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Empire Junior Report: Friday, October 14, 2011

Volume 1 Issue 6 Week ending Monday, October 10, 2011

Upcoming Weekend Games:

There are 25 Empire Junior Hockey League games on tap for this weekend: October 14-15-16

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:

Forward: Chris Zuccaro (New Hampshire)

Defense: Brandon Yee (South Shore)

Goalie: Eric Segrue (Florida)

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 10, 2011)



Forward: Chris Zuccaro New Hampshire Monarchs 1994 (Hudson, NH)

The 2nd year Monarch and native of Hudson NH had a weekend for the ages at the Monarchs showcase. Chris had 1g and 7a in an 18-1 win over the Salem ice dogs, 2g 1a in a 10-0 win over the Buffalo Stars in the 1st annual gravedigger classic at the Verizon wireless arena, and finished the weekend with 1g 1a in a 12-0 win over the Frederick Freeze. The weekend total of 4g 9a in four games is a good month for some players and when combined with Chris's usual stellar D-zone play and penalty killing makes him a key component to the Monarchs weekend success.



Defense: Brandon Yee South Shore 1993 (Franklin, MA)

Brandon enjoyed a 6 point weekend as the Kings picked up two victories over the CD Selects in Albany NY. On Saturday Brandon had a hat trick and two assist for a total of 5 points as the Kings beat CD 15-0. He followed that up with a 1 assist performance on Sunday as the Kings cruised to a 12-3 victory. The second year King is a 93 from Franklin MA.



Goalie: Eric Segrue – Florida Jr Blades – 1993 (Naples, FL)

Eric Segrue is having a great deal of success in his rookie campaign currently Eric is 5-0 with only (7) goals against. Eric sits near the top of the leader-board for goaltenders with a Save Percentage of .928 and a goals against average of 1.94. This past weekend Segrue was back in action and up to his old ways. He shutout the Palm Beach Hawks with a 4-0 win and captured another win over East Coast eagles 7-1. "Eric has found his niche in South West Florida he is a native of Naples, FL however had traveled north to spend the last two years playing Prep Hockey in Connecticut and we are an organization that is thrilled to have him return home and be apart of the Jr Blades family." stated coach O'Had. Eric continues to look forward to a great season and manning the pipes for the Florida Jr Blades and expanding on his teams winning percentage.



'CORE SWEEPS MAKSYMUM IN ROCHESTER

NACLERIO HERO OF THE WEEKEND

ROCHESTER, NY..... The 'Core traveled to Rochester, NY to play the always tough Maksymum Hockey team. After a long bus trip with some of Coach Lazar's favorite movies being shown, the team prepared for the first of two games on the weekend.

In the first game, Justin Kapelmaster stopped all (26) shots he faced in recording a 5-0 shut-out. The defense led by vet Mike Dellatto forced the Maksymum shooters to take mostly bad percentage shots. "The defense is really coming on" stated DF Coach Jon Sandos. The goal scorers in the first game were Joe Naclerio (2), Joe Bochichio, Brandon Fusaro & Mike Conslato. "The team is playing much better team hockey" stated Assistant Coach Brian Johnston. In the second game of the set, the game was hard fought and back and forth. Mike Conslato opened the scoring on a nice wrist shot off assists from the foreign "spy ring" of Ilya Yavtuhovich & Ryan Cheng.

With the score 2-1, Maksymum Joe Naclerio tied the score at 2-2 off Nolan Pues and Ryan Cheng assists. The "KGB agent" Ilya Yavtuhovich (maybe not his real name) gave the 'Core a 3-2 lead converting a Mark DeVaughn "low shot from the point" with 11 minutes left in the game. Maksymum would tie the game at 3-3 and the last 6 minutes were tight and tough for both teams. In OT, both teams had a few chances but no one lit the lamp. In the shoot-out Joe Naclerio scored the only goal on a nice LOW shot and goalie Justin Kapelmaster stopped all (3) attempts to give the 'Core a 4-3 win and a sweep of the weekend. "The team is starting to gel and the offense and defense are working together" stated Coach Henry Lazar. "We are getting some good leadership from vets Keegan Travers & Mike Dellatto" added Lazar.

