

# WSHL WRAP-UP; November 30 – December 3, 2017



## **ONTARIO AVALANCHE @ VALENCIA FLYERS** **Avalanche continue to make noise in Western Division race**

11.30.17 – Ontario 5, Valencia 4

The Ontario Avalanche continued to show that, despite their fifth-place standing at the current time, they will be a factor in the Western Division race, scoring three unanswered goals in the third period to come back from a 4-2 deficit on the road to defeat the Valencia Flyers, 5-4.

All five Ontario goals came from different sources, with William Mas supplying the tying goal with 4:27 left in the third period and Thomas King tallying the game-winner with just 40 seconds left on the clock.

Filip Subrt stopped all 11 shots he faced in the third period and finished the game with 39 saves for the Avalanche.

Jakob Kranabetter collected an assist on all four Flyers goals, which included a pair by Nikita Pintusov.

**LONG BEACH BOMBERS vs. FRESNO MONSTERS (home-and-home)**  
**Bombers, Monsters both win on home ice**

11.30.17 – Long Beach 2 @ Fresno 7

12.02.17 – Fresno 5 @ Long Beach 9

The Fresno Monsters and Long Beach Bombers split a Thursday/Saturday home-and-home series with each team winning their home game.

The Monsters scored three times in the third period to pull away for a 7-2 win in Fresno on Thursday night. Jacob Rudloff scored twice and Cody Key had a goal and three assists for Fresno while Daylon Mannon collected four helpers and Max Karlenzig stopped 30 of 32 shots.

The Bombers recovered on home ice Saturday night, scoring three times in each period and winning, 9-5. Parker Moskal (2-3-5) and Miroslav Rohlik (2-1-3) each scored twice and Artem Korolev (1-4-5) picked up five points to spearhead the Bombers attack.

Pucks were going in the net all night and both teams used two goaltenders. Karlenzig was the busiest of the four, making 32 saves before exiting the game in the third period.

Key had a goal and two assists for the Monsters, who's goals came from five different skaters.

**EL PASO RHINOS @ PHOENIX KNIGHTS**  
**Knights swept by Rhinos, but show strides**

12.01.17 – El Paso 10, Phoenix 0

12.02.17 – El Paso 7, Phoenix 0

12.03.17 – El Paso 7, Phoenix 4

The El Paso Rhinos were expected to keep their undefeated record intact in Phoenix, and they did just that, but the Knights – winners of eight of nine coming into the series – made some strides playing against one of the league's top teams.

Things did not start out that well for Phoenix, however. Austin Simpson scored three goals and assisted on two others, Justin Cole-Dubecky picked up four assists and Filip Krasanovsky posted a 16-save shutout in a 10-0 Rhinos win on Friday.

El Paso scored four times in the first period and added five more in the second to pull away. Rhett Bruckner played the first two periods in the Phoenix net and made 33 saves.

It may sound strange to give praise to a team that loses 7-0, which Phoenix did on Saturday, but El Paso has beaten other teams by much wider margins recently. And you can take the marginal improvement of losing by seven goals after losing by 10 lightly, but the Knights just kept working and getting better as the weekend progressed.

Phoenix took Sunday's game into the third period tied, 2-2.

The Rhinos responded when challenge, however, and buried five goals in the final period, winning 7-4, to complete the sweep and protect their perfect season record at 24-0-0.

Phillip Pugliese's second goal of the game came 3:45 into the third period and broke the 2-2 tie. Just under three minutes later, Adam Stalzer gave El Paso a two-goal lead and the dam had broken.

Bruckner stopped 27 of 29 shots through the first 40 minutes of the game – including all 16 shots he faced in the second period – but could only keep the Rhinos at bay for so long. He finished the game with 42 saves.

Goals from Anthony Masanotti, in the first period, and Joseph Platt in the second had the Knights in the game.

