

## WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 03.08.19 – MOUNTAIN 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.*

**CASPER BOBCATS (16-31-1-0, 50 pts)**

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

**@BobcatsCasper**

The Casper Bobcats and Utah Outliers will play what amounts to a three-game dress rehearsal for the Mountain Division semifinals this weekend at Casper Ice Arena.

The Bobcats put up a pretty fight in two of the three games at Oklahoma City last weekend. They lost the middle game by an 11-1 count, but held OKC to just five goals combined in the other two games. Unfortunately, the Casper could not generate any offense to speak of, scoring just a pair of goals over three games.

On Friday, the Blazers scored three times in a span of 3:41 late in the first period and made it hold up in a 3-1 OKC win. Casper goaltender Henry Deenee made 55 saves to prevent the Blazers from building on their lead, stopping everything over the final 43:35 of game time.

Daniel Silar ruined the shutout with just :21 left on the clock.

Ludwig Nordqvist made 44 saves to keep the Casper in Sunday's game, but the Bobcats did not give him any goal support in a 2-0 Blazers win.

**CHEYENNE STAMPEDE (7-40-2-2, 27 pts)**

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

**@StampsHockey**

Three games at The Ice Sheet against the WSHL's top team, the Ogden Mustangs, was a tough way for the Cheyenne Stampede to close out their regular season schedule last week.

The Stamps will take this week off to prepare for a first-round playoffs series at Steamboat.

Cheyenne will be looking for their first-ever playoff series win. They went out in the Mountain Division Quarterfinals last year in two straight games at the hands of the Northern Colorado Eagles (then the Colorado Jr. Eagles).

The Stampede played the Wranglers tough in their eight-game season series, winning five times and needing overtime for one of the wins.

Cheyenne has more penalty minutes (1,301) than every other team in the league except the West Sound Admirals of the Northwest Division (1,395).

Five different Stampede players have eclipsed the 100-penalty minute mark, including team leader Kody Kifer, who has racked up 177 minutes in the sin bin in just 24 games.

**OGDEN MUSTANGS (44-2-0-2, 134 pts)**

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

**@OgdenMustangs**

The Ogden Mustangs have collected 134 of a possible 144 points as they get ready to play their final three games of the regular season this weekend against the Steamboat Wranglers at the Howelsen Ice Complex in Steamboat Springs, CO.

The Mustangs have been wire-to-wire leaders in the Mountain Division by a pretty wide margin. They will take next week off as they await the winner of the play-in series between Steamboat and Cheyenne.

The Mustangs are the 2019 Thorne Cup hosts and, as such, are already guaranteed a berth in the six-team field, but they would like to go in the front door by winning the Mountain Division playoffs.

Ogden boasts the second-best penalty kill in the WSHL (89.2%) – second only to Oklahoma City’s tremendous 91.0%.

The Mustangs have also scored more shorthanded goals than any other WSHL team with 18. Lukas Vacin (4) and Ian Currie (3) have been the most dangerous Mustangs on the PK.

**STEAMBOAT WRANGLERS (8-37-1-2, 28 pts)**

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

**@SWranglers**

A visit from the Ogden Mustangs is probably not going to do much for the Steamboat Wranglers as they try to snap a nine-game losing streak.

The Wranglers will then host the Cheyenne Stampede in a first-round playoff series next week.

Steamboat will be getting their first taste of the Thorne Cup playoffs, but they had success in their two seasons in the Rocky Mountain Junior Hockey League, making it to the finals both years and winning the league’s championship a year ago.

The Wranglers need their top offensive weapons to start producing.

Leading scorer Sebastian Culver (12-24-36) has been held without a point in five of the last seven games and has produced just two points – one goal and one assists – with the man advantage this season.

Defenseman Avery Albert, third on the team with 31 points (13-18-31) has been held off the scoresheet in the last five games, and only has one point – an assist – in the last nine games.

One way for the Wranglers to produce more offense would be to start clicking on the power play – something they will need to do if they are going to advance in the playoffs. Steamboat has converted just 22 of 206 power play opportunities on the year (10.7%).

### **UTAH OUTLIERS (30-15-2-1, 95 pts)**

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

**@UtahOutliers**

The Utah Outliers will be in Casper to close out the regular season but, when the Outliers and Bobcats meet back up the following week for a playoff series, it will be in West Valley City.

Maybe the Outliers should defer home ice advantage. They are just five games over .500 at home this season against a 14-5-1 mark on the road.

Oscar Wahlgren is tied with El Paso's Nils Velm for the league lead in shutouts (5). Wahlgren has also been one of the busier goalies in the league, ranking sixth in the WSHL in minutes played (1,777).

The Outliers are not far behind Ogden when it comes to penalty-killing efficiency. Utah is currently at 87.2%, fifth-best in the WSHL.

Utah's top scorer, Nicholas Ness (33-34-67) is just 27th in the league scoring race, but the Outliers have two 30-goal scorers: Ness and Matt Bartel (31) and three more players with 20+ goals: Jan Dvorak (23), Benji Mickel (23) and Zach Dornseifer (21).

That deep, balanced attack should serve the Outliers well in a tight playoff series.

With his three-point effort Sunday against Steam boat, Dornseifer tied Jurijs Moiseicenko for the all-time franchise lead with 128 points. He just needs one point in Casper to become the Outliers' all-time leading scorer.

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