



# USA Hockey National Championships

## Alliance News and Notes



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<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/)

## **Bantams Finish Comeback in OT, 3-2**

### **Bulldogs Overcome Alaska and 1<sup>st</sup> Period 2-0 Deficit in Game #1**



The Alliance Bantam AA Bulldogs finally realized that only shots on net would allow for goals to be scored, and that it's better late than never to get some as they came from behind to win 3-2 in overtime against the **Arctic Lions** of Fairbanks, Alaska on Wednesday in their first game at the USA Hockey National Championships in South Burlington, Vermont.

Alliance forward Jason Roemer, in the low slot on his knees, put a backhand shot past the Lion goalie just over 3 minutes into the extra period to give the Bulldogs the win and 2 points in the standings. The winning play was started with a shot from the point that was blocked in front of the net by an Alaska defender. The rebound was there in the slot and Roemer fought off another Lion to get to it.

Period 1 of the first USA Nationals game for the Bulldogs did not go good, as they fell behind 2-0 after 16 minutes of play. The first Lion goal was scored when the puck was misplayed at the Bulldog blueline, which resulted in a quick and sudden mini-breakaway goal at 12:28. Less than 2 minutes later it became a 2-goal lead for the Lions as they converted on the power play by collecting a rebound in front and putting it past Alliance goalie Brandon Bailey. It would be the last time they would enjoy the feeling, as Bailey got stronger throughout the game and finished with 12 saves, many on odd man rushes. Alaska out-shot the Bulldogs 6 to 2 in the 1<sup>st</sup> period.



They say the 3<sup>rd</sup> goal can be the most important goal in a hockey game, and in this game, the cliché rang true as ever. The Alliance comeback began early in the second period and on the power play. With the Bulldogs controlling the puck in the offensive zone, Chad Hudson passed to defenseman CJ Ludwig down along the half-boards. Ludwig then sent a low shot into the slot that deflected off an Alaska defenseman's skate past the goalie into the net. The rest of the period was very defensive, with neither team allowing many scoring chances, although the Lions again won the shot battle in the period, 6 to 3.

It appeared early in the 3<sup>rd</sup> that the Bulldogs realized that they were not shooting the puck enough, and they began to fire everything they could at the Lion goalie. Problem was, they had trouble getting them *on net*, and had many shots go wide or high. The approach paid off however, when just under 2 minutes into the period, Colin Haas got the game-tying goal on the power play, again getting the assist from Hudson. The Lions then spent the rest of the period trying to stave off the Bulldog attack. Alliance turned the tables in the shot column during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, out-shooting Alaska 6 to 2.

After a 3-minute break at the end of regulation, the Bulldogs continued on the attack into over-time, with Roemer ending the game and giving the team from Texas a 1-0 record in their first USA Hockey National Championship.

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



## PeeWees Score Early & Often, 7-1

### Alliance Pounds Alaska in Game #1 at USA Nationals

The Alliance Pee Wees had a definitive win over the **Alaska All-Stars** in their first National Championship appearance. The first goal was scored only 44 seconds into the game by Blake Coleman, assisted by a beautiful pass from Justin Fikes. Josh Loomis followed up with a second goal at 1:52 into the period, assisted by Corey Ramsey and Grady Graham. Grady passed it to Corey who took a shot on net, Josh picked up the rebound and scooped it up over the goalie.

Then the Alliance penalties started rolling in. Unlike in the Rocky Mountain regionals, the philosophy of the referee was to not "let them play," and he called a tight game. Three penalties by the Alliance team left them short-handed for quite a while in the first period, but the penalty killers did their job and no power play goals were scored. On the third Bulldog penalty, Alliance forward Ryan Daugherty scored short handed and unassisted. The period finished 3-0 Alliance, with the shots on goal 7-2 in favor of the Bulldogs.

The second period opened with three more penalties against the Bulldogs. Again while on the penalty kill, Matt McKinney, assisted by Blake Coleman, scored another short-handed goal. At 6:00 into the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, Garrett McCook scored a 4 on 4 goal, with assists from Ryan Daugherty and Corey Ramsey. This goal was followed up by Matt McKinney's second goal, a rebound off a shot from the point by Justin Fikes, to make the score 6-0 Alliance. Alliance then took one more penalty, but this time was unable to kill off the penalty, and the All-Stars put one in the net to make it 6-1. This ended the second period, with shots on goal being 21-13 Alliance.



The third period opened with Alliance taking their final penalty of the game. About 6 minutes into the period Matt McKinney scored once again on an assist from Blake Coleman, making McKinney the first Bulldog to ever get a hat trick in the National Championships.

Later in the period Christopher Boe went into the boards head first was immobilized, taken off the ice, and taken to the hospital. Word on his condition is still unknown at this time.

The Bulldog defense, led by star female defenseman Dru Burns, did an excellent job of keeping Alaska off the scoreboard while being short handed much of the game. Kasey Womble had an amazing defensive effort when he was caught 3 on 1, blocking a pass and then retrieved it from the corner to clear the zone. Alliance overcame 26 minutes in penalties, and held the All-Stars to 1 for 9 on the man advantage, while winning the shot battle 29 to 23.