## **WEST SOUND WARRIORS @ SEATTLE TOTEMS**

### **West Sound wins in Seattle, closes in on top-two spot in Northwest Division**

12.01.17 – West Sound 9, Seattle 4

There has been an interesting three-way Washington State rivalry developing between West Sound, Seattle and Bellingham in the Northwest Division here in the first half of the season. The Warriors continue to put distance between

themselves and their in-state rivals, winning in Seattle, and moving to within three points of the second-place Tahoe Icemen.

West Sound made their latest statement by going into Seattle's Olympicview Arena and scoring four times in the first period to get the ball rolling in a 9-4 win over the Totems.

Warriors netminder Robbie Brennan stopped all 12 shots he faced in the first period as West Sound built both momentum and a 4-0 lead. He finished the game with 22 saves to earn the win.

Harri Kroll (2-2-4) and Connor Wherrett each scored twice for West Sound and Alec Johnson picked up four helpers.

The Warriors have now won five of eight games against Seattle in what will be a 12-game season series.

## **TAHOE ICEMEN @ UTAH OUTLIERS**

### **Outliers continue torrid pace, move into second in Mountain Division**

12.01.17 – Utah 9, Tahoe 2

12.02.17 – Utah 8, Tahoe 2

12.03.17 – Utah 8, Tahoe 4

This was a big measuring stick series between two teams near the top of their respective division standings. The Utah Outliers have won 16 of their last 18 games, with their only losses in that span coming against division-leading Ogden. The Tahoe Icemen, meanwhile, has been swept in three-game series at Idaho and Ogden, but has won 10 of their last 12 otherwise. The Outliers made a statement by sweeping three games from the Icemen, winning each game by four goals or more.

Nine different Utah players scored in the Outliers' 9-2 win on Friday. Three goals in the final 8:10 of the second period gave them a 5-2 lead at the second intermission and they added four unanswered tallies in the third period.

The Outliers' offensive production was more concentrated in Saturday's 8-2 win. Jacob Wanstrom scored four times and Gianni Vitali added a pair as Utah maintained a consistent assault on the Tahoe net all night long.

Icemen goalie Maximilian Haselbacher made 36 saves in two periods before giving way to Thomas Spero (13 saves) for the third.

Zach Hoffman and Dylan Massie each contributed three assists and Dawson Rodin stopped 21 of 23 shots for Utah.

It was more of the same on Sunday, with the Outliers breaking the game open with a five-goal second period.

Kane Toriumi notched three goals and two assists while Vitali put up a goal and three helpers.

Owen Haas and Paul Frys figured in all four Tahoe goals, scoring two apiece and assisting on two, and Wade Conlan went the distance in net for Tahoe, making 50 saves.

## **FRESNO MONSTERS @ VALENCIA FLYERS**

### **Western Division parity continues as Monsters win in Valencia**

12.01.17 – Fresno 8, Valencia 4

The Western Division race continues to get more interesting as Fresno and Ontario have posted wins against both Long Beach and Valencia in recent weeks.

The Monsters have now won their last two against the Flyers after Daylon Mannon scored three of four Fresno goals in a third-period scoring spree that broke a 3-3 tie and led Fresno to an 8-4 win in Valencia on Friday.

Mannon finished the night with four goals and an assist. Cody Key (1-4-5) also produced five points.

Flyers netminder Spencer Kozlowski (32 saves) was the victim of the third period onslaught by the Monsters, which made a winner of Fresno's Adam Barvik (39 saves).

The Flyers came back to tie after Fresno took leads of 1-0 in the first period, and 3-2 in the second, but could not come back a third time, suffering their second loss of the weekend and first back-to-back losses since a two-game set at Long Beach a month ago.

## **IDAHO ICECATS @ OGDEN MUSTANGS**

### **Mustangs hand IceCats first losses, take five of six points from Idaho**

12.01.17 – Ogden 4, Idaho 2

12.02.17 – Idaho 5, Ogden 4 (OT)

12.03.17 – Ogden 5, Idaho 4

Junior hockey does not get much better than the three-game series between the Idaho IceCats and Ogden Mustangs at the Ice Sheet in Ogden over the weekend. The Mustangs tagged the previously undefeated IceCats with two losses, picking up five crucial points as they face pressure in the Mountain Division race. Idaho maintains a comfortable lead in the Northwest Division, but now has a to-do-list as they work to fine-tune their game in advance of the Western States Shootout.

