

2026 27

QMJHL Season Preview

Cape Breton and Halifax lead our updated preseason forecast, while Drummondville sets the pace in the West. Inside are all 18 clubs, readable team and goaltending outlooks, and 54 player spotlights for the season ahead.

18 teams • 54 player spotlights • Season opens September 18

PRESEASON MAGAZINE

Prepared September 15 2026

How to read this edition

The QMJHL season opens September 18. Each club has a team preview followed by three player spotlights. This edition brings the forecast forward from the August camp picture using September 15 roster listings and official team news. Final assignments can still change the outlook.

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Each team preview is followed immediately by its three player spotlights. Method and publication notes appear on page 40.

The updated league forecast

Cape Breton rises after adding established QMJHL scorers, while Halifax returns a productive attack and adds Mateo Nobert. Drummondville leads the West. Québec and Saint John are also well placed. Moncton deserves special attention: its many arrivals from other leagues bring potential that this scoring-based model cannot measure.

Eastern Conference

Projected rank	Team	Projected points
1	Cape Breton Eagles	89
2	Halifax Mooseheads	85
3	Québec Remparts	78
4	Saint John Sea Dogs	78
5	Newfoundland Regiment	71
6	Moncton Wildcats	70
7	Charlottetown Islanders	63
8	Chicoutimi Saguenéens	63
9	Rimouski Océanic	51
10	Baie-Comeau Drakkar	47

Western Conference

Projected rank	Team	Projected points
1	Drummondville Voltigeurs	81
2	Victoriaville Tigres	76
3	Val-d'Or Foreurs	75
4	Sherbrooke Phoenix	74
5	Rouyn-Noranda Huskies	74
6	Gatineau Olympiques	67
7	Blainville-Boisbriand Armada	63
8	Shawinigan Cataractes	59

Projected points are rounded model estimates for 64 games, not promises. Nearby teams should be read as a group. Conference ranks are simple projected order, not official playoff seeds. Newcomers without QMJHL history and goaltending changes can make a substantial difference.

Cape Breton Eagles

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
1	1	89

Forecast

Projected 1 of 18 overall and 1 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 89 points. The additions lift Cape Breton to the top of the updated model. Established scoring gives that position substance; blending the newcomers and translating individual production into team defence will determine whether the Eagles justify it.

How the team is taking shape

Cape Breton has assembled several ways to score. Reece Peitzsche and the Litalien brothers are joined by Liam Lefebvre, Maxim Schäfer, Cole Chandler and Elias Schneider. The depth should make the Eagles less dependent on one line and give opponents difficult matchups throughout the game.

Goaltending outlook

Lucas Beckman arrives from the championship team in Chicoutimi. Sam Berthiaume adds another option after playing in Truro. Beckman's experience is a major attraction, although the Eagles must provide the defensive support that allows a new tandem to settle in.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Liam Lefebvre RW 59 GP 59 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Cole Chandler C 62 GP 52 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Lucas Beckman G 38 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Deals with Chicoutimi brought Lefebvre, Schäfer, Alonso Gosselin and Beckman. Chandler and Schneider came from Shawinigan, while Jack Broderick joins the forward group. This is a substantial attempt to turn last season's competitive team into a contender.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Liam Lefebvre

Championship production in a new setting

In 2025-26, Lefebvre recorded 32 goals and 27 assists for 59 points in 59 QMJHL games. Lefebvre moves from Chicoutimi into a Cape Breton attack with several established scorers. That gives him a chance to contribute without being the only player opponents focus on. His goal total provides a strong starting point; the next test is finding the same scoring opportunities with new linemates. Watch how quickly the Eagles turn their collection of individual threats into sustained pressure.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Cole Chandler

Another experienced threat for the Eagles

In 2025-26, Chandler recorded 20 goals and 32 assists for 52 points in 62 QMJHL games. Chandler arrives from Shawinigan with a balanced scoring record and experience that strengthens Cape Breton's forward options. The Eagles have added enough offence to distribute responsibility across the lineup. His value will come from making those combinations work as well as producing himself. Watch whether his line can create chances consistently when opponents devote their strongest defensive matchups to another Eagles unit.

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3 Lucas Beckman

A proven workload follows him to Cape Breton

In 2025-26, Beckman made 38 QMJHL appearances with a .917 save percentage. Beckman joins the Eagles after the championship season in Chicoutimi. His arrival matters because a team adding offence still needs reliable work at the other end. Last season's results provide evidence of ability, but they came within a different defensive environment. The useful early measure is how he and his new teammates handle traffic, rebounds and the difficult stretches that interrupt any season.

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Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Halifax Mooseheads

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
2	2	85

Forecast

Projected 2 of 18 overall and 2 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 85 points. The returning offence and added scoring push Halifax near the front of the forecast. The model does not directly rate the new goalies, making the crease a particularly important factor when judging this projection.

How the team is taking shape

Oleg Kulebiakin, Shawn Carrier and Quinn Kennedy give Halifax a productive returning attack. Adding Mateo Nobert and Nathan Langlois makes the forward group deeper. Owen Phillips, Malik L'Italien and Eddy Doyle provide an established defensive core around which the newcomers can develop.

Goaltending outlook

Jack Fichthorn and Carson Mertz give Halifax a new look in goal. Both are entering the QMJHL, so the workload and adjustment to league shooters remain open questions. Reliable defending will matter particularly while the two newcomers establish their rhythm.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Oleg Kulebiakin RW 64 GP 73 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Mateo Nobert C 62 GP 78 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Malik L'Italien D 64 GP 24 PTS	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Nobert comes from Blainville-Boisbriand and Langlois from Rouyn-Noranda. Liam Kilfoil has moved to Moncton. Austrian newcomers Paul Sintschnig and Nico Uschan add further options, while the changes in goal create the largest uncertainty on an otherwise promising roster.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Oleg Kulebiakin

A productive returner with more support

In 2025-26, Kulebiakin recorded 29 goals and 44 assists for 73 points in 64 QMJHL games. Kulebiakin returns as a major part of Halifax's scoring picture. His mix of goals and assists gives the Mooseheads a player who can finish chances and help others generate them. With new scoring talent joining the roster, the question is how those pieces complement one another. Watch whether Halifax can sustain pressure across multiple lines and reduce the burden on its most productive forwards.

