

# U.S. National Team Development Program

NTDP WEEKLY NOTES | SEPTEMBER 1-7, 2014



Media Contacts: Jake Wesolek (JakeW@usahockey.org) and Zack Friedli (ZackF@usahockey.org) | USANTDP.com | @USANTDP

DATE	GAME	LOCATION	TIME*	BROADCAST INFO
Fri., Sept. 5	U18 vs. Muskegon Lumberjacks	East Meadow, N.Y.	8:00 p.m.	FASTHockey.com
Sat., Sept 6	U17 vs. Michigan Warriors	Flint, Mich.	3:00 p.m.	FASTHockey.com
	U18 vs. Lincoln Stars	East Meadow, N.Y.	3:30 p.m.	FASTHockey.com

\* All times are ET

## U18 vs. MUSKEGON LUMBERJACKS

**GAME INFO:** The U.S. National Under-18 Team opens its 2014-15 schedule against the Muskegon Lumberjacks as part of the USHL Atlantic Challenge in East Meadow, N.Y. The game will be played at Twin Rinks Ice Center and will be streamed live via FASTHockey.com.

**A LOOK BACK AT 2013-14:** The players on the Under-18 Team squared off with Muskegon three times as members of the U.S. National Under-17 Team in 2013-14, falling in each contest. In all, the NTDP compiled three wins and five losses against the Lumberjacks last winter. F **Jordan Greenway** and F **Luke Kunin** led Team USA with three points each in three outings (Greenway 0-3=3; Kunin 1-2=3). G **Luke Opilka** made three appearances and turned aside 68 shots.

**SERIES FACT:** Friday's contest marks the first of five games between the U.S. National Under-18 Team and Muskegon this season. The NTDP and Muskegon will do battle on 10 occasions in 2014-15, as the U.S. National Under-17 will also play the Lumberjacks five times. No other USHL club will play the NTDP as much as Muskegon this winter. Team USA holds a 17-12-4 (W-L-OTL) record all-time against Muskegon. The two teams met in the first round of the 2011 Clark Cup Playoffs, with Team USA falling to the Lumberjacks, 2-0, in the best-of-three series.



## U18 vs. LINCOLN STARS

**GAME INFO:** The U.S. National Under-18 Team concludes its portion of the USHL Atlantic Challenge in East Meadow, N.Y., against the Lincoln Stars on Saturday afternoon. The game will be played at Twin Rinks Ice Center and will be streamed live via FASTHockey.com.

**A LOOK BACK AT 2013-14:** Under-18 Team players met Lincoln just once as members of the U.S. National Under-17 Team (a 7-4 setback on March 15 at the Lincoln Ice Box). **Jordan Greenway** (1-1=2) and **Matthew Tkachuk** (0-2=2) both had multi-point games, while **Jeremy Bracco** notched a goal and **Grant Gabriele** collected an assist. Goaltender **Michael Lackey** started and made 35 saves. In the only other match up between the NTDP and Lincoln in 2013-14, the Stars escaped with a 2-1 shootout victory over the Under-18 Team on Oct. 18 in Ann Arbor.

**NTDP CONNECTION:** D Tye Ausmus is brothers with former NTDP blue-liner Gage Ausmus (2011-13). The elder Ausmus helped the U.S. capture silver at the 2013 IIHF Men's Under-18 World Championship and now skates for the University of North Dakota.

**SERIES FACT:** Saturday's game will be the NTDP's first of three contests with Lincoln in 2014-15. The Under-18 Team will travel to Lincoln, Neb., March 20-21 for a weekend set with the Stars. The Under-17 Team doesn't play Lincoln this season. Team USA's all-time record is 5-4-1 against the Stars.



## U17 vs. MICHIGAN WARRIORS

**GAME INFO:** The U.S. National Under-17 Team begins its 2014-15 campaign in Flint, Mich., against the NAHL's Michigan Warriors. Puck-drop is schedule for 3:00 p.m. ET at the Flint Iceland Arena.

**UNDER-17 TEAM FAST FACTS:** The 22 players on the U.S. National Under-17 Team will get their first taste of game action with the National Team Development Program Saturday. Each player is in the 1998 birth year, meaning they are eligible for either the 2016 or 2017 NHL Entry Draft. The roster is made up of players from 10 different states, including Michigan and Minnesota with four natives each. A total of 14 players have verbally committed to NCAA Division I schools.

