

## SIJHL Media Update

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010

# AROUND THE SIJHL

## Week 13 gets underway Wednesday

**THUNDER BAY, Ont.** -- Week 13 of the Superior International Junior Hockey League begins with only four points separating first from fourth in the standings in the highly-competitive battle for top spot.

First place Fort Frances has a slim one-point cushion on Wisconsin, who also holds two games in hand.

The surging Dryden Ice Dogs have jumped up into third overall and are only two points in arrears from a share of the league-lead while the defending SIJHL champion North Stars are also in the hunt only four points out of a share for first.

Game action gets underway Wednesday as the Sioux Lookout Flyers travel to Thunder Bay to meet the North Stars at the Fort William Gardens in a 7:30 p.m. start.

The rest of the week's SIJHL action goes Friday and Saturday with each of the league's six member clubs competing.

Dryden will take on Duluth in a pair of neutral site contests with both games being contested in Cloquet, Minn., at the Area Recreation Center.

Meanwhile the Wisconsin Wilderness, who are in second place, head to Sioux Lookout for a two-game set with the Flyers.

The other couple of contests will see the North Stars hosting Fort Frances for at the Gardens.

**CJHL RANKINGS:** The latest Canadian Jr. Hockey League top 20 rankings are out and for the third time in four weeks the Fort Frances Lakers has drawn the attention of the decision makers who formulate the weekly listings.

The Lakers were tabbed 19th overall in voting compiled in conjunction with NHL Central Scouting.

Fort Frances currently boasts the most points in the SIJHL with 39 on a 19-8-1 overall record.

**PROSPECT:** The SIJHL's lone representative at the CJHL prospects event, which goes today and Wednesday in Dauphin, Man., is Wisconsin Wilderness forward Austin Adduono.

The 17-year-old Thunder Bay native is one of 40 NHL draft eligible hopefuls taking part in the two-day tour that will feature two games between Team West and Team East. Adduono, who is fourth in SIJHL scoring with 32 points, will suit up for Team West in Dauphin.

**PIZZA HUT PLAYER:** For the second week in succession, Fort Frances Lakers' forward Byron Katapaytuk was named Pizza Hut player of the week with his latest honour coming for the time frame concluding Dec. 5.

In two games during the week that was the Moose Factory, Ont., product recorded seven points including five goals, helping his side post victories over Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay.

The 19-year-old Katapaytuk opened up with a hat-trick while setting up another in a 6-3 triumph over the Flyers on Friday and followed that up with a two-goal, one-assist performance in a 6-2 victory over the North Stars on Saturday. He has now racked up 14 points in his last four games and has moved into third spot in SIJHL scoring with 33 points on 14 goals and 19 helpers for the league-leading Lakers.

Honourable mention for the Pizza Hut player of the week award went to Ryan Lobreau (F) Dryden Ice Dogs; Mitch Marostica (F) Thunder Bay North Stars; Casey Eckman, (F) Duluth Clydesdales; Keith Tessin, (F) Wisconsin Wilderness & Brendan Wertanen, (F) Sioux Lookout Flyers.

**SPORTOP PERFORMER:** Dryden Ice Dogs goaltender Ian Perrier was selected the Sportop Marketing performer of the month for November.

In nine starts during November Perrier was outstanding posting an 8-1 overall record while registering a stingy 1.67 goals-against average as well as an equally solid .935 save percentage.

Overall on the year the 20-year-old Whitehorse, Yukon native leads all SIJHL netminders in wins with 15, goals-against average at 2.12 and shutouts with three while his .923 save mark is currently second best in the league.

Also nominated were Keith Tessin (F) Wisconsin Wilderness; Tyler Ampe (G) Fort Frances Lakers; Tom Paine (F) Duluth Clydesdales; Jay Pelletier (G) Thunder Bay North Stars & Jesse Wilkins (G) Sioux Lookout Flyers.

**ALUMNI UPDATE:** Former SIJHL most valuable player Trevor Karasiewicz was recognized by the Southern Professional Hockey League by being earning their player of the month laurels for November.

In 14 games the Louisiana Ice Gators forward racked up 27 points on seven goals and 20 assists.

