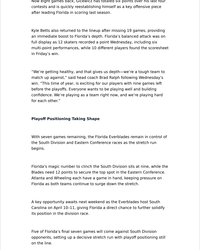
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1ST

Inside the Swamp: March 24 - 31



ESTERO, Fla. — The Florida Everblades earned five of a possible six points in a three-game set against the Savannah Ghost Pirates, picking up 7-3 and 5-2 victories before falling 2-1 in a shootout Saturday.

Florida's strong homestand maintained its cushion atop the South Division standings with 95 points and seven games remaining. The Blades hold an eight-point lead over Atlanta, which has won five straight, and a nine-point edge on South Carolina. Florida also leads the Eastern Conference by five points over Wheeling, the ECHL's fastest team riding an eight-game winning streak.

Offense Surging

The Florida Everblades' offense surged throughout the week, scoring five or more goals in three consecutive games before Saturday's 2-1 shootout loss.

Cruson Gronesz has found his stride since returning from injury, recording a point in each of his last seven games. He scored Wednesday night's game-tying goal, Gronesz has totaled six points over his last four games and is quickly reestablishing himself as a key offensive piece after leading Florida in scoring last season.

Kyle Betts also returned to the lineup after missing 19 games, providing an immediate spark with two goals in his first two games back. Betts, who has five displays as 12 skaters recorded a point Wednesday, including two multi-point performances, while 10 different players found the scoresheet in Friday's win.

Friday's game-winning goal was the fourth Division site at nine, while the Blades need 12 points to secure the top spot in the Eastern Conference. Atlanta and Wheeling each have a game in hand, keeping pressure on Florida as both teams continue to surge down the stretch.

A key opportunity awaits next weekend as the Everblades host South Carolina on April 10-11, giving Florida a direct chance to further solidify its position in the division race.

Five of Florida's final seven games will come against South Division opponents, setting up a decisive stretch run with playoff positioning still on the line.

Standout Performers

Oliver Chau – The Everblades captain continued his offensive surge recording six points over the past week (1g-5a) notching consecutive three-point performances to begin the series. Chau earned second star honors Wednesday and third star honors Friday night.

Craig Needham – The Medford, Massachusetts native continued his breakout season posting a pair of goals in the win Wednesday, including the game-winning goal. Needham leads Florida with 22 goals and was named the first star of the game in the series opener against Savannah.

Sam Stange – Following a record setting second period March 23 against Orlando Stange followed with another strong week notching a pair of helpers Wednesday and scored a critical buzzer beater Friday in the first period to tie the game. The 24-year-old forward has 14 points in 13 games as an Everblade this season.

Hudson Elynuik – Has heated up offensively for the Blades collecting points in four of his last five games. Elynuik scored Florida's lone goal on Saturday and added a pair of assists Wednesday. The Calgary, Alberta native earned second star honors Saturday and third star honors Wednesday.

Cole Maberry – Has fit in seamlessly since rejoining Florida March 4. The two-time Kelly Cup champion has points in four straight games and owns a +4 rating in 10 games.

By the Numbers

Florida has been dominant on home ice earning points in 15 straight games recording an 11-0-2-2 mark during this stretch. Florida has won two in regulation at Hertz Arena across a 2-0 setback against Atlanta January 28.

The Blades rank seventh in the ECHL in goals per game at 3.38 and sixth in shots per game averaging 32.22 per contest.

The Everblades are tied for the second-best goal differential in second periods at +34 behind Kansas City who features a league best +36 margin in middle frames.

Defensively, Florida has been most impressive in third periods holding opponents tied for a league low 42 goals in the final frame (0.64 goals per game in third periods).

Cam Johnson has started 20 of Florida's last 21 games posting a 15-2-2-2 record with a 1.38 goals against average and .938 save percentage during this stretch.

Florida remains unbeaten in regulation this season when wearing specialty jerseys posting a 15-0-2-3 mark in these contests.

Weekly Rewind (2-0-0-1)

Wednesday: Florida 7, Savannah 3 | Game Sheet

The Florida Everblades scored the first four goals of the game and never looked back en a 7-3 win over the Savannah Ghost Pirates Wednesday night at Hertz Arena. Craig Needham led the way with two goals as six Everblades recorded multi-point performances.

Florida controlled the game early, outshooting Savannah 17-3 in the first period while leading a 3-0 lead behind goals from Jesse Lansdell, Oliver Chau, and Reid Duke. Needham added a pair in the second, while Logan Lambdin and Taron Kuzmin scored 16 seconds apart in the third to cap the win. Cam Johnson made 23 saves to earn his ECHL-leading 26th victory.

Friday: Florida 5, Savannah 2 | Game Sheet

Cruson Gronesz recorded a hat trick to power the Florida Everblades to a 5-2 win over the Savannah Ghost Pirates on Country Night at Hertz Arena. After Savannah opened the scoring, Sam Stange answered late in the first period to send the game into the intermission tied.