APPLE SAUCE.....The bus ride was a lot of fun with the EJ and Empire teams bonding. EJ Coach Frank Bretti insisted on watching Cartoons on the bus, but Coach Lazar insisted on some of his favorite movies like Wedding Crashers and Mr. Deeds.....Mike Bochichio is preparing a home opener after game dinner at the rink for the players. Please make sure you bring your Roloids and Pepto

Bismol.....Cowboy Harwood was voted best Karaoke singer on the trip home. Some of the "acts" should have been "gonged" immediately. Our "friendly" bus driver got a headache, so we encouraged more players singing.....Team plays the NJ Wildcats this coming weekend in EJ / Empire double header at Long Beach.....This past week, the team played (2) exhibitions defeating both the Seacoast Kings 7-4 and the Hartford Wolfpack 3-2. In the Wolfpack game, Mike Conslato scored the winner with 2 minutes to play.....

Kings pick up two victories in Albany NY



The **South Shore Kings** returned to action this past weekend with a pair of road contests against the CD selects. On Saturday the Kings wasted little time as they jumped out to a 5-0 advantage in the first period en route to a 15-0 victory. Dan Touzos picked up his first career shutout stopping all 18 shots he faced. Defenseman Brandon Yee led the way with a hat trick and the line of Pat deMontigny, Tyler Ayers, and Chris Walsh accounted for 14 points.

Sunday's game featured more of the same as the Kings cruised to another victory with a 12-3 final. Brian Jacobs recorded his league leading 6th victory stopping 23 of 26 shots. Mike Debuccia and Chris Walsh each recorded a hat trick and Brian Collins chipped in with 4 helpers.

News and Notes:

Forwards Dave Lazaro and Mike Debuccia continue to remain amongst the league leaders in all offensive categories. Through 10 league games they have each recorded 6 multi-point games. Defenseman Brandon Yee is the league leader in goals with 7. Goalie Brian Jacobs remains tied for the league lead in wins with 6.

Looking Ahead:

The Kings return to action this week with a pair of division games against Bay State and Valley



The **Hampton Roads Whalers** started the week coming off a split weekend with the East Coast Eagles, winning Saturday's game 7-1. Spoiling the Eagles home opener in a dominating performance. In the 1st period John Davies got the scoring started from Jeremy Wilson at 3:22. Then at 13:34 Jonathon Jones made it 2-0 from Damon Ascenzi and Chris Neff. In the 2nd the Whalers offense really took off. At 1:26 it was Ryan Gullett from Jackson Braniff then it was Ryan Abshear from Nate Kleinknight at 2:09 to make it 4-0. Braniff made it 5-0 at 3:23 from Ryan Gullett then Jeremy Wilson made it 6-0 at 13:01 from John Davies and Taylor Paasch. In the 3rd period the Eagles made it 6-1 at 4:03 to snap Blake Scott's shutout attempt. At 6:59 Taylor Paasch made it 7-1 from Connor Vazales and Jeremy Wilson to finish the scoring. Scott was strong in net making 39 saves. The Whalers outshot East Coast 49-40. Hampton Roads was 0 for 2 and East Coast 0 for 7 on the power play.

The Eagles would have their revenge Sunday defeating the Whalers 5-4 in a character loss. The Whalers started game two right where they left off in game 1. Scoring two quick goals on two shots to go ahead 2-0 in the 1st period. Ryan Gullett got the Whalers going at 4:30 from Jackson Braniff and Chris Neff. Neff then follow with one of his own at 5:50 from Jonathon Jones. The wheels feel off the bus after that as the Eagles out worked the Whalers the remainder of the 1st and the 2nd period. The Eagles would score 5 unanswered goals to take a 5-2 lead. First it was at 9:07 of the 1st to make it 2-1 heading into the intermission. In the 2nd the Eagles got goals at 2:21, 9:37, and 13:35 to take a 4-2 lead heading into the 3rd. East Coast would add their 5th at 0:35 of the 3rd and the Whalers faced an uphill battle trailing 5-2. Whalers captain Ryan Abshear made it 5-3 at 3:12 from John Davies. Then Keegan However made it 5-4 at 14:49 from Jackson Braniff and Connor Vazales. With the goalie pulled Ryan Abshear put the puck in the back of the net but it was a second too late as the horn sounded and the Whalers fell 5-4. Blake Scott made 19 saves and Alan Johnson made 11 in relief. The Whalers outshot the Eagles 39-35. New head coach Brad Jones had this to say about the weekend. "The boys showed the beginning of what they can do on

Saturday. Though Sunday's game was a disappointment the boys showed me heart and the will to compete, and that's something I can work with."