Friday's series opener was a fantastic hockey game. Idaho took a 2-0 lead into the third period thanks to goaltender Tyler Matthews, who stopped all 29 shots he faced through the first 40 minutes, but he could not keep the Mustangs contained all night. Rhett Rampinelli put Ogden on the board 1:13 into the final frame, then Mustangs' leading scorer Matus Spodniak knotted the score, 2-2, at 6:15.

With the game still tied, Ogden took a penalty with 3:18 remaining, killed it off, then scored with 1:10 left to take their first lead of the night. Spodniak intercepted a cross-ice pass in the neutral zone, skated down the right wing, and put a wrist shot inside the far post for a 3-2 Mustangs lead.

Moments later, Spodniak forced another neutral zone turnover, skated into the Idaho zone with the puck and, despite an open look at an empty net for a hat trick, dished the puck over to Jacob Laurin who slammed it into the empty cage with 30 seconds remaining. That put the finishing touches on a 4-2 win for Ogden.

Mustangs netminder Daniel Pavlicko made several key saves in the third period to preserve the win and finished the night with 25 saves. Matthews made 40 saves for Idaho.

The two teams went right back at it Saturday night and the intensity level did not drop off.

Three times the Mustangs took the lead on home ice, and three times the IceCats came back to tie it up, before winning the game 2:36 into sudden-death on a goal by Jackson York – Idaho's first lead of the night.

Ogden had leads of 1-0 and 2-1 and Idaho came up with the equalizer both times, but in the second period, the Mustangs scored a pair of goals just 16 seconds apart to take their first two-goal lead of the contest. The IceCats answered just 46 seconds later, getting back within a goal, but would have to wait a little bit longer for the tying goal this time.

With the score tied, 2-2, Ross Bartlett retrieved a puck in the corner to the right of IceCats netminder Jacob Hough, spun, and threw the puck at the net from a severe-angle. Somehow the puck managed to bank in off Hough's pads to give the Mustangs their third lead of the game.

Moments later, Hough failed to cover up the rebound on a long shot from Bryson Bartell just inside the blue line on the right wing. Bartell followed his own shot, charging the net, and getting his stick on the puck to poke it in to make it 4-2 Ogden.

That sent the Ogden fans into a frenzy, but John Olver's Idaho team regained their composure. On a dump-in, Pavlicko and his defenseman miscommunicated, allowing Jacob Hedencrona to sweep in, take the puck, and circle the net, depositing it on his backhand to squelch the Ogden momentum.

The only goal of the third period came 3:03 in and tied the game yet again. Ogden broke the puck out of their end, but turned the puck over just outside their own blue line, allowing an Idaho counter-attack. In the ensuing scramble in front of the Ogden net, the puck came to Alexander Westin and he fired it through a maze of sticks and legs for his second goal of the game, evening things up, 4-4.

The two teams battled back and forth for the final 16:57 without either team managing to score. Ogden's Pavlicko (23 saves) and Idaho's Hough (31 saves) both had to be sharp throughout the frame.

In the four-on-four overtime, Ogden had a great chance to win it, but Hough denied Spodniak on a point-blank backhand attempt. Later, York broke up the play at his blue line, corralled the puck and skated up the right wing. He fired a bullet from the top of the circle over Pavlicko's blocker for the winner. York was spilled to the ice on a hip check as he released the puck, and stayed

motionless on the ice for a few moments, setting the tone for Sunday's rubber match.

The final game of the series was just as exciting as the first two.

Idaho led, 4-3 after two periods, but Ogden's Matt McClelland scored his second goal of the game just 31 seconds into the period to tie things up. A severe-angle shot hit Idaho netminder Shaun Brown in the shoulder, bounced up, then came down on the goal line. McClelland crashed the net and finished it to tie the game.

