



# AROUND THE SIJHL

Release Date: Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2010

## Wolverines Hunter top player in January



**THUNDER BAY, Ont.** – The Superior International Junior Hockey League has announced that K&A Wolverines forward Matt Hunter has been named the Sportop Marketing player of the month for January.

The 20-year-old Thunder Bay native averaged over a point-per-game last month registering 11 in nine contests on four goals, including two game-winners, along with seven assists.

On the season, he leads the Wolverines in team scoring with 33 points on 13 goals and 20 helpers, which also places him 15th overall in SIJHL offensive production.

Hunter will be honoured for his efforts, on-ice, at a future game receiving a prize pack courtesy of Sportop Marketing of Thunder Bay.

**THIS WEEK:** League action this week kicked off Tuesday evening in Fort Frances as they took on the Sioux Lookout Flyers in a battle of goaltenders with the only goal of the affair came via the shootout.

Peter Emery of the Flyers turned aside all 27 shots he faced as well as another three in extra shots in a 1-0 shootout triumph.

The Lakers Jameson Shortreed was also outstanding, getting credit for his second consecutive shutout, but suffered the hard luck defeat despite a stellar 46-save performance while only allowing an A.J. Wensley attempt to beat him in the shootout.

Five other games are also in store the rest of the week beginning Wednesday as the North Stars hosts Dryden and the K&A Wolverines welcome the Wisconsin Mustangs to the Tournament Centre.

Other contests see the Stars visit Fort Frances Friday and Dryden Saturday while the Lakers head to Sioux Lookout for a re-match on with the Flyers at Memorial Arena.

**HIGH FIVE:** The three SIJHL clubs west of Thunder Bay are the hottest teams in the league the past five games.

### SIJHL Standings

Team	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT	GF	GA
North Stars	41	36	4	0	1	73	.890	220	91
Dryden	41	31	5	2	3	67	.817	201	120
Sioux Lookout	46	19	25	2	0	40	.435	138	184
Wolverines	45	15	25	3	2	35	.389	153	216
Fort Frances	41	11	25	2	3	27	.329	124	200
Wisconsin*	16	3	13	0	0	6	.188	45	70

\* - Wisconsin plays a 20-game non-league member schedule

### Recent results

Jan. 22: Sioux Lookout 3 North Stars 2 (Shootout)  
 Jan. 22: Dryden 6 Wolverines 5  
 Jan. 23: North Stars 5 Sioux Lookout 0  
 Jan. 23: Dryden 7 Wolverines 5  
 Jan. 23: Fort Frances 3 Wisconsin 1  
 Jan. 26: Dryden 4 Fort Frances 3  
 Jan. 27: Wisconsin 4 North Stars 3  
 Jan. 29: Fort Frances 5 Wolverines 0  
 Jan. 30: North Stars 3 Sioux Lookout 1  
 Jan. 31: Sioux Lookout 5 North Stars 3  
 Feb. 2: Sioux Lookout 1 Fort Frances 0 (Shootout)

### Upcoming games

Feb. 3: Dryden @ North Stars 7:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 3: Wisconsin @ Wolverines 8 p.m.  
 Feb. 5: North Stars @ Fort Frances 7:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 6: Fort Frances @ Sioux Lookout 7:30 p.m.  
 Feb. 6: North Stars @ Dryden 8:45 p.m.

### Leading scorers

PLAYER	TEAM	POS	GP	G	A	PTS	PPG	SHG	GWG
Trevor Gamache	FWNS	F	39	22	42	64	4	1	3
Ryan Magill	FWNS	F	36	31	28	59	5	5	0
Jordan Davis	FWNS	F	41	25	30	55	12	0	6
Kevin Burton	DID	F	37	26	27	53	5	0	2
Mitch Forbes	FWNS	F	40	22	31	53	5	0	2
B.J. McClellan	DID	F	40	17	36	53	7	0	0
Jon Mitchell	DID	D	41	19	30	49	6	4	2
Mike Lennon	DID	F	41	11	38	49	4	0	3
Kyle Heck	DID	F	41	29	18	47	12	0	5
Chad Liley	DID	F	32	18	22	40	7	0	2
Tyler Stevenson	FFL	F	39	15	25	40	4	1	2
A.J. Wensley	SLF	D	44	14	23	37	11	0	4
Nathan Brown	SLF	F	46	12	22	34	2	0	1
Matt Hunter	KAW	F	41	13	20	33	3	2	2
Tanner Harms	DID	D	38	8	24	32	7	0	3

