



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/



PeeWees Race Back, Beat Affton 4-3

Bulldogs Advance to Semi-Finals, Face #1 Michigan

In their first National Quarterfinal appearance the Alliance PeeWees defeated the Affton Americans from St. Louis with a 4-3 win. The game was a hard fought game, and in spite of some questionable officiating and a slow start by the boys, the team pulled through.

In the first period Affton scored on their first shift. Following that we had two players in the box, one for checking, and the other for interference. After killing off the first penalty, Ryan Daugherty came down the ice, took a shot and missed, circled the net, picked up the puck, shot and missed again. He then picked up the puck one more time, and shot the puck in the net over the goalie's head.

Three's a charm, and Alliance had their first goal, short handed, and unassisted! This was Ryan's first game back after his injury on Thursday. Affton had an answering goal after one of our defenders sent the break out pass to their offense coming into the zone. Following that, there were several plays against Alliance that were not called for a penalty. Two players had breakaways and were taken down with no call, and there was a check from behind with no call. The period ended 2-1 Affton.

The opening of the second period saw Matt and Ryan go into the zone, Matt took a shot and Ryan Daugherty tipped in the rebound to tie up the game. Again, two Alliance players received penalties for what appeared to be clean and valid checks. Alliance killed off the first penalty, and then during the second penalty kill, Ryan Daugherty took the puck in the zone and passed it across the net to Blake Coleman who put the puck in the goal for the Alliance's first lead of the game. While still on the penalty kil, Matt McKinney took the puck in the zone and passed it across to Christopher Boe who also put the puck in the net. Two short-handed goals on one penalty kill had given Alliance a 4-2 lead in the second. Alliance had been out shooting Affton all game but the shots were finally starting to fall. Shots on goal were 26 to 21 for the game.

Finally, the zamboni came on to resurface the ice, and give the kids some time to rest and regroup. Both teams looked very tired towards the end of the second period. Every game here at the Nationals has been extremely intense and the wear and tear is beginning to show on their bodies. Legs are tired, bruises and injuries are nagging, but the kids are hanging tough. Jonathon Clutton saw a flurry of shots but managed to keep all the goals on the other side of the goal line.

Once more as the third period opened, a defenseman for Alliance took the player to the outside leaning in and using their body while skating, drawing a penalty for hooking. Alliance managed to hold off the penalty. With 2 ½ minutes left in the game, Affton pulled their goalie and went six on five. Alliance hung tough, but with 2.4 seconds left in the period, Affton shot the puck, Jon covered it in front of the goal line, and three Affton players jumped on him and shoved both Jon and the puck behind the goal line. The referees called it a goal, making it 4-3 Alliance. A time out was called, then the puck was dropped at center ice and the game was over. Alliance advanced to the semi-finals despite all adversity.

For more information please see <http://www.afftonhockey.org/>

Injury follow-ups:

Ryan Daugherty played his first game since Thursday, and looked like one of the few players on the ice who had fresh legs. While he looked a little pained at times he played an awesome game.

PeeWee Semi-Finals Opponent

Alliance's opponent in the National Championship Semi-finals will be the Michigan Devils. This team is very strong and will be declaring Tier I AAA next year. They have won the state Championship two years running, and have dominated at Nationals and in several Tier I tournaments this year and last. Their games so far in nationals have been as follows:

10-0	Vs. Long Island Rebels, NY
7-0	Vs. Spokane Washington
4-0	Vs. Winchester, Massachusetts
9-0	Vs. PVHC Bears, Maine

Michigan dominated the Little Caesars League #1 Division. Their record was 18-2-0. They also went undefeated in the Detroit Regional Silver Stick tournament and in the International Silver stick finals. They won 5 out of 6 in the Rochester AAA, and went 3-0-1 in the London Junior Knights AAA tournament.

While the Devils have dominated every tournament they have been in this year, they do have 3 losses and a tie, so they can be beat. If the Alliance PeeWees bring their A plus game, they could take them! Several of the Michigan Devils players have said word is going around about the Alliance Organization in Michigan Hockey circles... Whatever that means...

**Bantams Light Up the Fire in 6-3 Win****Alliance Offense Comes to Life, Bulldogs Advance to Semi-Finals**

The Alliance Bantam AA Bulldogs have proven the more they play a team during the year, the better the results. Such was the case again Saturday morning, as they played the Southeast District Champion **Atlanta Fire** for the second time this season. Losing to the Fire 5-4 in September meant nothing, except that maybe they would catch Atlanta taking them not as serious as they should. No one will ever know for sure, but the Bulldogs certainly *were* serious, as they jumped all over the Fire and cruised to a 6-3 win in the Quarterfinals of the USA Hockey National Championships in South Burlington, Vermont.

