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Empire Junior Report: Friday, October 7, 2011

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Upcoming Weekend Games:

There are 32 Empire Junior Hockey League games on tap for this weekend including eleven that are taking place at the Junior Monarchs Showcase in Hookset, NH

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:

Forward: Tyler Warila - Jr Bruins

Defense: James Hyatt - Florida Blades

Goalie: Louis Sanchez - Brewster

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 October 2, 2011)



Forward Tyler Warila Junior Bruins 1995-Shirley, MA

Warila had a big weekend as the Bruins picked up a three game weekend sweep in Empire League action. Warila scored the opening goal in a tough, hard fought 4-2 win over the NE Huskies on Friday night at NESO in Marlboro, MA. The following night he netted a pair of goals against the Salem Ice Dogs. He saved his best for the last game of a tough weekend schedule when, just 10 hours after polishing off the Dogs, he led the team with a three goal game in a 7-3 win on the road against the Pics. In one of the toughest rinks to pick up two points in Warila's first two goals helped stake the B's to a big lead before the Pics mounted a mini comeback in the third period. His third goal of the game, and sixth on the weekend, put the comeback to rest with 7 minutes to go in the third and saw the B's improve to 9-1-1 and remain in first place.



Defense - James Hyatt – Florida Jr Blades – 1992 (Coral Springs, FL)

James Hyatt was a mainstay all weekend on the blue line the captain of the Florida Jr. Blades limited the Space Coast Hurricanes to minimal shots on net and recorded his first hat-trick of the season on Sunday. James finished the weekend with 3 goals, 2 assists and 5 points. This currently places James at the leader board for most points by a defenseman (12) in the Empire league. Hyatt continues to lead the team in +/- with a +25. James returns to the Jr. Blades from a great rookie campaign which had him as an All-Star selection in the Met league. James's work-ethic and desire to be the best he can be gives him the leadership abilities on and off the ice to excel in all situations.



Goaltender - Louis Sanchez - Brewster Bulldogs - 1994

(Walkil, NY)

Louis followed up a 7-1 loss with a 4-0 shutout against the Hitmen during Fridays match up, he made 26 saves in route to his first shutout of the season, making key stops at crucial points of the game

AROUND THE LEAGUE: WEEKLY NEWS & NOTES

Syracuse Stars Sweep Revolution



This past weekend the Philadelphia Revolution came into the Cicero Twin Rinks to face the **Syracuse Stars**. Undefeated and on a five game winning streak, they left Sunday afternoon with a two game losing streak.

In Saturday's game, the home opener for the Stars, the Stars exploded for 5 unanswered goals in the second period to defeat the Revolution, 7-5. Philadelphia jumped out to a 3-1 lead after the first period with Josh Sova tallying the goal for the Stars. In the second period it was all Stars with goals from Alex Fukes, Alex Tuch, Jeremy Marginsky, Luke Kirwan, and Sova to give them a commanding 6-3 lead going into the final period. The only score in the third for the Stars was a shorthanded goal by Alex Brinks. Goaltender Matt Schneider picked up his 4th win of the season making 31 saves.

Syracuse completed the weekend sweep on Sunday with a 5-2 win over the Revolution. The Stars jumped out to an early lead as Luke Kirwan's power play goal gave them a 1-0 lead after one. Philadelphia tied the game at 1-1 after Francis Lanni scored the only goal in the second. The Stars explosive offensive then scored 4 goals to give them a 5-2 victory. Scoring in the third were Alex Brink with two, Alex Fukes, and another goal from Kirwan. Goaltender Nate Skidmore made 26 saves en route to his second win of the season.

The Stars continue their home stand this weekend and looking to extend their 6 game winning streak as they host the Brewster Bulldogs.

