

# WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 11.09.18 – PROVINCIAL DIVISION



**COLD LAKE WINGS (2-5-1-0, 8 pts)**

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

**@ColdLakeWings**

The Bellingham Blazers and Southern Oregon Spartans make the trek north (and east) to play in Cold Lake and Meadow Lake this week, giving the Wings their first look at teams from another of the WSHL's five divisions.

Cold Lake only has two wins so far this season, but four of their eight games have been decided by a single goal – including all three against the team directly ahead of them in the Provincial Division standings, the Hinton Wildcats.

Case in point, a 3-2 loss to the Wildcats Saturday at the Murray Rec Center in Hinton, in which Conor Firth's second goal of the game got the Wings within a goal and the two teams played scoreless hockey for the final 28:55.

It was an example of great, tight, playoff-style hockey. It also represented a "six-point swing" in the standings using the WSHL's system that awards three points for a

regulation win. Hinton's seven-point leg up on Cold Lake does not seem so large when you consider it would be a single point had the Wings won that game in regulation instead.

Cold Lake is within striking distance of Hinton in what should end up being an entertaining season-long race for home ice advantage in the divisional playoffs.

Maximilian Gaudet kept the Wings in Saturday's game with 42 saves against the Wildcats and has provided Cold Lake with solid play in net, posting a team-leading .893 save percentage.

**EDSON AEROS (7-0-0-1, 22 pts)**

**[www.aeroshockey.ca](http://www.aeroshockey.ca)**

**@AerosEdson**

The Edson Aeros face competition from south of the border this week as the Seattle Totems and West Sound Admirals of the Western States Hockey League's Northwest Division visit for some inter-divisional play.

Aeros head coach Bernie Lynch is looking forward to seeing some of the competition from other parts of the league.

"Absolutely we are looking forward to some other teams coming to play us," said Lynch. "We don't get better as a group unless we are challenged to play to our best and we know this is going to happen."

Last weekend, the Aeros skated to lopsided victories over the Cold Lake Wings (16-2) and Meadow Lake Mustangs (15-0). Edson remains undefeated in regulation and holds a seven-point lead over the Hinton Wildcats.

Edson's Sebastian Heden leads the WSHL with 34 points (17-17-34), closely followed by Emil Johansson's 29 (15-14-29). Liam Austin, meanwhile, has been Lynch's go-to guy between the pipes, winning all five of his starts and posting a 2.40 goals-against average and a .911 save percentage.

The play between the Provincial and Northwest divisions continues next week as the Southern Oregon Spartans and the Northwest Division-leading Bellingham Blazers and Thomas Steven come to town. Steven leads the entire 23-team WSHL with 18 goals—one more than Heden entering play this week.

**HINTON WILDCATS (4-2-1-1, 15 pts)**

**[www.hintonwildcats.ca](http://www.hintonwildcats.ca)**

**@HintonWildcats**

The Hinton Wildcats get their first exposure to Western States Hockey League competition from south of the border this weekend as they welcome the West Sound Admirals and Seattle Totems of the WSHL's Northwest Division to Murray Rec Center.

The Wildcats solidified their second-place standing in the WSHL's Provincial Division last week with home wins over the Meadow Lake Mustangs and Cold Lake Wings.

The Wildcats built leads of 2-0 and 3-1 in the first period and held on for a 4-2 win over the Meadow Lake Mustangs Friday evening.

Jakob Arsenault scored two goals, including the game-winner, for the Wildcats and Hinton netminder Samuel Gendron made 30 saves, stopping 18 of 19 shots over the final two periods to stymie Meadow Lake as they pressed to come back.

Brendan Auger scored twice as the Wildcats jumped out to a 3-1 advantage again on Saturday then, with help from goaltender Justin Dupuis (18 saves) protected a one-goal lead for the final 28:55 of game time in a 3-2 win over the Cold Lake Wings.

Auger opened the scoring at the 8:58 mark of the first period with the Wildcats playing shorthanded.

Dupuis now sports a 3-0-0 record between the pipes for Hinton.

Inter-division play will continue next weekend when the Wildcats will be visited by the Bellingham Blazers (Thursday & Saturday) and Southern Oregon Spartans (Saturday).

**MEADOW LAKE MUSTANGS (1-7-0, 3 pts)**

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

**@ML\_Mustangs**

Southern Oregon and Bellingham will swing through Meadow Lake as well this weekend and the Mustangs will attempt to begin an ascent up the Provincial Division standings by collecting some points in inter-division play.

The Mustangs have suffered some one-side losses in the early going, but have also won a game and had a few that they were in until the third period but came up short.

Friday's 4-2 loss at Hinton was one such game that didn't yield any points in the standings for Meadow Lake, but gives them something to build on.

Justyn Noltcho-Clarke scored both Mustangs goals Friday and leads the 'Stangs in both goals (5) and points (8).

Meadow Lake's six-game homestand continues next week with West Sound and Seattle visiting Saskatchewan.

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