Florida took control in the second period as Gronesz scored early and Sam Allen gave the Blades the lead heading into the third. Gronesz added two more in the final frame to complete the hat trick, while Oliver Chau and Jett Jones each recorded multi-point efforts in the victory.

Saturday: Savannah 2, Florida 1 (SO) | Game Sheet

The Everblades closed out the week with a 2-1 shootout loss to Savannah on Affiliation Night at Hertz Arena. Florida controlled the pace throughout, outshooting the Ghost Pirates 47-24, but neither team scored through the first two periods.

Savannah broke through early in the third before Hudson Elynuik answered on the power play to even the game at one. Overtime solved nothing, and the Ghost Pirates secured the extra point in the shootout despite Florida's strong overall performance.

THE ROAD AHEAD

The Florida Everblades are headed onto the road for their final road trip of the regular season when they begin a three-in-three set against the Jacksonville Icemen Thursday, April 2.

This season Florida is 2-1-1 in Jacksonville with the two sides splitting the season series at 6 Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena March 14 & 15 where the Blades are 6-2-1 in nine meetings against their South Division foes.

Entering the week, Jacksonville sits four points behind Savannah for the final playoff spot with 68 points and a game in hand. The Icemen have played some inspired hockey as of late picking up a 6-4 record over their last 10 games. Jacksonville is led by Jeremy Brodeur's impressive 1.9 goals against average and .931 save percentage.

Craig Martin leads Jacksonville's attack with 34 points and has goals in three straight games while Will Hickmott has produced 23 points in 25 games since being acquired from Toledo. In goal, Cameron Rowe and Jeremy Brodeur have split the goaltending duties each recording nine wins.

Puck drop is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. ET for all three meetings of the series.

JOIN THE FUN

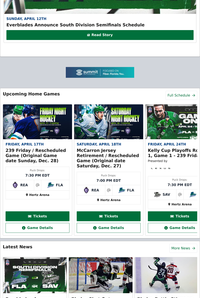
Season ticket plans for the 2026-27 campaign are on sale now! Become a Blades 365 Member for the 2026-27 season and enjoy incredible benefits, including a 365 Day Money Back Membership Loyalty benefits, and options (AA-SEAT).

Group Packages are available for a group of 10 or more! Everblades put FUN in Fundraising! There is no handling of money or tickets, and you keep 50% of the revenue! Call 239-768-7825 or email info@floridaeverblades.com for more information! For more information, or to reserve a Conference Night at an Everblades regular-season home game, call our local (239) 948-7825.

Grab the newest and hottest Everblades merchandise by checking out the entire collection that is available online by visiting shop.floridaeverblades.com or at the Hertz Arena Pro Shop!

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Watch every Florida Everblades game on FloHockeyTV. Listen to the exciting game action on The Fan on 94.1 FM, 103.1 FM, 105.9 FM and online at Everblades.mixlr.com. Stay up to date by following the Blades on social media with all the latest news, scores, and promotions on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, TikTok and Twitter.



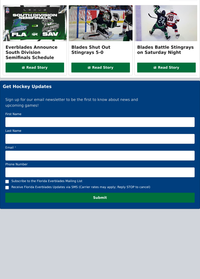
FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH

239 Friday / Rescheduled Game (Original Game date Sunday, Dec. 28)

Box Office
7:30 PM EDT

FLA @ Manta Arena

Tickets
Game Details



SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH

Everblades Announce South Division Semifinals Schedule

Read Story

SUPPORT
Shop Florida Gear
Support Florida Hockey

Upcoming Home Games

Full Schedule

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH

239 Friday / Rescheduled Game (Original game date Sunday, Dec. 28)

Box Office
7:30 PM EDT

FLA @ Manta Arena

Tickets
Game Details

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH

McCarron Jersey Retirement / Rescheduled Game (Original date Saturday, Dec. 27)

Box Office
7:00 PM EDT

FLA @ Manta Arena

Tickets
Game Details

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH

Kelly Cup Playoffs Round 1, Game 1 - 239 Friday

Box Office
7:30 PM EDT

TBA @ Manta Arena

Tickets
Game Details

More News

Latest News



Everblades Announce South Division Semifinals Schedule

Read Story



Blades Shut Out Stingrays 5-0

Read Story



Blades Battle Stingrays on Saturday Night

Read Story

Get Hockey Updates

Sign up for our email newsletter to be the first to know about news and upcoming games!

First Name

Last Name

Email

Phone Number

Subscribe to the Florida Everblades Mailing List

Receive Florida Everblades Updates via SMS (Carrier rates may apply. Reply STOP to cancel)

Submit

Sponsors

Florida Everblades Hockey Club
Attn: Florida Everblades Hockey
2300 Fowler Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901

(239) 948-7825
info@floridaeverblades.com

Hertz Arena
Attn: Florida Everblades Hockey
2300 Fowler Street
Fort Myers, FL 33901
United States

© 2026 Florida Everblades & ECHL

Hi there!
Text us