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Empire Junior Report: Friday, October 21, 2011

Volume 1 Issue 7 Week ending Sunday, October 16, 2011

Upcoming Weekend Games:

There are 21 Empire Junior Hockey League games on tap for this weekend: October 21-22-23

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:

Goalie: Ryan Simoneau - Boston Bandits

Forward: Chris Sattler - Springfield

Defense: Donald Rudd - CD Selects

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 16, 2011)



Goalie - Ryan Simoneau - Boston Bandits - 93' Milford, MA

Ryan was the rock for the Boston Bandits this week in leading the team to two victories. Against the Valley Jr. Warriors Ryan stopped 21 of the 23 shots he faced and against the Springfield Pics he stopped 38 of the 40 shots.



Forward, Chris Sattler, Pics Empire, 1994, E. Longmeadow, MA

Chris continued his strong play with 4 goals and 3 assist in 3 games this weekend
In game 1 against Maksyimum Chris got us started with the first goal of the game and added power play goal in second period.
In game 2 against Salem Chris was in on all scoring he had a PP goal and 2 assist
In game 3 Against Bandits again Chris was in on all scoring with a goal and PP assist



Defense - Donald Rudd - CD Selects - 1993, Cinnaminson, NJ

Donald has been an awesome addition to the CD Selects this season. In the past week, he has stepped up as a great leader and is always trying to keep things moving forward, even in the 11-4 loss to the Boston Jr. Bruins this weekend. In addition, Donald scored a goal and has been a big help to the coaching staff

EMPIRE 'CORE SWEEPS NJ WILDCATS TO CREEP CLOSER TO TOP OF DIVISION



LONG BEACH, NY.... The NY AC Empire team played their home openers this past weekend and came away with two wins to move closer to the top. The 'Core hasn't played the same number of games, but they will be battling for the top spot all season. The Wildcats, by virtue of playing more games were ahead of the 'Core in the standings, but now have (3) losses with many of their conference games coming up.

In the first game of the weekend, a Hat Trick by **Joe Bochichio** & two goals by **Ryan Cheng** led the attack. The other goal scorers were **Joe Naclerio, Keegan Travers, Matt Bavaro, Liam Pues, "General" Brandon Fusaro, & Ben Sorkin.** **Nicolas Jasmin** tallied (3) assists. The game was close until the third period when the 'Core scored (5) unanswered goals to put the game away.

On Sunday, the game was much more close checking. The 'Core took a 2-0 lead in the first on goals by **Keegan Travers** and **Ryan Cheng.** **Travers** added a 2nd goal and **Joe Bochichio** added the insurance in the 3rd period. **Justin Kapelmaster** recorded the shutout, stopping all (27) shots he faced. The 'Core next play the Hitmen in NJ on Wed. before traveling down to Philly over the weekend to play the Revolution in a two game set.

Apple Sauce-- Thanks to the **Bochichio family** for hosting the home opener dinner at the rink. The food was good and we all survived to the next day.

Hitmen: "Seeing Stars"



This past weekend the Syracuse Stars made the trip south to Wayne, NJ to take on the **Jersey Hitmen** in a two game set. This weekend was something both teams had circled on their calendars since the early days of the off-season and the weekend showoff certainly did not disappoint.

On Saturday the Stars jumped out to an early lead when Anthony Eno struck just a minute and a half into play. However, Jersey would fight back less than two minutes later when John Redgate ('94) drew the Hitmen even with the help of Cody Calcagno ('95) and Brendan Calello ('93). As this seesaw battle toppled back and forth it would be the Hitmen who strike again to take a 2-1 lead on the strength of a James Martello ('94) goal. Not to be outdone Syracuse would knot the game at two before the end of the first half courtesy of a Daniel Briggs goal.

In the second Martello would strike again for Jersey on a tremendous individual effort to help the Hitmen regain the lead. As the third period opened the Hitmen would find themselves on their heels against a hungry 'Cuse attack. Alex Tuch netted a power play tally and Briggs would add his second of the game to give the Stars a 4-3 lead in the game's final minutes. Jersey would not go down without a fight. Captain Chris Fersini ('92) came through in the clutch with the help of Devon Duarte ('92) and Robbie Marsanico ('96) to pull the Hitmen even late and send the game to overtime.

After the five minute overtime could not yield a winner the game went to a shootout. Luke Kirwan would put the only goal of the shootout for the Stars while Matt Schneider thwarted all three Hitmen attempts to sent Syracuse to victory.

Sunday's contest began much the same as Saturday, with the Stars putting the first mark on the board just over a minute into play. And just as the day before the Hitmen battled back on evened the contest at one courtesy of Devon Duarte.

However, on this day the second period would prove to be disaster for the boys from Jersey. Despite a tally by Andy DeAngelis ('95) the Stars controlled much of the period and deposited three goals past Jordan Hulahan to give them a 4-2 edge heading to the third. Despite a solid effort and a goal from John Redgate the Hitmen could not find the equalizer and dropped a second straight one goal decision to the Stars.

