, then held on from there for the victory. Marc Vatour scored twice and Tom Hammond once with two assists for the Canes, while Charles Ingram was busy, making 32 saves. The Eels were 0 for 4 on the power play, Space Coast 0 for 3.

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

Pete Preteroti

AMERICA IS GREAT



GOD BLESS THE USA

