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Empire Junior Report: Friday, October 28, 2011

Volume 1 Issue 8 Week ending Sunday, October 23, 2011

Upcoming Weekend Games:

There are 22 Empire Junior Hockey League games on tap for this weekend: October 28-29-30

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:

Goalie: Evan Moorhouse - Springfield
Forward: Matthew Flynn - CD Selects
Defense: Cody Calcagno - Jersey Hitmen

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 23, 2011)



Forward - Matthew Flynn - CD Selects - 1995 (Saratoga Springs, NY)

Matthew had a breakout weekend with 7 points (3 G, 4 A), including a 4 point game on Sunday in a 6-1 win at the Valley Junior Warriors. In addition, Matthew was a great leader who was blocking shots and back-checking consistently.



Defense - Cody Calcagno - Jersey Hitmen - 1995 (Ringwood, NJ)

The Hitmen's rookie defenseman has been solid all season long, but had a breakout weekend in Syracuse. Calcagno tallied one assist on Saturday followed by two on Sunday to give him three points on the weekend as the Hitmen claimed 3 out of 4 points on the road. Perhaps even more impressive was Calcagno's +4 rating while playing heavy minutes against the key members of Syracuse's potent scoring attack.



Goalie - Evan Moorhouse - Springfield - 1994 (Westfield, MA)

Evan had his best game of the season as he stopped 38 Boston Bandits shots while allowing only one goal. He was most impressive in the 3rd period stopping a 17 Bandits shots and preserving the one goal lead. It was a performance the team needed to get out of their 3 game slump.



BRANDON FUSARO TO BE A BLACK KNIGHT

COMMITTS TO WEST POINT 2014/ 2015

LONG BEACH, NY... Brandon Fusaro, a '96 from Elmont, NY has verbally committed to West Point for either the 2014 or 2015 season. As the top '96 forward on LI, Fusaro who is mature beyond his years on and off the ice, is a perfect fit for the Academy. Fusaro is thrilled with the opportunity to serve his country, and attend such a prestigious school as West Point. Brandon currently plays for the **Apple Core Empire** Jr. team and is improving as a player each week as he competes against older players. Fusaro attends the Portledge School, where he is a Sophomore. "The academics at Portledge will totally prepare Brandon for the academics at West Point" stated Jon Sandos, the Dean of Students and an Assistant Coach at Apple Core.

"This is a dream come true. My goal was always to play D 1 hockey and go to a great school" stated "General" Fusaro as his teammates call him now. "Brandon is one of the hardest workers on the ice in the entire organization, a great teammate who will become a great leader of men" stated Head Coach Henry Lazar. Brandon will be the fifth Cadet from the 'Core with Tim "The Spy" Quinlan, Brad Roberts, Biff McNally and Ryan Cruthers rounding out the 'Core platoon. " I am grateful to Coach's Lazar, Sandos and Johnston, all my previous coaches for their parts in my development, and my parents, sister and little brother for their sacrifice given to me"

" I can't wait to be a Black Knight".



The **Potomac Patriots Empire** squad may have just found their rhythm, at least they hope so. After starting the season with a dismal showing at the Junior Bruins Showcase they have rebounded to be 3-1-1 since then. Veterans Chase Ainsworth, Andrew Turgeon, Peter Wydler, and Travis Reece have stepped up offensively while newcomer Peter Veltri has been a welcome addition to the defensive core. Wins over Frederick, Philadelphia, and Brewster have demonstrated that the stability of having their new facilities up and operational may already be paying dividends.

This weekend the Patriots prepare to host the Buffalo Stars. After playing two games against Brewster with only 14 skaters it will be nice to have their full 25 man roster available for the first time all season. For the first time in its brief history the Patriots Empire team has a chance to breach the .500 mark at which they stand currently. The players are confident and eager to continue climbing in the standings and prove to everyone that they are a team to be reckoned with.

Hitmen Right the Ship:



It has been a long stretch of tough game for the **Jersey Hitmen**. Heading to Syracuse this past weekend Jersey found themselves as losers of three consecutive games against the Western Conference elite. Last weekend Jersey dropped a pair of one goal contests to the Stars followed by a 4-1 loss to rival Apple Core on Wednesday night. Hoping some time away from home was just what the doctor ordered; Jersey took to the road this past weekend hoping to exact some revenge on Syracuse.

Saturday it seemed as though all was going according to plan. Despite falling behind early courtesy of an Alex Tuch score the Hitmen controlled much of the first period. John Redgate ('94) got the Hitmen on the board with an unassisted shorthanded goal at 13:48 of the first. Then with just three seconds remaining in the first period the Hitmen put themselves ahead. Captain Chris Fersini ('92) netted the go ahead goal with the help on Redgate and defenseman Cody Calcagno ('95) at 19:57 of the first.

