



United States Hockey League

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USHL PLAYOFF PREVIEW: CHASE FOR THE CLARK CUP

Eight teams begin the quest for the Clark Cup

Grand Forks, N.D. - The United States Hockey League (USHL) regular season has concluded and eight teams will now vie for an opportunity to claim the Clark Cup as the 2009 playoff champions.

The defending champion Omaha Lancers will attempt to become the first repeat winners of the Clark Cup since the organization accomplished that feat 15 years ago (1993-94). They will begin their defense of the crown vs. the Fargo Force who have qualified for the playoffs in just their first season of play.

All rounds of the Clark Cup Playoffs will have a best-of-five format.

East Division

#1 Green Bay Gamblers vs. #4 Waterloo Black Hawks

	Green Bay	Waterloo
Record	39-17-4	37-20-3
Home	23-5-2	23-6-1
Road	16-12-2	14-14-2
Goals For Per Game	3.95 (2 nd)	4.10 (1 st)
Goals Against Per Game	2.75 (3 rd)	3.30 (7 th)
Shots For Per Game	31.58 (4 th)	32.72 (3 rd)
Shots Against Per Game	27.28 (2 nd)	29.92 (7 th)
Power Play %	17.4% (7 th)	22.1% (1 st)
Penalty Killing %	81.8% (7 th)	82.8% (5 th)

(league ranking in parentheses)

Season Series:

- 10/4/08 – Waterloo 2 @ **Green Bay 3**
- 11/1/08 – Green Bay 3 @ **Waterloo 4** (SO)
- 11/29/08 – **Green Bay 3** @ Waterloo 1
- 12/5/08 – Waterloo 3 @ **Green Bay 4**
- 1/3/09 – **Green Bay 7** @ Waterloo 4
- 1/21/09 – **Green Bay 3** @ Waterloo 2 (OT)
- 2/28/09 – Waterloo 0 @ **Green Bay 11**

Head-to-Head Stats:

	Green Bay	Waterloo
Record	6-0-1	1-5-1
Home	3-0-0	1-2-1
Away	3-0-1	0-3-0
Goals For	34	16
Goals Against	16	34
Power Play	7-38 (18.4%)	6-39 (15.4%)
Penalty Kill	33-39 (84.6%)	31-38 (81.6%)

Head-to-Head Team Leaders:

	Green Bay	Waterloo
Points	Michael Forney, (6g, 6a)	4 players tied with 4 points
Goals	Michael Forney, 6	Nick Larson, 2 Eriah Hayes, 2
Assists	Reed Seckel, 9	Tyler Barnes, 4
Plus/Minus	Chris Saracino, +11	Tyler Barnes, +1 Chris Student, +1
PIM	Chris Crane, 31	Nick Larson, 35
Wins	Reid Ellingson, 4	Parker Milner, 1
GAA	Steve Summerhays, 2.00	Parker Milner, 3.57
SV%	Steve Summerhays, .932	Parker Milner, .826

Notes:

- * The series matches the two highest scoring teams in the league during the regular season.
- * Green Bay was the highest scoring second period team this season (93 goals) while Waterloo was the highest scoring third period team (93 goals).
- * Green Bay (23-5-2) and Waterloo (23-6-1) were the two best teams on home ice in 2008-09.
- * Waterloo (23.17) and Green Bay (22.72) ranked second and third in penalty minutes per game.
- * Green Bay was 26-8-2 vs. East Division opponents this season.

#2 Cedar Rapids RoughRiders vs. #3 Indiana Ice

	Cedar Rapids	Indiana
Record	38-17-5	39-19-2
Home	20-9-1	22-8-0
Road	18-8-4	17-11-2
Goals For Per Game	3.65 (4 th)	3.68 (3 rd)
Goals Against Per Game	2.45 (1 st)	2.95 (5 th)
Shots For Per Game	34.92 (1 st)	31.05 (6 th)
Shots Against Per Game	26.38 (1 st)	28.45 (4 th)
Power Play %	17.9% (5 th)	20.9% (3 rd)
Penalty Killing %	86.1% (2 nd)	86.0% (3 rd)

