



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

Empire Junior Report: Friday, February 17, 2012

Volume 1 Issue 19 Week ending Sunday, February 12, 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/league/schedule.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: Phillip Kreuzer - Applecore

Defense: Kyle Webb - Junior Bruins

See their write up's next page.

Congratulations to these fine players.

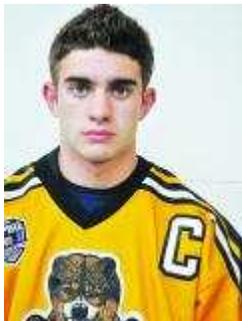
Make submissions, along with picture to Pete Preteroti at: SportsNiag@aol.com

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK (Week ending February 12, 2012)



Forward - Applecore - Phillip Kreuzer - 95 (Long Island, NY)

This past weekend Phillip Kreuzer of NY Apple Core recorded 4 goals and 1 assist against the Philadelphia Revolution. He scored 1 goal and added 1 assist on Saturday and exploded for the first hat trick of his junior career on Sunday. Kreuzer used his dynamic speed and incredible snap shot to attack the Revolution all weekend. He now has 10 goals and 13 assists on the season.



Defense - Kyle Webb - Jr Bruins - 94 (Reading, MA)

With the Bruins being hit by the injury bug of late (forwards Conor Esrick, Tucker Cobb and Jason Michaud as well as defensemen Ryan Blais) it has forced the team to dress only 5 defensemen for the last 5 games and with three games in three nights this past weekend and four games in five nights the healthy defensemen have logged a lot of minutes and none more so than captain Kyle Webb. Webb has been excellent over the this stretch not only with his on ice play but with his leadership as well. He is playing approximately 28 minutes per night seeing time in all situations.

Hitmen announce 2012-13 tryout dates



The **Jersey Hitmen** will hold their main camp Wednesday, April 4th and Thursday, April 5th at the Capital One Bank Ice Vault Arena in Wayne, NJ (www.icevault.com). The Hitmen will once again hold their tryouts in conjunction with the Jersey Wildcats and will use this 'open camp' as a means to help select their 2012/2013 EmJHL team.

Over the past four seasons the Hitmen spring camp has been an invaluable tool in uncovering top talent from the area. Hitmen Empire Alumni such as Connor Leen (University of Maine), Collin MacDonald (University of New Hampshire), RJ Burns (Army), and the Clifton brothers (Tim and Connor) (Quinnipiac University) have been in attendance at main camp. Please see the below schedule for try-out camp details:

Wednesday, April 4th ☞ 6:30-8:30 pm

Thursday, April 5th ☞ 7:15-9:15 pm

*Tryout fee: \$160 made payable to Jersey Hitmen Hockey

Jersey Hitmen forward Nick Farina, had a breakout weekend tallying 3 of the Hitmen's 5 goals in Rochester. Nick had been sidelined for nearly 9 months after shoulder surgery and joined the Hitmen late in October. Since then his speed and physical presence have made him a valuable part of the Hitmen attack. However, the long layoff seemed to effect his scoring touch, notching just one goal in his first 13 games. This weekend it returned in full force and with playoffs approaching everyone in Hitmen blue hope the touch has returned to stay.



A hat trick of hat tricks lead Jr. Blades to 20th-straight home win

Jr. Blades undefeated at home for 2011-2012



Estero, Fla. – The **Jr. Blades** concluded their home games for the 2011-2012 season in a wild 20-1 win over cross-town rivals the Florida Eels. The victory was the 20th home win of the season and increased the Jr. Blades' record to 36-1-0-1 and a flawless 20-0-0-0 on home ice at Germain Arena. Forwards Josh Koerner, J.P. Larmoyex and Chris Lepore highlighted the contest, each recording hat tricks. The Jr. Blades swept the season series over the Eels, winning all five games and outscoring the Eels 47-8.

Eighteen-year-old Josh Koerner (38g, 37a, 75pts) has been a consistent offensive force for the Jr. Blades for two seasons, and the February 12th hat trick was his fourth of the season. Back in September, the 2010-2011 Rookie of the Year recorded three hat tricks in three straight games at the Junior Bruins Shootout Showcase in Boston, Massachusetts.

“We outshot and outskated the Eels, and it comes down to what happens off the ice,” said Koerner after the game. “Our conditioning at Athletic Republic helps us immensely. We skate hard, get pucks deep and we get them to the back of the net.”

J.P. Larmoyeux is also constantly appearing on the stat sheet, and his hat trick vs. the Eels was his second this season. Larmoyeux posted three goals and one assist vs. the Palm Beach Hawks last month in the 12-0 Jr. Blades shutout. The West Palm Beach native has posted 28 goals, 45 assists for 73 points in 38 games played in a Jr. Blades sweater.

Forward Chris Lepore was a latecomer to the Jr. Blades, appearing in his first game for Florida on December 16 vs. the Atlanta Knights. His four points vs. the Eels (3g, 1a) was his best appearance yet for the Jr. Blades in his 17 games.

“It feels great to have a productive game as playoffs get closer,” said Lepore. “It’s always an awesome feeling to contribute to a win.”