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2 Mateo Nobert

An established creator joins the Mooseheads

In 2025-26, Nobert recorded 30 goals and 48 assists for 78 points in 62 QMJHL games. Nobert brings his production from Blainville-Boisbriand to a Halifax team already returning several dangerous forwards. His assist total is especially relevant to a group looking for combinations that make everyone more effective. Those previous points are a record of what happened, rather than a promise of the same total here. Early chemistry and the quality of chances his line creates will tell the story.

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3 Malik L'Italien

A young defender with growing responsibility

In 2025-26, L'Italien recorded 4 goals and 20 assists for 24 points in 64 QMJHL games. L'Italien is part of the returning defence around which Halifax can organize its season. There should be plenty of offence ahead of him, making the connection between clean exits and sustained attacking time especially important. His development is worth watching beyond the scoresheet: decisions under pressure, positioning after a turnover and the ability to help a new goalie tandem are all meaningful parts of the job.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Drummondville Voltigeurs

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
3	1	81

Forecast

Projected 3 of 18 overall and 1 of 8 in the Western Conference, at about 81 points. Drummondville leads the Western Conference projection. Enough of the attack returns to support another strong season, but the defence must develop for the club to sustain that position over the full schedule.

How the team is taking shape

Renaud Poulin, Maxime-Olivier Drolet and William Dumont give Drummondville veteran forwards with championship experience. Louis-Félix Bourque and Dylan Dumont supply the next wave. The combination offers several scoring options, while a less experienced defence will need players to take on larger assignments.

Goaltending outlook

Jan Larys offers continuity in the crease, with Mathys Fortin also in the published group. Larys' previous workload gives Drummondville a useful foundation. The changing defence makes communication, rebound coverage and support around the net especially important.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Renaud Poulin C 64 GP 55 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Louis-Félix Bourque C 54 GP 49 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Jan Larys G 38 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Mathieu Gravel takes over as head coach after serving on the staff. Sebastian Taliga is a new forward option. Filip Kovalcik and Xavier Cormier are among the defenders whose development matters as the club redistributes responsibility on the blue line.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Renaud Poulin

Veteran offence at the centre of the plan

In 2025-26, Poulin recorded 26 goals and 29 assists for 55 points in 64 QMJHL games. Poulin gives Drummondville an established scorer as the club pursues another strong season. His goals and assists were close to evenly divided, offering a useful picture of a forward who contributes in more than one way. The younger players around him can grow into greater responsibility. Watch whether that balance lets the Voltigeurs remain dangerous across the lineup as the defence adjusts.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Louis-Félix Bourque

Building on a productive first season

In 2025-26, Bourque recorded 24 goals and 25 assists for 49 points in 54 QMJHL games. Bourque's previous production gives Drummondville a reason to expect meaningful contributions from its younger forwards. The next challenge is sustaining those contributions once opponents have more experience playing against him. A strong follow-up does not require a dramatic statistical leap. More reliable shifts, useful work away from the puck and continued scoring would all help a team aiming to stay near the front.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Jan Larys

Continuity behind a changing defence

In 2025-26, Larys made 38 QMJHL appearances with a .908 save percentage. Larys supplies an experienced point of reference for Drummondville while the defenders in front of him take on new assignments. Familiarity with the league should help, though a different mix of shots and traffic can change the challenge considerably. Watch how the group manages rebounds and second chances. Keeping difficult nights from becoming long losing stretches would be a valuable contribution to the season.

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Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Québec Remparts

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
4	3	78

Forecast

Projected 4 of 18 overall and 3 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 78 points. Québec sits in the leading group even before assigning any numerical scoring value to newcomers without QMJHL history. That creates potential upside, though fitting the new talent into a balanced lineup still takes time.

How the team is taking shape

Nathan Quinn and Maddox Dagenais lead an attack with room to become more dangerous. Nikita Ovcharov adds another returning threat, while James Scantlebury and Carter Meyer bring intriguing new talent. Québec's prospects improve if those arrivals give opponents more than one line to contain.

Goaltending outlook

Patrick Déniger provides a returning option after taking over a larger role last season. Timothy Dubuc also appears in the preseason group. Consistent work from Déniger would allow the Remparts to introduce their younger players without asking the offence to win every high-scoring game.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Nathan Quinn C 58 GP 73 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Maddox Dagenais RW 62 GP 62 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Patrick Déniger G 30 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Scantlebury and Meyer are important additions up front. Maddox Labre and Zackary Plamondon bring experience to the defence. With new forwards joining established scorers, finding combinations that work at even strength is an early priority.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Nathan Quinn

A returning scorer in a deeper attack

In 2025-26, Quinn recorded 34 goals and 39 assists for 73 points in 58 QMJHL games. Quinn gives Québec an established offensive leader as several interesting newcomers join the forwards. His previous goal total makes him an obvious player for opponents to track. More support could create better opportunities, but it also requires new combinations to develop. Watch whether the Remparts can spread their threats enough to keep Quinn involved even when the opposition concentrates on taking away his space.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Maddox Dagenais

A central piece of the next step

In 2025-26, Dagenais recorded 30 goals and 32 assists for 62 points in 62 QMJHL games. Dagenais returns with substantial QMJHL production already behind him. That experience makes him important to Québec's effort to turn a promising roster into a consistent contender. He can contribute as both scorer and creator, while the incoming talent offers new possibilities around him. The interesting question is how his game develops when the team asks for dependable results across a full range of situations.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Patrick Déniger

A familiar presence in the Remparts crease

In 2025-26, Déniger made 30 QMJHL appearances with a .910 save percentage. Déniger's return gives Québec continuity at a position that can determine how much freedom the rest of the team has to develop. His previous appearances offer a meaningful sample of league experience. The task now is to sustain reliable work as the lineup changes around him. Watch how the Remparts defend the area in front of the net and help him close out tight games.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Saint John Sea Dogs

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
5	4	78

Forecast

Projected 5 of 18 overall and 4 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 78 points. The projection points to a meaningful step forward. Saint John's established scorers support that view, while the coaching and defensive changes offer ways to improve beyond what a scoring-based model can measure.