Spodniak, who collected assists on all of the first four Ogden goals, scored himself with 12:30 left to give the Mustangs a 5-4 lead. As he crossed the Idaho blue line he made a backhand pass to Bartlett on the left wing boards. Bartlett gave it back to him on a perfect give-and-go and Spodniak sniped it right under the bar over Brown's left shoulder.

Ogden successfully protected the one-goal lead for the final 12:30 with Pavlicko again providing key saves among his 31 for the game.

Shaun Brown, the third starting netminder in three days for Idaho, made 35 saves for the IceCats.

## **CASPER COYOTES @ CHEYENNE STAMPEDE**

### **Coyotes sweep in Cheyenne**

12.01.17 – Casper 6, Cheyenne 2

12.02.17 – Casper 8, Cheyenne 1

12.03.17 – Casper 4, Cheyenne 3

The Casper Coyotes and Cheyenne Stampede met for the second consecutive weekend, this time in Cheyenne, but the result was the same – a Casper sweep.

The Coyotes peppered the Cheyenne net with 61 shots in Friday's series opener, but Stampede netminder Robbie Hufnagel turned in a 55-save performance to keep the score respectable. Casper managed two goals in each period of a 6-2 win.

Michael Syring scored twice for Casper and Nolan Kare made 25 saves.



The Coyotes continued their dominance of the Stampede on Saturday, scoring a pair of goals nine seconds apart early in the first period, leading 3-0 by the first intermission, and rolling to an 8-1 win.

Bradley Green (2-1-3), Dallen Neese and Andrew Williamson (2-1-3) all scored twice for Casper and Tyler Rossi picked up three assists.

Hufnagel (41 saves) and Devin Bain (18) both saw action between the pipes for Cheyenne and Dylan Ossachuk allowed just one goal on 22 shots for the Coyotes.

Logan Syrup continued to be the main source of offense for the Stampede, scoring his fifth goal in the last six games midway through the second period.

Cheyenne showed some resiliency by coming out hard on Sunday and playing their best game in a while. With the game tied, 3-3, late in the third period, Rossi kept a puck in at the blue line and threw it towards the Cheyenne net where Cameron Braun re-directed it to give Casper their first lead of the game.

The Coyotes and Wesley Ellingsen (28 saves) protected that one-goal lead for the final 5:04 to secure the 4-3 win. The Stamps had their opportunities, however. Casper took a penalty with 2:03 remaining and spent the remainder of regulation in their end, but managed to kill off the ensuing Stampede power play to seal the victory.

Hufnagel was the star of the game for the Stampede, making 54 saves – including 20 in each of the final two periods – but Cheyenne could not come up with one more goal when they needed to.

Hakan Salt (1-2-3) figured in all three Cheyenne goals. George Leech and Gavin Miller also found the net for the Stamps.

## **SPRINGFIELD EXPRESS @ OKLAHOMA CITY BLAZERS**

**Express show signs of life in OKC, but Blazers remain undefeated**

12.01.17 – Oklahoma City 5, Springfield 4 (2 OT)

12.02.17 – Oklahoma City 10, Springfield 1

12.03.17 – Oklahoma City 7, Springfield 6

The Oklahoma City Blazers managed to (barely) keep their perfect record intact, sandwiching a pair of one-goal wins around a 10-1 blowout, in a three-game sweep of the visiting Springfield Express.

The Blazers had to come back from a 4-1 second-period deficit to tie Friday's game and force overtime. Patrick Tondl scored 1:38 into the second (3-on-3) overtime to give the Blazers a big comeback win.

There was only one goal scored in the first period, but a flurry of scoring early in the second. Frank Kupka gave the Express a 2-0 lead 90 seconds into the frame, but OKC responded with their first goal 40 seconds later – an unassisted tally by Dionne Demke. Less than a minute later, Arkhip Ledenkov, restored the two-goal lead for the Express and, at 5:37, Bruno Ndossi made it 4-1 Springfield.

Oklahoma City got one late in the second to make it 4-2 heading into the third. Griffen Wiencek scored in the first minute of the third period to get the Blazers within a goal and Demke's second goal of the game, with 6:27 remaining, tied the score.