For more information on the All-Stars, go to.... <http://www.alaskaallstars.com/PeeweeMajor.htm>

### Bantams go for Win #2, Face Pittsburgh



The Bulldogs will play their second preliminary round game against the Mid-American District Champion **Pittsburgh Predators** on Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 PM EST. In similar fashion as the Alliance Bulldogs, the Predators worked their way from behind to capture a 3-2 over-time victory over the **St. Alban Maple Leafs** in their first game of the National Championships. The Pittsburgh game-tying goal came in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period when a pass from behind the net deflected off a Maple Leaf skate and past the goalie for the goal.

Less than a minute into overtime, the Predator goalie made a great save on a St. Alban shorthanded break-away attempt, but the Maple Leaf goalie could not do the same when later a Pittsburgh backhand shot off a break-away beat him for the victory.

The game was filled with outstanding goal-tending for both teams, as multiple scoring chances were consistently denied positive results by each goalie. St. Alban out-shot the Predators 27 to 23 on the game.

For more information on the Predators, go to.....<http://www.pittsburghpredators.com/index.htm>

## PeeWees Brace for 'Storm in Game #2



The Bulldogs will now 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 won their first game in even more convincing fashion than the Bulldogs, as they completely dominated the PVHC Bears of Penobscot Valley, Maine in a 14-1 victory Wednesday afternoon.

The Storm balanced the scoring from period to period, by recording 5 goals in each of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods, and 4 more in the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Only 1 of the 14 goals scored by the Storm came on the man advantage, as they dominated 5 on 5 play throughout the contest.

For more information about the Toledo Ohio Youth Hockey Association, go to... [www.eteamz.com/toyha/](http://www.eteamz.com/toyha/)

## Other PeeWee Game Results

Michigan District Champion **Michigan Devils** totally controlled and shut out the New York Champion **Long Island Rebels** 10-0, jumping out to a quick 3-0 lead in the 1<sup>st</sup> period and coasted to the win.

After a 1-1 first period, Central District Champion **Affton Americans** (Illinois) pulled away from the Massachusetts Champion **Winchester Sachems**, and finished them off with a 4-1 victory.

Southeast District Champion **Orlando Stars** (Florida) scored 2 goals in each period and handed Pacific Champion **Spokane Americans** (Washington) a loss in their first game of the tournament, 6-1.

Atlantic District Champion **Philadelphia Jr. Phantoms** (Pennsylvania) and Host Team **Livonia Knights** battled each other in the late game and results were not available at the time of the newsletter.

## Other Bantam Game Results

*(For a review of Bantam Teams, see Alliance Newsletter #3)*

Michigan District Champion **Troy Sting** totally dominated the New York Champion **Clinton Comets** and pulled away for a 9-1 dominating win in the first game for both teams.

Central District Champion **Orland Park Vikings** (Illinois) and Massachusetts Champion **SouthShore Seahawks** were tied 0-0 after the 1<sup>st</sup> period, but it was merely a mirage, as the Vikings scored 2 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and then poured it on in the 3<sup>rd</sup> with 5 more to complete a 7-0 shut-out victory.

Southeast District Champion **Atlanta Fire** scored 2 late 3<sup>rd</sup> period goals, including 1 in the last minute of play, but it wasn't enough to overcome a 2<sup>nd</sup> period deficit of 4-0 and lost to the Pacific Champion **San Jose Jr. Sharks**, 4-2.

Atlantic District Champion **Bridgewater Bears** (New Jersey) and Host Team **CSB Hawks** battled back and forth the whole game, but the Host Hawks came up with the game winner and prevailed 4-3.

## Opening Ceremonies

The first day was a full and busy one for the National Tournament Teams, as there were other activities to attend in addition to everyone's first game of the tournament.

One activity was the special **Opening Ceremonies** at Cairns Arena, at 6:30 PM. Each team was introduced to the crowd, and the Alliance Bantam AA Bulldogs represented Texas well. With most players sporting Texas Cowboy hats, the Bulldogs were the first team introduced to a rousing ovation from the visiting teams and hometown crowd. Captain **Colin Haas** was a participant in a ceremonial first puck drop, and then the National Anthem was sung by popular local musician Tammy Fletcher, who also got the crowd going with a spectacular rendition of "God Bless America."

## **Easton Skills Competition**

Following the Opening Ceremonies, each team sent one skater and one goalie to the Easton Sports **Skills Competition**. It featured a range of competition to test the skill of players from teams participating in this year's tournament. Individual skaters and goaltenders competed in four events at the tournament, including Fastest Skater, Puck Relay, Catch & Shoot, and the Breakaway Challenge. For a detailed description of each event, see Alliance Newsletter #2.

Representing Alliance Bantams in the skating and shooting competition was forward **Chad Hudson**, with Bulldog **Brandon Bailey** representing Alliance in the goalie competition. Both Chad and Brandon represented Alliance wonderfully, with *Brandon winning the goalie competition* for defending the catch & shoot event.

In a closely and heavily watched catch and shooting contest final, Brandon allowed only 1 goal in 5 tries to the eventual overall player champion, Chris Darnell of the Atlanta Fire. Darnell had scored 4 goals in the preliminary round against another one of the top goalies in the tournament.

**Next Issue:** Review of Alliance Game 2, and results from other games in the tournament. To get on the email list to receive this newsletter, send an email to.....

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