

U.S. National Team Development Program

NTDP WEEKLY NOTES | SEPTEMBER 29 - OCTOBER 5, 2014



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DATE	GAME	LOCATION	TIME*	BROADCAST INFO
Fri., Oct. 3	U17 vs. Youngstown	Ann Arbor, Mich.	7:00 p.m.	FASTHockey.com
Sat., Oct. 4	U18 at Miami University	Oxford, Ohio	8:05 p.m.	MURedHawks.com

* All times are ET

U17 vs. YOUNGSTOWN PHANTOMS

GAME INFO: The U.S. National Under-17 Team continues its USHL schedule against the Youngstown Phantoms 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: Team USA leads, 24-13-3

2014-15 SERIES: The NTDP and Youngstown have played on two occasions in 2014-15, with both games involving the Under-18 Team. The elder NTDP group won, 6-3, on Sept. 17 at the USHL Fall Classic in Green Bay, Wis., and took home a 4-2 win last Friday (Sept. 27) in Ann Arbor.

TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH: G **Joseph Woll** boasts a 1.36 GAA and .956 SV% in 88:24 of work this season ... G **Jake Oettinger** made 38 saves in a loss to Muskegon last Friday (Sept. 26) ... F **Joey Anderson** and F **Keeghan Howdeshell** notched their first-career goals against Muskegon ... Howdeshell is tied for the team lead with two points.

QUICK FACTS: The game is the first of three meetings between the U17 Team and Youngstown this season ... The U.S. National Under-18 Team will play Youngstown on six occasions during the 2014-15 campaign ... Youngstown F **Kyle Connor** skated for the U.S. Men's National Under-18 Team at the IIHF Men's Under-18 World Championship last April in Finland, helping the United States claim a gold medal ... F **Collin Adams** will skate with the U17s Friday night. This is Adams' second game with the NTDP, having previously skated with the team against Michigan (NAHL), scoring twice in that contest.

U18 at MIAMI UNIVERSITY

GAME INFO: The U.S. National Under-18 Team travels to Oxford, Ohio, Saturday night to play the No. 9-ranked Miami University RedHawks. Puck-drop is scheduled for 8:05 p.m. ET at Goggin Ice Center on the Miami campus.



ALL-TIME RECORD: Team USA leads, 1-0-0

LAST MEETING: Team USA edged the RedHawks, 4-2, on Dec. 31, 2013, in the first-ever game between the NTDP and Miami. **Anders Bjork** scored twice - including the game-winner with 51 seconds remaining in the contest - while teammates **Ryan Hitchcock** and **Alex Tuch** had one goal each. U.S. goaltenders **Ed Minney** and **Blake Weyrick** combined for 27 saves in the victory.

TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH: F **Jeremy Bracco** leads all Under-18 Team players with 12 points (4-8) in seven games played ... F **Auston Matthews** has a team-best nine assists and has points in five straight outings ... F **Matthew Tkachuk** tops the U18s with seven goals and is currently on a five-game point streak ... G **Luke Opilka** has posted an impressive .936 SV% and 1.50 GAA in 240 minutes of action this season ... F **Luke Kunin** has three goals in his last two games ... F **Christian Fischer** notched one goal in both games last weekend.

QUICK FACTS: Team USA F **Jack Roslovic** is a Columbus, Ohio, native and is committed to play his college hockey at Miami ... Five current RedHawks - **Riley Barber** (2010-12), **Louie Belpedio** (2012-14), **Austin Czarnik** (2008-10), **Trevor Hamilton** (2011-13), and **Anthony Louis** (2011-13) - are alumni of the National Team Development Program ... Thirteen NTDP products have gone on to play at Miami ... The game is the first of 13 against NCAA Division I schools for the Under-18 Team, including eight versus programs ranked in the top-20 of the USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine Men's College Hockey Preseason Poll (No. 1 Minnesota, No. 2 North Dakota, No. 3 Providence, No. 7 Michigan, No. 9 Miami, No. 12 Wisconsin, No. 14 Cornell, No. 18 Boston University).

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.