(league ranking in parentheses)

Season Series:

- 10/4/08 – **Cedar Rapids 4 @ Indiana 2**
- 1/13/09 – **Indiana 3 @ Cedar Rapids 2 (SO)**
- 2/13/09 – **Indiana 3 @ Cedar Rapids 1**
- 2/28/09 – **Cedar Rapids 2 @ Indiana 1**
- 3/10/09 – **Indiana 3 @ Cedar Rapids 4**
- 3/20/09 – **Cedar Rapids 2 @ Indiana 5**
- 4/3/09 – **Indiana 0 @ Cedar Rapids 6**

Head-to-Head Stats:

	Cedar Rapids	Indiana
Record	4-2-1	3-4-0
Home	2-1-1	1-2-0
Away	2-1-0	2-2-0
Goals For	21	17
Goals Against	13	21
Power Play	11-57 (19.3%)	3-29 (10.3%)
Penalty Kill	26-29 (89.7%)	46-57 (80.7%)

Head-to-Head Team Leaders:

	Cedar Rapids	Indiana
Points	Mike Seidel, (3g, 5a)	5 players tied with 4 points
Goals	Mike Seidel, 3 Robin Bergman, 3	Brent Gwidt, 3 Eriah Hayes, 2
Assists	Matt Donovan, 6	Loren Barron, 4 Max Cook, 4
Plus/Minus	Tobias Nilsson-Roos, +4	Ben Albertson, +5
PIM	Doug Leverton, 23	Sebastian Geoffrion, 32
Wins	Mike Johnson, 3	Brett Bennett, 3
GAA	Mike Johnson, 1.96	Brett Bennett, 2.79
SV%	Mike Johnson, .930	Parker Milner, .917

Notes:

- * Cedar Rapids has now qualified for the playoffs in nine consecutive seasons.
- * Cedar Rapids enters the playoffs as the hottest team winning their last four games of the regular season.
- * Indiana has won five straight on home ice
- * Cedar Rapids was the top road team during the regular season posting a 18-8-4 record.
- * Indiana scored more goals on the road (109) than any other USHL club this season.
- * Indiana was a league best 30-1-0 when leading after two periods this season

West Division

#1 Lincoln Stars vs. #4 Sioux Falls Stampede

	Lincoln	Sioux Falls
Record	37-17-6	28-28-4
Home	21-6-3	17-11-2
Road	16-11-3	11-17-2
Goals For Per Game	3.18 (8 th)	3.03 (10 th)
Goals Against Per Game	2.58 (2 nd)	3.32 (8 th)
Shots For Per Game	34.25 (2 nd)	27.83 (11 th)
Shots Against Per Game	28.55 (5 th)	33.25 (10 th)
Power Play %	17.6% (7 th)	13.7% (12 th)
Penalty Killing %	89.5% (1 st)	80.3% (9 th)

(league ranking in parentheses)

Season Series:

- 10/10 – Sioux Falls 4 @ **Lincoln 5**
- 11/21 – Lincoln 1 @ **Sioux Falls 2**
- 12/6 – Sioux Falls 1 @ **Lincoln 5**
- 12/31 – **Lincoln 3** @ Sioux Falls 2
- 10/16 – **Sioux Falls 5** @ Lincoln 1
- 2/6 – Sioux Falls 1 @ **Lincoln 2**
- 4/3 – Lincoln 2 @ **Sioux Falls 4**

Head-to-Head Stats:

	Lincoln	Sioux Falls
Record	4-3-0	3-4-0
Home	3-1-0	2-1-0
Away	1-2-0	1-3-0
Goals For	19	19
Goals Against	19	19
Power Play	5-37 (13.5%)	4-41 (9.8%)
Penalty Kill	37-41 (90.2%)	32-37 (86.5%)

Head-to-Head Team Leaders:

