



## USA Hockey National Championships

# Alliance News and Notes



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*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/)

## Bantam Cardiac Kids Win Again in OT, 6-5



**Tying Goal in Final Seconds Leads to Winner by Hudson in Overtime and Bulldogs Advance to Quarter-Finals as #2 Seed**

The Alliance Bantam AA Bulldogs once again snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, and won their 2<sup>nd</sup> overtime game, against the Host Team **CSB Hawks** of Vermont on Friday in their 3<sup>rd</sup> and final preliminary game at the USA Hockey National Championships in South Burlington, Vermont.

Coming from behind no less than 4 times during regulation, including scoring the tying goal with only 41 seconds remaining in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, the Bulldogs rode the performance of goalie Brandon Bailey and a 4-goal day from Chad Hudson to a 6-5 win and a spot among the final 8 best teams in the country.

Hudson scored once in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and twice in the 3<sup>rd</sup> period to get the hat trick, but the 2 biggest goals came within a couple of minutes of each other at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> period and just into overtime. Chad breathed life into the Alliance faithful when with an empty net at the Bulldog end, and Alliance's player of the day on the bench (Bailey), he put a shot from the right face-off circle past the CSB netminder to suddenly tie the game at 5-5 with only 41 seconds left. Hudson then got his 4<sup>th</sup> and biggest goal of the game when just into the extra period, he won a face-off in the left circle and went straight to the crease with the puck all alone. Chad put a backhand through the five-hole and the celebration began.

Even though Hudson got the hat trick and game winner, the big hero for Alliance had to be Bailey, who put on a goalie exhibition second to none other seen this year or at the National Tournament. Facing almost 40 shots, many of the second and third chance variety, Bailey had the Hawks shaking their heads and banging their sticks as they went to the face-off circle for another draw in the Bulldog zone. The Alliance defense has definitely had better days this season, as no pairing line of forwards seemed able to stop the CSB attack. The only defense in this game was Bailey.



It was looking bad early for the Bulldogs, as in the 1<sup>st</sup> period two defensive turnovers in their own end quickly resulted in a 2-0 CSB lead. Alliance then hung on for the rest of the period and allowed no more, while being outshot 10 to 5. It would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> period when the game would quickly heat up to what would become a track meet by the 3<sup>rd</sup> period.

Early in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hudson gave the Bulldogs some hope when he skated from the half-boards into the middle of the offensive zone just inside the blueline and surprised the goalie with a quick slap shot that beat him high to the stick side to trim the lead to 2-1. Later at 10:43 of the period while shorthanded, a loose puck was bumped into the neutral zone by defenseman Adam Hartwick and picked up by Travis McKinney for a breakaway. Travis took advantage of the opportunity, and scored to tie the game at 2-2. At this point, it appeared that just a slight hint of concern started to creep into the attitude of the Hawks.

CSB however, responded less than a minute later while on the power play with another goal to re-take the lead at 3-2. With Bailey continuing to hold the Hawks at bay the rest of the period, the Bulldogs had hope going into

the second intermission trailing by only one goal. The Hawks again outshot the Bulldogs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> period, this time by an even wider margin at 15 to 4.

The Bulldogs were rewarded for their hope and hard work when early in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hudson took the puck from a feed by Andrew Aragona into the CSB zone alone and against two Hawk defenders. Knocked to the ice in the slot, Hudson still managed to get off a sweeping shot of the rolling puck while flat on his stomach. The puck somehow found its way past the CSB goalie and the race was now officially on at 3-3 less than 3 minutes into the period.

For the second consecutive goal, Alliance held the score tied for less than a minute again. The Bulldog defense faltered again and left Bailey to defend a breakaway against one of the top Hawk forwards. The opportunity was converted and CSB led again at 4-3. The lead would last for just over 4 minutes before the Bulldog tenacity would rear its head again.

At just about halfway into the 3<sup>rd</sup> period, Drew Jenkins won a face-off back to forward Jason Roemer on top of the right face-off circle. Jason ripped a hard shot that found its way through traffic and past the goalie to tie the score again at 4-4. As if the Alliance defense did not have its hands full enough of Hawk forwards playing at even strength, they could not help themselves from taking another ill-advised penalty for slashing at 8:59. The Bulldog penalty killers almost got it done, but with just 20 seconds remaining in the man advantage, CSB converted for its 2<sup>nd</sup> power play goal of the game and a 5-4 lead with less than 6 minutes to play.

The next five minutes could be called somewhat "uneventful", even though there were two more penalties on the Bulldogs and one on the Hawks. The "uneventful" became somewhat otherwise with about a minute to go when Alliance pulled Bailey in favor of the extra attacker. That is when the Bulldogs magic showed again with Hudson tying the score with 41 seconds left.

CSB once again held the shot advantage in the 3<sup>rd</sup> at 13 to 5, but the Bulldogs got the only shot of the overtime period, and what a shot it was. Overall shots ended up at 38-15 in favor of CSB, but advancement at the National Tournament is based on score only, and that is one battle Alliance has been winning with regularity recently.

Based on their victory and the results of other games of the day, the Bulldogs will advance to the quarterfinals as the #2 seed from the National Conference. They will face the #3 seed from the American Conference, the **Atlanta Fire** at 9:00 AM Saturday morning. See information below about that matchup. The winner will advance to the semi-finals Saturday night.

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

## **Bantam Quarterfinals Opponent**

*(Information about Atlanta re-printed from Newsletter #2)*

The Alliance Bantam AA has already faced two other teams that are also joining them in the quarterfinals 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 outshot 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.

