

# U.S. National Team Development Program

NTDP WEEKLY NOTES | SEPTEMBER 8-14, 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. 12 | U17 vs. Muskegon Lumberjacks | Ann Arbor, Mich. | 7:00 p.m. | FASTHockey.com |
| Sat., Sept. 13 | U18 vs. Michigan Warriors    | Ann Arbor, Mich. | 7:00 p.m. | FASTHockey.com |

\* All times are ET

## U17 vs. MUSKEGON LUMBERJACKS

**GAME INFO:** The U.S. National Under-17 Team plays its first USHL opponent of the season when the Muskegon Lumberjacks travel to Ann Arbor Friday night. The game is scheduled for 7 p.m. ET at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube and will be broadcast live on FASTHockey.com



**ALL-TIME RECORD:** Muskegon leads series, 17-10-4.

**LAST MEETING:** The Under-18 Team met Muskegon last Friday (Sept. 5) in East Meadow, N.Y., as part of the USHL Atlantic Challenge. Team USA skated to a 5-1 victory over the Lumberjacks, thanks largely to a pair of goals by F **Brendan Warren** and 23 saves from G **Luke Opilka**.

**TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Six fulltime members of the U.S. National Under-17 Team recorded a point in their first game as members of the NTDP - a 6-3 setback against the Michigan Warriors last Saturday (Sept. 6) in Flint, Mich. F **Clayton Keller** notched a goal, while F **Graham McPhee**, F **Trent Frederic**, F **Keeghan Howdeshell**, D **Michael Campoli** and D **Adam Fox** all had assists. G **Joseph Woll** started and made 11 saves. G **Jake Oettinger** entered the contest midway through the second period and turned aside 12 shots.

**QUICK FACTS:** Friday's contest marks the first of five games between the U.S. National Under-17 Team and Muskegon this season. The NTDP and Muskegon will do battle on 10 occasions in 2014-15, as the U.S. National Under-18 is also scheduled to play the Lumberjacks five times, including the game last weekend in New York ... No other USHL club will play the NTDP as much as Muskegon this winter ... 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 ... F **Collin Adams** will play against Team USA this weekend after suiting up for the Red, White and Blue in Flint last Saturday. Adams recorded two goals in the U17 Team's 6-3 loss to the Michigan Warriors.

## U18 vs. MICHIGAN WARRIORS

**GAME INFO:** The U.S. National Under-18 Team opens its home schedule Saturday against the NAHL's Michigan Warriors. Puck-drop is at 7 p.m. ET and the game can be viewed live on FASTHockey.com



**LAST MEETING:** The NTDP's U17 Team squared off with Michigan last weekend at the Flint Iceland Arenas, falling to the Warriors, 6-3.

**TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Thirteen members of the U.S. National Under-18 found the score sheet last weekend at the USHL Atlantic Challenge in East Meadow, N.Y. F **Jeremy Bracco** (2-1), F **Mike Floodstrand** (0-3) and D **Steven Ruggiero** (0-3) all notched three-point weekends. F **Brendan Warren** and F **Luke Kunin** collected two goals each. F **Matthew Tkachuk**, F **Colin White** and F **Jack Roslovic** each tallied a goal and an assist. G **Luke Opilka** made 23 saves in Friday's 5-1 win over Muskegon, while G **Michael Lackey** stopped 24 shots in Saturday's 4-1 victory against Lincoln.

**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.

**QUICK FACTS:** Live stats will be available on USANTDP.com ... Members of the U.S. National Under-18 Team played three games against NAHL foes last winter as members of the Under-17 Team. The U.S. posted three wins and outscored the NAHL teams, 20-5, in those contests ... The Under-18 Team will play an exhibition against the NAHL All-Stars Feb. 23 in Ann Arbor.

## NTDP NEWS AND NOTES

### FIFTEEN HEADED TO ALL-AMERICAN PROSPECTS GAME

The NTDP will have 15 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**; defensemen **Nicholas Boka**, **Christian Evers**, **Casey Fitzgerald**, **Grant Gabriele**, **Caleb Jones** and **Steven Ruggiero**; and forwards **Jeremy Bracco**, **Christian Fischer**, **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 AAPG: 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 AAPG.

### 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 defensemen **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.

