

18UV Apollos NAHL Prospects Tournament Recap

Six players from the collaborative 18U/Varsity Select Apollos, headed by the Houston Wild and ISHL associations, played in the first of three national tournaments for the North American Hockey League prospects. Both Apollos team Captains, Ryan Burgess-Jimenez (Memorial West Varsity) and Cannon Sinclair (Fair Creek Varsity), along with Associate Captain Kacper Drabczynski (Seven Lakes Varsity), Associate Captain Charlie McLellan (Woodlands Varsity), Damien Straube (Pearland Friendswood Varsity), and Mauro Raciti (Ridge Point Varsity),

were selected in October to play with the New Mexico Ice Wolves. This first tournament in Dallas saw the Ice Wolves end up splitting their games for 2 thrilling overtime wins and 2 losses. Apollos players dotted the score sheet contributing in big ways in each game demonstrating that the Houston area 18U is able to produce outstanding players on the national stage.

While all six of the players from Houston contributed in each game, one player stood out by netting not one, but two overtime goals each short handed! Kacper Drabczynski finished game two with his first short handed game winner with 3 seconds left in the OT period and did it again in game 4 of the weekend to gain the team their second win of the weekend.

The Ice Wolves Head Coach Ben Danford had this to say, "The New Mexico

Ice Wolves U18AA showcase team competed the first of three NAPHL Showcase in Dallas, Texas this past weekend. With the help of 6 Houston Wild players the team went 2-2. They really contributed on the score board and defensively all weekend. Kacper Drabczynski lead the team in scoring with 3 goals and 1 assist including 2 short handed overtime game winning goals. The line of Cannon Sinclair, Kacper Drabczynski, and



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Damien Straube combined for a team leading 4 goals on the weekend and played a vital role in both the teams exciting wins. The next showcase will take place December 16th-19th in Blaine, MN.”

The team’s next tournament in Minnesota and final tournament in Detroit will really help showcase these players abilities and that Houston has a solid base of talent migrating through youth hockey with development through the Houston Wild along with the high school league. Scouts at the Dallas tournament were in contact with players and Apollos coaches after seeing the players in competition. Coach Anderson said, “We are thrilled that these young men had the opportunity to showcase their talents and produce with a



team they’ve never worked with before. I think this says a ton about the talent, ability and work ethics of these young men and we’re extremely proud of them. My phone was ringing with text messages and calls all weekend from the scouts about our boys, especially after their performances in both OT wins.”

Catch the Apollos at the Best of the West Shootout in Dallas Thanksgiving weekend in the Varsity Gold division November 24-27.

18U Apollo's NAHL Prospects Tournament Recap