Karasiewicz, who was the SIJHL MVP in 2002-03, was the league's leading point producer in each of the first two seasons and is 10th all-time in scoring as well as second overall in point-per-game average at 2.31.

## **SIJHL TEAM UPDATES**

**DRYDEN:** The Ice Dogs are one of the hottest teams in the league having won three in a row and 14-3 of their last 17 outings...Ben McClellan, who is riding a five-game point streak, continues to lead the club in offensive production with 27. He is ninth overall in SIJHL scoring...McClellan is also tied for second in the SIJHL in game-winning goals with three...Teammate Alex Galbraith paces the league in game-winners with four. He also has 17 points in his last 11 games...Captain Jon Mitchell tops all SIJHL defencemen in points with 25. He is 19 points shy of 100 in his career...Dryden's power play is fourth in the league at 14.46%...They are 3rd on the penalty kill at 85.26%...The team is 15-4 when scoring first, but only 3-8 when the opposition tallies first.

**DULUTH:** The Clydesdales continue their series of games around the Duluth area this week with a pair vs. the Ice Dogs in nearby Cloquet Friday and Saturday...They are 2-2 in neutral site games so far this season...Duluth co-captain Tom Paine continues to be the first-year club's offensive leader amassing 30 in just 25 games. His 14 goals and 16 assists put him fifth in SIJHL scoring. Paine had a six-game scoring streak snapped in his last outing at Wisconsin...Co-captain Joe Nelson is tied for 10th in points among league blueliners with 12...Duluth remains sixth in the SIJHL on both the power play and penalty kill. With six man advantage markers in their past five games their P.P. proficiency has improved to 10.07%. The P.K. meanwhile is at 74%.

**FORT FRANCES:** The first place Lakers will play five of their next seven on the road...The club continues to boast three players among the top 10 in scoring. Tyler Stevenson (26g-13a-39pts) is first overall, red-hot Byron Katapaytuk (14g-19a- 33pts) has moved up all the way to third in the league while Jace Baldwin (10g-19a-29pts) is knotted for sixth...Stevenson leads the league in goals while Boaz is tops in assists...Stevenson has a six-game point streak while Baldwin has a five-gamer and Katapaytuk a four-game run.. Phil Jennrich (2g-20a) is third in SIJHL defencemen in scoring while Morgan McNeill (1g-15a) is tied for sixth..The Fort leads the SIJHL on the PP (29.09%) and PK (86.36%). They have scored man advantage markers in 14 of 15 contests as well as in 25 of 28.

**SIoux LOOKOUT:** Following Wednesday's game in Thunder Bay, the Flyers will then play three straight at home. Chase Dobranski's has a five-game point streak on the go picking up nine points in that span to move into a tie for sixth in SIJHL scoring with 29 points...The Flyers are third in the SIJHL on the power play (15.07%) and are fifth on the penalty kill. (81.71%)... Jesse

Wilkins has faced more shots than any other SIJHL goalie at 773 making a total of 704 saves, which also leads at league netminders. He faces on average over 40 shots per game.

**THUNDER BAY:** The Stars start a six-game home stand Wednesday vs. Sioux Lookout...Mitch Forbes paces the team offensively with 29 points, which is a tie for sixth overall. He scored his 50th SIJHL goal Nov. 27 vs. Wisconsin...Rylan Henley is tied for fourth in points among league D-men with 17. Kevin Hamel is next with 16 followed by Matt Valley with 15...The Stars are 5th on the power play (12.03%) and 4th on the PK (83.64%.)

**WISCONSIN:** The Wilderness continue to sport the best winning percentage in the league at .731...They have only allowed a league-low 66 goals against....Their 108 goals scored leads the league...Keith Tessin sits second in SIJHL scoring with 34 points... The team is 10-2 when he scores in a game...Austin Adduono is fourth overall in league offensive production with 32 points... John McLean leads the SIJHL in save percentage at .926 and is second in goals-against average at 2.34. Jake Hebda is third in GAA at 2.53...Wisconsin sports the second best power play and penalty killing units in the league converting at 20.30% and 85.82% respectively.

