



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/

Bantams... http://usahockey.com/2004nationals/main/t_ii_14u_burli/

Bantams Face Alaska in Opening Game at National Championships



The Alliance Bantam AA Bulldogs will square off against the **Arctic Lions** of Fairbanks, Alaska on Wednesday March 31st at 12:20 PM EST in their first game at the USA Hockey National Championships in South Burlington, Vermont. The Lions are the Alaska District Champions and their record thus far this season includes more than 50 wins. In addition to most of their games being played in Alaska, their schedule also included games in Minnesota and Michigan. The Lions swept thought the Alaska State Championships with 6 wins and 0 losses, outscoring their opponents by a combined score of 62-7. Individual game results from that tournament can be seen at...

http://www.usahockey.com/alaskastatetourney/main/bantam_tier_ii/. For more information on the Lions, go to.... <http://www.arcticlions.com/>

The Bulldogs will then play their second preliminary round game against the Mid-American District Champion **Pittsburgh Predators** on Thursday April 1st at 2:00 PM EST. In the District Championships, the Predators tied Pennsylvania 3-3, beat Indiana 9-2, and defeated Ohio 3-2 to win the title. For more information on the Predators, go to.... <http://www.pittsburghpredators.com/index.htm>



The third and final game in the preliminary round will have the Bulldogs battling the host team, the **CSB (Chittenden-South Burlington) Hawks** of South Burlington on Friday April 2nd at 10:20 AM EST. Last year, the Hawks became the first Vermont team to earn a berth at a national championship two years in a row. As host this year, it will be their 3rd National Championship tournament in a row. For more information on the Hawks, go to.... <http://www.csbhawks.com/>

2003 Tier II U14 Nationals – Final Standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	PCT
Darien Huskies, Nat'l Champs	6	6	0	0	0	12	39	13	1.000
North Dakota 88's	6	4	2	0	0	8	29	21	0.667
Dallas Storm	5	4	1	0	0	8	20	9	0.800
Hollydell Hurricanes	5	3	2	0	0	6	15	20	0.600
Toledo Jr. Storm	4	2	2	0	0	4	16	14	0.500
Farmington Hills Fire	4	2	2	0	0	4	12	8	0.500
CSB Hawks	4	1	3	0	0	2	10	19	0.250
San Diego Gulls	4	1	3	0	0	2	11	15	0.250
Orlando Jr. Solar Bears	3	1	2	0	0	2	10	18	0.333
Tri-City Eagles	3	1	2	0	0	2	10	15	0.333
Medford Mustangs	3	0	3	0	1	1	6	18	0.167
Hudson Valley Polar Bears	3	0	3	0	0	0	5	13	0.000



Familiar Opponents

The Alliance Bantam AA has already faced two other teams that are also joining them at the National Championships in Vermont. Both the **San Jose Jr. Sharks** and **Atlanta Fire** have faced off with the Bulldogs this season.

Way back on September 7th, the Bulldogs squared off against the Atlanta team in a Southern Tier Hockey League (STHL) weekend in Houston. Alliance was playing as a “guest” team to supplement a regular STHL league weekend tournament.

It was a back and forth game, with the Bulldogs falling behind by 2 goals early, but coming back to tie it in the 3rd period. With less than 3 minutes remaining, the Bulldogs found themselves down 2 men during a 3 on 5 shorthanded situation. Atlanta capitalized and won the game on a power play goal, 5-4. Alliance collected 36 minutes in penalties during that game, and gave the Fire 2 power play goals on 6 opportunities. Alliance out-shot Atlanta 27 to 16 for the game.



Atlanta got into the Nationals by way of 5 wins and 0 losses in the Southeast District Championships. They outscored their opponents 36 to 9, including a Championship game victory over the South Florida Golden Wolves, 5-0. The Wolves had earned their way into the final by way of a victory over another common Alliance opponent, the **Ellenton Eels**, with former Dallas Storm player Teddy Ruth playing for the Eels. The Bulldogs beat Ellenton at a Columbus Day Tournament in Boston, 2-0. For more information on the Fire, go to....<http://www.atlantafire.com/>

On November 27th in the Annual Littleton Thanksgiving Tournament in Colorado, the Bulldogs opened the tournament with a 2-1 loss to the San Jose Jr. Sharks.



It was a tight game throughout, but San Jose got all the scoring they would need with 2 goals in the first period. Alliance trimmed the lead to 2-1 in the 2nd period on a shorthanded goal by Chad Hudson, but could not crack the Sharks defense any more. The 3rd period was scoreless, and San Jose outshot Alliance for the game, 18 to 12. The Sharks went on to win the tournament, with their only loss coming to the Littleton Hawks during a preliminary game, 2-1.

