

WSHL WEEKEND WRAP-UP; October 5-7, 2018



The 2018-19 Western States Hockey League regular season began in earnest over the weekend with a total of 12 teams were in action, playing 16 games.

Utah Outliers @ Steamboat Wranglers

The Utah Outliers provided the initiation into the WSHL for the Steamboat Wranglers, sweeping them in three games, but the new kids on the block showed they could hang with one of the elite teams in the league, staying with them in a one-goal decision on Saturday.

Utah 10, Steamboat 3 - The Wranglers who broke the ice - scoring :14 into their first WSHL game - but the Outliers spoiled the party at their inaugural game.

Jack Rousseau scored the first goal in Steamboat's WSHL history, but Utah came out strong, firing 25 shots on goal and scoring four times in the first period.

Miroslav Hradecky scored a pair of goals 32 seconds apart to give Utah a 2-1 lead. Anthony Masanotti added back-to-back goals of his own early in the second period as Utah opened up a four-goal advantage.

Ian Young went the first 40 minutes in the Steamboat cage, stopping 30 shots, before giving way to Jordan Belley who played the final period.

Utah 5, Steamboat 4 - Saturday's game went down to the wire. Steamboat built a 3-1 lead in the first period, but Utah out-scored them by the same margin in the second and the game went into the final frame tied, 4-4.

Utah's Kaeden Meuer scored the only goal of the third period at the 13:04 mark and Kenton Kim (17 saves) shut the door to give the Mustangs the hard-fought win.

The Wranglers had just killed off a Utah power play, but the Outliers kept the pressure on. Meuer helped work the puck back into the Steamboat zone and a shot from the point hit Zak Albers in front. The puck squirted over to Meuers who buried a quick shot for his second goal of the game and the game-winner.

Belly kept the Wranglers in the game with 35 saves - 16 of them in the second period.

Utah 12, Steamboat 2 - Sunday's contest lacked the intensity of Saturday's. The Outliers built a 5-1 lead in the first period and cruised to a 12-2 win behind a Zach Dornseifer hat trick, two goals from Ryley Bast, and 27 saves from Jack Walsh.

Benji Mickel (1-3-4), Alexander Charin and Dylan Dix all had three assists in the game for Utah.

Jeremy Landert and Tristan Wells lit the lamp for the Wranglers.

San Diego Sabers @ Southern Oregon Spartans

San Diego and Southern Oregon played a competitive and tight three-game series with the Sabers winning the opener and the Spartans rebounding to win the last two in front of their fans in Medford, OR.

San Diego 7, Southern Oregon 4 - The first period went by without any scoring in Friday's season opener, but the visiting Sabers broke the game open by scoring five times in the middle frame. Ashton Jones scored twice in a span of 2:20 to close out

the spree. Zakary Hanaford also had a pair of goals for San Diego and David Grindstaff picked up four assists.

Hayden Moistner scored two goals separated by just :17 early in the third period in an attempt to spark a Spartans comeback.

A Sabers centering pass went from behind the net right up the middle of the Spartans zone and Eric Vanderhoff took off the other way, breaking in clean on San Diego netminder Tomas Svoboda. Svoboda stopped the initial shot, but was unable to corral the rebound as he slid back into his net. Moistner helped it across the goal line to give the Spartans a spark.

Just after the ensuing faceoff, the left-handed Moistner picked up a drop pass from Rhys Cottle in the neutral zone, crossed the San Diego line, and buried a wrist shot from the middle of the right circle.

San Diego called a timeout, and that stopped the bleeding for a little over seven minutes, but then Miroslav Smid got the Sabers within a goal at 5-4 with 9:11 to go. It was Vanderhoff again creating pressure on the Spartans defense with his speed charging to the net, then sliding a pass across to Smid for a tap-in.

The Sabers, back on their heels and playing on the road, could have crumbled but they responded and got back on track. Evgeny Tretyak restored the two-goal lead for the Sabers just over two-minutes later to give San Diego some breathing room. Tretyak took a stretch pass from Grindstaff, got a step on the Spartans defense, and put a wrist shot up over the blocker of Spartans goalie Jerimiah Clarke.

The Sabers sealed it with an empty-net goal in the final minute.

Tomas Svoboda picked up the win, making 33 saves in his WSHL debut. Clarke made 32 saves for Southern Oregon.

