



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

Empire Junior Report: Friday, September 23, 2011

Volume 1 Issue 3

Upcoming Weekend Games:

Friday, September 23, 2011

Saturday, September 24, 2011

Sunday, September 25, 2011

There are 33 league games coming up this weekend. 30 of them are at the Junior Bruins Showcase.

Full schedule is available from the empire website:

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

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:

Forward: Jack Eichel, Junior Bruins

Defense: Matt DaSilva, Jersey Hitmen

Goalie: Brody Sharp, Bay State Breakers

See their write up's next page.

Congratulations to these fine players.

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

*Games at Hitmen Showcase

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK



Forward: Jack Eichel Junior Bruins Chelmsford, MA 1996

Eichel, in his second year with the B's, had a big weekend putting up 8 points in the team's 3 games at the Hitmen Showcase. On Friday he helped lead the charge in a 6-1 win over the Brewster Bulldogs with 2 goals and 1 assist. On Saturday he had a 4 point game (2 goals/2 assists) in a big win over the Florida Eels. In the team's lone loss of the weekend he was the only bright spot scoring a beautiful shorthanded goal. Through the first two weekends of the year he is the 6th leading scorer in the league.



Defense: Matt DaSilva Jersey Hitmen Randolph, NU 1993

DaSilva continued his torrid pace this weekend posting at least one point in each of the Hitmen's three games. He began his weekend by scoring two goals, including a game tying goal with 1:10 left to play, and adding a shootout goal in a 4-3 loss to the Springfield Pics. Later that night with the Hitmen taking on the Hampton Roads Whalers, DaSilva picked up an assist on the overtime game winning goal by Nick Carey. DaSilva finished off his weekend by adding an insurance goal early in the second half of the Hitmen's 3-1 win over the Boston Jr Bruins. In total DaSilva picked up 3 goals and an assist on the weekend helping the Hitmen to a 2-0-1 record.



Goaltender: Brody Sharp (Bay State Breakers) 1993

Brodie Sharp becomes the first back to back winner as he stopped 45 of 46 shots against the Boston Bandits. According to the Bandits Coach, "Brody made many quality saves." "He made the big stops when needed that I felt kept them in the game and changed momentum."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

TEAM NEWS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE



The **Boston Bandits** this week traveled to Rockland, MA to play their division rival Bay State Breakers. As always a close physical contest. The game had a fast up and down pace. The Bandits outshot the Breakers 46 to 40 however the Breakers prevailed 3 - 1. Both sides had great goaltending with the Bandits Ryan Simoneau 93' (Milford, MA) making some big saves thru out the game. The lone Bandits goal was scored on a beautifully executed two on one by Paul Fregeau 93' (Sylmar, CA) assisted by Tyler Drevitch 95' (Middleboro, MA)

The Bandits players picked their captains this week: Captain Paul Fregeau and assistants Tyler Drevitch and Mike McGovern 92' (Wheeling, WV). Up next for the Bandits, Sunday Sept. 25th they host non league Walpole Express and return to league action traveling Sept. 30th to the NH Monarchs.



The **South Shore Kings Empire** program continued their winning ways by defeating the Valley Junior Warriors in Haverhill Saturday night 10-0.

The Kings were led by David Lazaro with the hat trick. Pat deMontigny opened up the scoring at 6:48 of the first period assisted by Cam Prouty. The Kings struck two more times for a 3-0 lead at the end of the period. Lazaro (Yee) and Erban (Yee).

The second period saw more offense from the young Kings team. Chris Walsh (deMontigny). Patrick Walsh, (brother Chris) scored the next goal from Jack Kilty. Evan Jacques (Paolo), Jack Kilty (DeBuccia/Wagner) also contributed to the scoring during the second stanza. Kings went into the dressing room with a solid 7-0 lead. Kilty also had a good outing with a three (3) point effort.

The final period saw the Kings score three more goals scored. Defenseman Paul Wagner (Collins) scored his first goal of the young season. The scoring continued with Lazaro's second of his hat trick (Kilty/Giampietro), Lazaro finished the scoring onslaught with another assist from Paul Wagner who also had a three (3) point night. Eleven (11) players had a part in the King's scoring attack, leading to a sound fourth victory.

Goaltender Brian Jacobs again was stellar in net leading to his second shutout of the season.

Final score: Kings 10, Valley Jr. Warriors 0.



After opening the season with a 6-2 win over the East Coast Eagles in Vermont the **Jersey Hitmen** returned home for this first time this season as the hosted the annual Hitmen showcase. On the slate for the Hitmen were three league contests against the Springfield Pics, Hampton Roads Whalers, and early season favorite Boston Jr Bruins.

Saturday morning saw the Hitmen jump out to a 2-0 lead over Springfield on the back of goals by Nick Carey ('93) and the ret hot Matt DaSilva ('93). Both Hitmen goals came virtue of the power play. However, just as the Hitmen seemed to be cruising to victory the second half saw Springfield fight back and take a 3-2 lead deep into the contest. Refusing to go down easily the Hitmen would knot up the contest when Matt DaSilva struck for his second goal of the day to pull even with 1:10 left in the game. After a

scoreless overtime period the game would go to a shootout. DaSilva and James Martello ('94) would strike for Jersey in the shootout, but a trio of Springfield goals would give them the 4-3 edge.

