

Issue 1 — March 13, 2026

# RE:LAX

Your Unofficial Home for  
Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse

## JOE'S BACK:

Resetarits returns to help  
playoff push

Also in this issue:

- Bandits vs. Mammoth preview, prediction
- This week in Bandits history: NLL shuts down due to pandemic

# RE: LAX

## What's in this issue:

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### 2. Trade: Bandits bring Resetarits home to fuel offense

At the NLL's trade deadline, the Bandits brought Hamburg native Joe Resetarits back home to help his former team's offense.

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### 4. This week in Bandits history: NLL shuts down season in 2020

Six years ago this week, the National Lacrosse League was forced to suspend, and later cancel, the remainder of the 2020 season due to COVID-19. It marked the end of NLL lacrosse for nearly two years.

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### 6. Bandits return home to face Mammoth

The Bandits are back at home this week, hosting a Colorado Mammoth team that beat them to a pulp in Denver earlier this season. How can Buffalo get back on track and get themselves back above .500?

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Front and back cover photos by **MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief**

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# Trade: Bandits bring Resetarits home to fuel offense

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Chief

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As the Bandits enter their final six games of the regular season, two players will join the team to help a potential playoff push.

One of them is a younger depth piece on defense, while the other is an old friend brought in to jumpstart the offense.

Just after 3 p.m. today, Buffalo announced that they had traded a sixth-round pick to the Calgary Roughnecks in exchange for defenseman Tyler Hendrycks.

The 24-year-old is in his third NLL season after being drafted in the second round in 2022 by the Toronto Rock.

Hendrycks can play both transition and defense, so he should add depth and versatility to a team that sometimes falls into the trap of leaning too heavily on key players.

General Manager Steve Dietrich wasn't done yet, though.

About an hour later, the team announced a trade with the Philadelphia Wings that will bring Joe Resetarits back home to Buffalo.

In the deal, the Bandits are sending young forward Lukas Nielsen and a 2026 second-round pick.

Nielsen, 21, was drafted seventh overall by the Bandits in 2024.

He hasn't been able to find a consistent spot in the team's lineup, though, and he's scored just two goals in six career games.

He goes to a rebuilding Wings team, who in turn sends Resetarits to the Bandits for a reunion.

Resetarits, a Hamburg native, played for Buffalo for nearly two seasons earlier in his career.

He's been in the league a while and is a former top draft pick, as he was selected 6th overall by the Roughnecks in 2012.

He played just 14 games with Calgary, though, before joining the Bandits the following season.

In the 2014 season, Resetarits scored 25 goals and totaled 42 points, serving as one of the team's top offensive contributors.

That offense slowed down in the playoffs, however.

Resetarits had just one goal and five points in Buffalo's playoff run, which ended in a loss to the eventual champion Rochester Knighthawks in the Eastern Division Final.

By the way, Matt Vinc was the goalie for the Knighthawks.

In 2015, Resetarits recorded 21 points in 10 games before being sent to Rochester in a midseason trade.

The trade seemed to light a fire underneath him, as he recorded 27 points in the team's final seven games, leading them to the playoffs.

Rochester's quest for a fourth straight championship was denied, however, as they fell to the Rock in the Eastern Division Final.

Resetarits enjoyed a few more productive seasons as a Knighthawk, including a 37-goal, 100-point campaign in 2018.

During another successful season in 2019, Resetarits was traded again, this time to the New England Black Wolves.

New England would reach the playoffs, but Resetarits fell victim to his old team, as the Bandits took them down in the Eastern Division Semifinal.

In 2020, Resetarits recorded 44 points in 11 games for the Black Wolves before COVID-19 shut the season down in March.

The 2021 season was cancelled altogether, and the Black Wolves relocated to Albany to become the FireWolves.

In his first season calling MVP Arena home, Resetarits exploded into one of the league's top scorers.

He scored 47 goals in the 2022 season, tied with Toronto's Tom Schreiber and Georgia's Lyle Thompson for the most in the league.

His 111 points were third-best in the league, behind only Dhane Smith with 135 and Colorado's Ryan Lee with 119.

The young FireWolves reached the postseason, only to fall to the Bandits in the Eastern Division Semifinal.

The stellar season wasn't enough to keep Resetarits around, though, as he went to the Philadelphia Wings in the off-season.

He immediately became Philadelphia's top scorer, putting up 41 goals and 110 points on a team that missed the playoffs.

His production dipped slightly the next season, but he still recorded 37 goals and 95 points while missing the playoffs again.

Last season, he was back to peak performance, scoring 41 goals and reaching a career-high 121 points.

Again, though, the Wings missed the playoffs.

So far this season, his numbers haven't been quite as spectacular, but they're still pretty good.

