



# USA Hockey National Championships

## Alliance News and Notes



**Follow the Bulldogs at the National Championships!**

<http://www.alliancehockey.org/>

Game summaries and other Alliance news from the USA Hockey National Championships will be posted here and on the Alliance Web Site before and after each game. For the official USA Hockey web sites with schedules, standings, stats, and more, go to.....

**PeeWees...** [http://usahockey.com/2004nationals/main/t\\_ii\\_12u\\_livo/](http://usahockey.com/2004nationals/main/t_ii_12u_livo/)

**Bantams...** [http://usahockey.com/2004nationals/main/t\\_ii\\_14u\\_burli/](http://usahockey.com/2004nationals/main/t_ii_14u_burli/)

### The Road to the National Championships – How did we get there?

The road to the USA Hockey National Championships began for the Alliance Bulldogs way back in May of 2003 with spring clinics and tryouts. After a long, hard, and successful 2002-2003 season, most players took time off in the summer for doing other things and taking vacations. The new season began in August as the teams began to get back together after the summer break, to get ready for Labor Day Tournaments, and start the beginning of what would turn out to be a great 2003-2004 season for all Alliance teams.

Each year the Alliance teams compete for the championships of the Texoma Travel League in the Texas Amateur Hockey Association (TAHA). In addition, another goal of Bulldog teams is to win the Texas State Championship, and with it the chance to move onward. The State Tournament is put on by TAHA at the end of the season to select teams at each age group to represent Texas at the Rocky Mountain District Championships.



Teams from all over Texas apply for acceptance to the State Tournament and must compete in "play-down" or qualifying games to be among the 4 teams selected to play in the State Championships.

This year, all four eligible Alliance teams – U17 Midget Major, U16 Midget Minor, U14 Bantam, and U12 PeeWee not only earned spots in the state tournament, but *each* brought home the **Texas State Championship** in their respective age bracket. As a result of these championships, each team earned the right to represent Texas at the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Championships in Boise, Idaho, March 10<sup>th</sup> –14<sup>th</sup>.

At the RMD Championships, state champions from Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, and one Host team competed for the honor of representing the RMD at the USA Hockey National Championships.



Each Alliance team competed well at the RMD tournament. In all, Alliance teams combined for 10 wins and 7 losses at the tournament. Alliance was the *ONLY* association with 4 teams at the tournament, which was an item of discussion among the fans and players from the other teams in the District. It also certainly helped that at each Alliance game, there were many other Alliance players and parents cheering on the Bulldog team playing at the time. The PeeWee and Bantam teams both went 4 and 1, with each loss coming in a preliminary round game, but both came back to avenge that loss by winning the **Rocky Mountain District Championship** against the team that had beat them previously.

For those of you that did not get a chance to read about the PeeWee and Bantam Championship games, we have included the game summaries below for you. Game summaries for the RMD preliminary games, including the exciting come-from-behind Bantam semi-final game, go to the Alliance web site. For the official Rocky Mountain District Tournament web site with schedules, standings, stats, and more, go to.....<http://www.rockymtnhockey.com/>

**Alliance PeeWees defeat Colorado 3-2 in Double OT, Advance to Nationals.*****Dateline: Sunday, March 14, 2004***

The Alliance Pee Wees continued their season with the Littleton Hawks of Colorado in the Pee Wee Final of the Rocky Mountain District Championships in Boise Idaho on Sunday March 14th. Coming into the regional, the two teams were dead even in head to head games for the season. Every game has been a hard fought battle to the very end. In this matchup, the Alliance PeeWees pulled out the Championship game in the second sudden death overtime, with the game winning goal scored by #25 Blake Coleman. As a result, the Bulldogs gained a 3-2 victory and a trip to the USA Hockey National Championships in Livonia, Michigan March 31-April 4th.