After a scoreless second period the Hitmen came out firing again in the third. Fresh out of the box Adrean Copeland ('92) took a breakaway pass from Matt DaSilva ('93) and made no mistake while stretching the Hitmen lead. Then it was rookie Robbie Marsanico ('96) who deflected a Steve Scholer ('94) shot to give the Hitmen a 4-1 lead. The Hitmen seemed to be on their way to a much needed win, but with just over three minutes to play the game turned disastrous for Jersey. Luke Kirwan netted a power play goal for Syracuse at 16:41 to pull the Stars within two before striking again 15 seconds later to pull Syracuse within a goal. Alex Tuch followed Kirwan's lead and tallied his second of the game with just 14 seconds remaining to send the game to overtime. It was Tuch's third goal less than a minute into overtime that capped the shocking turn of events and sent Syracuse home with a 5-4 overtime win.

Sunday, the Hitmen looked to rebound from heartbreaking loss the night before. And once again it was Redgate who would open the scoring for Jersey 5:47 into play. Luke Kirwan answered Redgate's goal with one of his own to even the game at 7:55 of the first. Evan Byrnes ('93) put Jersey back on top less than a minute later with the help on Redgate and Adrean Copeland. Chris Fersini pushed the Hitmen lead to 3-1 when he netted his first goal of the game at 14:54. Alex Brink would add a goal for the Stars before time ran out on the first, sending Jersey to the locker room up 3-2.

The second period saw a four game long see-saw battle continue between these two clubs with Kirwan drawing first blood on the period. Fersini then netted his second goal of the day at 11:24 to regain the lead for Jersey. Nick Beatrice ('93) extended the Hitmen lead less than two minutes later with the aid of Justin

McKenzie ('94) and Redgate. Kirwan then completed his hat trick at 17:11 to pull Syracuse back within one before the end of the period.

In the third the Hitmen refused to see a repeat of the previous evening. Nick Bilchuk ('92) put home his first of the season to give Jersey a 6-4. Despite an Alex Tuch power play goal late in the game the Hitmen shut down the potent Syracuse attack and broke two streaks in the process. The win snapped Jersey's four game losing streak as well as Syracuse's 11 game winning streak. Taking three of four points on the weekend keeps Jersey within striking distance of the conference leaders Syracuse, Jersey Wildcats and Apple Core.

Notes: The Hitmen return home this weekend for three games. On Friday they will take on the Metro Fighting Moose of the MET league before a set of games with the Jersey Wildcats. Saturday and Sunday's contests with the Wildcats can be seen on www.fasthockey.com with start times of 5:00pm and 11:00am respectively.

Stars streak comes to an end



The **Syracuse Stars** rallied from a 4-1 deficit to defeat the Jersey Hitmen 5-4 in overtime on Saturday night. Alex Tuch got the Stars the early lead with an unassisted goal in the first. Jersey then scored the next 4 goals with two in the first from John Redgate, a shorthanded one and took the lead by a goal from Chris Fersini with just 3 seconds left in the period for a 2-1 lead into the first intermission. Following a scoreless second period the Hitmen built what looked like a commanding 4-1 lead with goals from Adrean Copeland and Robby Marsanico with 9:13 remaining in the game. The never say die Stars then scored 3 goals in 3 minutes, two by Luke Kirwan and Tuch's second of the game with just 14 seconds to force the game into overtime.

In the overtime session the Stars completed the comeback with Tuch getting his hat trick 49 seconds into the extra period to gain the 5-4 win. With the victory the Stars winning streak is now 11 games.

The Hitmen looking to redeem themselves after a total collapse from last night's game were able to come out firing as they defeated the Stars on Sunday 6-5. Once again the Hitmen scored first as John Redgate tallied early in the first. Luke Kirwan's first goal of the game tied the game two minutes later. The Hitmen then built up a two goal lead as Evan Byrnes and Chris Fersini gave them at 3-1 advantage. The Stars Alex Brink scored an unassisted goal in the final minute of the period to cut the lead to 3-2 going into the first intermission. In the second period the two teams each scored two goals with the Stars goals coming from Kirwan giving him a hat trick for the game. Entering the third period down a goal and looking to tie a franchise record of a 12 game winning streak; Nick Bilchik scored the game winner early in the final stanza giving the Hitmen a 6-4 lead. The never say die Stars tried to rally again late in the game with a goal from Alex Tuch on the power play goal with 1:20 left but this time the rally fell short as the 11 game winning streak comes to an end.

