



Photo: On the Edge

WSHL WRAP-UP; October 5-8, 2017

SAN DIEGO SABERS @ LONG BEACH BOMBERS

Sabers Open 2017-18 season with Two games in Long Beach

10.05.17 – Long Beach 7, San Diego 0

10.07.17 – Long Beach 8, San Diego 2

The Long Beach Bombers are the only undefeated team remaining in the Western Division after sweeping a two-game Thursday/Saturday series from the San Diego Sabers who were opening their season.

A pair of goals by Miroslav Rohlik early in the second period put the Bombers out ahead on Thursday and they went on to a 7-0 win.

Domenic Bosetti posted the shutout but the Sabers made him earn it, firing 27 shots at him – 11 in the third period.

While Rohlik supplied the first two goals for Long Beach, veteran Tomas Urbanec contributed the last two, beating Zach Hale, who made 31 saves for San Diego.

Parker Moskal (2-2-4) figured in four of the Bombers' eight goals in an 8-2 Long Beach win on Saturday.

The Sabers were already trailing, 3-0, midway through the first period when Elisha Reese put them on the board. Karel Kankovsky's tally 2:58 into the second period got the Sabers within a goal, but that woke up the Bombers, who scored twice for a 5-2 lead at the second intermission, then added three more unanswered goals in the third for the 8-2 final.

Frej McLoughlin matched Moskal's two-goal output, Rohlik dished out three assists and Matthew Ayres stopped 11 of 13 shots in his WSHL debut for the Bombers.

VALENCIA FLYERS @ FRESNO MONSTERS

Flyers Win Series, But Monsters looking like a Factor in Western Division

10.05.17 – Valencia 8, Fresno 2

10.06.17 – Valencia 5, Fresno 2

10.07.17 – Fresno 11, Valencia 3

The Valencia Flyers picked up four points to pad their lead on second place Long Beach at the top of the Western Division standings but, for the second week in a row, the Fresno Monsters showed they could play with the division elites.

The Flyers took a 4-1 lead into the third period of Thursday's series opener, then scored three goals in a span of 2:53 early in the period to blow the game open. The final score was 8-2 Valencia.

Valencia's Nikita Pintusov (3-1-4) scored a goal in each period. Jakob Kranabetter (2-2-4), Jacob Ulestig (1-3-4) and Melwin Thorsson (0-4-4) all had three-point games for the Flyers as well.

Despite the lopsided score, Fresno actually out-shot Valencia 46-39, but Flyers goaltender Spencer Kozlowski turned aside 44 of the 46 shots he faced for the well-earned "W". Fresno veteran Nicholas Gary finished the game with 31 saves for the Monsters.

Adam Polomsky's goal for Fresno tied the game, 1-1, in the first period. Kevin Szeghalmi scored the other Monsters goal in garbage time.

The Monsters came out Friday night with even more jump, out-shooting the Flyers 44-28 through the first two periods, but Kozlowski was again on top of his game and Fresno found themselves trailing 4-2 at the second intermission.

Kozlowski finished the game with 49 saves and five different Valencia skaters scored in the game, including Bailey Prouty who's goal 59 seconds into the second period ended up being the game-winner.

Kranabetter pitched in three more points for the Flyers (1-2-3) while Taylor Hiatt and Daylon Mannon scored for Fresno and Alexander Gamez made 33 saves for the Monsters.

The Monsters counter-punched hard in Saturday's series finale. Fresno led 3-0 after one period and had a 7-0 lead before Valencia got on the board late in the second period. Cody Key (3-2-5) and Zackory Turpin each had hat tricks in the 11-3 win.

Fresno netminder Max Karlenzig was peppered with 45 shots but stopped 42 of them – including all 16 he faced in the first period.

Mannon (2-3-5) and Logan Domagala each had a pair of goals for the Monsters.

Valencia's Zachary Everett was on the losing end in goal and was replaced late in the game by Kozlowski.

Kranabetter assisted on all three Flyers goals giving him 20 helpers in eight games played on the season and 174 for his WSHL career. That leaves him just two shy of Peter Cicmanec's 176 for third all-time.