***LITTLETON HAWKS*** Both teams played with enormous heart. Every player on the Alliance team contributed to the defensive effort that included blocking Littleton shots and passes. Kasey Womble and Dru Burns did an awesome job of keeping the Hawks to the outside as they entered our zone. The Littleton team had 39 shots on goal, and Bulldogs goalie Jonathon Clutton had some amazing stops. John made the glove saves look like just another days work. Every player gave their all as evidenced by Josh Loomis, at 4'7" 80 lbs in the face off circle versus Ryan White of Littleton at 5'10" 170 lbs.

In the 1st period Littleton scored early on a pass from Brain Kormondy to Ryan White who put the puck away. Littleton out-shot Alliance 12 to 6 in the period. The Bulldogs had a slow start to the game. Penalties were not a factor in the game because the referees decided to just let them play. Once the Bulldogs adjusted to the fact that hooking, take-downs and interference were not going to be called, the boys had to step up and just play and give their all. Then the game was on.

The 2nd period leveled out and shots on goal were 9 to 9. Blake Coleman scored low and hard on a crisp pass from Christopher Boe to tie the game. Littleton had an answering goal later in the period by Tyler Adriance assisted by Anthony Hamburg.

At the start of the 3rd period Alliance came out hard and the tide started to turn. During a scrum in front of the Littleton goal Blake Coleman managed to put the puck in the net to tie the game up one more time. The score was now 2-2 and the Bulldogs were on the offensive. Alliance turned up the heat and out shot Littleton 12 to 7. But Littleton's goalie hung tough and kept them in the game. He had a beautiful glove save early in the period on a high hard shot from Ryan Daugherty. At the buzzer the boys went to the locker room to regroup and the parents on the 4:00 pm flight realized that they were probably going to enjoy Boise hospitality for one more night.

After a resurfacing of the ice and a break to the dressing room, the Bulldogs continued their offensive game in the first sudden death overtime period. Alliance continued to deny scoring chances to the Hawks, clearing the zone to relieve pressure, denying speed through the neutral zone, and just playing with heart since their legs were gone. At the end of the first overtime period the game was still tied, the players and fans were exhausted. The boys had another 5-minute break and then came back on the ice for one more 10-minute sudden death overtime.

The Alliance Bulldogs out shot the Littleton Hawks 10 to 6 in the combined overtime periods but Littleton still had their scoring opportunities. Every time one of the teams went up or down the ice everyone knew the opportunity was there. Alliance had fallen victim earlier in the season to Littleton's ability to turn the tide on a dime and score, with 19 seconds on the clock in the semi-final game in Littleton.

Eight minutes into the second sudden death period Christopher Boe shot the puck into the zone to enable the boys to have a line change. Blake Coleman who had not yet cleared the zone, due to sheer exhaustion, suddenly found the puck at his feet with an opportunity to score. He turned around and headed back towards the Littleton goal, deked the goalie and backhanded the shot into the upper right corner for a hat trick and the game-winning goal.

Alliance was out shot during the game 39 to 32, due to a slow start in the game but they dominated the 3rd period and the two overtimes. In addition, lady luck was with them. Both teams deserved to win but the pucks just fell for the Bulldogs this time.

The Alliance Bulldogs are a very young Pee Wee team with four 92's (Moody, Price, Loomis and Capetillo) and only eight 91's born in the first half of the year. Head Coach Greg Vanover has taken a team with only five returning seasoned travel players and coached them to a winning season beyond anyone's imagination.

