

# U.S. National Team Development Program

NTDP WEEKLY NOTES | SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2014



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DATE	GAME	LOCATION	TIME*	BROADCAST INFO
Fri., Sept. 26	U17 vs. Muskegon	Ann Arbor, Mich.	7:00 p.m.	FASTHockey.com
Sat., Sept. 27	U18 vs. Youngstown	Ann Arbor, Mich.	7:00 p.m.	FASTHockey.com
Sun. Sept. 28	U18 vs. Muskegon	Ann Arbor, Mich.	3:30 p.m.	FASTHockey.com

\* All times are ET

## U17 vs. MUSKEGON LUMBERJACKS



**GAME INFO:** The U.S. National Under-17 Team opens the NTDP's 2014-15 regular-season United States Hockey League schedule against Muskegon Friday at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube. The game begins at 7 p.m. ET and will be broadcast live on FASTHockey.com.

**ALL-TIME RECORD:** Muskegon leads, 18-11-4

**2014-15 SERIES:** Both NTDP clubs have faced Muskegon already this season. The U18 Team knocked off the Lumberjacks, 5-1, on Sept. 5 at the USHL Atlantic Challenge in East Meadow, N.Y., and the U17s fell to Muskegon, 1-0, in Ann Arbor on Sept. 12.

**TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH:** G **Joseph Woll** made 32 saves in the U.S. National Under-17 Team's 1-0 loss to Muskegon two weeks ago, boosting his SV% to .956 and knocking his GAA down to 1.36. Six members of the U17 Team have notched points through two games played this year, including F **Clayton Keller**, who has one goal. Five others - F **Graham McPhee**, F **Trent Frederic**, F **Keeghan Howdeshell**, D **Michael Campoli** and D **Adam Fox** - have one assist each.

**QUICK FACTS:** The game is the second of five scheduled match ups between the U17 Team and Muskegon this season. The NTDP will meet the Lumberjacks a total of 10 times in 2014-15, as the U.S. National Under-18 Team also plays Muskegon on five occasions (including Sunday in Ann Arbor) ... No other USHL team will play the NTDP as much as Muskegon this year ... 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 ... Muskegon F **Collin Adams** will play against Team USA this weekend after suiting up for the Under-17 Team against the NAHL's Michigan Warriors on Sept. 6.

## U18 vs. YOUNGSTOWN PHANTOMS



**GAME INFO:** The U.S. National Under-18 Team and Youngstown will do battle Saturday night at 7 p.m. in Ann Arbor. The game, which will be the U18 Team's fifth against USHL foes already this season, can be viewed live on FASTHockey.com

**ALL-TIME RECORD:** Team USA leads, 23-13-3

**2014-15 SERIES:** Team USA beat Youngstown, 6-3, in a penalty-filled contest last week (Sept. 17) at the USHL Fall Classic East in Green Bay, Wis.

**TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH:** F **Colin White** (1-2) and F **Jeremy Bracco** (0-3) each had three-point efforts in the game last week, while F **Matthew Tkachuk** scored twice and G **Luke Opilka** turned in a 20-save performance. Bracco enjoyed considerable success against Youngstown last season, scoring three goals and adding four assists for seven points in four games played. F **Jordan Greenway** (1-3) and F **Christian Fischer** (1-3) each had four points against the Phantoms in 2013-14, while F **Luke Kunin** had three goals and D **Caleb Jones** had three assists.

**QUICK FACTS:** This contest marks the second of six between the Under-18 Team and Youngstown in 2014-15. The two clubs will next meet on Oct. 10 in Ann Arbor ... The Under-17 Team is scheduled to play Youngstown three times this year, with the first contest slated for Oct. 3. Phantoms F **Kyle Connor** skated with the 2013-14 U.S. National Under-18 Team during the IIHF Men's Under-18 World Championship in Finland. His five goals and three assists helped Team USA capture the gold medal.

## U18 vs. MUSKEGON LUMBERJACKS



**GAME INFO:** The U.S. National Under-18 Team closes the weekend series with Muskegon Sunday in Ann Arbor. The game is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. ET and will be broadcast live on FASTHockey.com.

**ALL-TIME RECORD:** Muskegon leads, 18-11-4 (prior to Friday)

**TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH:** Team USA F **Brendan Warren** notched a pair of goals the last time the U18s played Muskegon and G **Luke Opilka** made 23 saves in the 5-1 victory. F **Jordan Greenway** (0-3) and F **Luke Kunin** (1-2) each recorded three points against the Lumberjacks last year to lead all U.S. players in scoring in the series.

## NTDP NEWS AND NOTES

### FIFTEEN PLAY IN ALL-AMERICAN PROSPECTS GAME

The NTDP had 15 current players in the CCM/USA Hockey All-American Prospects Game Sept. 25 Buffalo, N.Y. The list included 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 prospects also skated in the AAPG: D **Noah Hanifin** (Boston College), D **Zach Werenski** (University of Michigan), F **Jack Eichel** (Boston University) and F **Dennis Yan**. Bracco (2-0), Eichel (1-1), and Greenway (0-2) all registered two points while playing on a line together for a majority of the contest, and Lackey (15 saves/16 shots) and Opilka (22 saves/23 shots) started for their respective teams and played 29:48 each. Warren (1-0), Gabriele (0-1), and White (0-1) all had one point. Under-18 Team F **Mike Floodstand** was invited to play in the game, but was unable to participate. Eichel (2011-13) was named Player of the Game. U18 Team coaches **Don Granato** and **Nick Fohr** served as assistant coaches at the event.

### TWENTY-ONE ON NHL CENTRAL SCOUTING'S WATCH LIST

Twenty-one players with ties to the NTDP were included on NHL Center Scouting's Preliminary 2015 Players to Watch list, released earlier this week. The current NTDPers on the list are 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**. Six alumni of the National Team Development Program - G **Ed Minney** (Michigan State University); D **Noah Hanifin** (Boston College), D **Zach Werenski** (University of Michigan), F **Jack Eichel** (Boston University), F **Ryan Hitchcock** (Yale University) and F **Dennis Yan** - were also included on the list. Greenway, White, Eichel, Hanifin, and Werenski were each "A" rated prospects, meaning they are projected to be first-round picks in the 2015 NHL Entry Draft.

### 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.

### SUTHERS COMMITS TO WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Under-17 Team F **Keenan Suthers** recently made a verbal commitment to play his college hockey at Western Michigan University of the National Collegiate Hockey Conference. There are now 15 members of the U17 Team committed to play NCAA Division I college hockey.

### 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.

