

BRIDGEPORT SOUND TIGERS GAME NOTES



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43 GP, 15-23-4-1 = 35 PTS
8th Atlantic Division

Friday, January 24, 2020

Bridgeport Game 44

Refs: Reid Anderson, Brandon Biggers Linesmen: Nick Briganti, Brent Colby

HARTFORD WOLF PACK

42 GP, 23-10-4-5 = 55 PTS
1st Atlantic Division

7:15 p.m. ET at XL Center

Bridgeport Road Game 24

AHL Game 654



BRI	2019-20	HFD
15-23-4-1	Record	23-10-4-5
9-8-2-1	Home	16-1-0-2
6-15-2-0	Away	7-9-4-3
10.5% (30)	PP	13.3% (28)
82.8% (11)	PK	83.3% (10)
2-7-1-0	Last 10	6-2-2-0
0-1-0-0	Streak	0-2-2-0
1-5	OT Rec.	4-9
2 (T27)	SHGF	4 (T19)
7 (T23)	SHGA	8 (T27)

THE STORY COMING IN

The Bridgeport Sound Tigers face the first-place Hartford Wolf Pack this evening in the latest installment of the Nutmeg State rivalry at XL Center. Both teams have been off since last Saturday, in which the Sound Tigers suffered a 3-1 loss against the Providence Bruins inside Webster Bank Arena. Mason Jobst's power-play goal in the second period kept the game neck-and-neck nearing the third, but the Bruins pulled through with the help of Trent Frederic's three-point effort (1g, 2a). Jakub Skarek (3-9-1) made an AHL career-high 32 saves on 35 shots for Bridgeport.

TIGERS VS. WOLF PACK

Tonight's game is the sixth of 12 meetings between the Sound Tigers and Wolf Pack this season. It's also the fourth of six matchups inside the XL Center. Bridgeport is 1-2-2-0 against the Rangers' affiliate so far and winless on the road (0-1-2-0). They last met in Hartford on New Year's Eve, in which Otto Koivula and Andrew Ladd each scored in a 3-2 loss. A three-goal first period for the Wolf Pack was the difference. However, Koivula's six points (1g, 5a) in five games is the most of any one player in the 2019-20 series.

VIEW FROM HARTFORD

The Wolf Pack have the best win percentage of any team at home (.895) and continue to lead the Eastern Conference (.655, 55 points), but the club has dropped four straight games overall (0-2-2-0). Last time out, Hartford suffered a 5-4 overtime loss at Hershey on Saturday, in which Steven Fogarty and Yegor Rykov each scored once and added an assist. All-Star replacement Vinni Lettieri was held quiet, but continues to lead the Wolf Pack in goals (18) and points (35). Lettieri is also tied for 17th in the AHL's scoring race, while goalie Igor Shesterkin (15-4-3) was returned on loan by the New York Rangers on Tuesday. Shesterkin leads the AHL with a 1.93 GAA and currently ranks third in save percentage (.932).

THOMMER'S MILESTONE

Brent Thompson will work his 500th game as an AHL head coach tonight, all of those contests behind the Sound Tigers bench. Thompson is in his seventh season as Bridgeport's bench boss and ninth season in the Islanders organization. He served as an assistant coach on Long Island from 2012-14. In the AHL, Thompson is 246-203-50 in 499 career games and became the Sound Tigers' all-time winningest head coach on Jan. 28, 2017 with his 134th victory. He was hired on June 28, 2011 following two seasons with the Alaska Aces (ECHL), where he won the Kelly Cup in 2011.

BRI	LEADERS	HFD
Bellows 22	Points	Lettieri 35
Bellows 15	Goals	Lettieri 18
Aho 19	Assists	Nieves 20
St. Denis 61	PIM	Geertsen 71
Coreau 7	Wins	Shesterkin 15

2019-20 Season Series: 1-2-2-0

Oct. 6	BRI at HFD	3-4 OTL
Oct. 26	BRI at HFD	1-4 L
Oct. 27	HFD at BRI	1-2 OTL
Dec. 27	HFD at BRI	5-1 W
Dec. 31	BRI at HFD	2-3 L
Jan. 24	BRI at HFD	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 23	HFD at BRI	3 p.m.
Feb. 29	HFD at BRI	7 p.m.
Mar. 14	HFD at BRI	7 p.m.
Mar. 27	BRI at HFD	7:15 p.m.
Apr. 5	HFD at BRI	3 p.m.
Apr. 8	BRI at HFD	7 p.m.