The Bulldogs finished the Rocky Mountain District Regional with 4 wins, 1 loss, 27 goals scored, and only 12 goals allowed. Good Luck in Nationals! The top 12 Pee Wee Tier II teams in the country will be represented. The Alliance Bulldogs will represent the Rocky Mountain District. Congratulations to all of the Alliance Pee Wees for their efforts at the RMD Championships:

Christopher Boe, Dru Burns, Connor Capetillo, Jonathan Clutton, Blake Coleman, Ryan Daugherty, Stephen Demers, Christian Ferm, Justin Fikes, Grady Graham, Josh Loomis, Garrett McCook, Matt McKinney, Addison Moody, Patrick Price, Corey Ramsey, JC Tellez, Kasey Womble



### Alliance Pee Wee AA - RMD Champions

## Alliance Bantams Shutout Colorado 3-0, Advance to Nationals

*Dateline: Sunday, March 14, 2004*

The Alliance Bantams turned the tables on the Littleton Hawks of Colorado in the Bantam Final of the Rocky Mountain District Championships in Boise on Sunday, giving the Hawks a dose of their own defensive medicine. As a result, the Bulldogs gained a 3-0 victory and a trip to the USA Hockey National Championships in South Burlington, Vermont March 31-April 1.

Every player on the Alliance team contributed to the defensive effort that included blocking Littleton shots, passes, and clearing attempts with sticks, legs, arms, hands, and skates. Whenever a Littleton shot somehow got through to Bulldog goalie Brandon Bailey, he was his usual spectacular self, making unbelievable saves that left people wondering, "How did he do that?"

The 1st period was scoreless, as both teams played tentative, as to not allow the first goal, which many thought would be a big lift to the teaming getting it. The Bulldogs got themselves into a huge jam when in the middle of the period when they found themselves down 3 on 5 for more than a minute on a Littleton power play, and with 2 defensemen in the penalty box. The Alliance penalty killers and goalie did a great job and kept the Hawks off the scoreboard. Littleton out-shot Alliance 9 to 5 in the period, mostly due to the extended power play time they received.

The 2nd period was when the game turned in favor of Alliance as the Bulldogs clamped further down on the Littleton offense, and turned up the heat on the Hawk defense with a more aggressive fore-check and neutral ice play. The first goal and eventual game winner occurred about 4 minutes in when the Bulldog fore-check forced a Hawk turnover in their own end and Alliance forward Chad Hudson beat the Littleton goalie to the post on a wrap-around.



It was just a little more than 2 minutes later when another defensive effort created a Bulldog scoring chance. An Alliance defender blocked a shot by a Littleton defenseman at the point and the puck rebounded into neutral ice. Hudson was again the man on the spot as he beat the Hawk defense to the loose puck and broke in on the Littleton goalie on a breakaway. A deke and a backhand later, the Bulldogs had a surprising and convincing lead at 2-0 with the game almost half over. Alliance kept the momentum and continued to control play the rest of the period and out shot the Hawks during the 2nd period 11 to 4.

After a resurfacing of the ice and a break to the dressing room, the Bulldogs continued their defensive game into the 3rd period. Alliance continued to deny scoring chances to the Hawks, clearing the zone to relieve pressure, denying speed through the neutral zone, and putting the puck deep to kill precious time on clock. Finally, with just a little more than a minute and a half remaining, Hudson put the final finish on the game and the championship with another breakaway goal. Littleton won the shot battle during the 3rd period 8 to 2, but Alliance got the only goal.

The game was won without the benefit of a single Bulldog power play as Littleton was not penalized, and Alliance killed off all four Littleton power play chances. Alliance was out shot during the game 20 to 18, but was able to capitalize on its scoring chances. Hudson got his second hat trick of the tournament and Bailey got his first shutout. The Bulldogs finished the tournament with 4 wins, 1 loss, 21 goals scored, and only 11 goals allowed.



**Alliance Bantam AA – RMD Champions**



**Chad Hudson #25 (left) of the Alliance Bantam team, and Blake Coleman #25 of the Alliance PeeWee team each scored a hat trick in their respective Rocky Mountain District Championship games.**

**Next Issue:** Schedules and Previews of the preliminary round games for Alliance, information about Alliance opponents at Nationals, and information about the format of play in the National Championships. To get on the email list to receive this newsletter, send an email to.....<mailto:alliancnewsletter@comcast.net>