

WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 12.05.17 – MOUNTAIN DIVISION



CASPER COYOTES (9-14-0, 18pts)

www.caspercoyotes.com

@CasperCoyotes

The Casper Coyotes have now won nine games on the season after sweeping six games from rival Cheyenne over the past two weekends.

Five different Casper skaters scored on Friday including two from Michael Syring.

Saturday's game saw Bradley Green get a hat trick and Tyler Rossi and Brindamour Beard each pick up a helper. Cameron Braun's third-period strike on Sunday proved to be the game winner and Green added two more assists.

The 'Yotes scored 39 goals over the course of their previous six games against Cheyenne and now boast 10 skaters with double-digit points. It seems the two straight sweeps of the Stampede worked as a nice primer as Casper now turn their attention towards the Western States Shootout.

Bradley Green will be a player to watch in the desert, leading the Coyotes with a 15-11-26 line in just 23 games in his first WSHL season. The Utah native tore up his high school league last year, going for 43 points in 14 league games, and now seems to be continuing his solid play at the Tier II junior level.

Dallen Neese (9-9-18) is having a career season after scoring just three points for Casper two seasons ago and ten points for Southern Oregon in 2016-17.

The Coyotes played three goalies with Nolan Kare (25 saves) getting the win on Friday, Koby Lukehart (21) on Saturday, and Wesley Ellingsen (25) earning the victory in Sunday's tight 4-3 win.

CHEYENNE STAMPEDE (2-23-0, 4pts)

www.cheyennestampede.com

@StampsHockey

Cheyenne lost their sixth straight to Casper, and 18th overall, after being swept by the Coyotes for the second straight series. The Stamps showed guts, however, seemingly keeping in step with Casper throughout the three-game weekend and making Sunday's game the closest of the three.

Newcomers Trenton Wells and Gavin Miller provided some spark for Cheyenne, which is an encouraging sign. Wells scored on Friday while Miller added a 2-2-4 line over the three games.

Turkish forward Hakan Salt scored a 1-3-4 line matching his totals from last season in just this weekend, while Cheyenne's leading scorer George Leech (5-6-11) was held to just one goal in three games against Casper.

The Stampede have some games left before they can begin thinking about Las Vegas with a home-and-home against Superior this weekend before hosting the RoughRiders and Colorado Jr. Eagles in single games next Friday and Saturday.

COLORADO EAGLES (16-5-3, 35pts)

www.coloradojunioreagles.com

@COJrEagles

The Tower of Power struck again as defenseman John Tower's 1-3-4 line led the way for the Jr. Eagles in their single contest of the week against Superior.

It was the second straight one-off with the RoughRiders and second straight win after getting swept by El Paso two weeks ago.

Christopher Calabrese scored his third goal of the year, giving him 3-3-6 in just eight games with Colorado. Sean McMahon and Carter Dahl now lead the Jr. Eagles with 28 points apiece. Dahl's 14 goals also lead Colorado, which has seven players having scored more than 20 points this season.

Colorado's 131 goals scored are topped by only Ogden's gaudy 197 on the season.

The Jr. Eagles will have a bit of a break before taking on Cheyenne in two weeks and then they can turn their focus towards the Western States Shootout.

The tournament in Vegas will have a huge impact on determining whether or not Colorado is for real heading into the second half of the season. The Jr. Eagles have been favored for a deep run in this season's playoffs, but a serious test awaits them in the desert. Colorado will face off against the Long Beach Bombers, Valencia Flyers and Idaho IceCats – all legit contenders for the Thorne Cup.

OGDEN MUSTANGS (21-4-1, 43pts)

www.ogdenmustangs.com

@OgdenMustangs

The Ogden Mustangs cemented themselves as one of top two or three teams in the league after handing Idaho their first two losses of the season, and taking them to overtime in another game, collecting five of a possible six points.

Ogden's 43 points are good for second in the WSHL behind only undefeated El Paso's 48. The Mustangs' 197 goals scored, meanwhile, is tops in the league and will likely remain tops throughout the season as they have 30 more than the second most productive team (El Paso).