Later that evening the Hitmen returned to the ice to take on the Hampton Roads Whalers. After a sluggish first half the Hitmen found themselves trailing 2-0 going into the second half. The Hitmen would return to the ice with increased energy and just 1:39 into the period John Redgate ('94) would give the Hitmen an added jolt when he tallied his second goal of the year to pull Jersey within one. Despite constant pressure it would be quite some time before the Hitmen would be able to pull even. In fact, there were just two seconds left on the clock when James Martello brought the game to a 2-2 deadlock. For the second time in as many games the Hitmen found themselves in overtime. However, unlike the morning contest no shootout would be needed. With just over a minute to play in the extra frame Martello would find a wide open Nick Carey drifting through the slot. Carey would make no mistake as he beat Blake Scott with a laser over the blocker to give the Hitmen a 3-2 win.

After two mediocre games the Hitmen came to the rink on Sunday morning with a big task at hand. They would have to pull together in an effort to defeat the reigning National Champions and early Empire League favorites the Boston Jr Bruins. And come together they did. The Hitmen took the ice flying and were rewarded with the opening goal when Evan Byrnes' ('93) slapshot from the point eluded Bruin netminder Drew Michals 12:21 into play. Less than four minutes later rookie Robbie Marsanico ('96) would add to the Hitmen lead when he banged home the rebound off a James Martello shot to give Jersey a 2-0 lead heading to half.

In the second half DaSilva would continue his great weekend when he extended the Jersey lead to 3 just 1:35 into the half. Less than a minute later the Bruins would catch a bounce that sent Jack Eichel on a breakaway. Eichel would make no mistake pulling the Bruins back within two. However, from there the Hitmen would shut down the Bruins attack and skated off with a well earned 3-1 win.

Notes: The Hitmen will hit the road again this weekend as they head to Marlboro, MA for the Boston Jr Bruins shootout. On the plate for the Hitmen are rematches with both the Bruins and Springfield as well as a Saturday matinee against the Valley Jr Warriors....Matt DaSilva and Chris Fersini both extended their season long scoring streaks this weekend with DaSilva picking up 3 goals and an assist and Fersini tallying 6 assists (two in each game) over the weekend.



The **Philadelphia Revolution** began a 3 game road weekend vs the Green Mountain Glades at the Ice Vault arena in Wayne NJ. The 1st half was tightly played by both sides, and ended 1 - 0 in favor of the Glades. Green Mountain's goal was scored by Colby Laperle on a power play point shot that went cross corner and rang the post before beating Revolution goaltender Joe Marshall. That was the last shot that would get past Marshall as he saved 22 of 23 in a 4 -1 Revolution win over the Glades. Philly capitalized on 3 of their 7 PP opportunities and added an even strength goal to defeat the Glades.

The Revolution grabbed some sleep and packed their bus in the morning to head down to Frederick Maryland to face the Freeze in their home opener. The Revolution wasted no time in testing the red light as they ended the 1st period up 4 -1. Hat tricks scored by Revolution center James Wallace and Revolution winger Sean Fleming represented half the goals scored by Philly in the 12 - 2 final score.

In game 2 the Freeze came ready to play, holding the Revs off the scoreboard until Frank Lanni went short side shelf on a partial break away with 6 seconds remaining in the 1st period. Defenseman Ryan O'Malley opened the scoring floodgates in the second period as he was the 1st of 6 different players to light the lamp in the second period. The game ended in a 9 - 1 Revolution victory.



The **NE Huskies Empire** team traveled to the Hitmen showcase for two games verses the Jersey Wildcats and Hampton Road Whalers. The Huskies picked up 3 points by losing 2-1 in a shootout vs the Wildcats on Saturday and then rebounded on Sunday with a 6-3 win over the Whalers.

On Saturday after an early morning departure the Huskies squared off against a tough Jersey Wildcats team. After showing up a little flat in the first period and having a goal called back the Huskies and Wildcats remained scoreless at the half way point. The Huskies then decided to show up in the second half and put 26 shots on the Jersey goalie. They finally broke the tie with a power play goal by Jamie Cotnoir assisted by Matt Pilanski and Derek Madden. The Huskies continued their strong play until a defensive turnover turned into a Wildcat goal to tie the game. In the shootout all 3 Huskies players were stopped and Huskies goalie Brian Tomczyk stopped the first two shooters until the 3rd Wildcat shooter snuck one by him of the post. Tomczyk turned away 34 shots in the tough loss.

The Huskies rebounded on Sunday with a 6-3 win even though a below par effort. Once again the Huskies started slowly giving up an early goal just 2 minutes in. The Huskies power play then took over by scoring 3 power play goals in just over a 5 minute span. Kurt Johnson led the way with a hat trick and an assist for the Huskies. Goalie John Miller turned away 17 shots to pick up his first win of the year. The Huskies power play went 5 for 13 over the weekend.

