PEORIA RIVERMEN MEDIA NOTES



PEORIA

RIVERMEN

 \mathbf{AT}

BLOOMINGTON

THUNDER

28GP 14-11-3 (5th) 31 PTS

Referees: Lucas Martin

29GP 11-17-1 (10th) 23 PTS

Friday, January 17, 2014 7:05 pm CST @ Rivermen Game 29 Rivermen Road Game 16

7:05 pm CST @ U.S. Cellular Coliseum Road Game 16 SPHL Game 144

Linesmen: Charles OConnor, William Hancock II



PEORIA		BLOOMINGTON
14-11-3	Record	10-17-0
7-4-2	Home	5-7-0
7-7-1	Road	6-10-1
15.2% (9th)	PP	15.2% (8th)
80.8% (6th)	PK	79.2% (8th)
1-0-0	Streak	0-0-1
17.61 (8th)	PIM (Avg)	27.83 (1st)
2.96 (7th)	Goals For	2.62 (10th)
3.29 (7th)	/Against	3.48 (10th)
32.71 (2nd)	Shots For	29.28 (10th)
31.50 (5th)	/Against	35.48 (10th)

PEORIA	LEADERS	BLOOMINGTON
Vermeersch	Points 2 tied	
(30)		(21)
Vermeersch	Goals	K. Watson
(17)		(9)
2 tied	Assists	T. Granbois
(16)		(16)
E. Levine (9)	Wins	BJ Obrien (3)

Season Series

Season (201103	
Oct. 25	Peoria at Bloomington	5-1 W
Oct. 26	Bloomington at Peoria	7-6 W
Nov. 29	Bloomington at Peoria	4-3 W
Nov. 30	Peoria at Bloomington	5-1 W
Dec. 20	Bloomington at Peoria	6-2 W
Dec. 21	Peoria at Bloomington	6-3 W
Dec. 22	Bloomington at Peoria	4-1 L
Dec. 31	Peoria at Bloomington	2-0 L
Jan. 1	Bloomington at Peoria	3-0 W
Jan. 10	Peoria at Bloomington	5-1 L
Jan. 11	Bloomington at Peoria	3-2 OTW
Jan. 17	Peoria at Bloomington	7:05 pm
Jan. 18	Bloomington at Peoria	7:15 pm
Jan. 19	Bloomington at Peoria	3:15 pm
Feb. 4	Peoria at Bloomington	7:05 pm
Mar. 4	Peoria at Bloomington	7:05 pm
Mar. 18	Bloomington at Peoria	7:15 pm

Peoria vs. Bloomington

Sco	ring Leaders	<u>GP</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>A</u>	Pts
13	Vermeersch	9	13	7	20
4	N. Prockow	11	8	7	15
7	J. Schiller	11	0	9	9
15	M. Viola	9	2	6	8

Goa	alie Leaders	<u>GP</u>	Avg	Sv%	Rec
30	E. Levine	7	2.43	.915	4-2-0
31	K. Rank	2	2.00	.933	1-1-0

THE STORY COMING IN

The Rivermen enter this weekend in fifth place in the SPHL and winners of four of their last five overall. Last weekend, Peoria split a home-and-home series with Bloomington, which ended with a come-from-behind, 3-2 overtime victory last Saturday at Carver Arena. Rookie sensation Garrett Vermeersch scored all three Rivermen goals, including the game-winner 1:41 into OT, to record his second hat trick of the season (both against the Thunder). Eric Levine earned his ninth win in net after making 27 saves.

ALL TOO FAMILIAR

Friday will mark the 12th meeting this season between the Rivermen and Thunder – and the third of five straight matchups between the two teams. Following Peoria's overtime victory last Saturday, the Rivermen currently lead the series 8-3-0, however, Bloomington has won three of the last five meetings, and has earned points in four of the last five – dating back to Dec. 22. This weekend marks the second and final three-games in three-days series between the two clubs.

