

## NEWS RELEASE

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## THE MINNESOTA BLUE OX JUNIOR A' HOCKEY CLUB

Contact: Jay Witta  
Phone: 612-554-8994  
[www.blueoxhockey.com](http://www.blueoxhockey.com)  
[jay@blueoxhockey.com](mailto:jay@blueoxhockey.com)

### MIDWEST WEST DIVISION CHAMPIONS LAUNCH THEIR QUEST FOR A USPHL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

**COON RAPIDS, MN** – This Friday, the Minnesota Blue Ox hockey team (37-6-1, 75 points) of the USPHL Premier League and Champions of Midwest West Division begin a best of three home series at the Coon Rapids Ice Arena against Dells Ducks. Game two of the playoff series is set for Saturday night 7pm at the Coon Rapids Ice Arena. Should a 3<sup>rd</sup> game be necessary it will take place on Monday, the 7<sup>th</sup>. The Blue Ox posted a 19-3 record at home this season.

On Saturday night the Blue Ox concluded their regular season with a 6-2 win over the Minnesota Mullets, in front of a near sellout crowd on their home ice in Coon Rapids. You can purchase tickets in advance at [blueoxhockey.com](http://blueoxhockey.com) The Minnesota Blue Ox finished this season as one of the top scoring teams in the league with 246 goals and the 4<sup>th</sup> best record overall in the 64-team Premier League with teams from across the country.

Last season the Minnesota Blue Ox advanced to the USPHL National Championship for the second time in four seasons and are led by Owner/GM/Head Coach Jay Witta and Assistant Coach, Jason Wood. This team consist of a great blend of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year players representing Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Texas, Alaska and Europe this season.

**Trending...**In their 5<sup>th</sup> season, the Blue Ox have nine players with 11 goals or more led by 2<sup>nd</sup> year players Michael Clough (2001), from Andover, MN with 35 goals and 76 points, (12<sup>th</sup> in the league) and Kearney, NE native Blake Glaser (2001) with 34 goals of his own. Hayden Masloski (2002), compiled 56 assists (4<sup>th</sup> in the league) and 18 goals, is another Andover, MN player.

**Ox Blueliners setting standard...**The Midwest West Division winners, have the right dose and depth of talent, featuring eight players that can lead breakouts, engineer power plays, deliver physical play with the ability to score as well. The elite eight defensemen elevate the play of the team and have a combined 46 goals and 124 assists.

**#FTL Flashing the Leather...**The Minnesota Blue Ox have a triangular approach to their success. Joe Moen (2001), out of Anoka, MN has a record of 17-3-0, GAA of 2.11. Marcello De Antunano (2001), has three shutouts, a 2.61 GAA and a record of 16-3-1, from Irving, TX. When Eli Marchese (2003) is in goal, he is always "In the Zone" with an impressive 4-0 record for the Iowa netminder.

**Catch the Blue Ox Buzz...**The Blue Ox ended the regular season on a six-game win streak. Earlier this season the Minnesota team had two other win streaks of 15 and 10 games. Tickets are available for this weekend playoff series on Friday and Saturday night 7pm at [blueoxhockey.com](http://blueoxhockey.com)