The Stars will travel down to Long Beach this weekend to take on New York Applecore.

Buffalo Stars Empire travels to Virginia



The **Buffalo Stars Empire Junior** team prepares for their annual trek to Virginia to take on the **Potomac Patriots** in Empire Junior Hockey League action this coming weekend.

The Patriots are currently 3 points ahead of Buffalo with a record of 3-3-2. They have scored 26 goals while allowing 33 in their 8 games so far this season. The Patriots are led by Andrew Turgeon (11 points) and Peter Wydler (9 points). "For the first time in its brief history the Patriots Empire team has a chance to breach the .500 mark at which they stand currently" stated Patriots Head Coach RJ Ziegler. The Patriots, after losing their first three games of the season have been playing strong hockey winning 3 of their last 5 including a 2-1 victory over Brewster last Sunday.

The Buffalo Stars continue their scoring doldrums having notched just 17 goals in their 9 games. With a record of 1-5-3 the Stars are off to their slowest start in 6 years. "The kids are working hard and giving effort but we just have not yet begun to click on scoring" said Stars Associate Coach Jerry Wheeler.

Buffalo is led by Robert Finn (8 points) and defenseman Tommy Leistner (7 points). The Stars are on a 3 game losing streak and are looking to rebound.

Stars Notes:



Stars Players and Staff posing in front of the Sabres Wall of Fame with Sabres Coach Ruff

Monday evening, the Stars got a chance to be taught by one of the best as **NHL Buffalo Sabres** Head Coach Lindy Ruff ran a 2 hour one ice practice for the team at the Buffalo Sabres home: First Niagara Center. Coach Ruff shared his experiences, offered some tips and also ran a short video breakdown session for the players. The team also got an opportunity to tour the Sabres outstanding new Locker Room and Training Facility. Coach Ruff made a second appearance on Wednesday afternoon as he assisted the team with the powerplay.

Following this weekend, the Stars return home for two weekends. The Stars host **Applecore** November 5-6 during the **Stars Annual Health & Fitness Weekend**. On November 12-13 the **Frederick Freeze** pay a visit during the **Stars Annual Taste of Buffalo Stars Weekend**.

All Stars home games can be watched on the Buffalo Stars Internet Channel at:
<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/buffalo-stars-junior-hockey>

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

SUCCESS IS A MARATHON: ONE SHIFT AT A TIME



In anticipation of playing Western Conference rivals Applecore, the **Philadelphia Revolution** put in a hard week of practice and preparation. Despite going down 2 goals early in the 1st and having a goal taken away do to a high stick infraction, Philadelphia did not back down. Mike Bambi began the come back when he deflected a centering pass from defenseman Brian Singmaster that found its way through Applecore's goal tender on the 1st of only 2 power play opportunities of the night. Clint Aussprung evened the score when he batted a net front pass from winger Frank Lanni out of mid air. Kyle Jennings added his 1st goal of the weekend to take the lead by flipping a backdoor 2 on 1 pass from center James Wallace over the short side shoulder of Applecore's net minder. The 3 - 2 lead was not enough as Applecore continued to press and score 2 goals late in the 3rd period to win the game 4 - 3

After a heartbreaking 4 - 3 loss, Philadelphia returned to their home rink on Sunday looking for redemption. Nobody wanted to take the second game of the series more than fiery right winger Kyle Jennings. Scoring opened up 4 minutes into the first period when Jennings staked his claim in front of Applecore's net and hammered a rebound through the five hole of Applecore's goaltender. Jennings made himself at home in front of Applecore's net sliding 2 more past the net minder in the 1st period alone. With a natural hat trick in the 1st period, Jennings and the Revolution never looked back. 5 Revolution players contributed goals in the 2nd period including center Kevin Miller, who bombed a 1 timer off a long rebound to beat Applecore's goalie high glove side for his 1st goal of the season. Bambi and Fleming sealed the deal in the 3rd by each adding a goal that would leave the Revolution with a 10 - 5 victory over Applecore. Scoring summary - 4 Jennings, 1 O'Malley, Miller, Lanni, Wallace, Bambi, Fleming.



