

## **WEEK 13**

## **RECAP**

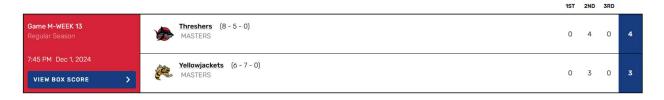




The Monarchs reigned supreme with a gritty 3-1 victory over the Knights in a game where efficiency trumped fireworks. Despite being outshot in every period, the Knights managed to get on the board first with a slick one-timer from Tom Smith, assisted by Bill Fisher. But the Monarchs, led by the timely heroics of Ben Perrotta and Rian Kearney, turned the tide and claimed a victory that showcased their defensive discipline and clutch scoring.

The game's turning point came in the first period's final moments when Perrotta scored the eventual game-winner with just eight seconds left, converting a beautiful feed from Peter Fallon. From there, the Monarchs leaned heavily on goaltender Mark Utera, who delivered a stellar performance, turning aside every Knights' attempt after the early deficit. Despite multiple power-play opportunities in the second and third periods, the Knights struggled to find their rhythm, stymied by the Monarchs' relentless penalty kill and Utera's calm presence in the crease.

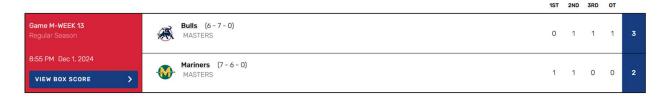
The third period sealed the deal for the Monarchs as Kearney buried an empty-net power-play goal with less than 30 seconds remaining, icing the win and punctuating a masterclass in opportunistic hockey. With their solid team effort, the Monarchs continue to climb the standings, proving that sometimes all you need is timely scoring and rock-solid goaltending. As for the Knights, it's back to the drawing board to figure out how to solve their scoring woes.



The Threshers staved off a furious Yellowjackets rally to secure a thrilling 4-3 victory in a game where the second period held all the drama. Both teams started cautiously, feeling each other out in a scoreless first period, but the floodgates opened in the second, with the Threshers delivering a flurry of goals that proved too much for the Yellowjackets to overcome.

Brian Morgan sparked the Threshers' offense at the 9:53 mark of the second period, finishing off a slick passing play with Eric Johnson and Travis Dupuis. Moments later, Chris Jennings added to the tally, and Greg Cincotta netted his first of the season to give the Threshers a commanding 3-0 lead. But the Yellowjackets weren't going down quietly. Eric Murray and Jason Bernard clawed them back into the game with quick strikes, bringing the score to 3-2. Just as momentum seemed to be shifting, Eric Johnson responded for the Threshers with what turned out to be the game-winner, calmly slotting home a feed from Duncan Morrissey.

The third period was a defensive battle as the Threshers leaned on goaltender Joe Burke, who turned aside every Yellowjackets' shot to preserve the lead. Though Murray added his second goal late in the second to keep things tight, the Yellowjackets couldn't find the equalizer. The victory showcased the Threshers' depth and resilience, while the Yellowjackets left wondering what might have been had they not waited until late to start buzzing.



The Bulls battled their way to an electrifying 3-2 overtime victory over the Mariners, riding the heroics of John Killion, who completed a hat trick with the game-winning goal in extra time. It was a gritty contest where scoring chances were at a premium, and the Bulls proved they could win by seizing the critical moments.

The Mariners struck first in the opening period, with Rob Schroeter finishing off a crisp setup from Collin Brennan to put the home team up 1-0. But the Bulls responded with a shorthanded beauty in the second period, courtesy of Killion, who intercepted a sloppy pass and buried a laser past Mike Ciavattieri. The Mariners regained the lead minutes later when Peter Krukiel capitalized on a feed from Schroeter, sending the crowd into a frenzy. Yet the Bulls would not be denied, as Killion notched his second on a power play in the third, knotting the game at 2-2 and setting the stage for a dramatic finish.

In overtime, it was Killion's time to shine once again. With 30 seconds remaining, he weaved through the Mariners' defense and fired a shot that kissed the post before lighting the lamp. Goalie Tom Andrade anchored the Bulls' defensive effort with clutch saves, while Chev's nine stops for the Mariners weren't enough to salvage the night. The Bulls now boast a well-earned victory, while the Mariners will have to regroup after letting a lead slip away.





The Hawks soared past the Spartans in a commanding 5-2 victory, powered by a relentless offensive assault and the stellar goaltending of Barry Kaiser. Chuck Kilfoye led the charge with two goals, capping a night that saw the Hawks outshoot their rivals 40-24 and dominate key moments in the contest.

