

WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 02.08.19 – 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 (3-28-1-1, 12 pts)

www.coldlakewings.com

@ColdLakeWings

The Cold Lake Wings hope to snap a losing streak that reached double digits last week when they host the Meadow Lake Mustangs at Imperial Oil Place Friday evening. Cold Lake’s last win came on December 20 in their final game of the Western States Shootout, a 7-5 win over the Mountain Division’s Steamboat Wranglers – another first-year WSHL franchise.

The Wings continue to bring in new blood hoping to spark a turnaround. Dylan Tonks lit the lamp in each of the games last weekend – his first two games for the Wings.

Tonks, 18, was playing Junior B hockey in the PJHL on Canada's west coast. He recorded 18 points (5-13-18) in 35 games played for the Richmond Sockeyes and White Rock Whalers.

Calem McNabb has played Junior B in Alberta this year and last, but also made his Junior A debut for the Calgary Canucks in the AJHL before joining the Wings. He has collected one assist in three games.

EDSON AEROS (24-6-1-1, 75 pts)

www.aeroshockey.ca

@AerosEdson

While Cold Lake has not won since the league showcase in Las Vegas, Edson has not lost, winning nine games in a row since their 0-3 showing at the Western States Shootout.

The Aeros are still leading the Provincial Division race and will try to build on their 15-point cushion over Hinton this weekend as they play a home-and-home series with the Wildcats.

Edsonm apparently did some scouting between games at the Western States Shootout. They recently signed Quebecois blue liner Jarius Moar who was playing for one of the CPJHL select teams at the event.

Moar hails from Nemaska, Quebec. The 5'8", 170-pound defenseman has played in three games for the Aeros. He scored one goal and had 15 assists in 41 games last season for the CPJHL's Smith Falls Settlers.

Caden Schwetz, a 2000-born forward, was also added to the roster recently.

Sebastian Heden (45-62-107) and Emil Johansson (52-49-101) remain the only two WSHL players to hit the century mark this season. Ogden's Rhett Rampinelli (45-53-98) needs just two more points, but won't join them this weekend as the Mustangs are off. Vitalii Mikhaihov is the only other WSHLer to surpass 40 goals in the 2018-19 campaign (43), so Heden and Johansson are in pretty lofty company on the league's scoring charts this season.

HINTON WILDCATS (19-11-1-1, 60 pts)

www.hintonwildcats.ca

@HintonWildcats

The most penalized team in the Provincial Division this season (874 PIM), the Hinton Wildcats rank sixth overall in the WSHL in time spent in the sin bin.

Hinton's top two scorers have both gone over 100 penalty minutes: Brendan Auger (26-33-59 with 107 PIM) and Dimitri Buttazzoni (27-29-56 with 106 PIM).

Meanwhile, 6'4", 235-pound Jacob Delorme leads the team with 118 PIM accumulated in just 24 games played.

Forward Dorian Hall, acquired from Cold Lake in exchange for defenseman Seth Ulmer, picked up an assist in his Wildcats debut and also spent 19 minutes in the penalty box so he should fit right in, although it's tough to get to know your new teammates when you are isolated from them for almost a full period's worth of hockey.

Sam Gendron has won four of his last five starts for the Wildcats – three over Cold Lake and the other against Meadow Lake.

MEADOW LAKE MUSTANGS (8-23-0, 24 pts)

www.meadowlakemustangs.com

@ML_Mustangs

Severe weather prevented the Meadow Lake Mustangs from playing either of their scheduled games for last week. They will be re-scheduled for a date and time to be determined.

The Mustangs home-and-home set with fourth-place Cold Lake this weekend cannot be taken lightly. It would not take much for the Wings to take a bite out of Meadow Lake's 12-point lead over them. As a matter of fact, two regulation wins for Cold Lake would cut the lead in half.

Meadow Lake's eight wins this season have been equally divided, four each, between home and road.

Only Cold Lake (19) and Steamboat (18) have scored fewer power play goals that season than the Mustangs' 21. Part of the problem is that only three WSHL teams have spent less time on the power play. Meadow Lake has only played with a man-advantage for just over 210 minutes over their 31 games. For comparison, Provincial Division leader Edson has skated on the power play for 314:37 and Wichita for a league-leading 378:05.

--- Compiled by Scott Harrington for Harrington Sports Media