This weekend brought the Whalers back to the comforts of home with games against the Tampa Bay Juniors and Florida Eels. On Friday afternoon the Whalers took on the Tampa Bay Juniors at the Chilled Ponds. Keegan However got the Whalers going with a power play goal at 7:39 of the 1st from Clayton Kanemitsu. Just 36 seconds later Nathan Kanter made it 2-0 Whalers from Jonathon Jones. In the 2nd period Taylor Paasch gave the Whalers a 3-0 lead when he converted from John Davies and Jeremy Wilson. However followed with his second of the night from Ryan Abshear at 10:17. Tampa Bay got on the board in the 3rd with a power play goal at 10:15 but that was all the offense they could muster as the Whalers picked up a 4-1 win. Blake Scott made 28 saves in goal. The Whalers were outshot by Tampa 29-24. The Whalers followed up Friday's 4-1 win over the Tampa Bay Juniors with a 4-0 blanking of the Florida Eels. Playing a showcase format of two 25 minute halves the Whalers dominated the first 25 minute of play but couldn't find the back of the net, heading to the intermission with a 0-0 tie. After some adjustments the Whalers came out on a mission on the 2nd half. Captain Ryan Abshear kicked it off with a goal from Keegan However and Ryan Gullett at 24:25 to make it 1-0 Whalers. Then shorthanded Keegan However broke in on the rush and buried one in the net from Grant Laughrey at 22:32 to make it 2-0. Abshear scored his second from Chris Neff and Jackson Braniff at 14:34 on the power play to make it 3-0 then Jonathon Jones scored a power play goal at 13:11 from Nathan Kanter and Nate Kleinknight to make it 4-0. Grant Laughrey picked up the win and his first shutout of the season in net with 16 saves.

The Whalers remain perfect at home with a 4-0 record at the Chilled Ponds. The boys will enjoy a weekend off then travel to play The Philadelphia Little Flyers of the Met Junior Hockey League. With Games Saturday Oct. 22 @ 8:30 P.M. and Sunday Oct. 23 @ 12:45 P.M. Both games will be played at the Aston Ice works.

Stars Streak Continues



The **Syracuse Stars** winning streak continues; now up to 8 as they swept the Brewster Bulldogs, 7-5 and 3-0 this past weekend.

In Saturday's game the Stars fell behind early but then scored 4 straight goals two from Dan Briggs and single tallies from Alex Tuch and Alex Fukes to take a 4-1 lead into the third period. Brewster made it a game as they scored an early goal from Troy Lynch to make it 4-2. Stars goals from Jeremy Marginsky and Casie Garrison gave the Stars what looked like a commanding 6-2 lead midway in the period. The Bulldogs then scored three straight goals coming from Jackson Christensen, Ian Adler, and Chad Malinowski in a matter of three minutes to cut the Stars lead to 6-5. Josh Sova's goal with 1:39 remaining gave the Stars the 7-5 victory.

Goaltender Nate Skidmore made 21 saves and earned the team's first shutout of the season as the Stars defeated the Brewster Bulldogs 3-0 on Sunday. Jeremy Marginsky picked up two goals and Luke Kirwan tallied the other to lead the Stars to another weekend sweep of an opponent.

The Stars improve their record to 9-1 and will take their 8 game winning streak down to Jersey next weekend as they play the Jersey Hitmen.

The Jr. Blades Capture 7 of 8 points at Raleigh Showcase



Wake Forest, NC — This weekend, the Florida Jr. Blades competed at the Polar Ice House in Wake Forest, NC during an Empire Junior Hockey League Showcase. The team again faced four teams in three days.

The Jr. Blades walked away with seven of eight possible points, forfeiting their undefeated record to the Atlanta Jr. Knights in a 2-1 shoot-out loss on Friday night.