SOUTHERN OREGON SPARTANS @ WEST SOUND WARRIORS

Warriors Announce their Presence with Authority, Sweep Spartans

10.06.17 – West Sound 4, Southern Oregon 3

10.07.17 – West Sound 4, Southern Oregon 3

10.08.17 – West Sound 6, Southern Oregon 2

The West Sound Warriors hosted their first three-game series in the WSHL and sent a message to the Southern Oregon Spartans and the rest of the Northwest Division that they are here to compete, seeping all six points and assuming second place in the division standings.

In Friday's series opener, Bryce Ebert and Erik Safstram scored 55 seconds apart to turn a 3-2 West Sound deficit into a 4-3 lead and former San Diego and Tulsa netminder Brian Eisele (30 saves) made it stand up a Warriors win.

It was Ebert's second goal of the game and Alec Johnson also scored for West Sound.

Matej Valicek scored twice and Krystof Holub made 20 saves for Southern Oregon.

Hunter Best gave the Warriors a 1-0 lead 2:23 into Saturday's game and they never trailed, winning by a 4-3 score again.

Samuel Pelech's unassisted goal for West Sound broke a 2-2 tie with 4:58 left in the second period. Robert Larsson added an insurance goal for the Warriors 5:44 into the third period and it turned out they needed it as Christian Ward got the Spartans within a goal with 4:02 left in the third period.

Eisele made 18 saves to again earn the win for West Sound.

Ward and Peter Toth each had a goal and an assist for Southern Oregon while Spartans veteran Austin Toussaint made 28 saves.

Southern Oregon had an early lead Sunday as Viacheslav Goev scored just 46 seconds into the contest. Caleb Travis evened the score late in the period and West Sound took a 2-1 lead into the second intermission thanks to a Ruslan Abyanov tally.

The Spartans got within two goals, but Harri Kroll added a pair of goals 36 seconds apart to give the Warriors a 6-2 win with the veteran Eisele (29 saves) picking up his fourth win of the season.

CHEYENNE STAMPEDE @ WICHITA JR. THUNDER

Stampede Find their Scoring Touch, Take two of three in Wichita

10.06.17 – Cheyenne 7, Wichita 3

10.07.17 – Wichita 5, Cheyenne 3

10.08.17 – Cheyenne 8, Wichita 1

Two teams that were struggling to begin the year met head-to-head with an opportunity to pick up their first points of the young season. The Cheyenne Stampede and Wichita Jr. Thunder both picked up wins, splitting the first two games, with previously goal-starved Cheyenne scoring eight goals to win the rubber match on Sunday.

Carson Weingartner's goal 6:27 into the third period for Wichita tied Friday's game, 3-3, but the Stampede finally broke out, ripping off four unanswered goals for a 7-3 win.

Jacob McVay (2-2-4) had four points for Cheyenne, including the game-winning goal and Devin Bain (28 saves) picked up the win for Cheyenne.

It was Wichita's turn to get into the "W" column on Saturday. The Stampede had leads of 2-1 and 3-2 in the second period, but the Jr. Thunder responded in front of their home fans, rallying for a 5-3 win thanks to three unanswered goals in the final frame.

Tyler Inslow scored 1:13 into the third period to tie the game and most of the third period went by in a 3-3 tie. Braeden Thomas gave Wichita the lead back with 5:50 left in the third period and Inslow added an insurance marker about a minute and a half later.

The momentum swung back in Cheyenne's favor for the third and final game of the series on Sunday.

The Stampede held a narrow 2-1 lead after one period, added a pair in the second to open a three-goal lead, then buried four more goals in the third for an 8-1 win.

Bain made 24 saves in the game and did not allow a goal for the final 45:54. Austin Tilton went the distance for the Jr. Thunder, making 45 saves.

Evgeni Bastrakov tallied a hat trick for Cheyenne and Brody Knelson added a pair of goals. Knelson's second goal of the game, with 21 seconds left in the second period, gave the Stampede a three-goal lead and was a turning point in the game.

OGDEN MUSTANGS @ SUPERIOR ROUGHRIDERS

Mustangs not in a hurry to be Knocked off their Perch atop the Mountain

10.06.17 – Superior 7, Ogden 6

10.07.17 – Ogden 8, Superior 1

10.08.17 – Ogden 5, Superior 2

The Superior RoughRiders and Ogden Mustangs both made a statement in their three-game series in Colorado. The RoughRiders, who started strong in the Mountain Division, knocked off the Mustangs in Friday's series opener to show they are for real this year. The Mustangs responded by winning the next two to show they will not be abdicating their throne as Kings of the Mountain without a fight.