How the team is taking shape

Alexis Joseph, Olivier Groulx and Alexander Donovan give Saint John a substantial returning attack. The surrounding cast includes Dylan Rozzi and Zachary Morin. Better support behind that group could make this a more complete team after last season's defensive struggles.

Goaltending outlook

Samuel Meloche arrives from Rouyn-Noranda with extensive league experience. Rafaël Courchesne is also listed. Meloche is central to the improvement case, but a goalie change alone will not solve breakdowns in coverage or repeated dangerous chances against.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Alexis Joseph C 54 GP 60 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Olivier Groulx C 64 GP 66 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Samuel Meloche G 50 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Jim Hulton takes over behind the bench. Meloche is the major addition in goal; Thomas Charbonneau, Julien Lanthier and Brandon Delarosbil reshape the defence. Ryan Howard and Olivier Lemieux add forward experience. William Yared has moved to Shawinigan.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Alexis Joseph

A young offensive leader takes the next step

In 2025-26, Joseph recorded 24 goals and 36 assists for 60 points in 54 QMJHL games. Joseph follows a productive first QMJHL season with greater expectations around both him and Saint John. The roster has been strengthened behind an attack that already showed promise. His next step will involve managing the attention that comes with being a known threat. Watch his decision-making when space disappears and whether his line can continue producing against opponents' more difficult defensive assignments.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Olivier Groulx

The returning production Saint John can build on

In 2025-26, Groulx recorded 20 goals and 46 assists for 66 points in 64 QMJHL games. Groulx gives the Sea Dogs a familiar offensive reference while much of the defensive structure changes. His assist-heavy record reflects the amount of scoring he helped create last season. Saint John need that contribution to remain dependable as other players take larger roles. A successful season would see the team turn its attacking talent into more complete games, with Groulx an important part of that process.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Samuel Meloche

An experienced arrival with a demanding assignment

In 2025-26, Meloche made 50 QMJHL appearances with a .897 save percentage. Meloche moves from Rouyn-Noranda to a Saint John team trying to become harder to score against. His previous workload shows that he has handled substantial responsibility in this league. The surroundings will be different, so carrying over the same results requires help from the skaters. Watch whether the new defence limits dangerous opportunities and allows his experience to become a source of stability.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Victoriaville Tigres

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
6	2	76

Forecast

Projected 6 of 18 overall and 2 of 8 in the Western Conference, at about 76 points. The updated scoring inputs put Victoriaville near the top of the Western Conference. That is an improvement forecast rather than a guarantee: the team's ability to protect its own net must catch up with its offensive potential.

How the team is taking shape

Egor Shilov and Alexey Vlasov supply a high-scoring foundation, and Thomas Desruisseaux adds another experienced producer. The September 4 roster announcement names 23 players. For this group, the challenge is turning individual offensive ability into a more complete performance across all three zones.

Goaltending outlook

Anthony Catanzariti and Andrei Nikolayev are the two goalies on the announced roster. Catanzariti brings QMJHL experience; the division of starts will shape how the pair develops. A more settled defensive performance would give both a better platform.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Egor Shilov C 63 GP 82 PTS	September 4 final roster
Thomas Desruisseaux C 58 GP 76 PTS	September 4 final roster
Anthony Catanzariti G 30 GP	September 4 final roster

Roster changes

Desruisseaux joins the forward group after playing in Chicoutimi. The announced roster also includes newcomers such as Jakob Royer and Vincent Boutet. The mix gives Victoriaville options, with younger players competing to establish dependable roles around the leading scorers.

[Preseason roster](#) | [Club roster](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Egor Shilov

A leading scorer with a bigger team opportunity

In 2025-26, Shilov recorded 32 goals and 50 assists for 82 points in 63 QMJHL games. Shilov is one of the clearest reasons for optimism in Victoriaville. His scoring record already establishes him as a major offensive contributor, and the surrounding group has enough talent to give opponents several problems. The key question is how that production connects to team results. Sustaining offence while helping the Tigres spend less time defending would make his contribution more valuable than an isolated points total.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [Club roster](#)

2 Thomas Desruisseaux

Experienced production joins the Tigres

In 2025-26, Desruisseaux recorded 24 goals and 52 assists for 76 points in 58 QMJHL games. Desruisseaux arrives from Chicoutimi with a substantial scoring record. For Victoriaville, he adds another experienced option around Shilov and Vlasov rather than leaving the established duo to carry every difficult night. His new role will depend on the combinations that develop. Watch how effectively the forwards share the puck and whether that depth turns into consistent offence against stronger defensive teams.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [Club roster](#)

3 Anthony Catanzariti

Experience to build on in a two-goalie group

In 2025-26, Catanzariti made 30 QMJHL appearances with a .875 save percentage. Catanzariti is one of the two goalies named on Victoriaville's final roster. His league experience gives him a starting point, while the allocation of work with Andrei Nikolayev still needs to unfold. The Tigres' offensive promise makes improved results in their own zone particularly valuable. Watch whether a more settled team in front of him helps turn close games into points.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [Club roster](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Val-d'Or Foreurs

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
7	3	75

Forecast

Projected 7 of 18 overall and 3 of 8 in the Western Conference, at about 75 points. Val-d'Or projects into the upper half of the league. Much of the optimism rests on returning production, so additional scoring depth and defensive progress are the clearest routes to making that improvement last.

How the team is taking shape

Philippe Veilleux and Nathan Brisson give the Foreurs a strong offensive starting point. Benjamin Cossette Ayotte and Anthony Paré bring production from defence. The group has enough established contributors to aim higher, provided more of the lineup can support them on difficult nights.

Goaltending outlook

Arseni Radkov and Vincent Moreau both bring league experience to the published group. That continuity gives Val-d'Or something to build around. Their results will also depend on whether the skaters can reduce the quality of chances allowed and defend leads more reliably.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Philippe Veilleux LW 64 GP 96 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Benjamin Cossette Ayotte D 62 GP 38 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Arseni Radkov G 40 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Maxime Sauthier appears with Val-d'Or after producing for Cape Breton last season. Josef Holejšovský is among the new names on the published roster. The current group combines familiar offensive leaders with players trying to earn regular supporting jobs.