Penalty Kill Unit Records Three Shorthanded Goals



Estero, Fla. – The **Florida Jr. Blades** displayed the defensive depth on Saturday night at Germain Arena, killing all seven penalties and recording three shorthanded goals. Florida's defense held Space Coast to only four scoring chances, while the Jr. Blades pummeled the Hurricanes with 82 shots on goal throughout the three periods. The Florida Jr. Blades were quick off the draw in the first period when Troy Degler shot the puck from just outside the Hurricanes' crease and Chaise Howard (1g, 3a, 4p) tipped in the deflection from the corner for his first goal of the season. Josh Koerner was also credited with an assist. Florida quickly widened the deficit to two goals when Koerner recorded his 13th goal of the season (13g, 4a, 17p) and second point of the game at the 18:32 mark. The Jr. Blades dominated the first period offensively, recording 33 shots on goal while Florida's blue line restricted Space Coast to only one. Florida skated into the locker room leading 2-0. Rookie defenseman Blake O'Neill (2g, 4a, 6p) kicked off the second period with an unassisted tally at the 17:17 mark. After blue liner Ty Lasker sat a tripping penalty, the Jr. Blades penalty kill unit stepped up and defenseman Dan Thompson (2g, 1a, 3p) recorded an unassisted, shorthanded goal at 14:15. At 6:29, Fort Myers native Michael DiVico (2g, 0a) recorded an unassisted goal of his own, giving the Jr. Blades an unanswered five-goal lead for the remainder of the second frame. The period ended with shots on goal totaling 52-5 in favor of Florida. After a very physical third period, Eryn Siracusa (5g, 5a, 10p) registered a shorthanded goal with 5:47 remaining in the contest. The penalty kill unit forged on, giving the Jr. Blades a 7-0 lead when D.J. Thomas (4g, 4a, 8p) added Florida's 3rd shorthanded goal at 4:30, assisted by defenseman Ross Kovacs (1g, 2a, 3p). J.P. Larmoyeux (4g, 5a, 9p) added an even strength tally shortly afterwards, giving the Jr. Blades an eight-goal lead with just three minutes remaining in the game. The Space Coast Hurricanes failed to respond and the Jr. Blades claimed an 8-0 victory, extending their flawless regular-season record to 6-0. Shots on goal for all 60 minutes compiled to 82-4 in favor of Florida.

The Florida JR Blades Train With Nike Vapor Strobe Technology

The Florida Jr. Blades train with the latest technology in vision training: Nike Vapor Strobe Eyewear. Goaltenders Joe Keyser, Eric Sugrue and Bryan Canter fill you in on using the unique devices. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LAN3hxniB8> The eyewear is exclusive to Nike and Athletic Republic and provides athlete's the ability to track and see objects better when playing sport. "This is a unique opportunity for Jr. Blade players to use something that has yet to hit the market, says Tad O'Had VP of Hockey for Athletic Republic and Head Coach of the Jr Blades. Our goaltenders use the Nike Vapor Strobes daily between on-ice and off-ice training the focus is to get our goaltenders to track the puck better and continue to develop their concentration and sensory awareness. The forwards and defense use them bi-

weekly with an assortment of off-ice stickhandling, passing and shooting drills in their synthetic ice shooting room. "The effects are amazing, it really gets you to concentrate on puck and think about everything you can see. I love using the strobes for passing and deflection drills" said Eryn Siracusa #16 Jr Blade. Currently the Jr. Blades are one of two teams outside of the NHL Carolina Hurricanes that are utilizing such technology they are looking forward to the increased benefits.