Daniel Pavlicko stopped 25 shots and Matus Spodniak continued his otherworldly season with two goals and an assist in Friday's 4-2 victory – the Ice Cats' first loss of the season.

Pavlicko got the call again Saturday, but Idaho's goal 2:24 into the overtime cost Ogden the game.

The Mustangs scored two third-period goals with Spodniak sniping the game-winner midway through the final frame to give Ogden the series win. Pavlicko ended the three games with 79 saves going 2-0-1.

Spodniak ended the weekend 4-6-10 and is now on pace for 47,000 points with a silly 44-48-92 line in just 26 games. Spodniak is now just 56 points away from the WSHL's all-time record for points in a season, a mark he should hit by about 4PM tomorrow.

The Mustangs will take on Utah in what should be an entertaining a home-and-home series. Ogden has three wins in five games against Utah this season. It has been a very competitive season series between the two in-state rivals.

Ogden has a very challenging draw for the upcoming showcase in Las Vegas, play the two remaining undefeated teams in the WSHL – Oklahoma City and El Paso – as well as the Valencia Flyers at the Western States Shootout. Those three teams have a combined record of 61-6-0 (.910 winning percentage).

SUPERIOR ROUGHRIDERS (12-12-0, 24pts)

www.SuperiorRoughRiders.com

@SPR_RoughRiders

Superior fell yet again to Colorado and seem destined to remain in the second tier alone in the Mountain Division. With teams like the Jr. Eagles, Ogden, and Utah vying for the top spot, and teams like Casper and Cheyenne stuck near the bottom, Superior will have to do some work to get out of distinguish themselves within the division.

A few upsets of the teams above them in the standings would certainly make teams take notice, but those three teams have a combined 55-14-4 record.

Rookie Russian Nikita Sheberov continues his march across WSHL scoresheets, a goal and an assist against Colorado to bring his season totals to an impressive 30-22-52 line. Rookie Thore Weyrauch's 14-24-38 line is also impressive, but the RoughRiders have a bit of a dip after those two with the next highest scorer on the team being defenseman Erik Buschmann's 16 points.

Last week, we put forth the fact that the Superior roster is full of fresh faces who are sporting incredibly well given their lack of experience. While a 7-2

loss to one of the league's better teams may not show it on the scoreboard, this is a team to keep an eye on the rest of the way.

They'll play Cheyenne this weekend before setting their sails for Vegas where the rookie-filled team will look to make the rest of the league take notice.

Coach Paul DePuydt has his team playing well and nearly everyone is contributing so we're looking forward to them facing some formidable competition in the desert to see how the kids handle themselves.

UTAH OUTLIERS (18-5-0, 36pts)

www.UtahOutliers.com

[@UtahOutliers](#)

The Utah Outliers swept the Northwest Division's Tahoe Icemen last weekend, scoring 25 goals in the three games, while allowing only eight goals to the Northwest's second-best team.

Head Coach Paul Taylor has been crediting his team's defense all season and that trend continues.

"We have worked hard on our defensive game this season and it's paid off for us in a lot of ways," Taylor said. "I think our defensive game five-on-five has been solid as well as our penalty kill."

Utah tends to win big against lesser opponents, but when they play the more formative teams like Ogden and Colorado, the games are tight and coach Taylor sees that experience paying off in come playoff time.

"I think any time you get to play in tight games it is good for your team," he said. "It gives the players confidence to play when the score is close and come playoff time the scores will definitely tighten up."

Utah will continue their strong play with another home-and-home against in-state rivals Ogden. These two teams have played some incredible hockey against each other in their previous five contests and this weekend's game will surely be one of the top two series to watch.

"I think we are playing well right now and it will be good to get a few more tough games before the showcase," Taylor said of playing Ogden. "We will get some real solid competition in Las Vegas so it will be a good test for our team."

--- *Tyler Whidden for Harrington Sports Media*