

= 2012 ? 13 Hershey Bears season =

The 2012 ? 13 Hershey Bears season was the franchise 's 75th season in the American Hockey League , starting on October 13 , 2012 , and ending on May 8 , 2013 , when they were eliminated during the first round of the Calder Cup playoffs .

Due to the 2012 ? 13 National Hockey League lockout , Washington Capitals coach Adam Oates served as co @-@ coach of the Bears alongside head coach Mark French until November . Several Washington players also played with the Bears for a time , including defenseman Dmitri Orlov and goaltender Braden Holtby , who recorded four season shutouts .

The Bears experienced major offensive problems at the start of the season , resulting in the team 's worst 17 @-@ game start in eight years . But the team saw more success as the season progressed , including a seven @-@ game road winning streak from November 28 to January 11 , and a seven @-@ game point streak from January 26 to February 15 . The Bears participated in the 2013 AHL Outdoor Classic , but lost to the Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton Penguins .

Hershey was eliminated from the playoffs by the Providence Bruins despite winning the first two games in a best @-@ of @-@ five series , marking only the tenth time this had occurred in league history . Afterward , it was announced that French would not be retained for a fifth season as head coach . The 2012 ? 13 season drew a club @-@ record home attendance average of 10 @,@ 046 , only the fifth time a club 's average had surpassed 10 @,@ 000 in recorded league history .

= = Off @-@ season = =

After several years of roster stability , the Hershey Bears lost several players during the off @-@ season , including Keith Aucoin , Chris Bourque , Andrew Carroll , Sean Collins , Cody Eakin , Kyle Greentree , Christian Hanson , D. J. King , Jacob Micflikier , Graham Mink , Zach Miskovic and Joel Rechlicz . The team obtained several new players through free agency , including Alex Berry , Matt Beaudoin , Matt Clackson , Jon DiSalvatore , Jon Kalinski , Steven Oleksy , Garrett Stafford , Ryan Stoa and Jeff Taffe . Rookies Stan Galiev and Cameron Schilling joined the team , Mattias Sjögren returned from the Swedish Elite League , and Hershey also obtained Zach Hamill in a trade that sent Bourque to the Boston Bruins organization . Bears coach Mark French said the new roster made the season feel like " a change in era " .

Like all American Hockey League teams , the Hershey Bears saw changes at the start of the season due to the National Hockey League lockout . Washington Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby and defenseman Dmitri Orlov joined the Bears roster due to the lockout , and Capitals head coach Adam Oates became co @-@ coach of the Hershey team along with French . Oates ' coaching staff also joined Oates and the team , including assistant coaches Calle Johansson and Tim Hunter , and video coach Brett Leonhardt . Bears goaltender Sergey Kostenko started the regular season on injured reserve due to off @-@ season shoulder surgery , and winger Danick Paquette required surgery after breaking his right forearm during an October 6 exhibition game against the Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton Penguins .

= = Regular season = =

= = = October = = =

Hershey began its regular season with major offensive problems . They were outshot in 17 of their first 18 games , and were held to one or fewer goals in seven of those games . Their 6 ? 10 ? 1 ? 0 start was the lowest total through 17 games since 2004 ? 05 , which was the last season they failed to make the playoffs . After losing their season opener to the Syracuse Crunch , the Bears beat the Binghamton Senators on October 19 despite being outshot 44 to 21 . Hershey lost their first home game on October 20 , falling 8 ? 7 to the Rochester Americans ; the 15 @-@ goal total marked the most combined goals from a Bears home opener , up from the previous record of 12 in 1987 .

Hershey center Ryan Potulny exited the game with an undisclosed injury , and would not return until November 16 after a nine @-@ game absence . The team 's defense improved in subsequent games , allowing two goals or fewer in four of their next five matches .

Hershey lost 2 ? 1 in overtime against Binghamton on October 21 . The game would have gone to a shootout , but under the first usage of the AHL 's new video replay system at Giant Center , a Senators goal that had been overturned with 6 @. @ 5 seconds left in overtime was restored . The Bears were held to a single goal in a second straight game in a 3 ? 1 loss to Connecticut Whale on October 26 , but the next day saw their first home win and first shutout victory of the season . They defeated the Albany Devils 3 ? 0 and Holtby , who had been sidelined since the previous week by an upper body injury , made 35 saves . Forward T.J. Syner was recalled from the ECHL 's Reading Royals and made his Hershey debut in that game . The Bears finished the month with a 3 ? 2 victory against the Penguins on October 28 , marking their first winning streak of the season . Orlov would miss the next four games due to an upper body injury , not returning until November 11 .

