



## 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/)

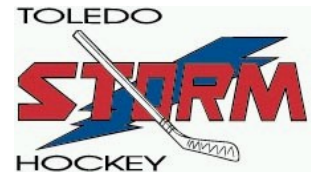


## **PeeWees Weather 'Storm, Win 5-4**

### **Alliance Gets Early Lead, Outlasts Toledo in Back & Forth Game**

In their second National Championship appearance, the Alliance Pee Wees played the Toledo Storm. Toledo is a big strong team that yesterday defeated the Maine PVHC Bears 14 to 1, and play in Division I of the Little Caesars league. Their team has three strong lines with some amazing players, but the Alliance PeeWees were able to hold them off. Coach Vanover was quoted as saying they were our toughest competition all season.

Alliance started the first period strong, but penalties on both sides saw the Storm scoring their first goal on a 4 on 4, 7 minutes into the first period. Thirty seconds later, the Storm took a penalty for roughing, drawn by Bulldog Josh Loomis. Alliance went on a 4 on 3 power play, and Matt McKinney answered one minute after Toledo's goal with a re-direct of a cross-goal pass from Blake Coleman, who was fed from behind the net by Christopher Boe. Matt buried the puck in the top right corner. Christopher returned to the team yesterday after spending six hours in the emergency room with a sore neck and was ready to play.



Thirty seconds later, Boe took a shot on goal and Matt McKinney knocked the rebound into the net to put the Alliance up 2-1. Alliance just kept bringing it. The Storm took one more penalty, and Alliance capitalized on the power play. At 11:18 into the first period, Blake Coleman sent a cross-ice pass to McKinney, who was at the blue line. Matt took the puck into the Toledo zone and buried the shot in the net for his second hat trick of the tournament!



The next shift Patrick Price went to the penalty box for roughing, followed by Dru Burns for tripping. Alliance was able to kill off the penalties for the rest of the first period. Kasey Womble dove in front of the net and blocked a beautiful shot by the Toledo Storm with 13 seconds remaining in the period. The Bulldogs had to kill off eight minutes of penalties in the first period. Garrett McCook and Corey Ramsey did a nice job helping kill penalties. The period ended with Alliance up 3-1.

### **Matt McKinney gets 2<sup>nd</sup> Hat Trick!**

Alliance luck did not hold out very long into the second period. With the Storm still on a power play, Toledo put the puck in the net to bring the Storm within one goal, 3-2. This goal was followed by two more Alliance penalties. The team did an admirable job of killing off the penalties, but the kids were getting tired and they were definitely slowing down. Toledo took advantage of a brief letdown to tie up the game 3-3. But, at 12 minutes into the second, Josh Loomis passed the puck to Patrick Price who dumped it into the zone for a line

change. Josh had exited the ice and Ryan Daugherty came into the zone and picked up the puck and backhanded it to take the lead back. It was now 4-3 Alliance. Toledo out shot the bulldogs 22 – 5 in the second period. Goal tender Jonathon Clutton stood on his head. He held the team in the game during a penalty-ridden period, when the kid's exhaustion was showing.

Finally, it was time to go to the dressing room while the ice was resurfaced. The Alliance boys came out recharged and played hard for several shifts. Then there was a mid-ice collision between Ryan Daugherty and Michael Balogh of the Toledo Storm. Ryan was crossed checked with the players stick and went down with what was thought to be a broken collarbone. Once more an Alliance player was strapped to a stretcher and taken to the emergency room.

With Ryan gone, the already tired Alliance players were now going to have to work even harder because they were missing a key player. At 8:15 into the period the Toledo Storm again tied it up to make it 4-4. Less than thirty seconds later, Blake Coleman scored what ended up being the final goal of the period for either team. On a pass from Boe, McKinney passed to Coleman who took a shot on goal. The Toledo goalie blocked the shot, but Blake followed that up by backhanding in his own rebound into the net to bring the score to 5-4.

There were still 7 minutes and 45 seconds left in the third period. Alliance worked hard to keep the puck in the Toledo zone. Coach Vanover was rolling lines as fast as he could to give some of the players a rest. Grady Graham came off the bench and was checked into the boards while trying to keep the puck deep. He got back up only to be checked hard again, but he didn't let that stop him. Grady just kept fighting to keep the puck in the zone. Following that shift, Alliance took its final penalty of the game and the penalty killing team came back on the ice. Toledo pulled their goalie with two and half minutes remaining making it a 6 on 4. It was a fight to the very end but the Alliance Bulldogs hung on to get their second National Championship win.

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

## **Bantam Special Teams Falter in 3-2 Loss** **Pittsburgh gets 2 Powerplay Goals & Winning Shorthanded Goal**



The Alliance Bantam AA Bulldogs were right where they wanted to be against the **Pittsburgh Predators** of the Mid-American District on Thursday in their second game at the USA Hockey National Championships in South Burlington, Vermont. With just over four minutes remaining in regulation, the score tied at 2-2, and just starting a power play, everything appeared to be falling into place again for the team from Texas.



With the score tied this late in the game, a goal would more than likely seal a victory and a trip to the quarterfinals. Just a few seconds later, though, the Bulldogs found themselves trailing 3-2 after a short-handed goal, and looking at a must win on Friday for that trip to the quarters that looked very real just minutes earlier. Their last chance to tie the score ended when Alliance was penalized while attempting to make a last minute comeback.