YouTUBE Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/FloridaJrBlades>

Twitter: @FloridaJrBlades

New Hampshire Junior Monarchs



After a long off season than a long preseason the **New Hampshire Jr Monarchs** finally opened the 2011-2012 regular season this past weekend with a home game on Friday against the Boston(formerly Bridgewater) Bandits than a trip to Foxboro on Sunday to take on the always tough South Shore Kings. On Friday in front of a big home crowd against the Bandits the Narchs came out flying in the first couple shifts of the opening period but had nothing to show for it as penalties took away any momentum the Narchs had and 13 minutes into the 1st period with the Narchs shorthanded the Bandits took the 1-0 lead. It appeared as though that would be how the 1st period would end but with 44 seconds left the Bandits scored again to take a 2-0 lead. Than the Narchs bounced back and Nate O'Brien cut the deficit in half with 8 seconds remaining in the period. Kyle Lajeunesse tied the score early in the second leading a 4 goal New Hampshire barrage Brent Beadoin, Dave Horan and Kyle Lajuenesse again gave the Narchs a 5-3 lead after the 2nd. The 3rd period would be a quiet one on the score sheet which suited the Narchs just fine as they opened the season with a 5-3 win. Sam Daley overcame a couple early goals to get the win in goal. Eric Grover's steady play helped stabilize the defense and earned Grover his first helmet hat of the season. Dave Horan's goal proved to be the game winner and earned him the hard hat of the game.

On Sunday the Narchs had a stiff early season test as they took on the 7-0 South Shore Kings in the Narchs first road tilt of the season. Just like Friday night the Narchs found themselves in a 1-0 1st period hole until Teddy McCarran evened the score at one. Six minutes into the second Brent Beaudoin found the back of the net to give the Narchs their first lead of the game. Luke Bennett's seeing eye shot than gave the Narchs a 3-1 lead. A late South Shore goal would make it 3-2 after the 2nd period. That would be all that the Kings would get as Teddy McCarran's 2 3rd period goals would stretch the lead to 5-2 and complete McCarran's hat trick. Narchs veteran Taylor Vincent would add an empty net goal to make the final score 6-2 in a well earned big early season win against a very good opponent. Alex Devine made 30 saves and was sharp in the win. Pauly Pirozzo had his second straight 2 assist game and earned the helmet hat from the coaching staff. Stephen Wolf had an assist and played a very strong 2 way game and earned the hard hat of the game. The Narchs will spend the week getting ready for their league showcase next weekend which will be highlighted with a game against the Buffalo Stars on Saturday at the Verizon Wireless Arena.



Maksymum Empire had a nice week against the Freeze. We got started very quickly on Saturday and had a 3 goal lead 5 minutes into the game. Eli Gobrecht led the way Maksymum with 2 goals and 4 asst. Justin Simonelli and Peter Vasaturo helped out with 4 points each. 1995 goalie Jack Bryniarski played between the pipes and made 22 saves. With such a fast start it really kept the Freeze on their heels the entire night. Game 2 was a much different story the Freeze jumped out to an early 2-goal lead. Maksymum worked its way back into the game and at the end of 2 it was all tied 3-3. Maksymum won the 3rd 3-0 Simonelli lead the way for Maksymum with another 4-point game. For the weekend he had 4 goals and 4 asst. Jack Bayniarski made 21 saves

PHILADELPHIA REVOLUTION VS SYRACUSE STARS WEEK 4 10/1 & 10/2



With a 5 - 0 record The **Philadelphia Revolution** confidently packed their gear and headed out to face the young and quick Syracuse Stars. A couple of big saves early in the match made by Philly goaltender Joe Marshall opened the door for the Revs to strike 1st. A goal line give and go from winger Manvil Billones, found center Mike Bambi who wired a one timer low far side for the 1st of the night. Billones then went on to score 2 of his own in the 1st. Down 3 - 1 entering the 2nd period the Stars took control of the game literally scoring at will. A power play goal opened the scoring flood gates for Syracuse, it was quickly followed by 3 even strength goals and topped off with a shorthanded goal. 5 goals scored in the second from 5 different stars players left Philly in a daze and a 3 goal deficit. The Revolution pulled it back together in the 3rd outscoring the stars 2 - 1 including a third tally from Billones, but it was too little too late as the Stars captured the 1st 2 points of the weekend with a 7 - 5 final.

