

# WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 01.18.19 – PROVINCIAL DIVISION



*WSHL standings are expressed W-L-OTW-OTL (“W” and “L” represent regulation wins and losses; shootouts are included in overtime results). Three points are awarded for a regulation win, two for an overtime win and one for an overtime loss.*

**COLD LAKE WINGS (3-22-1-1, 12 pts)**

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

**@ColdLakeWings**

After dropping both ends of a home-and-home series to the Meadow Lake Mustangs, the Cold Lake Wings have now lost four games in a row. Cold Lake won their last game of the Western States Shootout, but that is their only win since late October.

Cold Lake now trails the third-place Mustangs by nine points. In attempt to shake things up, general manager and head coach Marek Babic re-acquired goaltender Brendan Culbertson from the Hinton Wildcats, along with forwards Ryoto Inukai and Trey Beck, for goaltender Max Gaudet.

Culbertson started the season in Cold Lake but was traded to Hinton in November. The 6'2", 200-pound Sherwood Park, Alberta native won all three of his starts with the Wildcats, posting a 2.47 goals-against average and .944 save percentage in the process. He returns to Cold Lake with one season of junior hockey eligibility remaining.

Inukai, 18, was one of the more productive forwards with the Wildcats, putting up 22 points (7-15-22) in 25 games.

2002-born Beck, who had three points (1-2-3) in 25 games with Hinton to start the year, scored in his Cold Lake debut. He picked up an assist the next night as well.

Beck hails from Hay River in the Northwest Territories while Inukai is from Negawa, Japan.

"I wanted to shore up our forwards and basically just bring in some bodies," said Babic. "Not just to focus on next year but to bring in some new blood and change things up a bit. I think we got a great deal that benefits the Cold Lake Wings for sure."

Babic also made an addition between the pipes with goaltender and Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan native Austin Johnson coming over from the Southern Oregon Spartans.

Johnson, 18, had a record of 2-7-1 with a 4.95 goals-against average and .871 save percentage in 14 appearances with Southern Oregon. That included stopping 112 of 123 shots (.911) in three games against Provincial Division opponents during two weeks of inter-division play in November.

**EDSON AEROS (19-6-1-1, 60 pts)**

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

**@AerosEdson**

The Edson Aeros increased their cushion at the top of the Provincial Division standings to 12 points over the Hinton Wildcats by taking both ends of a home-and-home series from them last week.

The Aeros won both games despite allowing Hinton to score the first goal of each contest.

Six different players scored for Edson in their 6-2 home win on Friday, including Emil Johansson, who supplied the game-winner, and WSHL scoring leader Sebastian Heden who also had three assists.

Saturday in Hinton, Heden notched a hat trick and Johansson had a goal and three assists in a 7-1 win.

With Cold Lake and Meadow Lake coming to town Friday and Saturday, respectively, Heden is tied for the WSHL scoring lead with Rhett Rampinelli of the Ogden Mustangs. Both players have the exact same scoring line: 38-46-84, but Heden has produced that total in nine fewer games. He is putting up 3.36 points per game compared to 2.47 for Rampinelli.

Johansson is the only other player in the league scoring at a three-points-per-game clip (3.08). His 41 goals lead the league.

Even more amazing than the Aeros dominance of the competition in the Provincial Division, and their prolific offense, is the fact that there are only two 1998-born players on the roster: goaltender Liam Austin and forward Sebastian Lind.

That means that, theoretically, the Aeros could bring back their entire team minus those two players. Edson is certainly set up for long-term success in the WSHL if they are able to bring back the bulk of their current group.

**HINTON WILDCATS (15-10-1-1, 48 pts)**

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

**@HintonWildcats**

Newly-acquired goaltender Max Gaudet made 83 saves over his first two games in a Hinton Wildcats sweater, but it was not enough to stave off a pair of losses to the first-place Edson Aeros.

The top two teams in the division will enjoy home ice advantage for the first round of the playoffs, so it is essential that the Wildcats maintain their position ahead of the much-improved Meadow Lake Mustangs.

Hinton has won all five of their meetings this year with Meadow Lake, and has a comfortable lead in the standings right now, but they will still play each other five more times this season, starting Friday night at Murray Rec Center.

In addition to fending the Mustangs off in the standings, the Wildcats do not want the Mustangs to gain any confidence against them head-to-head as they seem destined to meet each other in a best-of-three Provincial Division Semifinal series.

2000-born goaltender Samuel Gendron was peppered in 24 minutes of action against Edson last Saturday but was sharp, stopping 28 of 30 shots. The New Brunswick native has had a single-game save percentage over .900 in each of his last three appearances, stopping 98 of 107 shots in that span (.916).

**MEADOW LAKE MUSTANGS (7-20-0, 21 pts)**

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

**@ML\_Mustangs**

Kenton Night is the only 1998-born skater on the Meadow Lake Mustangs roster. Goaltender Trevor Buckmeier makes two players total who are playing out their last season of junior eligibility in Meadow Lake during the Mustangs' inaugural season in the WSHL.

That will give the team plenty of options as they decide which players will form their returning core in Year Two.

This weekend presents another opportunity for the team, which has shown improvement as the season has progressed, to test themselves against the top two teams in the division. The Mustangs will be in Hinton Friday night to play the team directly ahead of them in the Provincial Division standings, then head to Edson on Saturday for another shot at the division-leading Aeros.

Meadow Lake put a scare in the Aeros when they visited Meadow Lake's District Rec Center on January 5. The game remained a scoreless tie through two periods before the Aeros escaped with a 2-0 win.

Buckmeier stopped 48 of 50 shots in that game. He also had a 52-save effort against Edson in November. They will need top-notch goaltending to pick up points in the standings this weekend and maintain or build on their nine-point lead over Cold Lake.

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