The Jr. Blades lone goal against the Knights came less than a minute into the first period when D.J. Thomas took a feed from defenseman Ross Kovacs to make it 1-0. Atlanta quickly answered back and the game stayed knotted at 1. With neither team scoring in the second half, the game was decided in a shootout.

Veteran goaltender Joe Keyser absorbed the loss as Atlanta out-scored the Jr. Blades in the shoot-out to claim the win.

Despite kicking off the showcase with a loss, the Jr. Blades rebounded the next morning against the East Coast Eagles. With 1:42 elapsed in the first half, forward Eyrn Siracusa opened up scoring for the Jr. Blades with assists to D.J. Thomas and J.P. Larmoyeux. Less than a minute later defensemen Blake O'Neill and Michel DiVico fed the puck to forward Danny Giffone. Giffone shot the puck and scored the game-winning goal.

The Jr. Blades continued to control play and Eyrn Siracusa scored his second of the game with an assist by J.P. Larmoyeux. Dan Thompson fed Josh Koerner, who scored at 23:53 to close scoring for the first stanza.

Florida came out strong in the second half scoring their fifth goal of the contest. This time veteran playmaker J.P. Larmoyeux cashed in off a pass from Ty Lasker. Within two minutes, Jr. Blades Josh Stanclift and Ty Lasker were able to secure the puck for line-mate Sam Mancini. Mancini took care of the rest and it was 6-0.

The East Coast Eagles avoided the shutout with a power play goal at 11:08, but were unable to recover. Sam Mancini scored the Jr. Blades seventh and final goal at 19:47. Throughout the game the Jr. Blades peppered East Coast Eagle goalie Smarglassi with 63 shots, while the Florida defense held the Eagles to just 25 in 50 minutes of play.

The Jr. Blades took to the ice for their second game of the day at 10pm Saturday night. This time they faced the Space Coast Hurricanes in a repeat of last weekend's match up, the Jr. Blades dominated play. D.J. Thomas scored the first of six unanswered goals to give Florida the lead. Forward Josh Stanclift continued

to baffle the Space Coast defense as he scored his third goal of the season (all three coming against the Hurricanes). Space Coast failed to register a shot going into intermission.

Dan Thompson opened scoring in the second with assist to Ty Lasker. At 13:45 of the second half D.J. Thomas recorded his second goal of the game, this time unassisted. The Hurricanes cracked under the unrelenting pressure of the Jr. Blades, giving up two goals in the final minute of play. J.P. Larmoyeux recorded his second of the game at 19:06. While Dan Thompson made it 6-0 from Josh Stanclift and Sam Mancini.

The Jr. Blades finished the weekend with a 4-0 victory over the Palm Beach Hawks. Florida scored two quick goals in the middle of the first period. Defenseman Kristian Avellanet scored the game winner at 14:39 with assist to captain James Hyatt. Hyatt also assisted on the Jr. Blades second goal just over a minute later when Troy Degler made it 2-0.

The Jr. Blades took the two-goal lead into intermission, but were not satisfied. Midway through the second stanza, Josh Koerner out-skated the Hawks to score his 18th goal of the season and make it 3-0. Danny Giffone with assists to J.P. Larmoyeux and D.J. Thomas completed the Jr. Blades scoring at 18:06. Florida goalie Eric Sugrue recorded the win.

Following the game, the Jr. Blades boarded their bus and headed home to Germain Arena in Estero, Fla. The Jr. Blades resume home play on October 30 against the Florida Eels.

Buffalo Stars struggle in first road trip



The **Buffalo Stars Empire Junior** team was looking forward to their first regular season road trip of the season as they headed to Hookset, NH for the annual **Junior Monarchs Showcase**. Departing Buffalo at 4am Saturday morning with the **Stars Bantam Major** team

following behind in their bus, the Stars looked forward to the afternoon game ahead.

The Host Junior Monarchs had set up a game at the **Verizon Wireless Center** in Manchester. Both teams would play their league game and then be guests of the AHL Monarchs that evening in what both teams hope will become an Annual Event. In addition to playing a league game, the two teams would play for the "**Grave Diggers Shovel**", a brainstorm of Monarchs GM/Head Coach Ryan Frew.

