

THIS WEEK IN THE USHL

May 6, 2008



USHL Images



Round One: April 7-20
 Round Two: April 22-30
Round 3: May 2-11

Omaha's Joe Sova flattens Waterloo's Jordan Samuels-Thomas with an open-ice hit in game two of the Clark Cup Finals. For this and more images, visit www.ushlimages.com.

ROUND ONE

- 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

- Omaha vs. Lincoln**
Omaha wins series 3-2
- Waterloo vs. Chicago**
Waterloo wins series 3-0

SCORING LEADERS

Player	Team	GP	G	A	PTS	PIM
Jason Gregoire	LIN	8	3	9	12	6
Travis Novak	OM	11	3	8	11	10
Andrew Conboy	OM	11	8	1	9	18
Ryan Kretzer	LIN	8	5	4	9	2
Jimmy Hayes	LIN	8	4	5	9	8
Matt White	OM	10	2	7	9	2
Chris Connolly	OM	11	1	7	8	2
Patrick Wiercioch	OM	11	1	7	8	16
Blake Kessel	WAT	8	1	7	8	2
Chad Billins	WAT	8	3	4	7	0
Billy Maday	WAT	8	3	4	7	6

CLARK CUP FINAL PLAYOFF BRACKET

- Omaha vs. Waterloo**
- Game 1: May 4: Waterloo 4 Omaha 3, OT
- Game 2: May 5: Omaha 2 Waterloo 0
- Game 3: May 7 at Waterloo - 7:05 p.m.
- Game 4: May 9 at Waterloo - 7:05 p.m.
- *Game 5: May 10 at Omaha - 7:05 p.m.

*if necessary

GOALTENDING LEADERS

Player	TM	GP	W-L	GAA	SV%	SO
Matt DiGirolamo	WAT	8	7-1	1.58	.932	1
Drew Palmisano	OM	11	7-4	2.68	.912	3
Eric Hartzell	SF	2	0-2	3.00	.920	0
Josh Robinson	SC	4	1-3	3.02	.921	0
Brady Hjelle	CR	3	0-3	3.05	.905	0

QUOTABLE

"The clock couldn't go fast enough. But we kept getting the pucks out, blocking shots and doing all the little things to win."

Omaha goaltender **Drew Palmisano** to the *Lincoln Journal-Star* on the final minutes of the Lancers' game five win over Lincoln on Wednesday.

Picture Pages: Clark Cup Final photos are available. Check out the galleries, along with those available from the regular season at www.uslimages.com.

Great, Big Conboy: Andrew Conboy's goal 3:54 into the first game of the Clark Cup Finals was his eighth of the post-season. The eight goals leads the post-season by a mile and no other player still active in the post-season has more than four goals.

First One Is A Big One: Waterloo's Brett Olson didn't score a post-season goal until his seventh game, but it was a big one, the game-winner in overtime against Omaha in game one of the Clark Cup Finals.

Tying The Record: Omaha's 2-0 win in game two of the Clark Cup Finals was Drew Palmisano's third shutout of the playoffs, tying a USHL record for shutouts by one goaltender in a playoff year. The record was originally set by Des Moines' Bob Revermann, who also had three, in 1998.

The String Is Broken: Omaha's 2-0 win in game two of the Clark Cup Finals on Monday snapped Waterloo's winning streak at 14 games.

No History This Year: Waterloo was two wins shy of becoming the first team in league history to make it through an entire playoff year with a perfect record.

Expanding Force: The USHL will hold an expansion draft for the Fargo Force on May 13. USHL teams will submit their initial protected lists on May 12. The next day, the Force will select six players that teams left unprotected to bring their protected list up to 18 players. They originally chose eight in the 2007 Futures Draft and then signed four more to tenders.

100 Times: Omaha's win in game five of their second round series with Lincoln was their 100th playoff win since 1991, the most in the USHL during that stretch.

From DM To SC: Sioux City has hired Rick Comley, Jr. as an assistant coach. Comley and new head coach Todd Knott were assistant coaches together at Des Moines the past three years.

White Is Rolling: After scoring just five goals and 16 points during the regular season, Omaha's Matt White has two goals and nine points in ten playoff games. White has at least one assist in three straight games.

Flocking To The Gates: A total of 15,810 fans watched the five-game series between Omaha and Lincoln. The total accounts for over 27% of the USHL's playoff attendance.

USHL On Campus: The USHL has 171 current players committed to college hockey programs around the country. The total is just two commitments away from setting a new all-time high for commitments in a season.

LATEST COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

Kent Patterson (CR) - Minnesota
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.

ALUMNI NEWS

Joe Pavelski (Waterloo) scored the game winning goal in overtime to give San Jose the win in game five of their second round playoff series against Dallas. Two nights later the Sharks lost the 8th longest game in NHL history, bringing an end to their season.

Just four USHL players remain in the hunt for the Stanley Cup. They are **Brian Rafalski** (Madison) of Detroit, **Toby Petersen** (Fargo-Moorhead) of Dallas and **Ty Conklin** (Green Bay) and **Ryan Malone** (Omaha) of Pittsburgh.

Nathan Gerbe (Omaha) signed a contract with Buffalo Sabres, bypassing his final year of eligibility at Boston College.

Former Omaha Lancers and current Nashville Predators **Dan Ellis** and **Jed Ortmeyer** dropped the ceremonial pucks prior to the start of the first game of the Clark Cup Finals.

Alex Goligoski (Sioux Falls) is second in scoring in the AHL playoffs. The rookie defenseman has scored 3-9-12 in eight games for Wilkes Barre-Scranton, Pittsburgh's top minor league affiliate.

The top three spots in the ECHL playoff scoring race are occupied by USHL alumni. **Peter Ferraro** (Waterloo) leads the way with 17 points. He is followed by **Travis Morin** (Chicago) who has 15 points and **Marty Guerin** (Des Moines) who has 14 points. Morin and Guerin are rookie teammates with South Carolina.

Kevin Swider (Omaha) claimed the SPHL's playoff scoring title with five goals and 13 assists for 18 points in just eight games as Knoxville won the title. Swider also led the league in scoring during the regular season with 98 points in 48 games.

THE WEEKLY NUGGET

Game one of the Clark Cup Finals was the first start of the season for Omaha goaltender **Drew Palmisano** against Waterloo. All four of the regular season games between the two teams were started by **Shane Madolara**. Palmisano did appear in relief, however, in two of the regular season match-ups.