

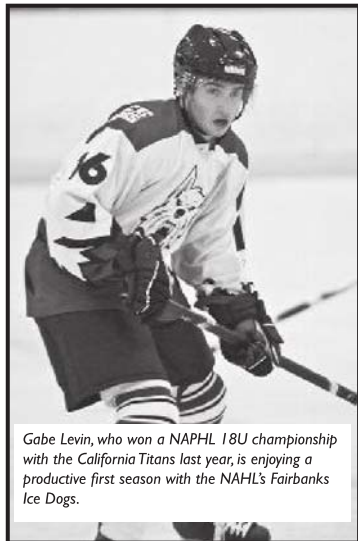


Former Titan Levin Follows Alaska Pipeline

The Marina del Rey native's game continues to evolve in Fairbanks

By Matt Mackinder

Gabe Levin is the latest in what's shaping up to be a prominent list of not only Californians, but California Titans, advancing to the North American Hockey League (NAHL), specifically the Fairbanks (Alaska) Ice Dogs.



Gabe Levin, who won a NAPHL 18U championship with the California Titans last year, is enjoying a productive first season with the NAHL's Fairbanks Ice Dogs.

With the programs' fingerprints all over the development of Northridge's **Austin Block**, now a sophomore at the University of New Hampshire, and Porter Ranch's **Mark Pustin**, a freshman at the University of Alaska-Anchorage, to name a couple, Levin hopes he's next in line.

"I knew I'd be going there to earn a spot on the team, and I knew I'd be going to a team where I could develop and hopefully win a championship," said Levin, a 19-year-old forward from Marina del Rey. "When I came here, I knew they really wanted me and felt I could be a good player here."

A member of the Titans' North American Prospects Hockey League (NAPHL) 18U championship team last year, Levin grew up in California playing for a handful of associations, but says winning a state title in Mites with the Anaheim Jr. Ducks and going to regionals in Pee Wees two years in a row stand out as highlights.

He was also named to the All-NAPHL 18U First Team last season.

"My coaches with the Titans, **Scott Yorkison** and **Luc Beausoleil**, were very influential and really helped my

game develop to a whole other level," Levin explained.

"Scott also has a good relationship with **Rob Proffitt**, the GM in Fairbanks, and head coach **Josh Hauge**, and when I went to the open camp in Fairbanks (last year), I knew what to expect and thought I played well."

As the calendar turned to March, Levin was making an offensive impact for the Ice Dogs averaging nearly a point a game on a team at the top of the NAHL's West Division with eyes on finishing first overall in the league.

"Coming in as a rookie, you just hope to play, and I feel like I've been able to contribute," said Levin, who had 41 points (14) goals through 43 games. "Of course, there's always room for improvement."

"At the beginning of the year, I realized the league was a different style than I was used to, but once I got my feet wet, my confidence went up and I didn't play so tentative. I'm out there now playing my game and not worrying about anything."

Getting his start in hockey when his father and uncle took him to a Los Angeles Kings game some 17 years

ago - that's when he "fell in love with the game" - Levin followed that up with skating lessons at 3 and playing in a house-level program at the age of 4.

Now, some 15 years later, Levin is starting to map-out his college future.

"My plan next year is to come back here to Fairbanks," said Levin. "My goal is to play Division I and I've talked to a couple schools this year, but nothing serious."

A dedicated student to boot, Levin's excellent grades will only help his cause.

"I'd like to go to an Ivy League school if at all possible," he said. "We'll see, though; I'm not worried at this point. I'm just concentrating on playing my game and getting ready for the playoffs."

With just a few more weeks to go in the regular season, Levin said neither he nor his teammates plan on putting their games on cruise control.

"We want to win as many games as possible and get the most advantages," he said. "We're expecting a national championship and we're going to go for it." ❄️

NAHL.com

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