= = = November = = =

Hershey defeated the Springfield Falcons 3 ? 2 in a shootout on November 2 , in which Boyd Kane and Matt Pope scored their first regulation goals of the season , and Galiev made the game @-@ winner in the seventh round of the shootout , his first professional shootout attempt . In a subsequent 3 ? 2 loss against the Bridgeport Sound Tigers on November 5 , the Bears allowed a season @-@ high 11 power plays , four of which were five @-@ on @-@ three . Hershey had 50 total penalty minutes in the game , compared to 115 minutes total in their first eight games . Stoa suffered an upper body injury that left him scratched until January 5 . The Bears went 3 @-@ for @-@ 7 on the power play during a 3 ? 1 victory against the Penguins on November 9 , ending a 0 @-@ for @-@ 18 power play stretch ; Holtby made 38 saves in the game . The Bears lost their next match 2 ? 1 against the St. John 's IceCaps on November 10 . They were outshot 27 to 19 , making a total of 359 to 266 for the season and putting them 29th out of 30 in the league in shots .

Hershey 's offensive problems continued in a 3 ? 1 loss against the Portland Pirates on November 11 , in which they struggled to get the puck out of their zone and through the neutral zone . Holtby , who made 31 saves , said afterward , " We just seemed to look dead the last couple games . " Kalinski suffered a hand injury and would not return until December 27 . The Bears fell to Syracuse again on November 16 . The 6 ? 1 game , the most lopsided defeat of the season , was their third consecutive loss and third straight home game with only one goal . Hershey broke a three @-@ game losing streak on November 17 with a 4 ? 1 against the Penguins , where Garrett Mitchell scored two goals , including Hershey 's first successful penalty shot since February 27 , 2010 . The team had surrendered two goals or fewer in eight of their past 14 games . But Hershey lost their next two games , including a 4 ? 0 shutout loss to the Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton on November 21 . The Binghamton @-@ based Internet radio Power Play Post Show reported from an anonymous source that Penguins head coach John Hynes put a \$ 200 bounty on Bears defenseman Oleksy for that game , a claim Hynes strongly denied .

After the November 21 game , Oates announced he and his assistant coaches would no longer coach the Bears , giving full control of the team back to French and assistant coach Troy Mann . Hershey 's offensive problems continued with a 3 ? 1 loss against the Adirondack Phantoms , where they went 0 @-@ for @-@ 7 on the power play and saw their points percentage drop to .382 , the worst in the Eastern Conference . However , they won five of their next six games starting with a 4 ? 2 victory over the Toronto Marlies on November 25 . The Bears ' subsequent 5 ? 2 win against the Norfolk Admirals on November 28 marked the start of a seven @-@ game road winning streak that would not end until January 11 . It was also just the second time in 19 games that they outshot their opponent , with 35 shots to Norfolk 's 26 . DiSalatore made two of the goals . The Norfolk match was Kane 's 310th game with Hershey , placing him 39th in the teams ' all @-@ time games played list . The Bears won a third consecutive game against Bridgeport on November 30 , against leading in shots 32 to 24 . They won 5 ? 2 , scoring four goals in the third period , a season high for goals in a single period .

= = = December = = =

The Bears opened the month with a 5 ? 1 loss against Norfolk on December 1 , even though the Admirals allowed nine power plays . On December 4 , DiSalvatore and Potulny were formally named alternate captains , ending the practice of rotating alternates throughout the season . Orlov suffered an upper body injury during Hershey 's 2 ? 1 victory against Norfolk on December 6 , and did not return to Hershey until March 9 . The Bears also won 5 ? 4 against Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton after Kevin Marshall , who had been a healthy scratch the day before , made his first Hershey goal in overtime for the win . The Bears lost 3 ? 2 against the Hamilton Bulldogs , with Potulny scoring both Hershey goals , including a power play goal that ended the team 's recent 0 @-@ for @-@ 19 power play record .

Hershey next won 2 ? 1 against St. John 's on December 11 , in which Holtby the eighth goaltender in Hershey history to reach 70 victories . Taffe had two assists , tying him with Aucoin for second in the league for assists , and both Hershey goals came on the power play , marking the first time since November 9 they scored more than one power play goal in a game . Holtby had three shutout victories in the next five games , starting with a 4 ? 0 win against St. John 's on December 12 . The Bears scored two power plays , marking the first time since the season 's three opening games that the Bears scored power plays in three consecutive matches . Paquette and Kostenko were reassigned to ECHL 's Reading Royals , and rookie winger Stanislav Galiev was recalled from Reading to the Bears . Holtby 's next 4 ? 0 shutout victory against Norfolk on December 19 moved him to fifth place in career Hershey shutouts with 13 , and seventh place in regular season wins with 72 .