[Preseason roster](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Philippe Veilleux

The Foreurs have a major offensive reference

In 2025-26, Veilleux recorded 43 goals and 53 assists for 96 points in 64 QMJHL games. Veilleux's previous production stands out even within a team returning several useful contributors. That makes him a natural focus for opponents and a central part of Val-d'Or's improvement case. Repeating a large points total is never automatic. Watch how the Foreurs create support around him, whether other lines contribute and how he responds when defenders make his preferred routes harder to find.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#)

2 Benjamin Cossette Ayotte

Production from the blue line

In 2025-26, Ayotte recorded 4 goals and 34 assists for 38 points in 62 QMJHL games. Cossette Ayotte gives Val-d'Or a source of offence from defence. That contribution is useful when forwards need support to maintain possession and keep attacking sequences alive. The challenge for a defender is combining those moments with sound decisions when the puck changes hands. Watch how his involvement helps the Foreurs create chances without leaving their goalies exposed at the other end.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#)

3 Arseni Radkov

A returning goalie in the improvement picture

In 2025-26, Radkov made 40 QMJHL appearances with a .889 save percentage. Radkov brings substantial QMJHL experience to a Val-d'Or team with reasons to expect more from its returning core. Familiarity gives the club continuity, while Vincent Moreau provides another experienced option. The most useful progress may be collective: fewer dangerous breakdowns, better rebound coverage and more reliable lead protection. Those changes would make the crease a stronger foundation for a climb in the standings.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Sherbrooke Phoenix

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
8	4	74

Forecast

Projected 8 of 18 overall and 4 of 8 in the Western Conference, at about 74 points. The Phoenix sit in a tightly packed middle group. Small differences in the model should not be overread; improvement from returning players and dependable goaltending could change the order considerably.

How the team is taking shape

Louis-Alex Tremblay gives Sherbrooke an offensive contributor on defence, while Thomas Rousseau, Ilya Kolmakov and Jayden Plouffe provide established scoring up front. This is a group with enough returning production to compete, especially if the younger forwards take another step.

Goaltending outlook

Kyan Labbé brings the larger share of last season's QMJHL workload, with Parker Stockseth also listed. Continuity should help the Phoenix begin with a familiar reference point. The defence's work in front of the crease remains as important as the allocation of starts.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Louis-Alex Tremblay D 64 GP 59 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Jayden Plouffe LW 60 GP 42 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Kyan Labbé G 45 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Sherbrooke sent Cameron Haye to Charlottetown near the end of camp, and Brandon Delarosbil is now with Saint John. The club also announced late reassignments. Those changes open opportunities for players remaining around the returning core.

[Preseason roster](#) | [Club news](#) | [Saint John moves](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Louis-Alex Tremblay

An offensive contribution from defence

In 2025-26, Tremblay recorded 14 goals and 45 assists for 59 points in 64 QMJHL games. Tremblay's production gives Sherbrooke an important source of offence beyond its forward group. A defender who contributes that often can help sustain pressure and connect the team's play between zones. The season's challenge is balance. Watch whether the Phoenix can keep his attacking involvement productive while remaining organized after turnovers, particularly against opponents whose speed makes a failed play costly.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [Club news](#)

2 Jayden Plouffe

A returning forward with room to grow

In 2025-26, Plouffe recorded 17 goals and 25 assists for 42 points in 60 QMJHL games. Plouffe gives Sherbrooke another established contributor alongside its more experienced scorers. His previous production supplies a foundation without settling how much more he can provide. The next step is making his impact dependable over a long season. Watch how his line creates opportunities at even strength and whether he can stay involved on nights when the Phoenix have less possession and fewer easy chances.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [Club news](#)

3 Kyan Labbé

A substantial workload behind him

In 2025-26, Labbé made 45 QMJHL appearances with a .912 save percentage. Labbé returns with enough QMJHL experience to give Sherbrooke a familiar presence in goal. That matters for a club placed among several closely matched teams in the forecast. Small changes in defensive support and close-game results could shift that order. Watch whether the Phoenix can limit follow-up chances and help him sustain his performance through stretches of frequent games and difficult travel.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [Club news](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Rouyn-Noranda Huskies

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
9	5	74

Forecast

Projected 9 of 18 overall and 5 of 8 in the Western Conference, at about 74 points. Rouyn-Noranda remains competitive in the projection, with several clubs close by. The forecast reflects returning production; it cannot settle how quickly the younger players will replace the contributions of those who have moved on.

How the team is taking shape

Samuel Beauchemin and Eliot Ogonowski lead the returning forwards, supported by a younger group that includes Samuel Rheault. Antoine St-Laurent and Alexis Lemire supply experience on defence. The Huskies must spread responsibility after losing some familiar leaders.

Goaltending outlook

Alexandre Raymond has an opportunity to take on more work following Samuel Meloche's move to Saint John. Zachary Laine is also listed. Moving from a supporting role to a larger workload is a different test, even for a promising goalie.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Samuel Beauchemin C 64 GP 66 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Thomas Boisvert C	Numbered preseason listing
Alexandre Raymond G 18 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Andreas Straka arrives from Québec. First overall selection Thomas Boisvert is an important long-term addition, though the September 13 league preview reports that he is nursing an injury. New imports also change the defensive group.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Samuel Beauchemin

A veteran reference for a younger group

In 2025-26, Beauchemin recorded 16 goals and 50 assists for 66 points in 64 QMJHL games. Beauchemin remains a major part of Rouyn-Noranda's attack as younger forwards move into larger roles. His assist total shows how often he contributed to teammates' scoring last season. With the roster changing, the challenge is building productive combinations again. Watch how the Huskies spread their offence and whether his line can continue creating chances when opponents give it more concentrated defensive attention.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Thomas Boisvert

The first overall pick begins his next chapter

Boisvert was the first selection in the 2026 QMJHL Draft. The league's September 13 preview reports that an injury has delayed his game debut, making health and the timing of his introduction the immediate stories. Once available, he will be learning a faster league with more experienced opponents. His progress should be judged over time, allowing room for adaptation rather than attaching an instant scoring expectation.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Alexandre Raymond

A larger opportunity after the goalie trade

In 2025-26, Raymond made 18 QMJHL appearances. Raymond has a chance to assume more responsibility after Samuel Meloche's departure. His previous QMJHL appearances provide experience, although carrying a bigger share of the schedule creates new demands. Watch how he responds to consecutive starts and how the Huskies defend the area around him. The transition will be easier if their younger lineup can limit the costly mistakes that create repeated high-quality chances.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Newfoundland Regiment

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
10	5	71

Forecast

Projected 10 of 18 overall and 5 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 71 points. The model places Newfoundland around the middle of the league. The returning goalies are a reason the team could be more competitive than its reduced scoring totals alone suggest.