The start was again same song, third verse, as they spotted the Fire a 1-0 lead less than 2 minutes into the game. In each of three wins thus far at Nationals, the Bulldogs have given up the first goal early in the 1st period. In their only loss, they scored first against Pittsburgh. The Fire held to the one goal lead throughout the first period, despite being outplayed and outshot by the Bulldogs 7 to 4.

Early in the 2nd, Alliance finally decided to show they were ready to play, and tied the scored on the first of two goals by Nolan Descoteaux, with a feed from Robbie Price just 2:02 into the period. It would stay at 1-1 until less than 6 minutes remained in the period. That is when the game really heated up, with 4 goals being scored before the end of the period. Alliance took their first lead when Jason Roemer got a pass from Colin Haas and re-directed it past the Fire goalie. The lead did not last long, as Atlanta tied the game again just over 2 minutes later as a shot from the Atlanta point was deflected past goalie Brandon Bailey by a Bulldog defenseman trying to glove hand the puck.



The disappointing goal only temporarily dampened the Alliance mood, as the 'Dogs re-took the lead for good only 36 seconds later. While on the power play, Chad Hudson passed the puck from behind the net to Roemer in the high slot. Roemer wrested a shot that was deflected by the shaft of Haas' stick and past the Atlanta netminder for a 3-2 lead at 13:53 remaining. Exactly 1 minute later, Alliance would get their first 2-goal lead of the tournament and go to the

third period with all the momentum.

Descoteaux was the man again, as he rushed up through neutral ice and got a great head-man pass from Price just across the center line. Nolan then beat the defense across the blueline for a breakaway and buried the puck in the upper left corner for a 4-2 lead going into the second intermission. The Bulldogs again out-shot Atlanta, 9-7 in the 2nd period.

If the Fire was ever to get back in the game, it would need the next goal as the 3rd period began. The Bulldogs knew this as well, and would have nothing of it. Less than 2 minutes into the final period, the Haas, Hudson, Roemer line did it again, with all 3 forwards having a part in the play, with Roemer again getting the goal as the third man at the end of 2 great passes.

Atlanta got on the board again at the 4:42 mark with a power play tally to bring it to 5-3, but the other hot forward line of Descoteaux, McKinney, Price put on the finishing touch at 8:36. Another rush into the zone produced two more beautiful passes from Descoteaux and Price, with McKinney being the benefactor this time by getting the final goal to finish out the scoring at 6-3. Alliance then spent the rest of the time denying the Fire any significant chances, and cruised into the semi-finals. The Fire out-shot Alliance 11 to 8 in the 3rd, and the shots were 24-22 Bulldogs for the game, even though the scoring chances were heavily in favor of the 'Dogs.

Based on their victory, the Bulldogs will advance to the semifinals against **San Jose**, the #1 seed from the National Conference. The Sharks beat Pittsburgh 6-1 in the other early quarterfinal game. See information below about that matchup. The winner will advance to the Championship Game on Sunday.

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

Bantam Semi-Finals Opponent

(Information about San Jose re-printed from Newsletter #2)

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/>

The Semi-Final game against the Sharks will be audio broadcast LIVE via the Internet by NSNSports. NSN East's Dave Collins has all the action of this USA Hockey Tier 2 14-and-Under Semifinals playoff game from South Burlington, Vermont. Go to the link....

<http://www.nsnsports.com/game.asp?region=1&id=76970&team=13943>

U12 Easton Skills Competition

Following the U12 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 Pee Wees in the skating and shooting competition was forward **Blake Coleman**, with Bulldog **Jonathon Clutton** representing Alliance in the goalie competition. Both Blake and Jonathon represented Alliance proudly. Blake won the Puck Relay and placed third in the fastest skater. Jonathon won the Catch and Shoot competition.

In a closely and heavily watched catch and shooting contest final, Jonathon did not allow any goals out of the 6 attempts. Jonathon also denied all six goals in the preliminary race. In the breakaway challenge Jonathon only allowed one goal out of five shots.

In the Puck Relay Blake Coleman beat out the Spokane Washington player Priesser by 1/10th of a second to place first. Priesser took second in the fastest skater competition having beaten out Blake by 1/10th of a second in the preliminary rounds. All the contests were extremely close and the kids represented the team well.

Next Issue: Review of Alliance Semi-Final games and previews of the Championship Games. To get on the email list to receive this newsletter, send an email to.....

<mailto:alliancnewsletter@comcast.net>