Hershey went 0 @-@ for @-@ 9 in the power play in their subsequent 1 ? 0 loss to Springfield on December 22 , which ended a seven @-@ game point streak for Taffe . Holtby 's 2 ? 0 shutout against Scranton on December 26 brought his record to 12 ? 9 ? 1 , tying him for third in the league for wins ; his four shutouts of the season tied him for second in the league . During a five @-@ game span he stopped 154 of 158 shots , a .975 save percentage . With their sixth straight road win on December 27 against Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton , Hershey saw a streak of 21 straight successful penalty kills end with a power play goal by the Penguins ' Paul Thompson . Hershey lost their next three games , during which they went 0 @-@ for @-@ 11 on the power play . Although his shutout streak ended , Holtby made 89 combined saves during the losing streak . He was named AHL Goaltender of the Month for December , during which he had a .943 save percentage and allowed one goal or fewer in six of 10 starts .

= = = January = = =

With the end of the NHL lockout on January 6 , Holtby and Schilling left Hershey for the Washington Capitals , which cleared the way for goaltender Philipp Grubauer to rejoin the Bears from ECHL 's Reading Royals . The end of the lockout was believed to ultimately benefit Hershey because they retained more of their roster than most other AHL clubs . Tomá? Kundrátek scored two goals for Hershey in their 4 ? 3 win against Bridgeport on January 8 , including the unassisted game @-@ winner with 25 @.@ 6 seconds left in overtime . Dany Sabourin made 35 saves , marking his third straight win as starting goaltender . Hershey 's seven @-@ game road winning streak ended with a 1 ? 0 loss to the Penguins on January 11 , in which Taffe , Potulny and Evan Barlow all suffered lower body injuries . Despite their absences , the Bears beat Connecticut 4 ? 3 the next day , where the line of Kalinski , Mitchell and Barry Almeida combined for two goals and six points . Hershey beat the Whale again on January 13 in a 5 ? 0 shutout , scoring four goals in the first period including three power plays , which equaled 11 @.@ 1 percent of their 27 power plays of the season thus far . Tom Poti scored one of the power play goals ; it marked his first game since January 12 , 2011 for the Washington Capitals due to a fractured pelvis that threatened to end his career .

The Bears won their third consecutive game on January 16 with a shootout victory over the Worcester Sharks . Grubauer stopped four of five shootout attempts by the Sharks , while Mitchell

and Potulny scored on the shootout for the win . But that game was followed by a season @-@ high four @-@ game losing streak , which included a 2 ? 1 overtime loss to Wilkes @-@ Barre / Scranton at the AHL Outdoor Classic on January 20 . Before a crowd of 17 @,@ 311 at Hersheypark Stadium , Hershey kept the Penguins scoreless for two periods before they tied it in the third , then Paul Thompson scored a game @-@ winning breakaway goal 1 : 19 into overtime . Their fourth straight loss against Binghamton on January 26 briefly took the Bears out of playoff contention in the Eastern Conference . The Bears ranked 22nd in the league for scoring , averaging 2 @.@ 53 goals per game , and were last in league for shots on goal per game at 25 @.@ 21 . Their record was 0 @-@ for @-@ 15 when trailing in two periods , and 12 of their games so far had been one @-@ goal decisions . However , the January 26 loss also started a seven @-@ game point streak for the Bears , which included three wins and four overtime losses , three of which in a shootout . On January 31 , the Bears obtained winger Peter LeBlanc in a trade for Beaudoin to the Chicago Blackhawks , and also received Casey Wellman in a trade for Hamill to the Florida Panthers .