How the team is taking shape

Louis-François Bélanger, Alexis Michaud and Tyson Goguen become especially important after the departure of last season's top four scorers. Will Reynolds and Alexis Mathieu give the defence familiar anchors. The Regiment need more offence from players whose previous jobs were supporting ones.

Goaltending outlook

Louis-Antoine Denault and Antoine Proulx return in the published group. Their experience gives Newfoundland continuity during a larger change up front. A dependable tandem can keep games manageable while the new forward combinations find their scoring rhythm.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Louis-François Bélanger C 57 GP 50 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Will Reynolds D 61 GP 25 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Louis-Antoine Denault G 42 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

The largest change is the scoring responsibility left by the departed leaders. Liam Arsenault and Benjamin Veitch are among the forwards with opportunities to grow. The returning defence and goalie tandem give the club a foundation during that transition.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Louis-François Bélanger

A supporting scorer becomes more central

In 2025-26, Bélanger recorded 25 goals and 25 assists for 50 points in 57 QMJHL games. Bélanger enters a season in which Newfoundland need players to replace significant departed offence. His previous production makes him a logical part of that effort. A larger role also means more attention from opponents and fewer shifts against favourable matchups. Watch whether the Regiment build enough support around their returning scorers to sustain pressure rather than relying on isolated moments to decide games.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Will Reynolds

Continuity on the Regiment blue line

In 2025-26, Reynolds recorded 3 goals and 22 assists for 25 points in 61 QMJHL games. Reynolds gives Newfoundland an experienced defender while the forward group adjusts to greater responsibility. His value extends beyond his points: clean exits and well-timed support can help new combinations spend more time attacking. Watch how he balances that involvement with protecting the middle of the ice. A reliable defensive foundation would give the Regiment time to discover where their replacement offence will come from.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Louis-Antoine Denault

A familiar tandem offers stability

In 2025-26, Denault made 42 QMJHL appearances with a .912 save percentage. Denault returns alongside Antoine Proulx, giving Newfoundland continuity through changes elsewhere in the lineup. His previous workload is a useful foundation, especially for a team replacing significant scoring. The goalies may have less margin on nights when the offence is still developing. Watch the team's ability to defend narrow leads and prevent a single difficult shift from turning into several dangerous chances.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Moncton Wildcats

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
11	6	70

Forecast

Projected 11 of 18 overall and 6 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 70 points. Treat this middle-of-the-pack forecast with particular caution. The model gives no production credit for success outside the QMJHL, so Moncton's many newcomers create a large gap between the statistical baseline and the team's possible ceiling.

How the team is taking shape

Niko Tournas and Rian Chudzinski return, while Liam Kilfoil and Charlie Benigno add QMJHL experience. Several newcomers give Moncton a different attacking mix. Adam Fortier-Gendron and Max Vilen offer continuity on a defence that is also receiving important additions.

Goaltending outlook

Yegor Rybkin is a major new option in goal, with Jacoby Weiner also listed. Rybkin's arrival gives the Wildcats a prominent prospect at the position. His adjustment to the league and the support provided by the reshaped defence will matter immediately.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Niko Tournas RW 64 GP 74 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Liam Kilfoil C 56 GP 39 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Yegor Rybkin G	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Kilfoil arrives from Halifax and Benigno from Rouyn-Noranda. Shayne Gould and Jake Boguniecki are among the defensive additions, while Jiko Laitinen joins the forward group. These changes give Moncton substantial potential beyond its returning QMJHL totals.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Niko Tournas

An established finisher amid the new arrivals

In 2025-26, Tournas recorded 43 goals and 31 assists for 74 points in 64 QMJHL games. Tournas gives Moncton a proven scoring presence while many of the players around him begin new roles. His previous goal total is a substantial part of the Wildcats' returning offence. The next challenge is connecting with a reshaped group so opponents cannot isolate that threat. Watch whether new combinations create repeatable chances and whether the team can generate scoring from several parts of the lineup.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Liam Kilfoil

A league-tested addition in Moncton

In 2025-26, Kilfoil recorded 14 goals and 25 assists for 39 points in 56 QMJHL games. Kilfoil arrives from Halifax with QMJHL experience that is valuable on a roster adding several players from other leagues. He offers another established contributor behind Moncton's leading returning scorer. His production in a new setting will depend on opportunity and chemistry. Watch how he fits with the incoming forwards and whether that group can become effective quickly enough to support the Wildcats' ambitions.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Yegor Rybkin

A new face in an important position

Rybkin joins Moncton as a 2026 Los Angeles Kings draft pick, according to the league preview. The Wildcats are also rebuilding parts of their defence, so the adjustment will be shared by the goalie and the players protecting him. There is no prior QMJHL season to use as a direct comparison. Watch his handling of traffic and second chances as he becomes familiar with league shooters.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Gatineau Olympiques

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
12	6	67

Forecast

Projected 12 of 18 overall and 6 of 8 in the Western Conference, at about 67 points. The forecast suggests a step forward from last season's points total. A returning defensive foundation helps, but progress from the young forwards will determine whether the Olympiques move beyond a modest improvement.

How the team is taking shape

Nicolas Petrut and Gabriel Séguin provide veteran support for Maxim Dubé, Simon-Xavier Cyr and Louis-Étienne Halley. Justin Blais anchors a defence with returning experience. Generating more sustained offence is essential after a season in which scoring was often difficult.