Lukas Slansky assisted on the final three goals of the game for Oklahoma City – including the tying and winning goals.

Bobby Cloutier allowed four goals in the first two periods, but stopped all nine shots he faced in the third period and overtime, allowing the Blazers to stage their comeback.

Saturday's game lacked the intrigue of Friday's. Ndossi scored for Springfield 16 seconds into the game to give the Express a 1-0 lead, but four Blazers skaters scored two goals each in a 10-1 OKC rout.

Zachary Colgrove, Justin Arnold, Joshua Chamberlain and Ivan Bondarenko all found the net twice. Bondarenko also had a pair of assists and Cloutier turned aside 28 of 29 shots he faced.

The Express rebounded with another strong performance on Sunday. Springfield held leads of 1-0, 4-3 and 5-4 but the Blazers tied it each time, then took a 6-5 lead.

Springfield did not give up as Dominik Sedlacek tied the game, 6-6, with just 1:30 left in the third period, but the Blazers ultimately came through at the end.

With a faceoff to the right of Cloutier, the Express called timeout and pulled goaltender Kayne Pasquet. Vegard Faret won the draw cleanly back to Sedlacek who hammered a slap shot past Cloutier's glove side to tie the game.

Just 12 seconds after Sedlacek's game-tying goal, however, Chamberlain scored the deciding goal in a 7-6 win for Oklahoma City, keeping them unbeaten at 21-0-0.

Chamberlain lugged the puck down the middle of the slot towards the Springfield net. He was separated from the puck, but it went to Bondarenko who drove deep to the left of the Express net, then threaded a pass between two defenders to Chamberlain who banged home the winning goal.

Ndossi scored twice for Springfield and Oklahoma City's Vitalii Mikhailov matched it with a pair of his own.

It was a long night for both netminders but, despite allowing six goals, Cloutier (29 saves) came up with the stops he needed to at the end. Pasquet made 32 saves for Springfield – 25 of them over the final two periods.

## **COLORADO JR. EAGLES @ SUPERIOR ROUGHRIDERS**

### **Jr. Eagles win in Superior for second weekend in a row**

12.02.17 – Colorado 7, Superior 2

The Colorado Jr. Eagles went into Superior and picked up two points with a 7-2 win over the RoughRiders.

Superior netminder Marshall Murphy stopped 15 of 16 shots in the first period to keep the 'Riders in it as the game was tied, 1-1, after 20 minutes, but he could not hold off the Jr. Eagles offense all night.

Colorado scored three times in both the second and third periods with David Mitchell lighting the lamp twice and John Tower producing a goal and three assists.

Murphy ended the night with 34 saves for the RoughRiders, who got goals from Nikita Sheberov and Dylan Steele.

## **BELLINGHAM BLAZERS @ SEATTLE TOTEMS**

### **Eakett's OT winner completes hat trick, gives Blazers road win**

12.03.17 – Bellingham 5, Seattle 4

The Bellingham Blazers pulled into a tie with the Seattle Totems for fourth place in the Northwest Division by going into Seattle and winning an entertaining 5-4 game.

With just over four minutes left in a 3-3 game, the Totems turned the puck over at their blue line. Robbie Eichelberger sent a pass to an open Jamahl Eakett as he skated across the blue line. Eakett wristed a low shot, beating Seattle goalie Naoki Onondera to his stick side for his second goal of the game.

The Totems responded on home ice. Just over two minutes later, Mitch Hunt skated into the left circle, cut to the middle and beat Bellingham's Edward Coffey with a wrist shot to tie the game, 4-4. It was Hunt's second goal of the game. Michael Shippee also scored twice for the 'Totes.

Each team collected a point, but the Blazers earned the win, and the second point, in sudden-death overtime.

The Blazers won a draw in the Totems end, the puck went back to Eichelberger at the point, and he put it on net. Eakett re-directed it in to complete his hat trick and give the Blazers the win. Eichelberger picked up his third assist of the game on the play.

*--- compiled by Scott Harrington/Harrington Sports Media*