= = = February = = =

Hershey broke their four @-@ game losing streak with a 2 ? 1 victory against the Manchester Monarchs on February 2 , making a season @-@ high 44 shots on goal . LeBlanc and Wellman combined for 10 shots in their Hershey debuts , and LeBlanc scored one of the two goals . Hershey lost the next day to the Penguins , falling 2 ? 1 in overtime after allowing a power play goal with 10 @.@ 8 seconds left in overtime . In a 3 ? 2 shootout win against the Lake Erie Monsters on February 5 , Sabourin made 35 saves and the Bears killed seven power plays . They also defeated Binghamton 4 ? 3 on February 9 , scoring on two of eight power plays , better than their 1 @-@ for @-@ 11 power play record going into the game . Hershey lost 4 ? 3 in a shootout against Norfolk on February 10 , despite scoring three goals in the third period . Potulny made two of the goals , including the last with 34 @.@ 4 seconds in regulation , marking his second multi @-@ goal game of the season . Stoa also scored his second two @-@ goal game of the season in the Bears ' subsequent 4 ? 3 loss against Norfolk on February 10 , which marked the team 's third consecutive shootout loss .

Hershey 's seven @-@ game point streak ended on February 16 with a 2 ? 1 loss against Toronto . It was also their eighth one @-@ goal game , tying them with the Houston Aeros for the season 's most one @-@ goal contests in the league . In a 4 ? 1 win against Rochester the next day , Grubauer blocked 35 shots , marking his personal high in the American Hockey League and the third time this season he held an opponent to one goal in regulation . The Bears defeated Binghamton 5 ? 4 in a shootout on February 22 , rallying from a two @-@ goal deficit in the third period and killing nine of the Senators ' 10 power plays . The victory was one of only two victories , both shootouts , in the past 18 games where Hershey trailed after two periods . Taffe scored two power play goals for his first two @-@ goal game for the Bears , and McNeill 's three assists move his career points total to 146 , making him eighth in all @-@ time scoring among Hershey defensemen . Grubauer earned his AHL shutout for the Bears with a 3 ? 0 win February 23 against Adirondack , making a season high @-@ tying 40 saves . The game brought Hershey 's penalty kill record in 10 games to 42 @-@ for @-@ 46 , or 91 @.@ 3 percent , bringing their overall penalty kill to eighth best in the league . The Bears lost 6 ? 4 in Albany on February 24 , which was also the third straight game Hershey scored two power play goals . They were scored by Stol and Potulny , who had each had five goals in their last six and seven games , respectively . Wellman also scored two goals in the game .

= = = March = = =

The Bears won their first three contests from March 1 to 3 . Although it marked their fourth three @-@ game winning streak of the season , it was their first time winning on three consecutive days , and first winning three in a row at home . The streak started with a 3 ? 2 victory against the

Penguins , scoring three goals in the first half of the first period . They were outshot 34 to 15 , which tied for Bears ' lowest total shots in a game . Grubauer was recalled to the Washington Capitals on March 7 to substitute for an ill Michal Neuvirth . He stopped 40 of 45 shots in 5 ? 2 loss to the New York Islanders in his first NHL start on March 9 , and was returned to the Bears the next day after Neuvirth recovered . The Bears ' lost their next three straight games , including two back @-@ to @-@ back losses against Norfolk in which they were held to one goal . Those losses placed them in danger of losing playoff contention , tying them with Connecticut for seventh , with Albany and Manchester each one point behind . It was also the first time this season the Bears lost a game in regulation that it led after two periods . The team 's losing streak ended with a 1 ? 0 victory against Bridgeport on March 17 , when Mitchell scored a game @-@ winning overtime goal .

Hershey faced a challenging schedule for the end of its regular season , with only three of the last 14 games scheduled for home . This marked the fewest in team history , with a previous low of five games in the final 14 of 2002 ? 03 . The team also experienced significant roster changes in March , with Orlov , Oleksy and Schilling all being recalled to the Washington Capitals . Almeida and Kostenko were reassigned to the Reading Royals , Nicolas Deschamps joined the Bears roster , and Kevin Marshall was for defenseman Chay Genoway . Capitals winger Joey Crabb also cleared waivers and was assigned to Hershey on March 23 . The Bears ended a two @-@ game losing streak with a 4 ? 1 victory over Worcester on March 24 , but lost 5 ? 3 on March 29 to Albany , who had just lost six consecutive games . Grubauer was replaced by Sabourin after surrendering three shots on seven goals . Hershey defeated Providence 3 ? 2 the next day , rallying with two goals in the final 12 minutes . It marked the first time this season the Bears had won a game after trailing for two periods .