Next up the Huskies (2-1-1) will travel to Marlboro to take on the Jr. Bruins on Friday September 30th and then host the Boston Bandits on Sunday October 2nd.



The **Hampton Roads Whalers** found themselves in New Jersey at the Ice Vault for the NJ Hitmen Showcase for a 4 game weekend. First up was the Springfield Pics and was handed a 9-2 loss. Springfield scored 4 of the 9 goals on the PP. “This game must be played with discipline. You can’t expect to win hockey games at this level if you continue to play shorthanded,” said Whalers Coach.

The next game came early Saturday morning against the NJ Wildcats. The Wildcats showed the Whalers that the early bird gets the worm scoring the first goal at the 1:28 mark of the first. The Wildcats didn’t look back from there, handing the Whalers a 4-0 loss and the second of the weekend. For their second game of the day the Whalers were set to face off against host team NJ Hitmen. The Whalers ended the first half with a 2-0 lead. With goals from Taylor Paasch (assist Braniff, Willson) and Keegan Howver (assist Davies, Gullett). This set up for a thrilling second half. The Hitmen scored early to cut the lead to 2-1. The remainder of the game was a close battle, but penalties once again plagued the Whalers. The Hitmen tied the game with just 2 second left in the game and forced overtime. The Whalers saw the Hitmen net the game winning goal at the 3:38 mark of overtime. This was by far the best performance for the Whalers in the showcase. “That was a tuff loss to swallow,” said coach Newton. The last game of the weekend was against the New England Huskies. The Huskies beat the Whalers 6-3.

This was the Whalers biggest test thus far on the season. Despite not winning a game on the weekend the team was able to take a lot of positive things away from the weekend. “Losing to teams that are more talented is one thing, but losing games because of compete level and discipline is something that will not excepted on this team,” said assistant coach Kevin LaPointe. Coach added “and we have yet to lose to a more talented team.” The team has 2 weeks to prepare for their next set of games against the East Coast Eagles.

Buffalo Stars Opening Weekend: A Salute to the American Troops



The **Buffalo Stars Junior Program** is pleased to announce our **Annual Salute to the American Troops** night on Saturday, October 1st at the Holiday Twin Rinks in Cheektowaga, N.Y.

The event is part of the Buffalo Stars Juniors Home Opening weekend which will feature our **Annual Tribute to the American Troops**

The **Stars Empire Junior B** team will host the visiting Jersey Wildcats in a 2 game league set.

The weekend will focus on our American Troops and their continued commitment to keeping us safe and free. The Stars will conduct a collection of Gift Cards from local area Supermarket and Department Chains to benefit the **New York Air National Guard 107th Airlift Wings' Family Readiness Group**:
<http://www.107aw.ang.af.mil/familyreadiness.asp>

The Stars will also conduct a Chinese Auction to benefit the **Wounded Warrior Project**: <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/content/view/412/875>

The Stars kick off the regulars season with a Grand Opening Ceremonies which take place at 7:10pm on Saturday, October 1st. The **Opening Ceremonies** will include Military Color Guards, Spotlights, anthem singer and dramatic music in a moving show of respect to our Men and Women in the armed forces and a special remembrance to those citizen soldiers who have fallen in the service of our Country.

Invitations are being sent out to all serving service members who may be home on leave and wish to join in our ceremonies.

A complete schedule of events for the weekend is as follows:

Saturday, October 1st

1pm to 8pm Chinese Auction in Lobby
1pm to 8pm Drop off of Gift Cards
5:30pm Stars Bantam Major vs NJPE
7:10pm Empire Opening Ceremony
Followed by game vs Jersey Wildcats

Sunday, October 2nd

11:00am Stars Empire vs Jersey Wildcats

Our Troops and Families need our support.

If you cannot make the game you can send your gift card donations to: Buffalo Stars, 3465 Broadway, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

You can watch the game on our Buffalo Stars Television Channel at:
www.ustream.tv/channel/buffalo-stars-junior-hockey

For more information contact Peter Preteroti at 716-685-1122 or visit:
www.buffalostars.com

SUCCESS IS A MARATHON: ONE SHIFT AT A TIME

Empire "Honorable Mentions" of the Week



#26 Sean Fleming Philadelphia Revolution

In his first year in the Empire league Sean has jumped out to a great start. Sean led the Revolution to a 4 - 1 win over the Glades with a goal and 2 assists on Fridays afternoon game. Sean continued his hot streak With 3 goals and 5 assists on Saturdays game vs the Freeze and a goal and 3 assists Sunday. Fleming led the Revolution to 3 straight wins and accumulated 15 points in 3 games to become the leading scorer in the Empire with 21 points in just 5 games.



Brian Jacobs South Shore Kings

Brian again led the Kings to another win and recorded his second shutout of the season. He faced and stopped 23 shots on goal. Jacobs ('93) is in his first year as a King. He hails from Westchester, PA

Junior Website Blogs:

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