

WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 10.19.18 - PROVINCIAL DIVISION



COLD LAKE WINGS (1-1-0, 3 pts)

www.coldlakewings.com

@ColdLakeWings

The Cold Lake Wings will introduce their fans to Western States Hockey League action for the first time on Friday night when they host the Meadow Lake Mustangs.

The Wings started the season off with a pair of road games last weekend, losing their season opener but rebounding to pick up the franchise's first WSHL victory the next day.

Maxamilian Gaudet made 37 saves for the Wings in their inaugural game, an 8-2 loss at Edson. Anson Smith and Dorian Hall provide the goals for Cold Lake in that game.

Ty Deleeuw scored his second goal of the game with 3:11 left in the third period to give the Wings a 4-3 win in Hinton over the Wildcats on Saturday.

Hinton led, 2-0, after the first period, but the Wings scored three goals in a span of 1:07 to take a 3-2 lead in the second. The Wildcats stopped the bleeding and eventually even the score back up, 3-3, before the end of the second period.

Cold Lake's Brendan Culbertson made 29 saves to pick up the win.

Smith, a 17-year-old forward, picked up a pair of assists against Hinton and leads the team in the early going with three points (1-2-3).

EDSON AEROS (2-0-0, 6 pts)

www.aeroshockey.ca

@AerosEdson

Putting together a junior hockey team from scratch is a very ambitious undertaking and Edson Aeros president and general manager Axel Axmann was very happy to see the team take the ice for their inaugural game last Friday - and not just because the Aeros defeated the visiting Cold Lake Wings.

"Opening night against Cold Lake was special as it introduced the WSHL to the people of Edson," said Axmann. "It was a great game with good action on both ends."

Pre-game ceremonies included the Royal Canadian Legion, Joe Wynne Branch color guard and the Mayor of Edson, Kevin Zahara.

"It was just awesome and made me quite emotional," Axmann said. "It's been quite a ride!"

The Aeros followed up their Opening Night victory with another "W" the next night against Meadow Lake.

Edson goes up against the Hinton Wildcats this weekend in a home-and-home series. The two teams played each other several times in the pre-season, so this should be a good series as the intensity ratchets up a notch for the regular season.

HINTON WILDCATS (1-1-0, 3 pts)

www.hintonwildcats.ca

@HintonWildcats

The Hinton Wildcats split their first two games as a WSHL franchise, defeating the Meadow Lake Mustangs, 7-2, in their inaugural game last Friday.

Hinton was led by some great performances from some of their younger players.

16-year old D Ryland Strauss (1-4-5) and 17-year-old F Dmitri Buttazoni (3-1-4) led a balanced Hinton attack last weekend that saw nine different players score goals and 11 collect points.

"Ryland Strauss has been amazing for us and the same with Buttazoni," said Hinton general manager and head coach Geoff Walker. "Ryland is probably our best all-around defenseman the way he moves the puck, his vision and the way he plays hard in the D-zone. At his age we will keep developing him and hopefully move him to a higher league either next year or the year after."

"Dimitri same thing - he does it all for us and if he's not going we don't win." Walker said. "It's a lot to put on a 17-year old's shoulders but he's mature enough to handle it - so far so good."

18-year-old goaltender Justin Dupuis was also sharp in the Opening Night win over Meadow Lake, turning aside 26 of 28 shots.

The Cold Lake Wings nipped the Cats by a 4-3 score on Saturday in what was a very entertaining hockey game.

"Saturday, I thought we were the better team again," said Walker. "Hockey is a game of bounces and it just didn't go our way in the third but overall very positive from our guys on the opening weekend."

Walker also singled out captain Dawson Basnett for his contributions.

"He does all the little jobs off the ice to help this machine run smoothly," Walker said. "He has a great handle on that room with the help of some of the assistant captains. He plays and does everything the right way we are very fortunate to have him in blue and orange this season."

MEADOW LAKE MUSTANGS (0-2-0, 0 pts)

www.meadowlakemustangs.com

@ML_Mustangs

The Meadow Lake Mustangs will look for their first win as a WSHL franchise as they tangle with Cold Lake in a home-and-home series. The Mustangs will be the last of

the four Provincial Division teams to play their home opener when they take to the ice Saturday evening.

Meadow Lake managed just three goals in their two road losses to open the season last weekend. Joseph Iron, a 20-year-old forward from Canoe Lake First Nation, scored two of the three goals for the 'Stangs - 17-year-old Rylee Morrison scored the other.

Iron, 6'1" and 185 pounds, notched 39 goals in 41 games last year with the Coldwater Ice Wolves of the CPJHL.

--- Compiled by Scott Harrington for Harrington Sports Media