

WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 10.11.18 - MOUNTAIN DIVISION



CASPER BOBCATS (0-3-0, 0 pts)

www.casperbobcats.com

@BobcatsCasper

The Western States Hockey League maintains its presence in Casper, although now it is the Bobcats that are calling Casper Ice Arena home.

The Bobcats debuted their sharp new sweaters in Ogden last weekend but did not manage to come back to Wyoming with any points in the standings. They will take another shot at it this weekend when they host the Oklahoma City Blazers in an inter-division series.

Brandon Kourt is the only one of the three goaltenders on the Bobcats roster that has WSHL experience. The Casper native played well in a handful of games for Springfield last year.

Kourt is not the only former Express player to make his way to Casper. Forwards Oscar Andersson (14-27-41 and 102 PIM) and Bruno Ndossi (20-34-54 and 115 PIM) also came over, along with 20-year-old defenseman Dominik Sedlacek.

The Bobcats bolstered their forward ranks with a pair of 19-year-old Germans with size – Trevor Rohrig (6'0", 185 pounds) and Florian Seelmann (6'3", 190 pounds).

17-year-old Casper native Kade Bacon played 10 games for the Coyotes two years ago.

CHEYENNE STAMPEDE (0-2-0, 0 pts)

www.cheyennestampede.com

@StampsHockey

The Cheyenne Stampede host the Dallas Snipers this weekend in a three-game inter-division series that opens the home portion of the 2018-19 Western States Hockey League schedule for the Stampede.

Veteran head coach Neil Breen is back behind the Stampede bench and will have a mix of familiar and new faces to work with.

Players returning to Cheyenne from last year's team include forwards Hakan Salt (back for a third season), Logan Syrup (14 goals in 32 games last year) and Gavin Miller. 20-year-old Connecticut native Michael Cyr is new to Cheyenne but is a junior hockey veteran with a three-year stint with the Hartford Jr. Wolfpack under his belt.

Nick Kassel, a three-year veteran of the Cheyenne Capitals who got his feet wet in four games with the Stampede last year, will play his first full season in the WSHL. 16-year old Alberta native Dawson Nelson, who scored Saturday, and 15-year-old Christian Robarge are other young guns.

Defenseman Colt Comstock is back, along with 20-year-old Matthew Lyszyk, while Keegar Barker played in the WSHL for the Wichita Jr. Thunder last season. Trenton Wells played 22 games in Cheyenne a year ago and Tomas Viskot is a 17-year-old Czech import.

OGDEN MUSTANGS (4-0-0, 12 pts)

www.ogdenmustangs.com

@OgdenMustangs

The Ogden Mustangs are perennial contenders in the Mountain Division, winning 30+ games in each of the last five seasons and averaging just under 40 over the last three.

In 2017, Ogden made it to the Thorne Cup semifinal and then, last season, made it all the way to the last game of the WSHL season. They came up one goal short, losing 3-2 to the El Paso Rhinos in the championship game.

The Mustangs have a lot of returning talent on the forward lines. Rhett Rampinelli is a 20-year-old Floridian with Junior A experience in Ontario. He put up 28-55-83 in 51 games for the Mustangs last year.

Harry Gulliver is back for a third season with the Mustangs. He produced over a point per game last year and has played for Great Britain in IIHF U18 and U20 events the last three years.

19-year-olds Kerry Kruzel, who weighs in at 6'0", 220-pounds, and Ian Currie were both 20-goal scorers while Ammon Anderson produced 42 points (18-24-42) for Ogden as a 16-year-old and landed a USHL tryout.

There are also three young forwards making the transition from midget AAA hockey: Aidan McAleer (17), Ethan McKinley (16) and 17-year-old Ogden native Cannon Rogers.

While there is a lot of experience coming back up front, the blueline was re-built with imports over the summer. Artur Ohandzhanyan (Ukraine), Nikita Boiko (Kazakhstan), Matej Krejsa (Czech Republic) and Samuel Sabos (Slovakia) will have to mesh together as the season wears on.

20-year-old Ryan Mascala is a 'Stangs veteran back for a third season and Anders Johnson is a 6'5", 195-pound defender has played high-level midget, prep and junior hockey including last season with the New Hampshire Jr. Monarchs in the USPHL Premier.

STEAMBOAT WRANGLERS (0-3-0, 0 pts)

www.steamboatwranglers.com

@SWranglers

The Steamboat Wranglers transition to the WSHL after winning it all in their second season in the Rocky Mountain Junior Hockey League (RMJHL) last spring. They began

the WSHL-era of their history last weekend by hosting the Utah Outliers and seeing firsthand what the level of play is like in the WSHL.

Utah out-scored Steamboat decisively, 27-9, over the three games but the Wranglers almost pulled out the middle game of the three-game series, losing by a single goal (5-4). They will take another shot at the Outliers this weekend, playing three games in Utah.

As expected, the Wranglers brought some players with them from the RMJHL, but not all of them from Steamboat's championship roster.

Jack Rousseau played for four teams, including Steamboat, over three years in the RMJHL, including 20-23-43 in 39 games between Colorado and Breckenridge last year.

Richard Kaye is a 20-year-old who bounced around with four different teams in the RMJHL over the last two years but, ironically, not with Steamboat. Fellow 20-year-old Kody Goodwin played with Breckenridge RMJHL last year.

The Wranglers are still sorting out their goaltending situation. They had four goaltenders in camp, but none of them have significant junior experience.

UTAH OUTLIERS (3-1-0, 9 pts)

www.UtahOutliers.com

[@UtahOutliers](#)

The Utah Outliers were shut out in their season opener at Ogden on September 29, but found their scoring touch in Colorado last weekend, producing 27 goals in their three-game sweep of Steamboat.

Every skater on the Utah roster has collected multiple points already this season – all 18 of them. They welcome the Wranglers to their barn this weekend, no doubt hoping the point parade continues.

Utah has a huge collection of players on defense. Every one of their blueliners are 6'2" or taller. One to watch is Dylan Dix, a 20-year-old with high-level junior experience in the (tuition-free) NCDC and the Tier II NAHL.

19-year-old defenseman Tristan Slott is playing for his fourth WSHL team after stints with Bellingham, Butte and Tulsa.

Kaeden Meuer (15-23-38 and 104 PIM) and Zach Dornseifer (16-29-45) were secondary scoring threats for Utah last year who could build on their numbers, but a bigger scoring spike could come from Anthony Masanotti, who was a 40-goal scorer with Phoenix last season.

The goaltending mix consists of 19-year-olds Kenton Kim and Oskar Wahlgren and 17-year-old Jack Walsh, who played with the Boston Jr. Bandits in the USPHL last year.

--- Compiled by Scott Harrington for Harrington Sports Media