Buffalo arrived at their hotel at 1pm with just enough time to quickly check in and then head to the Arena in Manchester. Buffalo was treated like Kings as the AHL Monarchs gave us a professional type of reception and handled our every need. The same could not be said for the Junior Monarchs as they came storming out in front of their home fans and quickly took a 4 goal first period lead over a stunned Buffalo team. The Monarchs would add a single second period goal but then pound in 5 more in the 3rd and skate off as 10-0 winners. In a fine display of respect and sportsmanship, both teams posed for pictures together following the game.

After viewing the AHL game the Stars headed back to their hotel and immediately turned in after being awake for upwards of 20 hours. After a good night's rest, the Stars headed to Hookset for game 2 of the weekend. The **Springfield Pics** would be on hand Sunday morning and they came storming out of the gate and quickly took a 1-0 lead on Buffalo just 3 minutes in. Buffalo came back 2 minutes later as Chris Moses put one in from an angle and the Stars seemed to be energized with some life. Springfield would not cooperate however, as they put in 4 straight to take a 5-1 lead. Luke Swimline put Buffalo back to within 3 late in the period and the half ended at 5-2. The Stars kept pace in the 2nd half but a 5 minute major put the Stars down and Springfield popped in 2 late power play goals and skated off as 7-2 winners.

Sunday afternoon the Stars would face off against the **New England Huskies**. The Stars played sluggish in this game and although Buffalo had some good scoring chances, it was all Huskies as they skated off with a 3-0 shutout over the Stars.

It was lights out at 10pm for Buffalo as they needed to get a good night's and come up with a win the next morning as they were to face the **Salem Ice Dogs** at 8:20am. Buffalo, with a line-up shake up came out strong and Captain Tommy Leistner roofed one home from the point on the power play to put the Stars up. Salem came right back to tie just a minute later and the half ended at one all. Buffalo re-grouped in the locker room and changed their D-Zone scheme and it paid off as the Stars came out and dominated Salem in the 2nd half. Two goals by Jimmy Ford and a single by Brian Ruff sealed the victory for Buffalo as they celebrated their first league win of the season 4-1.

The Stars want to thank Ryan Frew and the New Hampshire Junior Monarchs for their fine hospitality of both our Juniors and our Bantam Major team who played 3 games of their own. It was a fine weekend and Buffalo and New Hampshire look forward to making this an annual event between the two organizations.

The Stars will be back on the road this coming weekend as their travel to Brewster, NY for a pair of league games on Saturday and Sunday against the **Brewster Bulldogs**.

For more information about the Stars you can visit us on line at:
www.buffalostars.com

SUCCESS IS A MARATHON: ONE SHIFT AT A TIME



The **Boston Bandits** got back to league play this week as they traveled to play the Valley Jr. Warriors. The game was a wild one that is for sure. The Bandits found themselves down early 0-2 but then came roaring back with two goals of their own to tie the score after the 1st period 2-2. The second period both teams erupted for a total of ten goals as both teams scored several PP goals. Bandits would end the period leading 6-4. In the third, each team would score two more. The final score Bandits 10 - VJW 8.

The offensive leaders for the Bandits were Chris Andre 92' (New Bedford, MA) 2 goals 3 assists 5 points, Mike McGovern 92' (Wheeling, WV) 1-3-4, Will Platt 94' (Pleasanton, CA) 2-1-3, Grant Gallo 93' (San Diego, CA) 1-2-3, Tyler Drevitch 95' (Middleboro, MA) 0-3-3 and JB Sweeney 94' (Bridgewater, MA) 1-1-2.

The Bandits also traveled to the NH Monarchs Showcase to play a non league game against Toronto Canada's Hill Academy. The game was a lot different than the Friday game as the Bandits got back to playing good defense. Players on both sides really competed as the game was gritty with a lot of hitting. Even though the Bandits played better defense they got into penalty troubles and that would be the difference as they would give up three penalty kill goals and lose 5-2. Both Bandits goals were scored by Paul Fregeau 93' (Sylmar, CA) assisted by Tyler Drevitch and Niall Caperon 92' (Chesterfield, MO).

The Bandits this week host a rematch with Valley Jr. Warriors and then travel to Springfield Pics.

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