Other notable players:

Dan Thompson (1g, 3a, 4pts)

Jon Davidson (2g, 2a, 4 pts)

Ty Lasker (4a, 4pts)

Empire South Report

Friday, February 10th

Atlanta Knights 6, Hampton Roads Whalers 1

Dan Fendius and Wesley Davis scored 2 goals each and Sean Davis made 19 saves for Atlanta. For the Whalers, Jeremy Wilson scored and Holden Melgoza made 25 saves. Atlanta was 4 for 7 on the power play, Hampton Roads was 1 for 13.

Saturday, February 11th --

Atlanta Knights 4, Hampton Roads Whalers 3

Brandon Harley, Wesley Davis and Andrew Daehlin had a goal and assist each and Taylor Brost had 41 saves for Atlanta. For the Whalers, Alphee Herion, Alex Dempsey and Nicholas Kujawa scored goals, Grant Laughrey had 36 saves. Hampton Roads was 1 for 8 on the power play, the Knights were 1 for 10 in a game that featured 206 minutes in penalties, 148 in the second period.

Florida Junior Blades 6, Florida Eels 2

Eryn Siracusa had a goal and 2 assists, Eric Sugrue for 36 saves for the Junior Blades, who were 1 for 11 on the power play. Dominck Rovito had a goal and assist, Jacob Widmer 67 saves for the Eels, who were 0 for 13 on the power play.

Space Coast Hurricanes 6, Tampa Bay Juniors 4

Marc Vautour scored 3 goals and 3 assists for the Hurricanes, who scored 6 goals on just 12 shots. Ian Shidlofsky made 27 saves for Space coast. For Tampa Bay, Dustin Disbro had a goal and 2 assists, Nick Reed a goal and an assist, Brian Rothenberger a goal each, while Kyle Gertz made 6 saves. The Juniors were 0 for 3 on the power play, the Hurricanes 0 for 1.

Sunday, February 12th

Hampton Roads Whalers 5, Atlanta Knights 4 (OT)

Taylor Paasch scored at 4:25 of overtime to win the game for the Whalers, who got 2

goals and 1 assist each from both Nicholas Kujawa and Alexander Dempsey, plus 44 saves from Holden Melgoza. For Atlanta, Brandon Harley had 2 goals and Zachary Voskamp had 45 saves. The Knights were 1 for 4 on the power play, the Whalers were 0 for 7.

Tampa Bay Juniors 8, Space Coast Hurricanes 1

Dustin Disbro had 2 goals and 2 assists, Wade Simon 2 goals, Ryan Odgers and David Cross a goal and 2 assists each, Brendan Nicholson a goal and an assist, Nick Reed a goal and Kyle Gertz 15 saves for Tampa Bay. Marc Vautour scored the lone goal for Space Coast, which got a 28 save effort from Charles Ingram. Tampa Bay was 3 for 6 on the power play and 2 of 2 on the penalty kill.

Florida Junior Blades 20, Florida Eels 1

The Florida Junior Blades ran up an impressive win that included 3 goals each from Josh Koerner, JP Larmoyeux, Jonathan Davidson and Chris Lepore, 16 saves from Joseph Keyser and a staggering 112 shots on goal. Scott Perkins scored and the combination of Jacob Widmer and Travus McDonald made 92 saves. The Junior Blades were 4 for 9 on the power play and 7 of 7 on the penalty kill.

Turgeon Erupts From Mini-Slump In Win Over Brewster



Potomac Patriots Empire Captain Andrew Turgeon had just four points in his last seven games going into Sunday's game against Brewster. "That's not bad for the average player, but Andrew is not an average player," commented Patriots Coach RJ Zeigler, "For our team to be successful we need him to lead by example and he knows that, but man did he end the slump in style." On Sunday The Patriots Empire squad found themselves down 4-3 to Brewster with time ticking in the third. Having already notched a goal and assist in the game, Turgeon assisted on a power play goal by Joe Pouliot to tie the game and force OT. With less than 9 seconds left in OT Turgeon would snipe from the left face-off circle to cap a 4 point performance and give his team a 5-4 OT victory over 2nd place Brewster.

Here are some good Junior Blogs to follow:

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

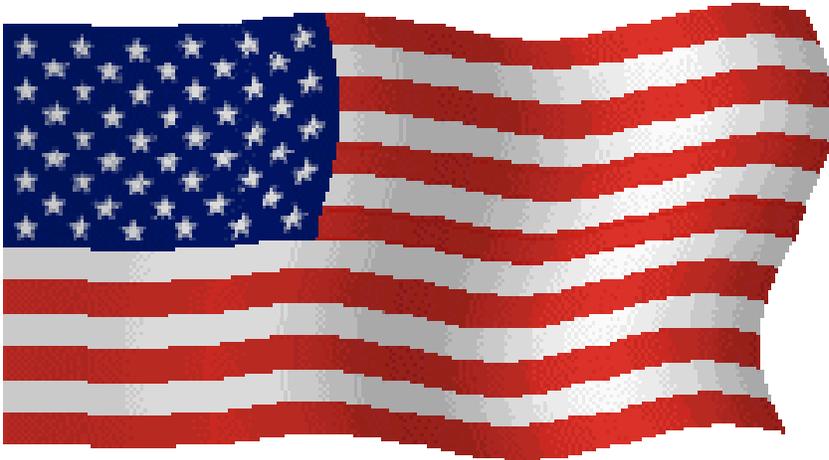
A great board for Junior Hockey discussion. I post in here all the time and am a moderator.

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

