

WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 10.18.18 - MOUNTAIN DIVISION



CASPER BOBCATS (0-6-0, 0 pts)

www.casperbobcats.com

@BobcatsCasper

The WSHL schedule-makers provided the Casper Bobcats with a challenging first few weeks of the regular season. It's a good reality check out of the gates, but not so good for the point totals.

The Cats, who were swept in Ogden two weeks ago, host the OKC Blazers last weekend. Although they again came up empty in the win column, Casper played hard all weekend and showed some flashes.

Wanting to get off to a quick start following a 6-1 loss on Friday, the Bobcats got on the board less than two minutes after the opening faceoff on Saturday. Oscar Andersson lit the lamp 1:57 into the contest, finishing off a 2-on-1 break with Florian Seelmann.

Bobcats goalie Ludvig Nordquist also showed up to play, stopping 19 of 20 shots in the first period and finishing the game with 44 saves. Nordquist kept the Bobcats in the game, but they came up short, 3-1.

Casper scored twice in the first 3:11 of Sunday's game to jump out to a 2-0 lead, but Oklahoma City came to life and led, 4-3, by the end of the first period and went on to an 8-4 win. Louis Busch played the final period in the Casper net and handled 26 of the 28 shots sent his way.

Bruno Ndossi has been a noticeable player in every game for the Bobcats. He produced 54 points (20-34-54) in 45 games for Springfield in the WSHL last season while accumulating 115 penalty minutes.

CHEYENNE STAMPEDE (0-4-1, 1 pts)

www.cheyennestampede.com

@StampsHockey

Jeremy Velazquez has been a tremendous asset for the Cheyenne Stampede. The 20-year-old Illinois native spent the last two seasons playing Junior A hockey in Saskatchewan with the Battlefords North Stars, LaRonge Ice Wolves and Weyburn Red Wings.

He scored 14 goals in 56 games for Weyburn last season while picking up 71 penalty minutes.

Velazquez collected points in each of his first four WSHL games, including two-goal efforts against Northern Colorado and Dallas.

According to www.eliteprospects.com, the Cheyenne roster has trended younger and lighter over the last three seasons, from an average of 19.88 years old in 2016-17 to 18.39 this season and from 180 pounds to 168 in that same time span.

The Stampede, who played three very competitive games against the Dallas Snipers last week, but only came away with one point at home, will travel to Casper test themselves against the Bobcats this weekend.

OGDEN MUSTANGS (7-0-0, 21 pts)

www.ogdenmustangs.com

@OgdenMustangs

The top six scorers for the Ogden Mustangs have a lot in common. They are all American-born players, already with double-digit points, who played for the Mustangs last season.

With two more points, Rhett Rampinelli will become the 10th player in franchise history to reach 100 career points with the Mustangs. He is currently tied for #10 on the team's all-time points list with 98 (34-64-98), tying him with Dusty Watt.

If Rampinelli were to match last season's 83-point output this year, he would reach #3 on the Mustangs' all-time points list by season's end. This is his last year of junior eligibility.

Harry Gulliver is next in line for the Century Club. The third-year Mustang enters play this week with 81 points (29-51-81) in 98 career WSHL regular season games.

Ogden goes up against Utah this weekend in a home-and-home series that pits the Mountain Division's top two teams against one another.

STEAMBOAT WRANGLERS (0-6-0, 0 pts)

www.steamboatwranglers.com

@SWranglers

The Steamboat Wranglers franchise is looking for their first win in WSHL competition. They were given a rough initiation into the league - playing the Utah Outliers six straight time to open the season.

Part of the challenge for the Wranglers was that they only managed to convert two of their first 28 power play opportunities against the efficient Utah penalty kill.

Steamboat will get an opportunity to play some WSHL competition other than Utah this when they host the Wichita Jr. Thunder for three games. The Jr. Thunder will be playing their first games of the season, so their PK may be more ripe for the picking than Utah's was.

Tristen Wells looks like he will be a key player for the Wranglers this season. The 18-year-old forward stands 6'5" and 180 pounds and leads the team with three goals through his first five games.

Wells is a Colorado native who returned home after playing for the New York Aviators in the USPHL last season.

UTAH OUTLIERS (6-1-0, 18 pts)

www.UtahOutliers.com

@UtahOutliers

Are the Utah Outliers 6-0 because they played Steamboat six times to start the season? Or is Steamboat 0-6 because they played Utah six times to start the season...time will tell...

The Outliers boast an incredibly balanced scoring attack. Jan Dvorak leads the team with 14 points (6-8-14), but 14 Outliers have two, three or four goals and 13 have between 6-9 points. It's almost a perfect bell curve.

If Utah can spread the scoring around like that all season what players, or lines, are opposing teams going to focus on shutting down when they face the Outliers? The scoring balance and depth will give head coach Paul Taylor a distinct competitive advantage.

All three goalies on the Utah roster have played and won in the early going, but it looks like 19-year-old Oskar Wahlgren is going to be the primary starter. He played eight of nine periods in the Outliers' crease last weekend.

Wahlgren and the Outliers will have to be sharp this weekend as they go up against undefeated Ogden.

--- Compiled by Scott Harrington for Harrington Sports Media