

THIS WEEK IN THE USHL

April 28, 2008



USHL Images



Round One: April 7-20

Round Two: April 22-30

Round 3: May 2-11

Lincoln players celebrate one of their goals from Saturday's 6-3 victory over the Lancers in Omaha. For this and more images, visit www.uslimages.com.

ROUND ONE PLAYOFF BRACKET

- Omaha vs. Sioux City**
Omaha wins series 3-1
- Sioux Falls vs. Lincoln**
Lincoln wins series 3-0
- Indiana vs. Chicago**
Chicago wins series 3-1
- Waterloo vs. Cedar Rapids**
Waterloo wins series 3-0

ROUND TWO PLAYOFF BRACKET

- Omaha vs. Lincoln**
Omaha leads series 2-1
Game 1 at Omaha: Omaha 5-0
Game 2 at Lincoln: Omaha 3-2
Game 3 at Omaha: Lincoln 6-3
Game 4: April 29 at Lincoln - 7:05 p.m.
*Game 5: April 30 at Omaha - 7:05 p.m.
- Waterloo vs. Chicago**
Waterloo wins series 3-0
Game 1 at Waterloo: Waterloo 4-1
Game 2 at Waterloo: Waterloo 5-1
Game 3 at Chicago: Waterloo 3-2, OT

*if necessary

SCORING LEADERS

Player	Team	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Andrew Conboy	OM	7	6	1	7	14
Travis Novak	OM	7	5	2	7	6
Jason Gregoire	LIN	6	2	5	7	4
Chris Connolly	OM	7	1	6	7	0
Patrick Wiercioch	OM	7	1	6	7	6
Blake Kessel	WAT	6	1	6	7	0
Ryan Kretzer	LIN	6	5	1	6	0
Andrew Miller	CHI	7	2	4	6	4
Chad Billins	WAT	6	2	4	6	0
Brandon Bollig	LIN	6	2	4	6	24

14 players tied with 5 points

GOALTENDING LEADERS

Player	TM	GP	W-L	GAA	SV%	SO
Matt DiGirolamo	WAT	6	6-0	1.34	.938	1
Drew Palmisano	OM	7	5-2	2.58	.911	2
David Reekie	LIN	6	4-2	3.00	.908	0
Eric Hartzell	SF	2	0-2	3.00	.920	0
Josh Robinson	SC	4	1-3	3.02	.921	0

QUOTABLE

"My goal is to make this team the kind of team that not everyone can play for because of what we demand and how we go about the game every day in practice. It also has to be fun and about making young good players into better ones"

*New Des Moines Buccaneers head coach **J.P. Parise** to the Des Moines Register on the kind of team he wants to have in Des Moines.*

USHL INSIDER

Here Come The Hawks: Waterloo has stormed into the Clark Cup Finals, sweeping Cedar Rapids in round one and Chicago in round two to enter the final round with an unblemished record. Going back to the regular season they have won 13 straight.

OT Winner: Waterloo was propelled into the final round by way of a 3-2 overtime win over Chicago on Sunday. Keegan Meuer provided the heroics, scoring the winner 5:26 into the extra session.

More On Meuer: The overtime goal scored by Meuer extended his point streak to five games, the longest active streak in the post-season.

Draft Day Is Coming: The USHL entry draft will take place on Wednesday, May 14, beginning at 9:00 a.m. It can be followed by the public online and in real time on our web site. The draft FAQ is located on the web site at www.ushl.com/draft/faq-entry.cfm.

Almeida Arrives: After recording just one point in Omaha's four-game victory over Sioux City, Barry Almeida has picked up four points in three games against Lincoln in the second round, and matched his point total from last season's playoffs.

Time For Two: Ryan Kretzer scored a pair of goals for Lincoln in their 6-3 win over Omaha on Saturday, the first multi-goal game of the series for any Lincoln player.

The Associate: In our original press release, we inadvertently referred to Scott McConnell as the new assistant coach of the Des Moines Buccaneers, when in fact his title is actually associate head coach. The USHL apologizes for the error.

The Steel Trap: Although he went winless and gave up 12 goals in three games, Chicago's Rob Madore stopped 147 of 159 shots he faced in the series against Waterloo, including 60 in game three, for a save percentage of .925 in the series. The 60 saves marked a league playoff-high for this season.

Playoff Power Play Problems: Lincoln has had a miserable time on the power play during the playoffs after having the fourth-best power play in the regular season. In six games, the Stars have scored just once with the man advantage in 25 opportunities.

The Third Period Is Theirs: Waterloo and Lincoln have done a good job of getting stronger as the game goes on. They lead the USHL in goals scored in the third period with 11 apiece.

Minor Offenses: The 14 minor penalties Chicago took Sunday against Waterloo is the most in the playoffs this season.

Gamblers On The Clock: With Des Moines and Sioux City filling their vacancies, Green Bay is the only team currently without a head coach.

Streak Snapped: Omaha's loss to Lincoln on Saturday night snapped their six-game winning streak over the Stars.

LATEST COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

Greg Burgdoerfer (DM) - Air Force
Joe Miller (SC) - Minnesota
Anthony Decenzo (TC) - Vermont
Matt Crandell (SC) - Michigan St.
Jake Drewiske (SF) - St. Lawrence
Aaron Schmit (CHI) - Ferris St.
Jake Newton (LIN) - Alaska-Fairbanks
Rody Selk (DM) - American International
Simon Olsson (CHI) - Alaska-Fairbanks
Rick Carden (LIN) - St. Lawrence
Eric Alexander (CHI) - Ferris St.
Ryan Kretzer (LIN) - Nebraska-Omaha

ALUMNI NEWS

Ryan Potulny (Lincoln) scored the game-winning goal at 2:58 of the fifth overtime as Philadelphia beat Albany 3-2. The game, which went 142 minutes, 58 seconds, was the longest in the history of the American Hockey League.

Nathan Gerbe (Omaha) was named Hockey Commissioners' Association National Division I Player of the Month for March/April.

Peter MacArthur (Waterloo) was chosen team MVP at Boston University.

Nine USHL alumni are still competing in the Stanley Cup Playoffs. They are **Paul Stastny** (Omaha), **Kent Sauer** (North Iowa), **Tyler Arnason** (Fargo-Moorhead) and **Jeff Finger** (Green Bay) of Colorado, **Ryan Malone** (Omaha) of Pittsburgh, **Brian Rafalski** (Madison) of Detroit, **Toby Petersen** (Fargo-Moorhead) of Dallas, and **Joe Pavelski** (Waterloo) and **Matt Carle** (Omaha) of San Jose.

Rob Ricci (Cedar Rapids) was named the team MVP at Merrimack.

Travis Morin (Chicago) leads the ECHL in playoff goals, scoring six in his first ten games.

Konrad Reeder (Tri-City) is tied for ninth in the CHL in playoff scoring with five goals and 13 points in just five games. Everyone else in the top 20 has played at least twice that number of games.

Joe Vitale (Sioux Falls) was named the MVP of Northeastern University's team for 2007-08.

Dan Riedel (Lincoln) is tied for second in the IHL playoff scoring race with seven points in six games.

THE WEEKLY NUGGET

The 2007-08 season marks the third straight campaign that Waterloo assistant coach **Shane Fukushima** has made it to his league's playoff final. Prior to doing it the last two years with Waterloo, he did it in 2005-06 with the University of Wisconsin-Superior where they upset St. Norbert College 3-2 in overtime to win the title.