Southern Oregon 6, San Diego 4 - Saturday's game went late into the third period tied, 4-4. Italian import defenseman Michele Vignoli Sanin broke the tie with 9:36 left in the game and Axel Low added an insurance tally for the Spartans about four minutes later.

Southern Oregon emerged from a scrap with a power play and went to work. Smid and Vanderhoff crashed the net on a two-on-one and the puck squirted out of the

scramble to Low at the point. He slid it over to Vignoli Sanin who fired a slap shot through the crowd for the what proved to be the deciding goal.

Low closed out the scoring with another power play goal - this one on a 5-on-3 advantage. He skated the puck down from his position at the blueline, moved around a Sabers defender and finished from in close to put the game away.

Moistner had two more goals for Southern Oregon while Ashton Jones produced three points (1-2-3) for San Diego.

Southern Oregon 5, San Diego 3 – Sunday's rubber match was another good one. Three times the visiting Sabers took a one-goal lead and three times the Spartans tied it back up - with Moistner supplying the tying goal the first two times.

Finally, midway through the second period, Moistner gave Southern Oregon their first lead of the game, completing his hat trick and making it 4-3 Spartans.

Southern Oregon's Logan Emery scored the only goal of the third period and Austin Johnson (36 saves) stopped all 13 shots he faced in the final frame to secure the victory.

Jones scored twice for San Diego, giving them leads of 1-0 and 2-1, and Svoboda made another 34 saves for the Sabers.

Casper Bobcats @ Ogden Mustangs

The Ogden Mustangs looked like their dominant selves playing at home and sweeping three games from the Casper Bobcats.

Ogden 7, Casper 3 – Ogden jumped out to an early 2-0 lead on Friday, but Casper's Bruno Ndossi scored twice in a span of 28 seconds to tie it up.

Rhett Rampinelli broke the ice 4:41 into the game, gave the Mustangs a 4-2 lead with :02 left in the seconds period, and completed his hat trick in a three-goal third period for Ogden that sealed the win.

Ian Currie collected three assists for the Mustangs - all of them in the third period.

Kayne Pasquet turned aside 54 shots in the Casper crease while Ogden's Artur Ogandzhanyan made 26 saves to pick up the win.

Ogden 7, Casper 1 - Kerry Kruzel (2-2-4) and Samuel Sabos scored two goals apiece to spark the Mustangs to a 7-1 win on Saturday.

Rampinelli collected three assists for Ogden and Alexander Neverve stopped all 17 shots he faced through the first two periods before giving way to Ethan Racz (2 saves).

The Mustangs were already ahead by seven goals when Trevor Roehrig finally put Casper on the board.

Ogden 7, Casper 0 - The Mustangs completed the sweep on Sunday, winning 7-0 behind an Ian Currie hat trick and a combined shutout from Neverve and Racz.

It remained a one-goal game through the first period, but Ogden scored three goals - including the first from Currie - in the second period. They added three in the third - including two more 1:09 apart from Currie midway through the period.

The score would have been more lopsided had it not been for the workmanlike efforts of Ludwig Nordquist (37 saves) and Louis Busch (33 saves) between the pipes for Casper.

Seattle Totems vs. Bellingham Blazers (home-and-home series)

Intra-state rivals Seattle and Bellingham split a pair of games with each team winning on their home ice.

Bellingham 8, Seattle 4 – The Blazers go their season off on the right foot, doubling up the rival Totems in Bellingham, 8-4.

Seattle 5, Bellingham 2 – The Totems returned the favor on their home ice Saturday. Seattle's Cameron Waisman broke a 2-2 tie with 48 seconds left in the first period and the Totems kept the Blazers off the board for the rest of the game, adding a goal in each of the final two periods for a 5-2 win.

Waisman and Gabriel Sbob each scored a pair of goals and Michael Eastman got the win in goal.

El Paso Rhinos @ Dallas Snipers

The end result was much the same as it has been between these two teams in recent years, but there were stretches where the Dallas Snipers held the El Paso Rhinos at

bay. The Rhinos still posted the sweep, however, looking like they will be up to the challenge of defending their Thorne Cup championship.

El Paso 9, Dallas 3 – Dillon Manchester and Filip Schultz each scored a pair of goals to lead the Rhinos to a convincing 9-3 win in their season opener.

Jonas Burnam (1-3-4) had a four-point game for the Rhinos, who got 24 saves from Kayden Pickles.

The Snipers were within two goals at 5-3, midway through the third period, but El Paso rattled off four goals in a span of 8:20 to pull away.