Atlanta has won 2 and lost 1 in the tournament thus far, losing to San Jose 4-2, beating the SouthShore Seahawks 7-6, and defeating the Clinton Comets 7-4.

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



## **PeeWees Coast into Quarterfinals, 9-0**

### **Alliance Finish Preliminaries Undefeated, Punish Host Livonia**

In their third National Championship appearance, the Alliance PeeWees played the host team the Livonia Knights. While Livonia played hard, they were outmatched by the Alliance Bulldogs. Alliance took an early penalty by Garrett McCook, which they killed off easily. The opening goal was scored by Patrick Price, assisted by Josh Loomis and Dru Burns. Dru passed the puck to Josh who took a shot, there was a scuffle in front of the net, and Patrick put the puck in the net. The second goal was scored by Blake Coleman on a pass out of the zone from Christopher Boe. The third and final goal of the period was also scored by Coleman. Boe dove for the puck as he went down and sent it low in the corner to Matt McKinney who passed it out of the corner to Blake for a low shot in the goal to make it 3-0.

The second period started with one more penalty. While on the penalty kill, Matt McKinney scored a short-handed goal assisted by Coleman and Burns. Dru passed the puck from the corner in the Alliance zone to Blake along the boards, as Blake was skating the puck out of the zone he was tripped and went to his knees. He then passed the puck out of the zone and cross ice from his knees to McKinney, who took the puck down and scored for the fourth goal. The delayed penalty on Blake was then waved off.

Boe then scored to make it 5-0. Addison Moody brought the puck up out of the zone, passed cross-ice to McKinney down low, Coleman crashed the net to screen the goalie and Matt passed behind Blake to Christopher who buried the puck. The goal to bring the game score to 6-0 was scored by Corey Ramsey in the top left corner, assisted by Coleman and Burns again. The second period saw five frustration penalties by the Knights. Kasey Womble was checked from behind and several un-sportsman like penalties occurred. John Clutton maintained his exemplary job in goal for the first two periods. Shots on goal were 16 Alliance vs. 9 Livonia. The shutout was drawing closer for the Bulldogs.



The third period opened with Connor Capetillo in the goal for the Alliance Bulldogs. Connor had eight shots on goal and maintained the shut out for the Bulldogs. Boe opened the period with the first unassisted goal of the game. While attempting to block a Livonia shot, Christopher's forward momentum brought the puck with him after it bounced off his shin pad and Christopher took it down the ice and scored from left to right in the corner.

Shortly thereafter, Christopher went to the box for tripping and Garrett McCook utilized the opportunity to get the second short handed Alliance goal of the game. Matt and Garrett went down the ice 2 on 1; Matt skated the puck down the right side of the ice and passed cross-ice to Garrett who put the puck in the left side of the goal. Following this goal to make it 8-0 Alliance, the Livonia Knights started taking major frustration penalties.

With 2 minutes left in the game Livonia boarded Womble who went down with an injury. The medics were brought on the ice and helped Kasey off to the locker room. Kasey was all right and did not have to be taken to the hospital, though he was out for the rest of the game. He had taken a check from behind in the second period, which resulted in a 2 and 10 for the Livonia player. The final goal of the game was scored by defenseman Addison Moody while on the power play. After receiving the pass from JC Tellez and Patrick Price, Addison took a shot from the point, which went in to complete the game at 9-0 Alliance.

The game was won handily. The effective utilization of the defense and good passing, as shown by Dru Burns our female defensemen who had four assists for the game made it an easy win. In addition, our forwards also used good speed and passing. There was only one unassisted goal. Excellent teamwork made this a very effortless game for Alliance.

#### Injury follow-ups:

Christopher Boe who went to the hospital after our first game is doing great, as can be evidenced by his two goals and two assists in this game.

Ryan Daugherty who was taken to the hospital in game two for a potential shoulder/collar bone injury did not play today but did participate in this afternoons practice and will be skating tomorrow. It is thought to be some ligaments in the shoulder which caused the initial pain.

Kasey Womble was treated and released following game #3 and did not require a visit to the hospital.

## PeeWee Banquet

On Thursday evening the team attended a twelve team banquet hosted by the Livonia Knights. The speaker of the evening was John Hines the National U18 coach. He gave an excellent speech about how the boys and girls should focus on their academics and being responsible kids above and beyond all else. That while they follow their dreams to play hockey they need to remember that the other areas in their lives were at least as important if not more so! He was leaving the banquet to attend the World Championships in Bellarus. A good time was had by all and the dinner was nutritionally balanced for the kids, almost as if Coach Vanover had sent his food itinerary.

## Tomorrow's PeeWee Quarterfinal Opponent

The Alliance Pee Wee's will face off against the Affton Americans tomorrow morning at 8 am. Affton went 2-1 in their round robin. They were in the American Conference and defeated the New York Long Island Rebels and the Massachusetts Winchester Sachems. Their one loss came to the Washington State Spokane Americans. Only 8 of the 12 teams will advance to the Quarterfinals. From the quarterfinals forward all games will be single elimination. The Affton Americans are coached by former Dallas Stars player Paul Cavallini. Affton played in the Central States Developmental Hockey League, <http://www.csdhl.org/> , and their league record was 18-8-0. They finished second in the league behind the Madison Capitals. For more information please see <http://www.afftonhockey.org/>



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

**Next Issue:** Review of Alliance Quarterfinal Games, and preview of the semi-final matchups. To get on the email list to receive this newsletter, send an email to.....

<mailto:alliancnewsletter@comcast.net>