Goaltending outlook

Danai Shaiikov brings a substantial workload and established QMJHL performance. He is central to Gatineau's outlook, with Finn Moffett and Charlie Larocque also listed. Better scoring support would reduce how often the team needs its goalie to keep a narrow game within reach.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Maxim Dubé LW 61 GP 32 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Justin Blais D 39 GP 10 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Danai Shaiikov G 50 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Serge Beausoleil continues as head coach with the interim designation removed, while Sébastien Carpentier becomes general manager. Artem Glukhikh adds a new forward option. Much of the improvement must still come from the development of players already in the organization.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Maxim Dubé

More offence would change Gatineau's outlook

In 2025-26, Dubé recorded 15 goals and 17 assists for 32 points in 61 QMJHL games. Dubé is part of the young group Gatineau need to advance after a season of limited scoring. His previous production gives him a foundation, and a larger contribution would help reduce pressure on the defence and goalies. The useful signs go beyond the final total. Watch whether his line creates sustained possession and good chances regularly, including against teams that give the Olympiques little room.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Justin Blais

Experience on a developing defence

In 2025-26, Blais recorded 2 goals and 8 assists for 10 points in 39 QMJHL games. Blais gives Gatineau a returning defender around whom the team can organize its play. With offence still developing, avoiding unnecessary time in the defensive zone becomes especially valuable. His contribution should be judged through reliable positioning and the ability to help move possession forward as well as points. Watch how the returning defenders support the younger players and keep difficult shifts from becoming extended pressure.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Danai Shaiikov

A central part of the Olympiques' foundation

In 2025-26, Shaiikov made 50 QMJHL appearances with a .903 save percentage. Shaiikov's previous workload makes him a key reference for Gatineau. The team needs more offence, but retaining a goalie with substantial league experience gives it a platform while that develops. A demanding schedule can expose weaknesses in the support around a netminder. Watch whether better puck management and stronger scoring support allow him to spend fewer nights trying to protect the smallest possible margin.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Charlottetown Islanders

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
13	7	63

Forecast

Projected 13 of 18 overall and 7 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 63 points. The model projects a lower points total after the turnover. The Islanders can outperform that baseline if the new defence develops quickly and Hickey gives them a steady chance in close games.

How the team is taking shape

Matthew Butler and William Shields provide veteran offence, with Anthony Flanagan another important returning forward. Owen Conrad leads a defence with many new faces. Charlottetown need the newcomers to settle quickly enough that the experienced players can carry manageable workloads.

Goaltending outlook

Donald Hickey returns after handling a large number of games. Seth Ronan is also listed. Hickey gives the Islanders a familiar presence, but a changing defence will need to help him by limiting repeat chances and clearing traffic around the crease.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Matthew Butler C 60 GP 51 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Owen Conrad D 61 GP 28 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Donald Hickey G 51 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

John Mitchell takes over as head coach following Jim Hulton's move to Saint John. Antoine Boudreau arrives from Drummondville, and Cameron Haye from Sherbrooke. Hudson Armstrong adds another forward option as the club begins a new coaching era.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Matthew Butler

Veteran offence in a changing lineup

In 2025-26, Butler recorded 13 goals and 38 assists for 51 points in 60 QMJHL games. Butler gives Charlottetown an established contributor as the club begins a new coaching era. His previous production was weighted toward assists, making the combinations around him especially interesting. The Islanders need returning forwards to provide stability while a younger defence develops. Watch whether his line can sustain possession and create repeatable scoring chances rather than asking the goalie to carry too much of the result.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Owen Conrad

An important reference on the blue line

In 2025-26, Conrad recorded 5 goals and 23 assists for 28 points in 61 QMJHL games. Conrad returns to a Charlottetown defence with numerous new faces. That makes his experience valuable even before considering the offence he contributes. The season will require a balance between helping generate play and keeping the team organized behind the puck. Watch how the newcomers settle beside the returning players and whether the Islanders can make clean exits a dependable part of their game.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Donald Hickey

A heavy workload provides experience

In 2025-26, Hickey made 51 QMJHL appearances with a .893 save percentage. Hickey returns after appearing in a large share of Charlottetown's games. That experience gives the Islanders continuity as their defence changes and a new coach takes charge. Carrying another demanding season will still require support. Watch how the team protects the crease and manages rebounds, especially in close games where a developing lineup may have little room to recover from a defensive mistake.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Blainville-Boisbriand Armada

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
14	7	63

Forecast

Projected 14 of 18 overall and 7 of 8 in the Western Conference, at about 63 points. The lower projection reflects how much established production has left. Newcomers could raise that baseline, but the early task is building dependable combinations and a team structure that supports younger players.

How the team is taking shape

Matt Gosselin becomes a central offensive reference after extensive turnover among last year's leading scorers. Torkel Jennersjo and Elliot Dubé provide returning support. Jacob McKinnon, Mason Moreland and Andrei Milyayev are among the arrivals bringing a different look to the forward group.

Goaltending outlook

Nicolas Gillham-Cirka arrives after playing in Halifax, with Benjamin Lelièvre also listed. Gillham-Cirka brings league experience to a team making changes in front of him. Establishing defensive habits early will help the goalies during the transition.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Matt Gosselin C 63 GP 50 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Jacob McKinnon LW	Numbered preseason listing
Nicolas Gillham-Cirka G 27 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Logan Brennan and Camden Jackson are among the defensive additions. Pierre Dagenais takes over as general manager. The roster has changed substantially from the group that reached last season's semifinal, creating opportunities throughout the lineup.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Matt Gosselin

A returning scorer takes a central role

In 2025-26, Gosselin recorded 23 goals and 27 assists for 50 points in 63 QMJHL games. Gosselin is particularly important because so much of Blainville-Boisbriand's previous offence has moved on. His record gives the Armada an established contributor around whom younger players can find their roles. The challenge is producing when opponents recognize that importance too. Watch whether new combinations create enough additional threats to keep the attack moving on nights when his line receives the toughest coverage.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Jacob McKinnon

A high draft choice enters the rebuild

McKinnon joins the Armada as the third overall selection in the 2026 QMJHL Draft. He arrives at a time when roster turnover has created opportunities throughout the forward group. Opportunity still comes with a learning curve against older, stronger players. Watch his decisions with the puck and how he becomes involved from shift to shift, allowing his role to develop without demanding immediate veteran-level production.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Nicolas Gillham-Cirka

Experience arrives from Halifax

In 2025-26, Gillham-Cirka made 27 QMJHL appearances. Gillham-Cirka gives the Armada a goalie with QMJHL experience as the club changes much of its lineup. His previous results belong to a different team environment, so the quality of support in front of him will be important. Watch how quickly the defenders and goalies establish their communication. Preventing repeated dangerous chances would give the new forward group more time to find its scoring rhythm.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Chicoutimi Saguenéens

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
15	8	63

Forecast

Projected 15 of 18 overall and 8 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 63 points. The projection falls well below last season's championship pace. That reflects roster turnover. It also leaves uncertainty around newcomers and final assignments, so the exact placement should be treated as an early baseline.