Snipers netminder Danny Jamison made 31 saves through the first two periods before giving way to Kyle Plantz (16 saves) early in the third.

Jasa Jenko (1-2-3) figured in all three Dallas goals.

El Paso 7, Dallas 0 - El Paso netminder Nils Velm turned aside all 22 shots he faced in a 7-0 Rhinos win Saturday.

The game was scoreless well into the first period, but the Rhinos eventually got things going behind a pair of veterans. Chaseton Sare picked up four points (2-2-4) in the game and John Erramousepe added three (1-2-3).

Dallas netminder Kye Plantz made 43 saves, including 20 in the second period alone.

El Paso 6, Dallas 0 – Sunday's game was 1-0 El Paso after 40 minutes, but the Rhinos poured it on in the third period, scoring five unanswered goals for a 6-0 win.

Manchester scored two more goals and Velm stopped all 27 Dallas shots for the shutout - 23 of them through the first two periods.

Martin Dubsky gave El Paso a two-goal lead 3:03 into the third period and, when Dominic Erdt buried another one for the Rhinos just 2:31 later, it felt like the dam had burst.

Danny Jamison made 43 saves for the Snipers, turning aside 27 of 28 shots in the first period alone to help Dallas weather the storm.

Veteran blueliner Donald Alchin picked up three assists for the Rhinos.

Cheyenne Stampede @ Northern Colorado Eagles

The Northern Colorado Eagles took a pair of games from the Cheyenne Stampede, but both games were much closer than the meetings between these two teams last season. The Eagles won both games by a two-goal margin - not a bad showing in a hostile environment for a Cheyenne team that only won two games a year ago.

Northern Colorado 6, Cheyenne 4 – The Cheyenne Stampede went into Greely Ice Haus and put up a fight against the re-branded Northern Colorado Eagles. They ultimately came up short, 6-4, but did not stop working the whole night.

Northern Colorado's Jacob Elik took a Cameron Braun feed from behind the Cheyenne net and banged it behind Stampede netminder Juho Salmela 2:29 into the game.

Just 3:14 later, Tyler Trombly made a nice drop pass to Nikita Sheberov and he scored to make it 2-0 Eagles.

Instead of letting the game get away from them, the Stampede responded about two minutes later. Michael Cyr faded to the left wing as he crossed the Eagles' blue line and slid the puck back to the middle of the ice. Dawson Nelson skated into the pass, moved straight down the slot and buried a wrist shot to get the Stamps on the board.

But Northern Colorado scored two more time to lead, 4-1, after the opening period - including an impressive snipe up over Salmela's shoulder by Michael Petrotto.

Trombly scored the only goal of the second period, but Sheberov scored his second of the game just 1:46 into the third period to make it 6-1 Northern Colorado.

The Stampede showed some life, however. Hakan Salt answered just 24 seconds later, stealing the puck from a pair of Eagles along the left-wing boards, cutting to the net and converting on a quick forehand-backhand move.

Salt was not done. He struck again with 9:55 left in the game. With the Stampede on the power play, Jeremy Velazquez handled the puck at the right point and made a long pass across the zone to Salt down by the goal line to the left of the Northern Colorado net and buried a one-timer short side.

Cheyenne was still down three goals. They did not stop working, but were able to add just one more goal - that coming in the final minute of the game. They won a

faceoff in their own end, got the puck to Bryan Watters just inside his own blue line and he skated the length of the ice, holding off three Eagles defenders and finishing.

Salmela made 31 saves in the game.

Northern Colorado 4, Cheyenne 2 - The Stampede played a strong game and led, 1-0, until midway through the second period of Sunday's game, but the Eagles scored three unanswered goals in the third period on their way to a 4-2 comeback win.

Cheyenne's Jeremey Velazquez accepted a pass just inside the Stampede blueline, skated the length of the ice and sliced right through a trio of Northern Colorado defenders before burying a wrist shot glove side.

Mark Revniaga scored the tying and go-ahead goals for the Eagles, then Trombly added a killer in the final minute, giving NOCO a two-goal lead.

Velazquez also scored the second Cheyenne goal with 5:20 remaining in the game, but the Stamps didn't get any closer than that and the game ended, 4-2.

Brendan Carew had a strong showing in the Stampede net, making 29 saves, and keeping them in the game.

--- Compiled by Scott Harrington for Harrington Sports Media