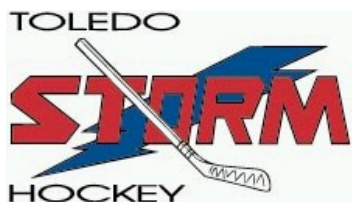
San Jose comes into Nationals as the Pacific District Champions, going 4 and 1 in the district tournament, with their loss coming against the California Wave. They came back and beat the Wave 3-1 in the final for the championship. For more information on the Sharks, go to... <http://www.sjrsharks.com/>

One other Alliance Bantam opponent this season is also playing for a National Championship, as the **Florida Jr. Panthers** are in the Tier I Tournament in Pittsburgh. The Bulldogs battled to a 0-0 tie with the Panthers in the same STHL weekend tournament that they played the Atlanta Fire. Bulldog goalie Brandon Bailey was outstanding, stopping all 24 shot he faced to get the shutout.

PeeWees Also Face Alaska in Opening Game at National Championships

The Alliance PeeWee AA Bulldogs will square off against the **Alaska All-Stars** on Wednesday March 31st at 1:00 PM EST in their first game at the USA Hockey National Championships in Livonia, Michigan. The All Stars are in the Pacific Coast District but are filling another district slot. The All-Stars season record is 27-32-3. While this record does not seem impressive, do not be deceived. Their losses were to Bantam teams and to very high-level teams such as Compuware, Team Illinois, Team Wisconsin, Vancouver North Stars, London Junior Knights, and Little Caesars. Former Alaska All-Stars include current NHL players Scott Gomez of the New Jersey Devils, Scott Parker of the San Jose Sharks, and Ty Conklin of the Edmonton Oilers. For more information on the All-Stars, go to....
<http://www.alaskaallstars.com/PeeweeMajor.htm>





The Bulldogs will then play against the Mid-American District Champion **Toledo Thunderstorm** on Thursday April 1st at 3:00 PM EST in their second game. The Toledo Storm plays in the Little Caesars league in Division 1 and is in 5th place in their division/league, and their league record is 7-10-3. The Michigan Devils (18-2-0), who are number 1 in this division/league, will be representing Michigan but we will not see them unless we cross over. This is a very strong league, and is comprised of 58 Pee Wee AA teams. Please visit www.lcahl.org for more league information. The Toledo Youth Hockey Organization teams have done very well historically, with 18 state champions and 9 district champions. In the District Championships, the Storm beat Indiana 9-0, defeated Pittsburgh 10-6, and beat Pennsylvania 6-1 to win the title. For more information about the Toledo Ohio Youth Hockey Association, go to... www.eteamz.com/toyha/

The third and final game in the preliminary round will have the Bulldogs battling the host team, the **Livonia Knights**, on Friday April 2nd at 10:30 AM EST. They also play in the Little Caesars league in Division II, and their league record is 3-16-2. Again, they are playing in a very strong league against tough competition. Please see the link to the Little Caesars league above for more information about the Knights, or go to...<http://www.livoniahockey.org/>



2003 Tier II U12 Nationals – Final Standings

Team	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS	GF	GA	PCT
Littleton Hawks, Nat'l Champs	6	6	0	0	0	12	40	7	1.000
Chesterfield Falcons	6	5	1	0	1	11	47	4	0.917
Mercer Chiefs	5	3	2	0	0	6	17	12	0.600
Grosse Pointe Spartans	5	3	2	0	0	6	18	19	0.600
Sylvania Maple Leafs	4	3	1	0	0	6	19	12	0.750
Florida Jr. Panthers	4	2	2	0	0	4	17	12	0.500
Team Massachusetts	4	1	3	0	0	2	6	26	0.250
Spokane Americans	4	1	3	0	1	3	21	20	0.375
Whitestown Wolfpack	3	1	2	0	0	2	13	17	0.333
NH Avalanche	3	0	3	0	1	1	7	21	0.167
Charleston Wolverines	3	0	3	0	0	0	2	31	0.000
Alaska All Stars	3	0	3	0	0	0	4	30	0.000



Competition Format at National Championships

The National Championship tournament is comprised of 12 teams, which includes 11 District Champions and the host team. These teams are then divided into two 3-team Divisions in each of 2 conferences. The top 4 teams from each of the National and American Conferences will advance to the quarterfinals, scheduled for Saturday morning, April 3rd.

The PeeWee games will be comprised of three 15-minute periods, with an ice re-surfacing after each 2 periods and before each game. The Bantam games will be comprised of three 16-minute periods, with an ice re-surfacing after each period and before each game.

The method for determining the top teams in each conference will be based on total points in preliminary games, with 2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, and 1 point for an overtime loss. In the case of a tie at the end of regulation of a preliminary game, one ten-minute sudden death overtime (OT) will be played. If a goal is scored in the OT, the team scoring will receive 2 points for the game and the losing team will receive 1 point. If no goal is scored, the result will be a tie and both teams will receive 1 point.