How the team is taking shape

The defending champions are redistributing major responsibilities. Émile Ricard and Christophe Berthelot give the forwards familiar faces, while Alexis Toussaint can pursue a larger role. A substantially changed supporting cast makes this a different team from the one that won the title.

Goaltending outlook

Patriks Plumins is a prominent incoming goalie. Raphaël Précourt and Justin Lee also appear in the numbered preseason group. The eventual allocation of starts needs to settle, and the changing defence means this group will be learning together.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Émile Ricard LW 51 GP 37 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Christophe Berthelot RW 64 GP 34 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Patriks Plumins G	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Chicoutimi sent several championship contributors to Cape Breton. Mathis Dufour and the Terglav brothers are among the forward arrivals, with Damir Aptikashhev joining the defence. These additions begin the next stage of the club's development.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Émile Ricard

A familiar forward after championship turnover

In 2025-26, Ricard recorded 11 goals and 26 assists for 37 points in 51 QMJHL games. Ricard is one of the returning players who can help Chicoutimi navigate a very different season. His previous role now sits within a reshaped attack, creating an opportunity for greater responsibility. That also brings tougher attention from opponents. Watch how the Saguenéens build their new combinations and whether Ricard can provide reliable offence while the incoming players adjust to the pace of the league.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Christophe Berthelot

A chance to take a larger share

In 2025-26, Berthelot recorded 15 goals and 19 assists for 34 points in 64 QMJHL games. Berthelot gives Chicoutimi returning production during a period of major change. The departures create opportunities, but filling them involves more than simply giving players extra minutes. He will be working within new combinations and against different matchups. Watch how often his line can sustain attacking time and whether he helps the Saguenéens establish a dependable offensive identity as the season develops.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Patriks Plumins

A new goalie for the next Chicoutimi group

Plumins arrives as a Latvian import and a 2026 Toronto Maple Leafs draft pick, according to the league preview. He joins a club rebuilding much of its championship lineup, so patience will matter as the team settles. Other goalies also appear on the preseason list. Watch the allocation of starts and how the new defensive group helps him adapt to traffic and chances around the net.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Shawinigan Cataractes

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
16	8	59

Forecast

Projected 16 of 18 overall and 8 of 8 in the Western Conference, at about 59 points. The forecast is cautious because much of the previous production has moved on. There is room for improvement beyond that baseline, particularly if the younger forwards contribute quickly and the defence becomes reliable.

How the team is taking shape

Chad Lygitsakos and Kody Dupuis provide established offence, while Olivier Charron, Samuel Boyer and Louis-Émile Dumais have opportunities to grow. Jonathan Prud'homme and Alexis Fortin bring experience to a defence with numerous newcomers. Development will shape the club's progress.

Goaltending outlook

Philippe Boucher has a chance to expand his role after last season's introduction to the league. Kamden Jackson also appears in the group. A younger defence makes patience and support important as the goalies and skaters build their working relationships.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Chad Lygitsakos C 63 GP 59 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Pierre-Alexandre Lemieux C	Numbered preseason listing
Philippe Boucher G 23 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Cole Chandler and Elias Schneider moved to Cape Breton. William Yared arrives from Saint John, while Pierre-Alexandre Lemieux and new imports add younger talent. The balance of responsibility is shifting toward players beginning larger QMJHL roles.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Chad Lygitsakos

The returning attack has a clear reference

In 2025-26, Lygitsakos recorded 21 goals and 38 assists for 59 points in 63 QMJHL games. Lygitsakos is central to Shawinigan's offence after several established contributors moved elsewhere. His previous production gives the younger forwards a useful reference, but the increased attention from opponents will be a test. Watch how the Cataractes distribute chances around him. If the new players develop into reliable contributors, he can remain effective without being asked to solve every difficult game on his own.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Pierre-Alexandre Lemieux

A first-round arrival with room to develop

Lemieux was selected fourth overall in the 2026 QMJHL Draft and joins a Shawinigan team giving younger players opportunities. The appeal is what he can become across a season, rather than a fixed opening-night scoring expectation. Watch how he adjusts to the time and space available against older opponents. Reliable shifts and growing involvement would be meaningful signs of progress even before a large points total appears.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Philippe Boucher

An opportunity to expand his role

In 2025-26, Boucher made 23 QMJHL appearances. Boucher enters the season with QMJHL experience to build on and an opportunity for a greater share of the work. Shawinigan's defence is also changing, making the adjustment a collective one. Watch whether the team can keep the crease clear and limit second chances. His progress will be easier to judge when viewed alongside the quality of opportunities the skaters allow in front of him.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Rimouski Océanic

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
17	9	51

Forecast

Projected 17 of 18 overall and 9 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 51 points. The projection points upward from last season's low total, while keeping Rimouski near the bottom. Returning players offer a starting point; the rate of development among the newcomers will determine the size of the improvement.

How the team is taking shape

Mathys Dubé and Rafaël Cloutier provide returning offence, while Zack Arsenault and Alex Massé enter important development seasons. Luca Nappiot and Connor Sturgeon bring familiarity on defence. A large group of newcomers will influence how quickly Rimouski can become more competitive.