After giving up the same amount of goals in one game to the Stars as Philly had given up in their previous 5 games combined, a more defensive strategy was agreed upon. The Revs out shot and out chanced the stars in 5 on 5 play and some big saves made on the penalty kill by Philly net minder Michael Kitts kept the game at a 1 - 1 tie headed into the 3rd. As in the previous game, 1 period decided the outcome of the game between Philly and Syracuse. Syracuse struck 1st in the 3rd giving them a 2 - 1 lead. Revolution center James Wallace evened the score when he picked off a pass during a penalty kill and made no mistake pulling off a forehand to backhand move. Syracuse continued to press and were able to once again put the Revolution on their heels as they added 2 even strength and 1 power play goal to sweep the weekend with a Sunday final of 5 - 2.



Buffalo Stars Open Empire Season in Patriotic Way

The **Buffalo Stars Empire Junior** hockey team opened the 2011-2012 regular season in a patriotic way as they played host to the **Jersey Wildcats** during the **Stars Annual Salute to the American Troops Weekend**.

The young Stars squad opened the season with not one, but two overtime games, one of them a shootout in what would become a very exciting weekend of hockey.

On Saturday, after a very emotional and patriotic Opening Ceremony which lasted 23 minutes, the Stars began their season in front of a crowd of over 800 people at Holiday Twin Rinks. Both teams traded shots and odd man rushes up and down the ice but it would be the 7-0 Jersey squad who would draw first blood as Ryan Strapp put one home off a deflection at the 8:40 mark and Jersey took the lead. The game continued with end to end action, but would remain at 1-0 Jersey. Buffalo came storming out in the second period and took the Wildcats by surprise as they bottled Jersey up in their zone for minutes at a time. Buffalo tied the game at 14:12 off the stick of Chris Moses and the crowd went wild as the Stars recorded their first league goal of the regular season. Buffalo stormed right back just 3 minutes later as Robert Finn pounded one in and the Stars found themselves in the lead. The tenacious Wildcats came back just a minute later as Christian Brown-Noel put one in and the period remained tied at 2 all.

Buffalo came out strong again in the third period and quickly went up again as Tommy Leistner banged one home on the power play. Jersey fought back hard and only the stellar goaltending of Alex Willis kept them at bay. However, with just 6:04 remaining, Nick Branchina scored for the Wildcats and the game would remain tied to force the overtime.

The overtime was another battle of offense and speed but both goalies stood on their heads to force the shootout. Three players from each side shot but it would be the last shot by Jersey player Geoff Liter that went in and the undefeated Wildcats celebrated the shootout victory.

On Sunday, another great battle would be on hand for the 200 or so fans who showed up. The first period began much the same as the day before as both team went end to end with several great scoring chances. Buffalo would strike first late in the period as Chris Moses scored at the 6:42 mark. The Wildcats came right back just 25 seconds later to tie off the stick of Erik Andersson and the period would remain tied at one all. The second period saw the Stars once again come out flying as they Robert Finn stole the puck from a Jersey defender and put in a shorthanded tally just 42 seconds into the period. Jersey would come right back and take the lead as they registered goals by Jack Gibbons and Pat Lackey at 17:48 and 16:00 respectively.

Buffalo came right back at the mid way mark as Robert Finn notched his second of the game to tie. The rest of the period would remain scoreless and both teams skated off tied at three.

Period 3 was a barnburner as both team went end to end with some great chances. Buffalo seemed to tire at the end but the solid goaltending of Nic Pagano kept Jersey off the scoreboard and for the second time in 2 days, these teams would go to overtime. The OT was a wide open affair as both teams tried to just put it away. With just 34 seconds left in OT the Wildcats put one on after a goal crease scramble. Pat Lackey tallied for Jersey and for the second time in 2 days, the Stars would face an overtime loss.

Both teams played some excellent hockey. The atmosphere in the building for both games was fanatic at times as the Buffalo crowd broke into spontaneous bursts of "the wave". Both teams played hard, clean hockey as only a handful of minors were called the entire weekend.