### Leading goaltenders

NAME	TEAM	GP	W	L	OT/SOL	SO	GAA	SV%
Jayne Brattengeier	FWNS	11	9	1	1	0	2.11	.905
Guillaume Piche	FWNS	32	27	3	0	2	2.20	.909
Curtis Barker	DID	12	9	1	1	0	2.74	.909
Peter Emery	SLF	23	15	7	1	4	2.78	.919
Josh Baker	DID	13	8	2	3	1	2.86	.916

Leading the way are the Dryden Ice Dogs who have won five straight, as well as going 9-1-1 in their past 11.

Fort Frances has impressed too going 3-1-1 in the last five outings while Sioux Lookout has also played some nice hockey of late winning two in a row and three of five including a pair of victories over the first place North Stars.

**STREAKS:** Helping Dryden in their current run has been the play of Kevin Burton who has reeled off points in eight consecutive contests. During his streak the 20-year-old forward has scored four times and chipped with eight assists for 12 points helping him move into a tie for fourth in SIJHL scoring with teammate B.J. McClellan as they have 53 points each.

McClellan for his part has picked up points in six straight games scoring five times while doling five helpers.

**THE LEADERS:** SIJHL players who lead the league in respective categories.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Total</b>
Goals	Ryan Magill	North Stars	31	SH Goals	Ryan Magill	North Stars	5
Assists	Trevor Gamache	North Stars	42	GW Goals	Jordan Davis	North Stars	6
Points	Trevor Gamache	North Stars	64	Wins	Guillaume Piche	North Stars	27
PP Goals	Kevin Burton	Dryden	14	AVG.	Jayne Brattengeier	North Stars	2.11
PP Assists	Jon Mitchell	Dryden	18	Save %	Peter Emery	Sioux Lookout	.919
PP Points	A.J. Wensley	Sioux Lookout	27	Shutouts	Peter Emery	Sioux Lookout	4

**CJHL RANKINGS:** Despite their recent travails the Fort William North Stars remained nationally ranked in most recent Canadian Jr. Hockey League listings that are tabulated in conjunction with the National Hockey League's Central Scouting Service.

The SIJHL-leading Stars were tabbed 14th overall for a second straight week in the rankings, which are based upon a variety of factors including the league in which the teams belong to, winning percentage, won-loss record, points and goals for and against.

The Spruce Grove Saints (AJHL) remains the No. 1 team in the nation for another seven-day stretch. The reigning Royal Bank Cup champion Vernon Vipers (BCHL) are number two overall while the Penticton Vees (BCHL) sit third, the defending Dudley-Hewitt Cup trophy holder Kingston Voyageurs are fourth while the Grand Prairie Storm (AJHL) lie fifth.

**DUDLEY-HEWITT:** The Dudley-Hewitt Cup Central Canadian Jr. A Hockey Championship is closing in as the Soo Thunderbirds of the Northern Ontario Jr. Hockey League are gearing up to host the event, which goes April 20-24 at the Essar Centre in Sault Ste. Marie.

Competing in the four-team tourney, with a berth to the Royal Bank Cup on the line, will feature the T-Birds, a second NOJHL representative as well as the champions of the SIJHL and the Ontario Hockey Association, which will consist of who comes out of the final between the Ontario Jr. A loop and the Central Canadian Hockey League.

The Abitibi Eskimos currently lead the NOJHL with a 30-7-3 record followed closely by the Thunderbirds at 28-11-3.

Pacing the OJHL are the Kingston Voyageurs at 41-3-4 while the Burlington Cougars lead the CCHL at 38-6-3.

**ON THE NET:** Fans can follow the progress of the SIJHL all season long by visiting the league's official web site at [www.sijhl.com](http://www.sijhl.com).

Included on the site is live, in-game scoring via Pointstreak, which provides scoring updates as they happen.