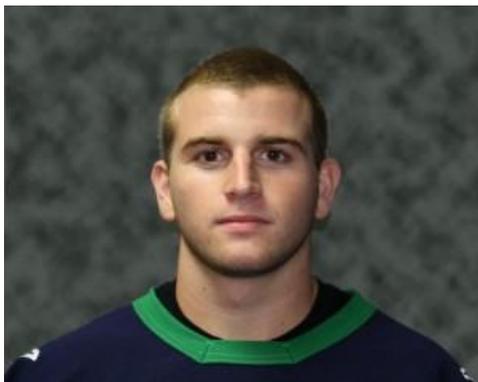
The **Boston Bandits** this week had tough Eastern Conference matchups with the NH Monarchs and the Springfield Pics. The Bandits hosted the Monarchs on Saturday. This was a rematch of a great game from three weeks ago. The game would follow the first one as the game was very competitive, hard hitting affair. The

Monarchs would take the lead in the first but the Bandits would come right back on a face off goal by JB Sweeney 94' (Bridgewater, MA) assisted by Niall Caparon 92' (Chesterfield, MO). In the second period, the Bandits, on a Caparon goal, would take the lead. The Monarchs would tie the score at the end of the second. In the third both teams would have good scoring opportunities but both goalies stood tall. The game went to overtime where the Bandits fell 3-2 OT.

On Sunday the Bandits traveled to Springfield in another rematch. The Bandits won last week and Springfield came out flying to avenge their loss. Springfield controlled much of the play in the beginning taking a 1-0 lead at one point out shooting the Bandits 8-22. But the hard working Bandits would not go for that as they got to work and tied the score on a Paul Fregeau 93' (Sylmar, CA) goal, assisted by Caparon and Grant Gallo 93' (San Diego, CA). The Pics would regain the lead but the Bandits would control the play late in the second and in the third. The Pics would add an open net goal.

The Bandits would end up out shooting the Pics 39 - 32 but would fall 3 -1. Two very good games for the Bandits but only picking up a point for the overtime, leaves the Bandits record at 4-5-1. The Bandits will host the South Shore Kings this week on Saturday Oct. 29 at 3:30PM at Bridgewater Ice Arena.

ATHLETIC REPUBLIC STRENGTH & CONDITIONING ATHLETE OF THE MONTH – October 2011



Estero, Fla. – The **Florida Jr. Blades** in collaboration with Athletic Republic are proud to announce captain James Hyatt as the Athletic Republic Strength and Conditioning player of the month.

The Coral Springs, Fla. native is in his second year with the Jr. Blades organization. He has an outgoing, cheerful and determined leadership style that makes him well respected by his teammates and coaches. However, Hyatt's best quality is his ability to lead by example on and off the ice.

"Hyatt is very deserving of this award," says assistant coach Nick Westcott. "He is the hardest working player during team workouts and he frequents the facility during nonscheduled workout times to get in extra conditioning and work on hockey specific skills."

The extra effort is paying off as Hyatt is currently second in the league with points by a defenseman (5g, 9a, 14p). "I try to win daily battles," he says. "If I can push myself everyday and overcome my obstacles, when it's game time, I know I'll be ready."

Hyatt's dedication extends past the gym, in his spare time he helps the local youth hockey players. "I had a lot of great coaches and role models growing up," says Hyatt. "They taught me the what it means to work hard and that hard work will pay off, so I'm just trying to give back."

"Hyatt's exceptional personality, coupled with his work ethic will serve him well as he progresses to the next level of his hockey career," says Wescott.

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.

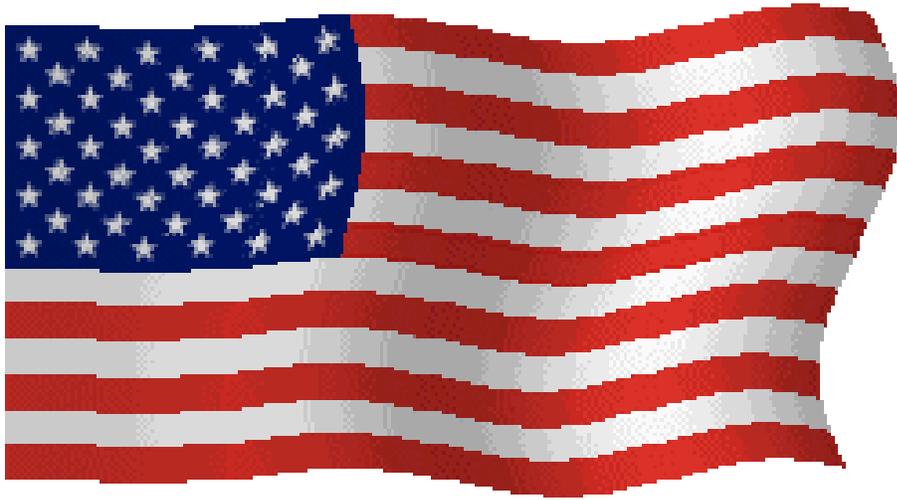
Wrist Shot Hockey: <http://www.wristshothockey.net/>

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