	Lincoln	Sioux Falls
Points	Kirt Hill, 6 (6a)	Robbie Vrolyk, 6 (4g, 2a)
Goals	Ryan Kretzer, 3	Robbie Vrolyk, 4
Assists	Kirt Hill, 6	Patrick Divjak, 5
Plus/Minus	Mike Dalhuisen, +4	Max Grover, +4
PIM	Michael Sdao, 33	David Eddy, 25
Wins	Kevin Murdock, 2 Anthony Borelli, 2	Eric Hartzell, 3
GAA	Anthony Borelli, 1.94	Eric Hartzell, 2.73
SV%	Anthony Borelli, .926	Eric Hartzell, .919

Notes:

- * The two clubs are meeting in the first round of the playoffs for the third straight season.
- * Lincoln swept last season's playoff series (3-0) while Sioux Falls swept the 2007 playoff series (4-0).
- * Lincoln goaltender Kevin Murdock led the league in both GAA (2.24) and SV% (.920).
- * Sioux Falls goaltender Eric Hartzell played all seven games vs. Lincoln in the season series.
- * Lincoln led the league in penalty minutes (1675) during the regular season.
- * Sioux Falls has scored the first goal of the game in their last four contests.

#2 Omaha Lancers vs. #3 Fargo Force

	Omaha	Fargo
Record	32-21-7	32-23-5
Home	20-6-4	19-10-1
Road	12-15-3	13-13-4
Goals For Per Game	3.63 (5 th)	3.18 (8 th)
Goals Against Per Game	3.20 (6 th)	2.77 (4 th)
Shots For Per Game	31.58 (4 th)	30.05 (9 th)
Shots Against Per Game	28.03 (3 rd)	29.67 (6 th)
Power Play %	20.0% (4 th)	14.8% (10 th)
Penalty Killing %	81.6% (8 th)	85.9% (4 th)

(league ranking in parentheses)

Season Series:

- 10/13/08 – **Fargo 4** @ Omaha 2
- 11/7/08 – **Omaha 3** @ Fargo 2
- 1/23/09 – Fargo 3 @ **Omaha 4** (SO)
- 1/30/09 – **Omaha 5** @ Fargo 3
- 1/31/09 – Omaha 0 @ **Fargo 2**
- 2/15/09 – **Fargo 3** @ Omaha 2 (OT)
- 4/3/09 – **Omaha 6** @ Fargo 1

Head-to-Head Stats:

	Omaha	Fargo
Record	4-2-1	3-3-1
Home	1-1-1	1-3-0
Away	3-1-0	2-0-1
Goals For	22	18
Goals Against	18	22
Power Play	6-38 (15.8%)	6-30 (20.0%)
Penalty Kill	24-30 (80.0%)	32-38 (84.2%)

Head-to-Head Team Leaders:

	Omaha	Fargo
Points	Jake Hauswirth, 10 (6g, 4a)	Johnnie Searfoss, (2g, 3a)
Goals	Jake Hauswirth, 6	Nate Condon, 3
Assists	Jake Hauswirth, 4	Johnnie Searfoss, 3 Corey Leivermann, 3
Plus/Minus	Jake Hauswirth, +5	Keegan Flaherty, +2 Grant Chase, +2
PIM	Joe Tolles, 21	Jake Areshenko, 19
Wins	Jeff Teglia, 3	Mike Lee, 3
GAA	Nick Hopper, 2.03	Mike Lee, 2.49
SV%	Nick Hopper, .926	Mike Lee, .920

Notes:

- * The road team won five of seven contests during the regular season series.
- * Fargo goaltender Mike Lee had the second most wins (26) and played the second most minutes (2,745) in the league this season.
- * Fargo has the most shorthanded goals (17) in the USHL this season while forward Andy Taranto led all players with six. Taranto scored five of those shorthanded goals over the final 15 games of the season.
- * Omaha tied a league-best with five players who scored 20-or-more goals this season.
- * Omaha forward Danny Kristo has a point in each of his last eight home games (6g, 10a).

The USHL is celebrating its 30th season of junior hockey in 2008-09. With over 160 players already committed to NCAA Division I schools and 16 NHL Draft picks playing in the league, the USHL is the nation's foremost producer of junior hockey talent. For more information, visit us on the web at www.ushl.com.

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