The game opened with fireworks as the Hawks struck first, with Kilfoye burying a one-timer off a slick feed from Tom Doucette. The Spartans briefly tied the game when Pete Cleary set up Mike Martin for a crafty finish, but the Hawks responded in a flurry. Scott Gosselin's unassisted beauty and Doucette's game-winner shortly after swung the momentum firmly in the Hawks' favor. By the end of the first period, John Davey added insult to injury, making it 4-1 with a goal off a nifty Shawn Malloy pass.

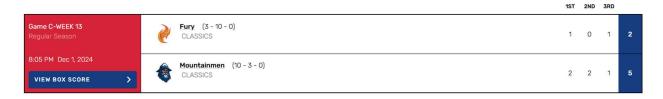
While the second period was a scoreless grind, the Hawks' defense and Kaiser's sharp reflexes stifled any hopes of a Spartans comeback. Kilfoye sealed the game with his second tally in the third, showcasing a masterclass in puck control. Though the Spartans' Mike Martin scored late to make it 5-2, it was too little, too late. The win solidified the Hawks as a dominant force, while the Spartans will head back to the drawing board after a humbling defeat.



The Longhorns stampeded past the Bolts in a dominant 5-2 win, fueled by relentless offensive firepower and the ever-steady presence of goaltender Doc Smith. Despite a slow start in the opening period, the Longhorns caught fire in the second and never looked back, leaving the Bolts scrambling to keep pace.

Ed Mortell was the undeniable star of the night, netting two goals, including a third-period dagger that crushed any hopes of a Bolts rally. The Longhorns broke the scoring drought early in the second, with Mortell converting on a pinpoint setup from Scott Varley. Less than a minute later, Jim Hutchinson doubled the lead with a deft finish. The Bolts managed to strike back with Peter Lynch's quick wrister, but Mike Crisp's gamewinning goal later in the period shifted the momentum firmly back to the Longhorns.

Though the Bolts showed some fight with Art Riccio's third-period tally, the Longhorns sealed the game late with Mortell's second and Crisp's empty-netter. Outshooting the Bolts 28-14, the Longhorns controlled the ice, while Smith's poise in net kept their opponents in check. This decisive win cements the Longhorns as a team to watch, while the Bolts will need to regroup after being outplayed on both ends of the rink.



The Mountainmen flexed their dominance on both ends of the ice, toppling the Fury in a 5-2 battle that showcased precision passing, relentless offense, and airtight goaltending. Led by the dynamic trio of Pat McNamara, Jim Daniels, and Pat Scully, the Mountainmen controlled the tempo from the drop of the puck, leaving the Fury struggling to mount any sustained momentum.

The first period set the tone, with the Mountainmen striking twice—Scully opening the scoring off a Daniels feed, followed by a quick one-timer from Mike Monahan. Neil Landry kept the Fury alive with a well-placed goal late in the period, but their hopes were quickly dashed in the second. McNamara's game-winning tally was a masterpiece of teamwork, with crisp passes from Daniels and Scully dissecting the Fury's defense. Daniels added another for good measure, cementing his reputation as a playmaker extraordinaire.

Though Gavin Steinman clawed one back for the Fury in the third, the Mountainmen were unshaken. Mike Simon's empty-netter in the final minute was the icing on the cake, as Ron Hughes turned away 31 shots to ensure the victory. With a commanding 45-31 shot advantage and a cohesive team effort, the Mountainmen proved they're a force to be reckoned with, while the Fury must go back to the drawing board to regroup.



The Reapers unleashed their relentless offense to secure a 5-3 victory over the Astros, dominating on both ends of the ice and proving why they're one of the league's most dangerous squads. John Dunn led the charge with a pair of goals and an assist, while Brook Conley added a game-winning beauty to seal the deal. Meanwhile, Ken Menkello stood tall between the pipes, turning aside 8 of 11 shots and keeping the Astros at bay when it mattered most.

The game opened with a first-period flurry as the Reapers set the tone early. Dunn and Dan Sloan combined for quick back-to-back strikes, showcasing their chemistry with crisp passes and clinical finishes. Moments later, Rich Buckley's sharp wrister found twine, giving the Reapers a commanding 3-0 lead. The Astros clawed back with goals from John Ruzzano and Dave Fallon to close the period, but their offensive surge ended there as the Reapers' defense tightened its grip.

In the second, Conley delivered the dagger with an unassisted breakaway goal, his 10th of the season, leaving the Astros scrambling to respond. Andrew Mellen's third-period tally gave the Astros faint hope, but Dunn iced the game with his second of the night, assisted by Kevin Watson and Pete Tamborella. The Reapers outshot the Astros 22-11, and their discipline—playing penalty-free hockey—secured a commanding win. For the Astros, it's back to the drawing board, while the Reapers continue their march of dominance.