Through 12 games in Philadelphia, Resetarits has scored 15 goals and totaled 45 points.

Once again, the Wings are well out of the playoff picture, so this trade seems like a case of the team doing right by a veteran player and allowing him a shot to compete for a championship.

At 36 years old, Resetarits knows he doesn't have many seasons left to compete in the NLL.

While the Bandits haven't looked like a team good enough to win a fourth straight title for most of the season, they've gotten themselves back on track with back-to-back wins over Saskatchewan and Toronto.

Resetarits will look to give his hometown team a boost when the Bandits return home to face the Colorado Mammoth at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

*Stats for this story were provided by nllstats.com, a league-wide database run by NLL writer Graeme Perrow. Check out his commentary on nllchatter.com as well as his updates on X (@GraemePerrow).*

# This week in Bandits history: NLL shuts down season in 2020

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Chief

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For many landmark events throughout history, people seem to remember exactly where they were when it happened.

One of the biggest ones in U.S. history was on Dec. 7, 1941, when Japanese fighter pilots bombed the American naval base at Pearl Harbor.

Then it was Nov. 22, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was cut down by an assassin's bullet while parading through downtown Dallas.

Anyone born before the late 90s likely remembers what they were doing on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, when a sunny Tuesday morning turned tragic as terrorists attacked the United States.

I was born in 2004, so I always wondered what that feeling must have been like.

In March of 2020, I learned.

After shutting down China and Italy and wreaking havoc on other parts of the world, the U.S. and Canada were struck by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before the pandemic fully took hold, it wasn't clear how significant the disease's impact would be on everyday life.

That was the case on Saturday, March 7 and Sunday, March 8 in the NLL.

The Bandits entered that weekend at 7-3, tied with the Toronto Rock for second place in the North Division.

It had been a successful start to the season, as Buffalo won six of its first seven games.

The Bandits were building off a major bounceback season, as they went 14-4 in 2019 and reached the NLL Finals.

Josh Byrne was in his third year in the league after being drafted first overall by Buffalo in 2017, and he was already making a huge impact.

Through 10 games, Byrne had led the team's offense with 28 goals and 50 points.

Buffalo needed him to step up, too, as their other offensive star had been injured for a month.

The first seven games of the 2020 season were business as usual for Dhane Smith, as he cruised to 12 goals and 45 points.

But after a hat trick against the Toronto Rock, Smith suffered an injury that caused him to miss several weeks.

The team's offense took an immediate hit without Smith, scoring just six goals in a 7-6 loss to the Philadelphia Wings the next week.

After a week off, the Bandits returned home to face an old rival who had just moved to a new home.

Before the 2020 season, the league announced that the Rochester Knighthawks would relocate to Halifax, where they would be called the Thunderbirds.

The move was met with immediate backlash, as the Knighthawks had been one of the league's top organizations since their inception in 1995.

Across their 25 seasons in Rochester, the Knighthawks only missed the playoffs five times, and they reached the league's championship 10 times.

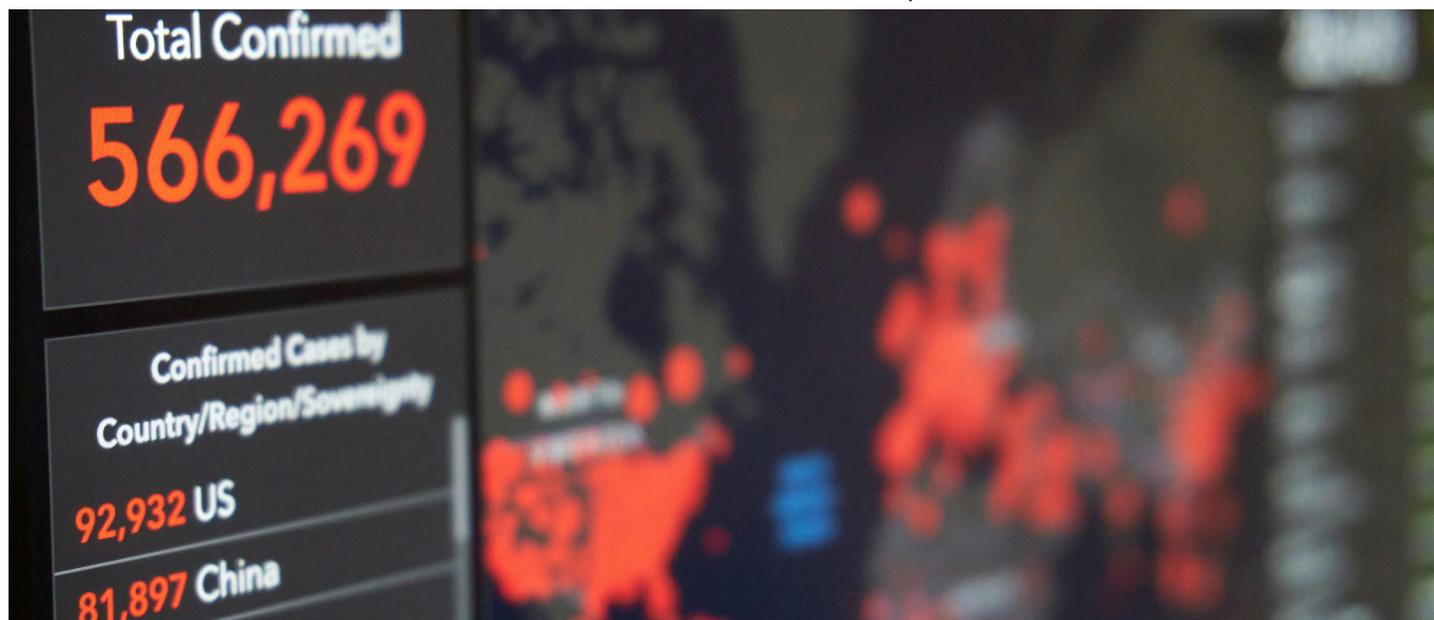
They won five championships in that span, including the league's first three-peat from 2012 to 2014.