Nikita Sheberov's goal with 1:20 left in the third period of Friday's game completed a hat trick and also broke a 6-6 tie, giving the RoughRiders a big win.

Six different players scored for the Mustangs, but Superior's Marshall Murphy made 53 saves – 22 of them in the third period – to held the 'Riders pick up a huge early-season win.

Ogden came back with what could be described as a statement win of their own, 8-1, on Saturday.

Matus Spodniak (2-3-5) led the offensive charge with help from Jacob Laurin (1-3-4) while Jonathan Chin (16 saves) cleaned up most of the offensive chances Superior could muster. The Mustangs out-shot the RoughRiders 60-17.

Austin Tautfest scored the lone Superior goal midway through the second period to get the RoughRiders within two goals at 3-1, but the Mustangs responded with a Ross Bartlett goal 41 seconds later and Superior never mounted a serious comeback attempt.

The RoughRiders had a 2-0 lead 6:23 into Sunday's rubber game but the Mustangs collected themselves, shut Superior down the rest of the way, and came back for a 5-2 win.

Chin shook off the first two goals and made 24 saves – including all 17 shots he faced over the final two periods.

The crafty Spodniak tied the game, 2-2, early in the second period and gave Ogden a two-goal lead early in the third. Former Wichita Jr. Thunder power forward Matt McClelland was credited with the game-winning goal for the Mustangs.

Thore Weyrauch and Charlie Desrosiers were the goal scorers for Superior and Murphy made 39 saves – 19 of them in the first period as the RoughRiders built an early lead.

SEATTLE TOTEMS @ BELLINGHAM BLAZERS

Totems Take Two one-goal games from Blazers, Assume Northwest Division Lead

10.06.17 – Seattle 4, Bellingham 3

10.07.17 – Seattle 4, Bellingham 3 (2 OT)

The Seattle Totems, are undefeated in regulation through their first six games (5-0-1), won a pair of 4-3 decisions over the Blazers in Bellingham and are the early leaders in the Northwest Division. Four of Seattle's five wins have come by a single goal.

Seattle had leads of 2-0, 3-1 and 4-2 in Friday's game. The Blazers kept battling back to get within a goal each time, but ran out of time and couldn't get the tying goal past Seattle's Garrett Wills (29 saves).

Tom Ignatovich scored the first two goals of the game for the Totems and completed his hat trick in the second period. Michael Shippee assisted on all four Totems goals.

Kolter Pawlick made 31 saves but took the loss for Bellingham.

Shippee scored 3:06 into the second overtime on Saturday, giving the Totems a 4-3 win and putting them back on the bus back to Seattle with four points.

Seattle's Naoki Onodera stopped 44 Bellingham shots – including all four he faced in overtime.

Edward Coffey played a strong game for the Blazers, with 34 saves, but let the last one get by him.

Keegan Niewweija-Lucker had two goals for Seattle while Bellingham's Thomas Seven matched him with a pair of his own.

UTAH OUTLIERS @ COLORADO JR. EAGLES

Outliers Play Mountain Division Leaders Tight, Pick up Win in Colorado

10.06.17 – Colorado 3, Utah 0
10.07.17 – Colorado 4, Utah 3
10.08.17 – Utah 3, Colorado 2 (2 OT)

The Utah Outliers, tied for fourth place in the Mountain Division, showed that the division may be as deep as any in the WSHL, staying right with the first-place Colorado Jr. Eagles all weekend. The Outliers suffered a one-goal loss on Saturday, and picked up a double-overtime win Sunday.

Colorado's Braden Lajoie and Utah's Dawson Rodin matched each other save-for-save in a scoreless goaltending duel through the first two periods on Friday.

The Jr. Eagles finally broke through with three unanswered goals in the third period. Lajoie finished with 31 saves for the shutout, getting the best of Rodin, who made 39 stops.

Zachary Lish broke the ice 2:24 into the period, David Mitchell added to the lead three minutes later, and John Tower put the finishing touches on the 3-0 win with just under three minutes left.