In the quarterfinals, semi-finals, and championship games, the game will be continued until a winner is determined. This will be accomplished by playing 10-minute sudden death OTs until a goal is scored. The semi-finals will be played on Saturday night, and the championship game is scheduled for 11:00 AM EST Sunday April 4th.

The 2004 National Championship Rules and Regulations are now available for download in [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) v5.x by scrolling down to the bottom of the screen at.....

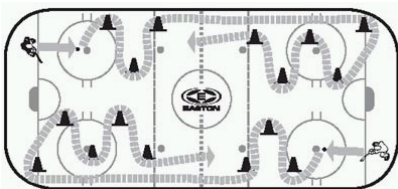
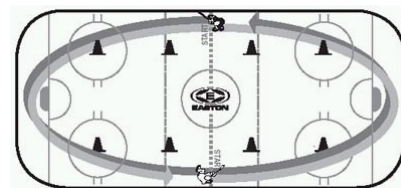
<http://usahockey.com/2004nationals/main/2004nationals/>

Easton Skills Competition



The 2004 USA Hockey National Championships, presented by Easton Sports, will feature a range of competition to test the skill of players from teams participating in this year's tournaments. Individual skaters and goaltenders will compete in four events at various times throughout each tournament.

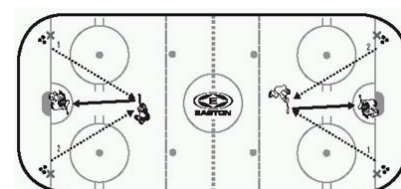
Fastest Skater: Two players skate at the same time from opposite sides of the center line. Both skaters skate counter clockwise one **full** lap around the surface. The players skate around the cones and behind the net and back to the center line. Each player will be timed in the event. The TWO fastest times will compete in a skate-off to determine the event winner.



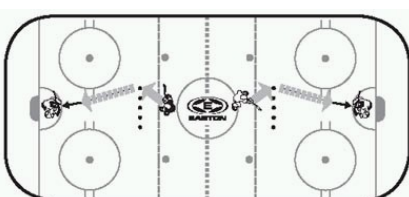
Puck Relay: The rink is split in half lengthwise for this event. Two players skate at a time. The skater will start behind the goal line, pick up a puck at the lower face off dot and stickhandle around the first group of cones. They then skate around a single cone at the far end, positioned on the goal line, and skate back through a second grouping of cones. They finish by carrying the puck over the center red line. There is a 5 second penalty for: player missing a cone and/or the puck not making it around a cone. A run is considered complete when the players skate crosses the center line. The two fastest players' times will compete to determine the event winner.

NOTE: The player and the puck must both go around the same side of each cone. If the player loses control of the puck, he/she must return to the cone where control was lost and continue from there.

Catch & Shoot: The competition is conducted in the two attacking zones of the playing surface. Two passers are set up in each corner with the contestant stationed in the slot area; approximately 15 feet in front of the net. The volunteers, positioned in the corners 10 feet from the net, alternate passing to the shooter. Each player attempts six shots, three from each corner. The passes shall come at 3 second intervals. The players can shoot or deke – no rebounds are allowed. The two players with the most goals, and the two goaltenders with the fewest allowed goals in the preliminary round will square off to determine the event champions.



NOTE: Goaltenders must begin this drill with elbow and leg pad in contact with the near side post. Goaltender and skater ties are broken with skating times.



Breakaway Challenge: The event takes place at both attacking ends of the rink. Five pucks are lined up 5 feet inside the attacking blueline. This event has a maximum time limit of 40 seconds. Each player gets five breakaways and tries to score on the goaltender. The skater **MUST** have one foot cross below the goal line before picking up the next puck. The goal is disallowed for failure to have one skate cross the goal line. Goaltenders **MUST** make one revolution of the net after each scoring attempt. Rebound goals are not permitted. The drill ends and time is recorded when the player has completed five pucks scoring attempts and crosses the blue line or the forty second clock expires. The two players who scores the most goals **in the shortest time**, and the two goaltenders with the fewest goals allowed will participate in an additional round to determine the event champions.

NOTE: Goaltender and skater ties are resolved by times in the 'Fastest Skater' event (i.e. three forwards all score 5 goals in 35.5 seconds. The skating times are compared. The forwards with the two fastest times will compete in the event final).

Internet Audiocasts by NSN East

USA Hockey, in conjunction with NSN East, will provide online audio casts from 15 USA Hockey National Championship games on April 3rd and 4th. On April 3rd, USAHockey.com visitors can listen live to a broadcast of the Tier II 14-and-Under semifinal games in Burlington, Vermont. The championship game from this tournament can also be heard on www.USAHockey.com on April 4th.

Next Issue: Brief overview of Bulldog travel plans and information about the locations Alliance will be playing. The next issue will be brief, as those preparing it are also getting ready to travel as well. To get on the email list to receive this newsletter, send an email to.....

<mailto:alliancnewsletter@comcast.net>