



U.S. NATIONAL TEAM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

NTDP WEEKLY NOTES | NOVEMBER 10-16, 2014

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DATE	GAME	LOCATION	TIME*	BROADCAST INFO
Fri., Nov. 14	U18 vs. Bloomington	Ann Arbor, Mich.	7:00 p.m.	FASTHockey.com
Sun., Nov. 16	U18 vs. Muskegon	Ann Arbor, Mich.	3:30 p.m.	FASTHockey.com

* All times are ET

U18 vs. BLOOMINGTON THUNDER

GAME INFO: The U18 Team returns to USHL action when it squares off against Bloomington Friday at 7 p.m. ET in Ann Arbor. The game will take place at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube and can be seen live on FAST-Hockey.com.



ALL-TIME RECORD: First-ever meeting

TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH: F **Jeremy Bracco** leads the U18 Team with 37 points in 19 games ... Bracco, F **Auston Matthews** and F **Matthew Tkachuk** are tied for the team lead with 11 goals ... G **Michael Lackey** is unbeaten in five of his last six games ... G **Luke Opilka** leads the team with seven wins.

QUICK FACTS: This is the first of two match ups between the U.S. National Under-18 Team and Bloomington this season. The U18s will travel to Bloomington on March 13 ... The Thunder are scheduled to square off with the Under-17 Team on four occasions in 2014-15, including Nov. 28 and March 21 in Bloomington, as well as Jan. 24-25 in Ann Arbor.

U18 vs. MUSKEGON LUMBERJACKS

GAME INFO: The U18s conclude a two-game USHL weekend with a Sunday afternoon showdown against in-state rival Muskegon. Puck-drop is slated for 3:30 p.m. ET at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube and the game can be viewed live on FASTHockey.com.



ALL-TIME RECORD: Muskegon leads, 20-12-4

MOST RECENT MEETING: The U18s defeated the Jacks, 4-1, on Oct. 29 in Muskegon. F **Auston Matthews** notched a pair of goals and added one assist, while F **Matthew Tkachuk** (1-1) and F **Christian Fischer** (0-2) both turned in two-point performances.

2014-15 SERIES: The NTDP and Muskegon have met five times this season, with the U18s involved in three of those contests and U17s in two. The Under-18 Team is 2-1 against the Lumberjacks this year, while the younger NTDP squad is 0-2.

TEAM USA PLAYERS TO WATCH: F **Auston Matthews** has recorded two goals and three assists against the Jacks this year ... F **Jeremy Bracco** has three points (1-2) in three games against the Lumberjacks this season ... F **Luke Kunin**, F **Matthew Tkachuk** and F **Brendan Warren** both have two goals against Muskegon in 2014-15.

QUICK FACTS: This is the fourth of five scheduled match ups between the U18s and Muskegon this season ... The NTDP and Muskegon will meet a total of 10 times this winter, as the U17 Team also plays the Lumberjacks five times ... No other USHL team will play the National Team Development Program as often as Muskegon this season.

NTDP NEWS AND NOTES

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.

U17S EARN SECOND PLACE AT WORLD U17 CHALLENGE

The U.S. National Under-17 Team took home second-place honors at the World Under-17 Challenge from Nov. 2-8 in Sarnia and Lambton Shores, Ont. Team USA compiled a 5-0-0-0 record before falling to Russia, 2-1, in the championship game. The second-place finish marked the ninth consecutive finish in the top-three at the event by the United States. Team USA has won four titles in the tournament, including 2001, 2002, 2010 and 2014 (Jan.). F **Max Jones**, F **Clayton Keller** and D **Chad Kryz** were named to the All-Tournament Team.

U18S WIN FOUR NATIONS TOURNAMENT IN SWEDEN

The U.S. National Under-18 Team was in Sweden last week competing with Finland, Switzerland and Sweden for the U18 Four Nations Tournament title. Team USA stormed past Finland (8-1) and Switzerland (7-1) before knocking off the Swedes, 6-4, in the championship game. The three wins and a 4-3 triumph over Sweden in a pre-tournament contest ups the 1997 NTDP group's overall international record to 19-0-0. The group won all three of its international events last season.

BRACCO CLOSING IN ON NTDP ALL-TIME ASSIST RECORD

U18 Team F **Jeremy Bracco** is four assists away from tying the all-time NTDP career assist record, which is 88 and currently shared by J.D. Forrest (1997-2000) - an assistant coach with the Under-18 Team - and Patrick Kane (2004-06). Last season, Bracco notched the single-season assist record with 58.

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.

51 NTDP ALUMNI ON NHL OPENING-NIGHT ROSTERS

The National Team Development Program had 51 alumni crack NHL opening-night rosters. The Anaheim Ducks boasted more NTDP products (5) than any other club, while Carolina checked in at No. 2 with four NTDP alums. In all, 25 NHL organizations - including 21 of the 23 located in the United States - had at least one player with NTDP ties on its opening-night roster.

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.