In case it hasn't been said before, Matt Vinc was the goalie on each of those three teams.

It seemed crazy to move a team that had been one of the most successful throughout their history.

It seemed even crazier to move a team that was located in Western New York, one of the biggest hotbeds for lacrosse in the world.

It didn't take long for the NLL to realize that Rochester was too good of a market to be without a team, and the city was awarded an expansion franchise later that summer.



A graphic depicting total confirmed cases of COVID-19 by country. Image by Anton Uniqetion via Pexels.



A sign promotes social distancing during COVID-19. Image by Tim Mossholder via Pexels.

The Knighthawks would be rebranded, trading in their purple and aqua marine for forest green and silver.

But the team got to keep its name and the city got to keep its franchise, so it worked out.

On Feb. 29, 2020, the Bandits faced the newly branded Thunderbirds for the first time.

Behind a four-goal, seven-point outing from Byrne and a six-point performance from Corey Small, the Bandits took down their old/new rivals, 13-9.

It wouldn't be long before the Bandits took their first trip to Halifax, as the two teams would face each other the next week.

They faced off on Sunday, March 8, and Halifax got revenge behind eight points from Cody Jamieson.

The loss put Buffalo at 7-4, but they would return home that Saturday for another big crowd in Banditland.

That's when everything stopped.

On Wednesday, March 11, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a global pandemic.

Within hours, various sports leagues began to suspend the remainder of their seasons.

The NBA had to do so right before tipoff of a game, as Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert tested positive for the disease.

Utah's game against the Oklahoma City Thunder was abruptly cancelled just before it was set to start.

Soon, the NHL, MLB, NASCAR and even the NCAA made the decision to temporarily shut down play.

The entirety of the men's and women's NCAA basketball tournaments were cancelled, too.

The NLL did the same, as the league announced on Thursday, March 12 that regular season play would be suspended.

After nearly a month of discussion and consideration, the league decided to cancel the remainder of the regular season on Wednesday, April 8.

Since the league's beginning in 1987, it had crowned a champion in every season until 2020.

The league considered playing an abbreviated 2021 season, but on Feb. 3, 2021, they announced that there would be no 2021 season, and the league would resume play for the 2022 campaign.

Seemingly in the blink of an eye, two seasons vanished from the league's history books.

However, on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021, the league finally returned to play for the first time in nearly two years.

The San Diego Seals hosted the Vancouver Warriors on this night, and the league watched as the Warriors took home an 8-7 win.

Although the Seals lost, the entire league was a winner, as lacrosse was finally back.

The Bandits returned the next night, hosting the Calgary Roughnecks.

With their two offensive stars shining, as Smith recorded nine points and Byrne put up seven, the Bandits beat Calgary, 16-9.

It's crazy to think about now, but six years ago, shutdowns and mask mandates were reality.

But after all the twists and turns of the pandemic, lacrosse was there to welcome everyone back together again.

# Bandits return home to face Mammoth in search of .500

**MATT VOLZ**  
Editor in Chief

The Bandits are back home tonight, in search of their third straight win.

More than that, they're looking to get back above .500 for the first time since the beginning of the calendar year.

It hasn't been a dream season for Buffalo, especially considering the last few years.

Coming into the year in search of a record fourth straight championship and sixth straight finals appearance, the Bandits got off to a hot start, winning three of their first four games.

Their only loss was an overtime loss to Halifax, who finished third in the league in 2025.