Notes: This week the Hitmen will take on rival Apple Core in a rare mid-week (Wednesday) matchup at the Ice Vault before heading to Syracuse with the hope of exacting some revenge on the Stars. Wednesday's game will be broadcast on www.fasthockey.com and the puck drops at 5:30pm.

Boston Bandits Report



With two wins this weekend, the **Boston Bandits** look to be coming together. On Saturday they hosted the Valley Jr Warriors. The Bandits came out flying and controlled most of the play however two costly turnovers would have them down 2-0 despite outshooting the Warriors 25 - 17 in the first period. In the second period the play was the same but this time the Bandits would find the back of the net, as they put five in and would never look back.

Leading the way was Paul Fregeau 93' (Sylmar, CA) with 4 points on 2 goals and 2 assists. Other players with multiple point games were: Harry Connelly 93' (Medfield, MA), Niall Caparon 92' (Chesterfield, MO), Will Platt 94' (Pleasanton, CA) and Tyler Drevitch 95' (Middleboro, MA) all having a goal and an assist. In net for the Bandits Ryan Simoneau played well stopping 21 of the 23 shots he faced in the Bandits 7 - 4 Win.

On Sunday the Bandits traveled to Springfield to take on the Pics. The Bandits started right where they left off the night before scoring 17 seconds into the game. Both teams played well and it was a tough struggle. The Bandits would go up 2-0 on a great pass from Niall Caparon to Paul Fregeau. Then defenseman Grant Gallo 93' (San Diego, CA) would put the Bandits up 3 - 0 only 8 minutes into the game. The first period would end that way. The Pics would score one in the second and keep the Bandits off the board.

In the third, the Bandits would regain their three goal lead on a goal by Tyler Drevitch. The Pics would score late in the game on a power play to make the final score Bandits 4 Pics 2. Paul Fregeau and Tyler Drevitch would have multiple point nights again for the Bandits and Ryan Simoneau played extremely well in net stopping 38 of the 40 shots. This week the Bandits, having won three in a row, look to continue their success when they host NH Monarchs and then travel again to Springfield Pics.

EAST COAST EAGLES HOCKEY

“PLAYING FOR THE CURE”



The Month of October is National Breast Cancer Month and the **East Coast Eagles** Hockey Organization wanted to once again do their part in the fight for a cure of this terrible disease. On the weekend of October 1-2 and the East Coast Eagles Organization, from Mites (7 & 8 year olds) through Juniors (up to 20 year olds) played their annual “Pink In The Rink” games at the Factory Polar Ice House to raise money for the ‘Susan G. Komen For The Cure Foundation’ here in Raleigh.

Throughout the Month of September, Every Eagles team put together tremendous theme baskets, collected donated merchandise from local vendors and the NHL’s Carolina Hurricanes donated signed games jerseys and sticks for our silent auction, which took place during the games. The Eagles Empire and Eastern Junior Teams raised over \$3000 in cash by standing outside Malls and Grocery Stores and going door to door. They also collected more than \$3000 in merchandise for the silent auction. “In Total we raised \$15,000 for the ‘Susan G. Komen For The Cure Foundation’ and we are proud of our Eagles players and families who worked so hard to help us reach our goal of collecting \$15,000” stated Eagles General Manager Gary Gouin. “On October 17, 2011, we will be making our check presentation at the Susan G. Komen Foundation in Raleigh, with a player from each of our teams present to present the check,” Gouin went on to say.

“We try to make the Eagles Hockey Program more than just about hockey,” Eagles Eastern Junior Hockey League Head Coach and Director of Youth Coaches for the Eagles, Lincoln Flagg went on to say. “We want the players who play in our program to learn life success lessons here which they can use now and take with them long after hockey is over. Lessons such as, how to deal with adversity, how to get along with the players in your locker room whether you like them or not, how to win but win properly, and how to give back to your community. These are lessons they can take to the classroom, the boardroom, or their community.” Flagg went on to say. “By taking on Community Service projects, we are trying to teach our players and families that part of being a good person and citizen is to give of yourself to others in our community. Pink In The Rink is just one way the Eagles, as an Organization, can do just that.” To learn more about the Eagles Program go to www.eaglesjrhockey.com or www.eceagles.com.

Kings pick up two victories over the weekend



On Friday evening the **South Shore Kings** went in search of their 8th straight road victory as they took on the always tough Bay State Breakers. After jumping out to a quick 2-0 advantage the Breakers fought back to tie the game before the first intermission. Kings forward Alex Erban took the game over scoring four consecutive goals as the Kings took a 6-2 lead into the second intermission. Erban would add another goal in the third securing the Kings 7-4 road victory.

On Sunday the Kings welcomed the Valley Warriors into Foxboro looking to get back on the winning track on home ice. Jack Kilty and Dave Lazaro each recorded a hat trick and Mike DeBuccia chipped in with 7 assists as the Kings cruised to a 11-1 victory.