## **SIJHL TEAM NOTES**

**DRYDEN ICE DOGS:** Dryden continues to have six players among the top 10 in league scoring. (Kevin Burton T-4<sup>th</sup>-53pts; B.J. McClellan T-4<sup>th</sup>-53pts; Jon Mitchell T-7<sup>th</sup>-49pts; Mike Lennon T-7<sup>th</sup>-49pts; Kyle Heck 9<sup>th</sup>-47pts and Chad Liley T-10<sup>th</sup>-40pts)...Mitchell also tops all SIJHL defencemen in scoring while teammate Tanner Harms is third with 32 points with seven of his eight goals coming on the power play...The club sits second in the SIJHL standings at 31-5-5 including 14-2-1 on home ice. They also lead the league in road wins with 17...The Dogs are second in the SIJHL in goals scored (201) and fewest goals allowed (120)...Dryden remains the top team in the SIJHL on the power play with a 27.84% success rate. They have scored at least one power play goal in 35 of the 41 games they have played to date...On the penalty kill Dryden is second overall at 83.86%...The club is only 1-3 in shootouts.

**FORT FRANCES LAKERS:** The Lakers have received 142 minutes and 18 seconds of shutout hockey from netminder Jameson Shortreed who has gone 2-0-1 in his past three starts...The club remains fifth in the standings with an 11-25-5 overall record...Fort Frances is fifth in the league in goals scored with 124 and fourth in the fewest allowed at 200...With the deal that saw Colton Kennedy dealt to Melville of the SJHL at the Jan. 10 roster deadline Tyler Stevenson has assumed the team scoring lead with 40 points in 39 games. He has also jumped into a tie for 10th in SIJHL point production...The Lakers are fifth in the league on the power play at 14.86% and are also fifth on the penalty kill at 73.3%...The club has gone 9-7-3 when scoring first in a game, but are only 2-18-2 when their opponents strike first.

**FORT WILLIAM NORTH STARS:** The Stars have lost three of their last five games. They still lead the SIJHL in wins (36), fewest losses (5), points (73), winning percentage (.890), goals scored (220) and fewest goals allowed (91)...Amassing 23 points in his last 11 games has allowed Trevor Gamache to take both the team and league lead in scoring. He has 64 points on 22 goals and 42 assists on the year...Ryan Magill (31g-28a-59pts) is second in SIJHL scoring while Jordan Davis (25g-30a-55pts) is third and Mitch Forbes (22g-31a-53pts) is tied for fourth...The team is second on the power play (19.28%) and first on the P.K. (90.23%)...They are 27-1-1 when scoring first and 9-3 when the opposition does...Of the team's final 11 regular season games, seven will be played away from home.

**SIoux LOOKOUT FLYERS:** Winners of two in a row the Flyers only have six regular season games remaining...Sioux Lookout sits third in the SIJHL standings with a 19-25-2 mark...The club is a perfect 4-0 in shootouts this season and 2-2 in games that have gone to overtime...The Flyers are fourth in the league in goals scored with 138 and have allowed the third most at 184...Defenceman A.J. Wensley continues to lead the team in scoring 37 points in 44 games while Nathan Brown and Adam Wensley are second and third with 34 and 27 points respectively...A.J. Wensley sits second in points among SIJHL defencemen while Darnell Ferland (12g-14a-26pts) is fifth and Clayton Lewis (3g-16a-19pts) is ninth...Sioux Lookout remains third overall on both the power play (16.89%) and on the penalty kill. (83.64%)...When scoring first in a game the Flyers are 11-6 on the year, but only 9-18-2 when their opponents notch the opening marker of the contest.

**K&A WOLVERINES:** K&A's only match-up of the week goes tonight as they host Wisconsin where they will try and snap a three-game losing streak...The Wolverines currently trail the third place Sioux Lookout Flyers by five points in the SIJHL standings, but do hold one game in hand...The team has gone 3-2 in shootouts this season...While Sportop player of the month Matt Hunter leads the club in offensive production he is followed by David Dawd (12g-19a-31pts) and Drew Childs (13g-16a-29pts). That duo is 17th and 19th respectively in SIJHL scoring...In 16 games since being acquired by the squad Aaron Ross has accumulated 23 points only being held off the score sheet twice. He also is sporting a five-game goal and point streak with five goals and registering just as many assists...K&A has moved to fourth overall on the power play at 14.98% and are also fourth on the penalty kill at 76.79%. The Wolverines also continue to lead the SIJHL in shorthanded goals with nine...A record of 9-7-1 has resulted when K&A scores first, but they are only 6-18-4 when allowing the game's opening marker...Five of the team's remaining seven regular season contests will be played at home on Thunder Bay Tournament Centre ice.

-HTB-