= = = April = = =

April brought further roster changes for the Hershey Bears , with Joel Rechlicz rejoining the team in exchange for Matt Clackson , and Stafford being traded for winger Dane Byers . Forward Michael Latta was also traded to Hershey , meaning the team had added seven new players to the roster via trades since January 31 . The April trades were intended to add forward speed and depth to the team , but a late NHL trade deadline resulting from the lockout left only nine janes to meld the new players into the line @-@ up . After beating Syracuse 4 ? 1 on April 5 , Hershey fell into a four @-@ game losing slump that briefly knocked them out of playoff contention . The first of those games , a 2 @-@ 1 loss against Syracuse at home , drew a season @-@ high attendance of 10 @,@ 943 . However , by April 12 , a loss against Providence knocked them into ninth place , and last place in the East Division . Another loss the next day to Manchester left them tied with the Monarchs for last place at 75 points , a full four points behind Connecticut and Norfolk to get back into the running for the playoffs .

The Bears ended their win drought with a 5 ? 3 victory against Portland . After having gone one @-@ for @-@ 18 on the power play in the previous five games , Hershey scored a season @-@ high five power play goals against the Pirates , including a hat trick by Crabb . Taffe recorded five assists , the team 's season @-@ high points total for a single game . Another victory against Adirondack on April 19 placed Herhsey back into playoff contention , tying them with Manchester , Norfolk and Connecticut at 79 points in the race for the final two spots . The Bears clinched the eighth and final seed by defeating Manchester 4 ? 2 in their final regular season game on April 21 . Taffe finished the regular season the second @-@ highest scorer in the league with 18 goals , finishing behind the Rockford IceHogs ' Brandon Pirri at 22 goals . Taffe and Pirri tied for the league high in assists at 53 . Taffe was also named the team 's Most Valuable Player and made the AHL 's 2012 @-@ 13 second all @-@ star squad . The Bears finished the regular season with a home attendance total of 381 @,@ 764 and a club @-@ record average of 10 @,@ 046 . This marked only the fifth time an AHL club had averaged more than 10 @,@ 000 since records started being kept in 1962 , and the first time since the then @-@ Philadelphia Phantoms in 1999 ? 2000 . Boyd Kane was named the club 's Man of the Year .

= = Calder Cup playoffs = =

The Bears faced the top @-@ seeded Providence Bruins in the best @-@ of @-@ five first round , marking the eighth consecutive year Hershey made the Calder Cup playoffs . It also marked the sixth AHL playoff meeting between the two teams , with Hershey winning four of the previous five , losing only in the 1949 finals . The Bruins led the league in wins ( 5 ) and points ( 105 ) for the 2012 ? 13 regular season , and no team had beaten the AHL 's regular season points leader in the first round of the playoffs since the Cornwall Aces in 1996 . The Providence roster featured three former Hershey forwards : Chris Bourque , Christian Hanson and Graham Mink . Defenseman Patrick McNeill did not play for Hershey during the playoff series due to veteran roster limit issues .

Hershey won the first game 5 ? 2 on April 26 , with Crabb opening scoring with a power play goal , and the Bears taking a 4 ? 0 lead by the second period , resulting in Providence goaltender Niklas Svedberg being pulled from the game . The victory marked Hershey 's first game one win in a playoff series since defeating Manchester in the 2009 ? 10 Eastern Conference finals . The Bears also won their second game 5 ? 4 on April 28 , with Grubauer making 54 saves , eight short of matching the team 's playoff record . The Bruins allowed 64 shots , which were six short of Hershey 's highest in a playoff game . Hershey was losing 4 ? 3 in the third , their first time trailing in the series , but Grubauer was pulled for an extra attacker and Crabb tied the game with 91 seconds in regulation , allowing DiSalvatore to score the game @-@ winner in overtime on a power play . Hershey 's 5 @-@ for @-@ 10 power play record ranked the highest in the Calder Cup playoffs at the time .

If the Bruins were swept , it would have marked the first time an overall top @-@ seed was swept from the opening round of the playoffs since the Cleveland Barons ousted the Buffalo Bisons in 1954 . But the Bruins fought off elimination with a 5 ? 1 victory in game three on May 4 , where Bourque scored two goals and one assists against his former team . Despite scoring the first goal for the third straight game , Hershey failed to score on any of its six power plays , including a five @-@ on @-@ three that lasted a full two minutes . Providence also won a dramatic fourth game on May 5 . Trailing 4 ? 3 in the third period , the Bruins stunned Hershey by scoring two goals in the final four minutes , including Carter Camper completing a hat trick with his game @-@ winner with 64 seconds left in the game . Hershey were eliminated from the playoffs after losing the fifth and final game by 3 ? 2 . Crabb tied the game 2 ? 2 in the third with his fifth goal of the series , but Bruins forward Jamie Tardif broke the tie at 9 : 20 of the period . The Bears finished the period with a six @-@ on @-@ four advantage but could not score .

