

## WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 11.01.18 – MOUNTAIN DIVISION



**CASPER BOBCATS (3-9-0, 9 pts)**

**[www.casperbobcats.com](http://www.casperbobcats.com)**

**@BobcatsCasper**

The Casper Bobcats' are enjoying a respite from their grueling October schedule that saw them play Ogden six times and Oklahoma City three.

The Bobcats, who played their last nine games at home, are off this week and next before resuming play with a three-game trek to West Valley City November 16-18 to go up against another contender in the division – the Utah Outliers.

That means the Bobcats will go from October 7 to November 16 without playing on the road.

There is a three-way tie for the team goal-scoring lead in Casper between Florian Seelman, Oscar Andersson and Joel Rothman. All three players have scored four goals. Seelman and Rothman are playing in the WSHL for the first time while Andersson debuted with the Springfield Express last season.

**CHEYENNE STAMPEDE (0-9-1, 1 pts)**

**[www.cheyennestampede.com](http://www.cheyennestampede.com)**

**@StampsHockey**

The Cheyenne Stampede have yet to win a game this season, but their 0-9-1 record is not really indicative of how well they have played in the first month of the season.

They have been in most of their games – with six of 10 decided by two goals or fewer.

Stampede head coach Neil Breen thinks his team has been better than their record shows, and with four of the top five goal-scorers for Cheyenne being new players brought in this season, that indicates Breen had a good summer on the recruiting trail.

“Bryan Watters and Jeremy Velazquez are for sure difference makers,” said Breen. “And you can put Ben Gloe, Logan Syrup, and 16-year-old Dawson Nelson in that group as well.”

The results have not been there yet, but Breen sees positive signs.

“We are certainly better than our record,” said Breen. “We put forward good efforts on both sides of the puck for 40-45 minutes. As we mature, that time increases.”

For Breen, the October games have exposed some weaknesses in mindset and tactical composure in the tougher games.

“Even though we are older collectively than last year we still have young guys adjusting to the league,” Breen said. “Facing the adversity of tight, physical games is new to some of our guys. As our guys continue to mature, heal and gain more experience, those mindsets and composure elements will start to come around.”

**OGDEN MUSTANGS (12-0-0, 36 pts)**

**[www.ogdenmustangs.com](http://www.ogdenmustangs.com)**

**@OgdenMustangs**

Things keep rolling along for Jake Laime and the Ogden Mustangs. The Mountain Division powerhouse has collected every one of the possible 36 standings points put in front of them so far this season.

Despite their perfect record, the Mustangs are actually scoring goals at a reduced rate compared to last year – down from a prolific 6.89 to a still-impressive 5.67 – so, it's not like Ogden is exactly snake-bitten. Nine players are currently producing over a point per game.

Maybe they are not scoring as many goals as last year, but they are allowing fewer as well. Ukrainian import Artur Ogandzhanyan has been a revelation. He ranks second in the league in goals-against average (1.70) and save percentage (.943) among goalies who have played 180+ minutes. He trails only Oklahoma City's Xavier Garneau, who tops the WSHL in both categories.

Ogandzhanyan's nine wins, however, leads the circuit by a long shot. No other WSHL netminder has more than five "W"s to their credit.

Despite Ogandzhanyan's prolific numbers, he has actually been facing a decent amount of shots: 247 through 493 minutes played, or just over 30 per game.

The Steamboat Wranglers will be the next team trying to take a piece out of the 'Stangs when they visit The Ice Sheet in Ogden for three games this weekend.

### **STEAMBOAT WRANGLERS (3-9-0, 8 pts)**

**[www.steamboatwranglers.com](http://www.steamboatwranglers.com)**

**@SWranglers**

The Steamboat Wranglers received a rough initiation into the WSHL with six straight games against the Utah Outliers to open their season. The Wranglers, getting their first taste of their new league, were swept both on the road, and at home, by an elite WSHL team and Mountain Division contender.

The Wranglers got into the win column the following week, taking eight of nine points from Wichita at home, but most recently lost three straight games on the road in Dallas.

Four different goaltenders have seen time between the pipes for the Wranglers already this season, but 16-year-old Jordan Belley is emerging as the number one. Belley, a product of the Pursuit of Excellence program, is responsible for seven of the first 12 decisions in the Steamboat net (2-5-0) with a competent .890 save percentage that is pretty impressive for a goalie of his age.

Belley, who will turn 17 on December 2, is from Red Deer, Alberta.

Steamboat travels to Ogden this weekend for a three-game series against the undefeated and Mountain Division-leading Mustangs.

**UTAH OUTLIERS (7-5-0, 21 pts)**

**[www.UtahOutliers.com](http://www.UtahOutliers.com)**

**@UtahOutliers**

The Utah Outliers close out a seven-game homestand with three against the winless Cheyenne Stampede (see above for reasons to think this will not be a cakewalk).

Utah has lost five games, but five have come to Ogden and the other two were at the hands of the Oklahoma City Blazers. Utah's win over OKC was the only loss suffered by either of those teams all season.

Murray, UT native Ryan Solomon, who played for the Outliers franchise in 2014-15 when they were known as the Salt Lake City Moose, has a chance to play NCAA Division I hockey in the Hockey East conference with the Northeastern Huskies.

After his stint in the WSHL, Solomon played two seasons with the Aston Rebels in the NAHL. He then redshirted at Northeastern a year ago.

The Huskies have been a program on the rise over the last few seasons, winning the 2018 Beanpot Tournament, qualifying for the NCAA Tournament two of the last three years, and one of their players – Adam Gaudette of the Vancouver Canucks – won the Hobey Baker Trophy last season.

*--- Compiled by Scott Harrington for Harrington Sports Media*