The Buffalo Stars want to thank our many fans, friends and families for their generous contributions to our Charities. We raised almost \$1500 for the **Wounded Warriors Foundation** and close to \$1000 in Gift Cards for the **107th Airlift Wing Family Support Group**. In addition we want to thank the **Jersey Wildcats** for their generous donation to both of these charities as they presented checks during the Opening Ceremonies.

The Stars were proud to honor the real hero's of our Country: **Our American Troops**. We want to thank **Marine Corporal Nick Lyons** as well as the **Color Guard Unit from the 107th New York Air National Guard** out of the Niagara Falls Airbase for their participation in our event.

Stars Notes:

The Stars tradition of former Captains presenting the new Captains with their letters continued as former Captains **Bob Rombkowski** and **Jeff Welch** presented jerseys to this years' Captains: **Tom Leistner** and **Cody Selbert**.

This being the Stars 10 Anniversary of our Junior Program, the Stars also unveiled their **Wall of Fame** as former Captain **Bob Rombkowski** and former CHA Coach **Joe Rohm** were the initial inductees into the Buffalo Stars Wall of Fame.

After the first weekend of play, rookie Brian Ruff is the Stars leading scorer with 4 points followed by Robert Finn with 3.

A complete replay of the game can be found on the Buffalo Stars UStream Channel at:
<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/buffalo-stars-junior-hockey>

You can also see the complete Opening Ceremonies on the Buffalo Stars website at:
www.buffalostars.com

Next up for the Stars is this weekend as they travel to New Hampshire to compete in the **Junior Monarchs Showcase**. The Stars will play 4 league games over the 3 day period. The Stars Bantam Major team will also make the trip and play 3 non league games at the same venue as the Junior Showcase.

SUCCESS IS A MARATHON: ONE SHIFT AT A TIME



The **Boston Bandits** Empire team had 3 games against tough division opponents this week, NH Monarchs, South Shore Kings and the NE Huskies. In the first game on Friday night in Hooksett, NH the Bandits came out flying. Going up 2-0 on goals from Paul Fregeau 93' (Sylmar, CA) and Tyler Drevitch 95' (Middleboro, MA) the team looked good but then the Monarchs scored with only eight seconds left in the first period.

In the second the Bandits got into penalty trouble and the Monarchs tied it up 2-2. The Bandits regained the lead on a Chris Andre 92' (New Bedford, MA) goal but the Monarchs would score three more in the period to lead 5-3. The third period was fast and ferocious but neither team would score and the Bandits lost 5-3. In the loss Mike McGovern 92' (Wheeling, WV) had two nice assists.

On Saturday the Bandits hosted the Kings. The Kings came in with an undefeated record and one of the hottest teams in the league. The Kings started the scoring early and had a quick 2-0 lead. The Bandits got the next goal but that would be as close as they would come as it was not their night being outplayed for most of the night. Final score 9-3 loss. The Bandits got two goals from Paul Fregeau and the other from Harry Connelly 93' (Medfield, MA)

On Sunday the Bandits traveled to Tyngsboro, MA to take on the NE Huskies. Looking to rebound after the poor performance on Saturday the Bandits started slow allowing a goal on the first shift but got right back at it scoring two of their own on the next two shifts. Goals by Chris Andre and Chris Lepore 94' (Chelsea, MA). The Huskies would score in the next minute and after 4 minutes of play the game was 2-2. The two teams would settle down and the period ended in the tie. The second period was full of up and down action, the Huskies took the lead then Tyler Drevitch scored 2 goals to put the Bandits in the lead after two. In the third the Bandits could not hold off the Huskies and they would end their tough weekend with another loss 5-4. In the defeat Defensemen Grant Gallo 93' (San Diego, CA) and Dakota Menslage 95' (Orleans, MA) each had 2 assists.

Up next for Bandits: Fri Oct 7 at Valley Jr. Warriors, Sun. Oct 9 at Monarchs Showcase vs Hill Academy.



See how the Atlanta Junior Knights helped NHL Great Sidney Crosby rehab at their facility. Full story on their website:

<http://atlantajuniorknights.com>

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.wristshot Hockey.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