News and Notes:

Defenseman Cory Flynn had season ending hip surgery. The team will miss his leadership and physical presence. Forward Evan Jacques was called up to the Kings EJ on Wednesday October 19th and appears to have made an impression on coach Scott Harlow. He saw action in all three games for the EJ last week and will remain with the team this weekend at the Monarchs Showcase.

Philadelphia Revolution VS Potomac Patriots



After getting swept by Syracuse in the Stars building, the **Philadelphia Revolution** had 2 weeks to prepare for the upcoming away weekend against the Potomac Patriots. In their brand new building The Patriots came out swinging with 2 goals in the 1st period. The Revolution adjusted to the Olympic sized rink and scored 3 even strength goals from 3 different players within 3 minutes to take the lead. The third goal came from 94 birth year Clint Aussprung who pulled a highlight worthy outside inside toe drag and finished off the play with a cross corner top shelf laser. The lead was short lived as Potomac

answered with back to back goals of their own. Each team added one tally in the 3rd, final score, 5 - 4 in favor of the Patriots.

Hungry for a win the Revolution showed up to the rink looking to put an end to a 3 game losing streak. Leading scorer for the Revolution Sean Fleming opened up the scoring in the 1st by deflecting a power play point shot from captain Ryan O'Malley. Anthony McPhee added to the lead by scoring his first goal of the season. Back to back goals by Patriots captain Andrew Turgeon tied the game up early in the second. From that point on Sean Fleming grabbed the game with both hands and took control. A backdoor saucer pass from Fleming that was finished by assistant captain Kyle Jennings was followed by 2 more Fleming goals. With 3 goals and an assist Fleming led the Revolution to a 5 - 3 win over the Potomac Patriots and ended a 3 game losing streak for Philadelphia.

Jr. Blades penalty kill unit tops Empire League 97.78 kill percentage ranked #1 overall



Estero, Fla. -- After winning 10 of their first 11 contests of the season, the **Florida Jr. Blades** are off to a fast start with much of the team's success credited to a stellar penalty kill unit.

The Jr. Blades have the #1 penalty kill unit in the Empire Junior Hockey league with a 97.78 kill percentage. The Jr. Blades employ a team philosophy focused on seizing opportunities with fast paced, aggressive play.

"Our players operate with speed at all time," said head coach Tad O'Had. "They're defensive-minded to make the right decisions." Those decisions often lead to offensive opportunity and odd-man rushes. Josh Koerner has used his speed to tally three of the Jr. Blades' league-leading five short-handed goals.

The penalty kill unit is anchored by forwards Josh Koerner, Josh Stanclift and Troy Degler, and defensemen Michael DiVico, Bobby Ruddle, James Hyatt, Blake O'Neill, Ty Lasker and Ross Kovacs. "We built this team to be competitors," said O'Had. "Every player has the desire to compete and battle for the puck."

The Jr. Blades use a simple method when it comes to killing penalties. "Every time we're on the ice to kill a penalty our goal is to clear the puck and make the other team uncomfortable," said forward Josh Stanclift. Next, they face the Florida Eels on October 29.

Hottest Team in Empire League: Syracuse Stars



The **Syracuse Stars** are returning home as the hottest team currently in the Empire League as they take on the Jersey Hitmen at home this weekend. They currently have a 10 game winning streak after downing the Hitmen in Wayne, NJ last weekend 5-4 in a shootout and 4-3.

Saturday's game was a hard fought game going back and forth between the two squads. The Stars got on the board early with a goal from Anthony Eno at the 1:30 of the game. The Hitmen then took a 2-1 lead on goals from John Redgate and Jim Martello midway in the first. Dan Briggs' goal late in the period tied the game 2-2 as the Stars headed into the first intermission. Martello's second goal of the game was the only goal in the second period. In the third the Hitmen built their lead to 4-2 as Chris Fersini scored at 2:56 in the third. The Stars began their comeback as Briggs scored again shortly after the Fersini's goal. The Stars completed the comeback as Alex Tuch scored with just under 6 minutes remaining in the game to tie the game at 4-4 and forced the game into overtime. Following a scoreless 5 minutes the two teams went to a shootout and Luke Kirwan of the Stars scored the only goal during the shootout round to give the Stars a 5-4 come from behind victory to extend their winning streak.

In the Sunday game the Stars completed the weekend sweep as they downed the Hitmen 4-3. Alex Tuch was a major pain to the Hitmen as he was involved in all four Stars tallies as he had two goals and two assists. Scoring the other goals were Nick Papas and Nick Mercurio.

The Hitmen will seek to redeem themselves this weekend as the series will resume at the Cicero Twin Rinks. The Stars meanwhile will seek to extend their 10 game winning streak. The last time the Stars had a 10 game winning streak was back in the 2005-06 season.

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.wristshothockey.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