Goaltending outlook

Edouard Lord, Tommy Saulnier and Morgan Blackwood give the Océanic three new options. The league preview identifies all three as part of the opening group. With no established QMJHL tandem to carry forward, the allocation of starts is an early story to follow.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Mathys Dubé C 64 GP 43 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Zack Arsenault RW 58 GP 14 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Luca Nappiot D 52 GP 20 PTS	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Maxmilian Mares and Matyas Cutta arrive from Czech hockey, while first-round choices Justin Gagnon and Max Brien join the forwards. The new group gives Rimouski development potential, although adapting to the league will take time.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Mathys Dubé

A returning source of offence for Rimouski

In 2025-26, Dubé recorded 22 goals and 21 assists for 43 points in 64 QMJHL games. Dubé gives the Océanic an established scorer while several newcomers learn the league. His previous production is a valuable starting point for a team seeking more consistent offence. Opponents will recognize his importance, so support from the developing forwards matters. Watch whether Rimouski can create longer attacking sequences and give its returning threats more opportunities without relying on a small number of isolated chances.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Zack Arsenault

A young forward enters an important second season

In 2025-26, Arsenault recorded 9 goals and 5 assists for 14 points in 58 QMJHL games. Arsenault has a first QMJHL season behind him and room to take a larger role in Rimouski's development. The next step is finding ways to become involved more regularly as the team changes around him. Extra opportunity does not automatically create extra production. Watch his ability to maintain possession, connect with new linemates and turn promising shifts into chances against experienced defenders.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Luca Nappiot

A returning defender helps connect the team

In 2025-26, Nappiot recorded 5 goals and 15 assists for 20 points in 52 QMJHL games. Nappiot gives Rimouski experience on a defence supporting a new goalie group. His offensive contribution provides another reason to follow his development, though the first priority is making the team more reliable in its own end. Watch how he handles pressure on exits and helps turn defensive recoveries into useful possession. Those small gains would matter for a club trying to spend less time under siege.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Baie-Comeau Drakkar

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
18	10	47

Forecast

Projected 18 of 18 overall and 10 of 10 in the Eastern Conference, at about 47 points. Baie-Comeau remain last in the model, although the points baseline improves. The practical aim is steady progress: more sustained offence, fewer extended defensive shifts and a young group that becomes harder to play against.

How the team is taking shape

Robin Benoit is a returning offensive reference, with Brayden Besner and Dominic Pilote adding veteran support. Liam Armit has room to take another step. Mattias Gilbert, Drew Allison and Biagio Jr Daniele give the defence players with league experience to guide the younger group.

Goaltending outlook

Mathias Hernandez returns after joining from Chicoutimi during last season. Joseph Poupart also appears in the numbered group. Hernandez's experience helps, but improved defending and more scoring support are essential if Baie-Comeau are to avoid another difficult season.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 QMJHL record	Current evidence
Robin Benoit C 61 GP 33 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Biagio Jr Daniele D 61 GP 18 PTS	Numbered preseason listing
Mathias Hernandez G 29 GP	Numbered preseason listing

Roster changes

Patrice Bosch takes over as head coach after serving as an assistant. Besner and Pilote add experience up front. The club's new arrivals and returning younger players have opportunities to earn meaningful roles as the Drakkar rebuild.

[Preseason roster](#) | [League preview](#)

Preseason listings and roles remain subject to final assignments, health and professional camp returns.

Three players to watch

1 Robin Benoit

A returning scorer in the Drakkar rebuild

In 2025-26, Benoit recorded 17 goals and 16 assists for 33 points in 61 QMJHL games. Benoit's season total includes time with Sherbrooke and Baie-Comeau, so it should not all be treated as production for the Drakkar. He nevertheless provides an established offensive option for a group looking to create more chances. Watch how he connects with the added veteran forwards and whether that support helps Baie-Comeau sustain attacking pressure more often than it managed last season.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

2 Biagio Jr Daniele

A fuller season and a broader opportunity

In 2025-26, Daniele recorded 4 goals and 14 assists for 18 points in 61 QMJHL games. Daniele begins his first full season with Baie-Comeau after a campaign that included a change of teams. His experience offers the Drakkar another defender to build around during the rebuild. Watch how his responsibilities develop and whether he can help the team escape pressure cleanly. Progress in those situations would support both the offence and a goalie group that needs fewer prolonged defensive shifts.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

3 Mathias Hernandez

A returning option behind a team seeking progress

In 2025-26, Hernandez made 29 QMJHL appearances with a .892 save percentage. Hernandez remains with Baie-Comeau after arriving from Chicoutimi during last season. His combined season results reflect those two settings, making the team context important when assessing them. The Drakkar need improvement throughout the lineup to make his assignment more manageable. Watch their work around the crease and whether they can turn stops into clean exits instead of allowing another immediate chance.

[Preseason roster](#) | [QMJHL record](#) | [League preview](#)

Profiles checked September 15 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

What the rankings mean

The forecast

The existing QMJHL regression is refreshed with September 15 roster evidence. It combines last season team points percentage, the share of team goals represented by returning players, and incoming players' previous QMJHL points. Team-specific statistical splits keep traded players' former production separate. The published points are rounded estimates over 64 games; no new model has been fitted for this edition.

The roster snapshot

The league preseason pages contain 1,190 entries, including extensive camp lists. This edition uses the 433 players carrying regular sweater numbers rather than the placeholder 999. That is a working roster signal, not certification of an opening-night lineup. Victoriaville's 23 numbered players match its September 4 final roster announcement. Official previews inform the commentary and featured-player choices.

Remaining roster decisions

Chicoutimi, Rimouski and Baie-Comeau each list four 2006-born players in the numbered group. Their contributions are weighted equally to a combined three overage slots, without predicting which player leaves. Other numbered players receive full weight. Players listed only under 999 are excluded from this scenario; that does not by itself establish a departure.

What the numbers miss

The forecast gives no scoring credit for production outside the QMJHL and does not directly model goaltending, coaching, injuries or individual development. Moncton and other clubs with substantial external arrivals therefore have additional uncertainty. The historical model's reported cross-validation error was roughly 13 points over 64 games; that is context for its limits, not a current team-specific confidence interval.

Sources and player records

Roster pages were checked September 15. Fifteen current league previews and available club announcements supplement the saved 2025-26 statistical tables. Player totals cover their whole QMJHL season, including multiple clubs where applicable. The statistics tables take precedence when a preview's summary conflicts with those records. A player spotlight identifies someone worth following, without guaranteeing a starting role or a breakout.

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