Colorado's Vincent Mastrandrea scored 45 seconds into the third period to tie Saturday's game, 3-3, and the two teams went back-and-forth for almost an entire period before Michael Petrotto scored with 18 seconds left to give the Jr. Eagles a 4-3 regulation win.

Rodin was again sharp for the Outliers, making 17 of his 37 saves in the third period.

Lajoie allowed three of six shots to get past him in the second period, but was perfect otherwise, stopping all 10 shots in the third period to best Rodin again.

Utah's Kane Toriumi finished off a tic-tack-toe passing play 1:54 into the second overtime Sunday with all three of the players on the ice for the Outliers touching the puck. Brandon Krumpshmid found Roman Svik at the doorstep to the left of Colorado goalie Hunter Bancroft and Svik wasted no time one-touching a pass across the goalmouth to Toriumi who made no mistake, giving the Outliers a big win to finish off the weekend.

Rodin stopped 35 of 37 shots for Utah to edge Bancroft, who made 37 saves for the Jr. Eagles.

Zack Hoffman's goal for Utah with 7:37 left in regulation forced overtime.

Lish and Mitchell scored the Colorado goals.

EL PASO RHINOS @ DALLAS SNIPERS **Rhinos Open Season with Sweep of Snipers in Dallas**

10.06.17 – El Paso 5, Dallas 0
10.07.17 – El Paso 9, Dallas 1
10.08.17 – El Paso 10, Dallas 2

The 2017-18 version of the El Paso Rhinos were unveiled in Dallas and they have a familiar, dominant look about them.

The Rhinos out-shot the Snipers 51-16 Friday. Filip Krasanovsky handled all 16 saves for the shutout in a 5-0 El Paso win.

All of the scoring happened in the first two periods and the Rhinos out-shot Dallas, 13-5, in a scoreless third period.

John Doyle scored twice for El Paso and Austin Simpson collected three assists – including one on Donald Alchin's game-winner.

Manny Legace made 46 saves for Dallas.

Nine different Rhinos scored in a 9-1 El Paso win on Saturday. The Snipers, out-shot 56-22, were down 6-0 by the time Alex Hladonik got them on the board midway through the second period. It was the only shot to elude Krasanovsky, who made 21 saves.

The Rhinos made no doubt about the sweep, scoring five times in the first period Sunday and cruising to a 10-2 win.

Adam Stalzer and Ian McCollum scored twice for El Paso and Phillip Pugliese collected three assists. Kane Pasquet stopped 26 of 28 shots in the El Paso crease.

Christopher Mingus and Graeme Scott scored for Dallas with Eric Eaton collecting an assist on both goals.

Final shots on goal were 64-28 El Paso.

PHOENIX KNIGHTS @ ONTARIO AVALANCHE **Knights Show well in Ontario, but Avalanche post the Sweep**

10.06.17 – Ontario 8, Phoenix 1

10.07.17 – Ontario 5, Phoenix 3

10.08.17 – Ontario 4, Phoenix 0

The Phoenix Knights played a solid road series in Ontario over the weekend, but are still looking for their first win of the season after coming up short in all three games against the Avalanche.

Anthony Masanotti scored 1:29 into Friday's game to give Phoenix a 1-0 lead, but that was all the scoring the Knights could muster as Ontario went on for an 8-1 win.

Filip Subrt recovered from allowing the early goal, finishing the game with 33 saves.

The Avalanche broke the game open with five goals in the second period – three of them in a span of 2:21. Alex Bouchard (2-2-4), Jesse Zaharichuk (1-3-4) and William Ma (2-1-3) led the way for the Avs.

Saturday's game was much tighter with the Knights holding a decided advantage in shots on goal (41-28) but the Avs scored four times in the second period to take control and go on to win, 5-3.

Bouchard (2-2-4) and Ma (2-1-3) each scored twice for Ontario while Kole Hedquist also lit the lamp twice for Phoenix.

Connor Duffy made 38 saves in the game for the Avalanche, stopping 18 of 19 shots in the third period as the Knights made a final push.

Subrt posted a shutout as Ontario completed the sweep with a 4-0 win on Sunday.

--- compiled by Scott Harrington/Harrington Sports Media