NO LUCK IN THREE'S

This weekend will mark Peoria's fifth threegames in three-days series of the season, and first since Dec. 26-28. Overall, the Rivermen are just 3-9-3 in three-in-three series' this year and have been outscored 46-29 in those games. Peoria will play a total of nine threegames in three-days series this season.

VIEW FROM BLOOMINGTON

The Thunder enter this weekend in the cellar of the SPHL (23 points), but are winners of six of their last nine games and are just one point behind Columbus for ninth place. In fact, since Dec. 22, Bloomington has collected a point in seven of their last nine games and are tied for the second-best team in the league over their last 10 games (6-3-1) – just behind Huntsville's 7-2-1 mark. Offensively, Bloomington is led by Tyler Noseworthy (21pts = 7g, 14a) and captain Travis Granbois (21pts = 5g, 16a). In goal, BJ Obrien (3-6-1) has emerged as No. 1 with Max Strang called up to ECHL Fort Wayne.

CENTER OF ATTENTION

24-year-old center Garrett Vermeersch has been Bloomington's worst nightmare during his rookie campaign. In just nine games, Vermeersch has tallied 20 of his teamleading 30 points, including 13 of his teamhigh 17 goals against Bloomington. Plus, the Macomb, MI native has recorded at least one point in all but one game against the Thunder this year. In addition, Vermeersch is among the league leaders in a number of categories including scoring (sixth) and goals (tied for first). He also leads all rookies in goals, points and power play goals (5).

COMEBACK KIDS

The Rivermen have built a reputation this season as one of the best comeback teams in the SPHL, and one that opponents cannot count out until the final horn. That status was proven again last Saturday when Peoria beat Bloomington, 3-2 in overtime, after trailing with just over a minute to go in regulation. Overall, seven of Peoria's wins this season (50%) have come when trailing at any one point in a game, with four of those wins coming when Peoria trails after two periods.

WHAT'S THE RUSH

On Tuesday, the Rivermen suffered their ninth call-up of the season when their captain Jarrett Rush was promoted to the Kalamazoo Wings (ECHL). The 28-year-old is expected to miss at least four games including this weekend's series. In 27 games this year, Rush has produced six points (1g, 5a) and 43 penalty minutes. A fourth-year pro, he spent 51 games in the ECHL last year between South Carolina, Colorado, Orlando and Elmira. Rush was named Peoria's 20th captain in franchise history on Oct. 22.

PEORIA'S 1-2 PUNCH IN NET

Between rookie Eric Levine and third-year pro Kyle Rank, the Rivermen are developing one of the league's better goaltender combos. Levine is 3-2-0 with a 2.45 GAA and .926 save % in his last five games, while Rank is 2-2-0 with a 2.44 GAA and .927 saves rate. Plus, Rank is fourth in the league with a 2.33 GAA overall and Levine is tied for third in wins (9).

	Recent Transactions						
	Peoria	Bloomington					
1/15	Jarrett Rush (D) loaned to ECHL Kalamazoo	1/14	Zach Pearson (LW) waived				
1/9	Garrett Vermeersch (C) returned from ECHL FW	1/10	Breton Lindoff (G) signed contract				
1/7	Jeremiah Ketts (RW) signed contract	1/10	Max Strang (G) loanded to ECHL Fort Wayne				

Last 5 Rivermen Games			Next 5 Rivermen Games			
(4-1-0)						
1/1	Vs. BLM	3-0 W	1/18	Vs. BLM	7:15 pm	
1/3	@ MSS	3-2 OTW	1/19	Vs. BLM	7:15 pm	
1/4	@ MSS	5-2 W	1/24	Vs. KNX	7:15 pm	
1/10	@ BLM	5-1 L	1/25	Vs. KNX	7:15 pm	
1/11	Vs. BLM	3-2 OTW	1/31	@ KNX	6:35 pm	