This marked the third consecutive year Hershey was eliminated in the first round of the Calder Cup playoffs . They became the tenth team in AHL history to be eliminated after winning the first two games of a best @-@ of @-@ five series ; the last was the Lowell Lock Monsters , who lost to St. John 's Maple Leafs in 2002 . The road team won every game of the Bears and Bruins series . The only other time that had happened in AHL history was in 1995 , when the Fredericton Canadiens eliminated the St. John 's Maple Leafs . Hershey finished the season with a league @-@ worst average of 26 @-@ 42 shots on goal per game , and a total of 204 goals , the team 's lowest since 2003 ? 04 .

= = Post season = =

On May 17 , Bears President Doug Yingst and Washington Capitals General Manager George McPhee announced they would not renew the contract of head coach Mark French . French spent four seasons with Hershey , making the playoffs every time and winning the Calder Cup in 2009 . He was the fifth winningest Hershey Bears coach at 180 wins , which was one win behind the fourth winningest , John Paddock . French subsequently became head coach of KHL Medve??ak Zagreb for the Kontinental Hockey League . Several people were identified as possible candidates to succeed French , including Troy Mann , Paul Jerrard , Mike Stothers , Eric Veilleux and Larry Courville . After a search , it was announced on June 18 that Mike Haviland had been chosen for the position . Yingst said Haviland was chosen because it was believed he could improve Hershey 's

home record and create a tougher , more aggressive , " in your face " team . Haviland had applied for the Washington Capitals head coach position the year prior , but Oates was selected instead .

After four years as Hershey 's assistant coach , Mann accepted a job as head coach of ECHL 's Bakersfield Condors on June 21 . Mann had reinterviewed for his position with the Bears and felt it went well , but said he faced a deadline to accept the Bakersfield job and could not turn it down . Ryan Mougengel was signed as Mann 's replacement on July 5 . He had previously worked with Haviland , when Mougengel was alternate captain on and Haviland was head coach of the ECHL 's Atlantic City Boardwalk Bullies in 2002 ? 03 , the year the team won the Kelly Cup .

The post season saw several players depart the Hershey Bears line @-@ up . Immediately after Hershey was eliminated from the playoffs , the Washington Capitals recalled Joey Crabb and Tom Wilson for their Stanley Cup run ; Crabb later signed with NHL 's Florida Panthers . After 365 games with Hershey and playing as captain since 2001 , Boyd Kane left the Hershey Bears for Medve??ak Zagreb in Croatia , reuniting with French . Sabourin left the Bears for the Graz 99ers of the Austrian Hockey League , and McNeill , who was limited to 47 games in the 2012 @-@ 13 season due to veteran roster limits , signed a one @-@ year two @-@ way contract with the Columbus Blue Jackets . Potulny signed with the KHL 's Avangard Omsk , Pope joined the Aalborg Pirates in Denmark , and Sjögren departed for the Linköpings Hockey Club in the Swedish Hockey League .

Byers , Rechlicz , Stoa , Syner and Wellar were all re @-@ signed for the 2013 ? 14 season , and Deschamps and LeBlanc received qualifying offers from the Washington Capitals . It was announced June 14 that Taffe re @-@ signed with the Bears . The Swedish Hockey League had announced one month earlier that Taffe had signed a contract with them , but Taffe said that announcement had been premature , and he wanted to keep his family in North America . In July , the Bears signed four free agents to one @-@ year contracts : defenseman Tyson Strachan , winger Matt Watkins , forward Derek Whitmore and goaltender David Leggio . For the 2013 ? 14 season , Hershey signed defenseman David Kolomatis , Nate Schmidt , and Jaynen Rissling , as well as goaltender Riley Gill , and forwards Josh Brittain , Dustin Gazley , Brandon Segal , and Jamie Johnson , a former linemate of Taffe 's with the Rochester Americans .

= = Standings = =

y ? indicates team has clinched division and a playoff spot x ? indicates team has clinched a playoff spot e ? indicates team has been eliminated from playoff contention

= = = Divisional standings = = =

= = = Conference standings = = =

Divisions : AT ? Atlantic , NE ? Northeast , ET ? East

= = Schedule and results = =

= = = Regular season = = =

= = = Playoffs = = =

= = Player statistics = =

= = = Skaters = = =