Bad penalties, questionable judgment, and a lackluster effort all-around got Alliance into a situation where a single mistake would make the difference, and it did. A battle for the puck during the power play at the Pittsburgh blueline got both Alliance defensemen occupied, and the result was a short-handed breakaway giving the Predators their second 3-2 win in as many days.

The first period ended like it would be the Bulldogs' day, as even though they were outshot 14 to 6 during the period, they came away with a 1-0 lead. A shot by Jason Roemer from the outside edge of the left circle after a face-off found its way into the net by deflecting off a Predator player near the goal. Pittsburgh kept the Bulldogs pinned in their own zone for much of the period, but Alliance had their chances to make the lead even bigger than it was. Chad Hudson set up Travis McKinney for two 2 on 1 scoring opportunities, but the Predator goalie was up to the task and denied McKinney both times. The tough-luck day for McKinney continued as later he finally beat the goalie, only to have his shot from the high slot hit the post and deflect into the corner.

The second period is when the Alliance penalties finally cost them dearly. As if allowing a power play goal just earlier in the period at 5:53 wasn't enough warning, they took another penalty later while *already* short-handed to go down 2 men for more than 1:30 of 3 on 5. It didn't take long for the Predators to strike again on a rebound for their 2<sup>nd</sup> power play goal at 7:08 of the period to take a 2-1 lead. It appeared only 2 minutes later that the Bulldogs may not had used up all of their opportunities yet, as a shot by Colin Haas found its way

through traffic in front and past the Pittsburgh net-minder to tie the score at 2-2. The Pittsburgh team again won the shot battle in the period, 9 to 5.

The late 2<sup>nd</sup> period goal gave the Bulldogs the momentum they thought they needed to push them past the Predators in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, right up until the late and devastating short-handed goal by Pittsburgh. The Predators made it 3 for 3 in the shot column during the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, out-shooting Alliance 5 to 4, making their shot advantage for the game 28-15. Pittsburgh was 2 for 5 on the man advantage, and killed all 3 Alliance power play chances.

On an interesting note, **Eddie Olczyk**, Head Coach of the **NHL Pittsburgh Penguins**, had 2 sons playing for the Predators, and was seen during the first intermission giving the Pittsburgh coaches tips on how to handle the Bulldogs. In another twist, **Tom Kostopoulos**, brother of Alliance Head of Coaches **Chris Kostopoulos**, is one of Olczyk's players for the NHL Penguins.

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

### **Bantam Host Team Hawks Ready for Alliance in Game #3**

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 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive National Championship tournament.

The Bulldogs appear to need a win to earn a trip to the quarterfinals and continue play in the National tournament. It will not be easy, as the Hawks have won both of their games in the tournament thus far, beating the Bridgewater Bears 3-2 in OT and the St. Alban Maple Leafs 6-1.



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

### **PeeWee Host Livonia Looking for Win Against Bulldogs in Game #3**



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.

The Knights rebounded from their first day 8-0 loss to Philadelphia by beating the PVHC Bears 7-4 on Thursday.

For more information about the Knights, go to...<http://www.livoniahockey.org/>

### **Other PeeWee Game Results**

Michigan District **Michigan Devils** beat the Pacific **Spokane Americans** (Washington) 7-0.

Central District **Afton Americans** (Illinois) defeated the New York **Long Island Rebels** 7-3.

Southeast District **Orlando Stars** (Florida) beat the Massachusetts **Winchester Sachems** 3-2 on overtime.

Host Team **Livonia Knights** beat the New England **PVHC Bears** (Maine) 7-4.

Atlantic District **Philadelphia Jr. Phantoms** (Pennsylvania) beat the **Alaska All-Stars** 13-1.

## Other Bantam Game Results

Pacific District **San Jose Jr. Sharks** nipped the Michigan District **Troy Sting** 5-4 in overtime.

New York **Clinton Comets** defeated the Central District **Orland Park Vikings** (Illinois) 5-2.

Host Team **CSB Hawks** beat their local rival New England **St. Albans Maple Leafs** (Vermont) 6-1.

Southeast District **Atlanta Fire** just got past the Massachusetts **SouthShore Seahawks** 7-6.

**Arctic Lions** (Alaska) beat the Atlantic District **Bridgewater Bears** (New Jersey) 5-4.

## Additional Activities – Day 2



The second day is another full and busy one for the National Tournament Teams, as there are more activities to attend in addition to everyone's 2nd game of the tournament.

The biggest activity is the **USA Hockey National Championships Banquet** at The Clarion Hotel, at 6:00 PM. Captains for each team were again introduced to the crowd, and presented with a custom plaque made from Vermont granite.

The plaque for each team had their team photo engraved into the granite, along with the official USA Hockey National Championships logo. The Alliance plaque will be proudly displayed in the team trophy case for all to see at the **StarCenter in Euelss** as soon as the team returns home.

## **From out of the mist...**

### **...into Over-Time Victory**

Another activity not related to the tournament, but just as interesting, was the casting call auditions for the TV reality show **The Bachelor**, which were held in the nightclub of the Alliance team hotel in South Burlington.

Plenty of college students came from all around, including many from the local **University of Vermont**, to try their chance at getting an opportunity to get their 15 minutes of fame. It sure made for some interesting observations in the lobby!



**Next Issue:** Review of Alliance Game 3, and preview of the quarterfinal matchups. To get on the email list to receive this newsletter, send an email to.....

<mailto:alliancnewsletter@comcast.net>