**MANTHA AND THE NTDP:** Michigan head coach Moe Mantha worked as a head coach at the NTDP from 2000-03, leading the U.S. National Under-17 Team for two seasons (2000-02) and the U.S. National Under-18 Team for one (2002-03). Mantha helped guide the Under-17 Team to a pair of World Under-17 Hockey Challenge championships (2001, 2002), and was behind the bench of the 2003 U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team at the IIHF Men's Under-18 World Championship, leading that squad to a fourth-place finish.



## NTDP NEWS AND NOTES

### SIXTEEN HEADED TO ALL-AMERICAN PROSPECTS GAME

The NTDP will have 16 current players participating in the CCM/USA Hockey All-American Prospects Game Sept. 25 at First Niagara Center in Buffalo, N.Y. The list includes goaltenders **Michael Lackey** and **Luke Opilka**; defencemen **Nicholas Boka**, **Christian Evers**, **Casey Fitzgerald**, **Grant Gabriele**, **Caleb Jones** and **Steven Ruggiero**; and forwards **Jeremy Bracco**, **Christian Fischer**, **Mike Floodstrand**, **Jordan Greenway**, **Jack Roslovic**, **Troy Terry**, **Brendan Warren** and **Colin White**. In addition to the current NTDP players, four NTDP products also received the invite to the AAGP: D **Noah Hanifin** (Boston College), D **Zach Werenski** (University of Michigan), F **Jack Eichel** (Boston University) and F **Dennis Yan**. F **Kyle Connor**, who helped the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team win the gold medal at the 2014 IIHF Men's Under-18 World Championship, is also slated to participate in the AAGP.

### SEVEN ON NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING'S FUTURES LIST

Seven members of the 2014-15 U.S. National Under-18 Team were included on NHL Central Scouting's Futures list, released this summer. The players include forwards **Jeremy Bracco**, **Christian Fischer**, **Jordan Greenway** and **Colin White**; and defencemen **Nicholas Boka** and **Casey Fitzgerald**. The 2015 NHL Entry Draft will be held June 26-27 in Florida.

### NTDP CONNECTIONS AT U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR CAMP

Under-18 Team F **Auston Matthews** and Under-18 head coach **Don Granato** both attended the USA Hockey National Junior Evaluation Camp in Lake Placid, N.Y., this summer. Matthews, who is eligible for the 2016 NHL Entry Draft, collected six points (2-4) in six games, including multi-point efforts against Sweden (two goals) and Finland (two assists). Granato will serve as an assistant coach for the 2015 U.S. National Junior Team.

### NTDP CONNECTIONS AT IVAN HLINKA

Under-18 Team members D **Grant Gabriele** and F **Troy Terry** played for the U.S. Under-18 Select Team at the recent Ivan Hlinka Memorial Cup, while U18 Team assistant coach **Nick Fohr** was an assistant coach with the squad. Team USA finished third.

### SUTHERS HELPS U17 SELECTS TO SECOND-PLACE FINISH

Under-17 Team F **Keenan Suthers** recently skated with the U.S. Under-17 Select Team at the Under-17 Five Nations Select Tournament in Germany, helping the team to a second-place finish. The Macomb, Mich., native scored once and added one assist in four games.

### USA TO HOST 2014 U17 FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT

USA Hockey and the National Team Development Program will host the 2014 Four Nations Tournament Dec. 16-20 at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube. The Under-17 Team will play games against Russia, Switzerland and Slovakia in preliminary-round action before the tournament championship and third-place games on Saturday, Dec. 20. Team USA has won the championship five years in a row. For ticket information, call (734) 327-9251, ext. 317.

### NTDP OFFICIAL WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

**USANTDP.com:** The official website of USA Hockey's National Team Development Program provides access to complete team information, including news, rosters, schedules/results, statistics, NTDP history and a PDF media guide, along with other information.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Follow the NTDP on Twitter (@USANTDP) and like on Facebook (USA Hockey NTDP) for the latest news and notes related to the National Team Development Program. Also follow on Instagram (USANTDP) for behind-the-scenes photos and videos.