Buffalo had also scored 13 or more goals in each of their three wins, a positive sign for an offense that had lost both Chase Fraser and Chris Cloutier in free agency.

But the defending champions seemed to hit a wall in January and early February, dropping four straight games and five out of six.

The offense slowed down a ton, and they only reached the 10-goal mark in two of those six games.

They scored nine in each of their last three games of January, and the Bandits lost all three.

The worst of the three came on Saturday, Jan. 31, when Buffalo headed to the Rocky Mountains to take on the Mammoth.

Buffalo and Colorado have a bit of a history with one another, as they met up in the NLL Finals two years in a row recently.

Colorado broke Buffalo's heart with a Game 3 win in 2022, but the Bandits bounced back and trounced the Mammoth in 2023's Game 3, 13-4.

That blowout was memorable among Buffalo fans, and it may have been on Colorado's mind in this game.

The Mammoth spared the Bandits no mercy on that night in Denver, hanging 20 goals on them.

Andrew Kew, Colorado's top scorer on the season, single-handedly steamrolled Matt Vinc and the Buffalo defense on the way to seven goals and 11 points.

Kew's performance tied him for the second-most goals in a game in franchise history, behind only Brian Langtry's nine-goal game against the now-defunct Portland Lumberjax on March 20, 2008.

The Bandits were also bodied by Jack Hannah, who recorded seven assists and nine points, as well as rookie Braedon Saris, who picked up his first career hat trick in a seven-point night.

It got so bad for Buffalo that Vinc was pulled from the game and watched as rookie backup Evan Constantopoulos surrendered nine goals in just over 32 minutes of play.

Josh Byrne, like Kew, recorded a game-high 13 shots on goal, but only one went in for Buffalo's star.

The loss dropped them to 3-4, sinking the team below the .500 mark.

They returned home the next week to face the league-worst Philadelphia Wings, who had scored fewer goals than any other team to that point in the season.

That wouldn't remain the case at KeyBank Center that night.

Michael Sowers and Brennan O'Neill each scored four goals, and Kyle Jackson totaled seven points.



The Bandits line up to defend against the Saskatchewan Rush, Friday, Feb. 27, 2026. Image by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief



Bandits fans stand and cheer before Buffalo faces the Saskatchewan Rush, Friday, Feb. 27, 2026. Image by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Despite a seven-point outing from Dhane Smith and a hat trick from Ian MacKay, the Bandits fell, 13-11.

The Bandits were able to stop the tailspin, as they've won three of their last four to put them at 6-6.

Colorado, on the other hand, was in the middle of a hot streak when they beat Buffalo at the end of January.

The win over the Bandits was the fifth of what would become a seven-game win streak for the Mammoth, and they reached a peak of 8-2 on Valentine's Day.

Since then, though, they've slowed a bit, losing two of their last three games.

Last Saturday, the Mammoth only put five goals on the board in a 10-5 loss to the Ottawa Black Bears.

Four of their five goals came from Kew, who had an assist on the team's only other goal.

For as good as the Mammoth have been offensively, they've relied a bit too much on Kew's goal scoring this season.

In nine games, Kew has scored 35 goals, which is tied with Ottawa's Jeff Teat for the most in the league.

But after Kew, Colorado only has one other player who has reached the 20-goal mark, as Will Malcom has scored 22.

If the Bandits can limit Kew's performance tonight, they may be able to keep Colorado's scoring to a minimum.

The other looming test, though, is in net for the Mammoth.

Dillon Ward has been one of the NLL's top goalies since his career began in 2014, and this season has been no exception.

Ward has stopped nearly 82% of the shots he's faced this season, which ranks him second among starting goaltenders in the league behind only Georgia's Brett Dobson.

He's allowed an average of 9.7 goals per game, which ranks him fourth among starting goaltenders.

The Bandits are probably going to have to pour at least 50 shots on net if they want to hang double digits on the board.

They may not have a full offensive attack at their disposal, however, as Ian MacKay has yet to be activated off of injured reserve.

To help with that, the Bandits made some trade deadline moves this week, which included a move to bring Hamburg native Joe Resetarits back to his hometown team.

Although Resetarits has slowed down from his 40-goal, 110-point offensive ability, he can still provide some depth scoring to a team that has relied too much on number 92 this season.

It'll be a close game, but Vinc has also been excellent in net as of late, and I think he limits the Mammoth enough to allow the offense to take over the game.

#### **Matt's Score Prediction: Buffalo 12, Colorado 10**

As always, stay tuned to RE: Lax's Twitter/X account for live in-game scoring updates as well as end-of-quarter, halftime and postgame analysis.

Enjoy the game, and Let's Go Bandits!

*Stats for this story were provided by nllstats.com, a league-wide database run by NLL writer Graeme Perrow.*

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