

CONTACT:

Providence Bruins

Nathan Roberts roberts@pseagency.com, 401.680.4734

Eddie Pannone pannone@pseagency.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

P-BRUINS WEEK IN REVIEW: 3/15/18 - 3/20/18

Providence, **RI** – The Providence Bruins are inching closer to a playoff berth after taking two of their three games this weekend. By taking four of a possible six points, the P-Bruins maintain their place among the tops in the league. With 81 points and a record of 38-21-3-2, Providence is third in the Atlantic Division, fifth in the Eastern Conference and seventh overall in the AHL. Their magic number to clinch a playoff spot is 14, meaning any combination of points Providence earns in the standings or points Bridgeport fails to earn that equals 14 make the P-Bruins postseason bound for a sixth straight year.

Austin Czarnik kicked off the weekend with a bang on Friday, recording the first hat-trick of the season for a P-Bruin. His efforts helped Providence erase two early deficits and walk away with a 5-3 victory on home ice. Following the game, the team headed the Lehigh Valley for a matchup with the first-place Phantoms. Lehigh Valley, powered by two shorthanded goals, shut down the Providence offense and handed them their fourth shutout of the season 3-0. Returning home for the final game of their three-in-three, the offense returned early and often as they struck just 40 seconds into play and three times in the opening period. Trent Frederic and Cameron Hughes each earned their first pro point and Zane McIntyre stopped a season-high 44 shots as Providence defeated the Bridgeport Sound Tigers 4-1.

Led by his hat-trick, Czarnik led the team with five points (four goals and an assist) over the weekend, taking over the team lead with 21 goals and adding to his team lead at 60 points. Czarnik's torrid pace has him tied for second in the AHL in scoring, and of his 21 goals seven have been game winners which is third highest in the league. He is not the only P-Bruin atop the AHL leader boards, as Jordan Szwarz continues to pace Providence and all AHL forwards with a +29 rating.

In net, Zane McIntyre started two of the team's three games going a perfect 2-0. McIntyre stopped 72 of 76 shots over two starts, including a season-high 44 on Sunday. He leads the league with six shutouts on the season and holds a 2.45 GAA and a save percentage of 91.5%. Jordan Binnington received the start in Lehigh Valley, stopping 31 of 34 shots in defeat. On the season he ranks third in the AHL in both GAA (2.02) and save percentage (92.7%), giving Providence one of the top goaltending duos in the league.

Providence is home for two games this week, as they welcome the Lehigh Valley Phantoms to town for a pair of 7:05pm games Friday and Saturday. The weekend also marks their annual "Star Wars Weekend," featuring characters and special jerseys to be auctioned off in support of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

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The Providence Bruins are the American Hockey League affiliate of the NHL's Boston Bruins, playing their home games at the Dunkin' Donuts Center in Providence, RI. Spanning more than 25 years, the Boston/Providence affiliation is one of the longest and most successful player development partnerships in professional hockey history.

For all the latest Providence Bruins news and updates visit **ProvidenceBruins.com** or follow the team on Facebook at **facebook.com/providencebruins** or Twitter at **twitter.com/AHLBruins**.

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