YOU OTTO BELIEVE IT

Otto Koivula scored again last Friday and now has 10 points (5g, 5a) in his last 10 games, including his first North American hat trick on Jan. 12 vs. Laval. Koivula had two goals in his first 19 games of the season, but has five in his last seven AHL games. Koivula ended last season tied for second on the Sound Tigers in scoring (46 points) and ranked fourth among AHL rookies in goals (21). He was recalled by the Islanders for the first time in his career on Oct. 30 and made his NHL debut on Nov. 16 at Philadelphia.

BACK ON THE BOARD

Islanders prospects Oliver Wahlstrom and Mason Jobst each snapped lengthy goal droughts last weekend against Providence. Wahlstrom's tally on Friday was his first in 16 games (since Nov. 15 at Belleville) and Jobst scored his first in 11 games (since Nov. 27 at Springfield). Wahlstrom also missed several weeks in that span while competing in the 2020 World Junior Championships with Team USA, where he racked up five points (one goal, four assists) in five games.

QUICK HITS

Sebastian Aho was returned on loan from the Islanders on Tuesday and will compete in this weekend's AHL All-Star Classic in Ontario, California (Bridgeport's lone representative)... Christopher Gibson is expected to start tonight's game - his first appearance since Nov. 27 due to injury... Gibson is 5-3-3 with a 2.40 GAA in 11 appearances this season... Seth Helgeson is the only player to compete in all 43 games this season... The Sound Tigers have scored a power-play goal in four straight and also in five of their last six games... Bridgeport has a chance to win back-to-back road games for the first time this season this evening.

AFFILIATE REPORT

NHL: New York Islanders (29-15-5) - Next: Saturday, Feb. 1 vs. Vancouver Canucks, 1 p.m. ET
ECHL: Worcester Railers (16-23-2-0) - Next: Tonight at Maine Mariners, 7:15 p.m. ET

BRI vs. HFD	GP	G	A	PTS
O. Koivula (BRI)	5	1	5	6
A. Ladd (BRI)	2	3	0	3
P. Wotherspoon (BRI)	5	1	2	3
M. Beleskey (HFD)	5	2	1	3
S. Fogarty (HFD)	4	1	2	3

Recent Transactions: Bridgeport	Bridgeport Last 3 / Next 3 Games	
Jan. 22 - Sebastian Aho (D) returned on loan from NY Islanders (NHL)	Jan. 12 vs. Laval (6-4 W)	Jan. 25 at Springfield (7:05 p.m.)
Jan. 19 - Ryan MacKinnon (D) returned on loan to Worcester (ECHL)	Jan. 17 at Providence (2-1 W)	Jan. 31 vs. Hershey (7 p.m.)
Jan. 17 - Otto Koivula (F) returned on loan from NY Islanders (NHL)	Jan. 18 vs. Providence (1-3 L)	Feb. 1 at W-B/Scranton (7 p.m.)
Recent Transactions: Hartford	Hartford Last 3 / Next 3 Games	
Jan. 23 - Francois Brassard (G) signed to PTO	Jan. 15 at Utica (5-6 OTL)	Jan. 25 vs. Lehigh Valley (7 p.m.)
Jan. 23 - Adam Huska (G) reassigned to Maine (ECHL)	Jan. 17 at Utica (3-6 L)	Jan. 31 vs. Springfield (7:15 p.m.)
Jan. 23 - Lewis Zerter-Gossage (F) returned on loan to Maine (ECHL)	Jan. 18 at Hershey (4-5 OTL)	Feb. 1 at Springfield (7:05 p.m.)