

2026 27

AHL 2026 27 Season Preview

A new home in Hamilton. A title defense in Toronto. Thirty-two teams ready for a new AHL season.

32 teams • 96 player spotlights • Season opens October 2

OPENING EDITION

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Eastern Conference

A guide to all 32 clubs, organized by division. Each team preview is followed by three player spotlights, with the storylines, roster changes and players worth following as the season begins.

Team	Division	Preview page
Charlotte Checkers	Atlantic	6
Hartford Wolf Pack	Atlantic	8
Hershey Bears	Atlantic	10
Lehigh Valley Phantoms	Atlantic	12
Providence Bruins	Atlantic	14
Springfield Thunderbirds	Atlantic	16
Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins	Atlantic	18
Belleville Senators	North	20
Cleveland Monsters	North	22
Hamilton Hammers	North	24
Laval Rocket	North	26
Rochester Americans	North	28
Syracuse Crunch	North	30
Toronto Marlies	North	32
Utica Comets	North	34

Each preview is followed by three player spotlights. League outlook: pages 4–5. Editorial notes: page 70.

Western Conference

A guide to all 32 clubs, organized by division. Each team preview is followed by three player spotlights, with the storylines, roster changes and players worth following as the season begins.

Team	Division	Preview page
Chicago Wolves	Central	36
Grand Rapids Griffins	Central	38
Iowa Wild	Central	40
Manitoba Moose	Central	42
Milwaukee Admirals	Central	44
Rockford IceHogs	Central	46
Texas Stars	Central	48
Abbotsford Canucks	Pacific	50
Bakersfield Condors	Pacific	52
Calgary Wranglers	Pacific	54
Coachella Valley Firebirds	Pacific	56
Colorado Eagles	Pacific	58
Henderson Silver Knights	Pacific	60
Ontario Reign	Pacific	62
San Diego Gulls	Pacific	64
San Jose Barracuda	Pacific	66
Tucson Roadrunners	Pacific	68

Each preview is followed by three player spotlights. League outlook: pages 4–5. Editorial notes: page 70.

Eastern Conference

The season ahead

The AHL opens October 2, with all 32 clubs scheduled for 72 games through April 11. Toronto begins as the defending Calder Cup champion, while Hamilton gives the Islanders' affiliate a new home and the North Division a new arrival.

Atlantic Division

Confirmed arrivals give the Atlantic a clearer opening picture. Charlotte has Angus Crookshank and Cooper Black in the AHL group. Hartford receives Dylan Garand alongside its developing forwards, while Andrew Cristall and Jacob MacDonald strengthen Hershey's options. Providence's experienced additions and Springfield's returning playoff goalie Georgii Romanov add further reasons to follow the division closely.

North Division

Toronto's championship is the starting point, with captain Logan Shaw providing continuity. Syracuse has Jakob Pelletier on its roster after his league-leading scoring season, and Laval has Jacob Fowler assigned. Utica's new group includes Riley Tufte and David Rittich, while Hamilton introduces Cole Eiserman. The best teams will need their supporting players to make those headline names more effective.

What to watch first

Early results matter, but so do the combinations behind them. Look for teams that create chances through more than one line and defend reliably when the leading players are off the ice. A new goalie's communication with the defense, or a rookie earning repeat opportunities, can tell us as much about progress as one opening-weekend score.

[Official AHL schedule](#) | [Charlotte assignments Sep 28](#) | [Garand assigned Sep 28](#) | [Hershey moves Sep 28](#) | [Providence opening roster](#) | [Romanov and Rosen assigned](#) | [Marlies captain extension Oct 1](#) | [Syracuse 2026 27 roster](#) | [Laval assignments Sep 27](#) | [Utica opening roster](#) | [Hamilton roster](#)

Western Conference

Central Division

Chicago's run to the Calder Cup Final sets a recent standard. Grand Rapids has established scoring around John Leonard and Sheldon Dries, with Trey Augustine adding interest in goal. Texas combines veteran forwards with Brandon Halverson, while Iowa's young goalies compete behind a familiar defense. Developing players will help determine how far those foundations carry each club.

Pacific Division

Ontario opens with Lane Pederson and Scott Perunovich, giving its attack confirmed help. Quinn Hutson remains a player to follow in Bakersfield, and Calgary's opening roster identifies Arsenii Sergeev and Kirill Zarubin in goal. Colorado also has a changed crease. San Jose must begin around important absences, making its available veterans and supporting forwards especially significant.

Experience and opportunity

Established players and newcomers need to help each other. Veterans give a changing lineup dependable habits; developing players supply new ways to create chances. The teams that handle NHL movement best need more than a strong opening group. They need contributors who can take on responsibility when the next opportunity appears.

A few dates to circle

October 2: opening night and Hamilton's first game, at Belleville. October 3: Toronto's championship-banner celebration. October 9: Hamilton's first home game, against Toronto. November 7: all 32 teams play on the league's 90th birthday. February 7–8: Cleveland hosts the AHL All-Star Classic.

[Official AHL schedule](#) | [Chicago opening preview](#) | [Grand Rapids opening roster](#) | [Texas roster](#) | [Iowa opening preview](#) | [Ontario opening roster](#) | [Edmonton September 25 assignments](#) | [Calgary opening roster](#) | [Colorado roster](#) | [Sharks opening roster statuses](#)

Charlotte Checkers

Division	NHL affiliate
Atlantic	Florida Panthers

Forecast

Charlotte has a stronger attacking foundation with Angus Crookshank and Will Bitten assigned. The Checkers should have enough experienced help to support their younger forwards. The test is whether a changed defense can settle quickly enough to keep that offense playing with the puck.

How the team is taking shape

Florida’s September 28 assignments brought Crookshank, Bitten, Nathan Bastian, John Beecher and Sam Lafferty to Charlotte. Casey Fitzgerald, Tobias Bjornfot and Alexander Petrovic add experience on defense. That gives the coaching staff several ways to balance its lines and pairings.

In goal

Cooper Black, Kirill Gerasimyyuk and Tyler Muszelik were assigned September 28. Black is now an available AHL option rather than a conditional return. The opening games will show how the staff divides the work and which partnerships provide the most reliable coverage in front of them.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Angus Crookshank — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 28
Will Bitten — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 28
Cooper Black — Goaltender	Assigned to AHL September 28

Roster changes

The late Florida assignments fill major gaps in the opening picture. Ben Steeves’s move to New Jersey remains part of the offseason turnover, while Crookshank gives Charlotte an established AHL finisher in return.

[Checkers offseason tracker](#) | [Crookshank offseason profile](#) | [Charlotte AHL signings](#) | [Charlotte assignments Sep 28](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Angus Crookshank

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 28

A proven finisher joins the attack

Crookshank scored 24 goals in 60 Utica games last season and has reached 20 goals in four straight AHL campaigns. Now assigned to Charlotte, he gives the Checkers a proven finishing option. Watch how his new linemates create opportunities for him and whether the power play can make regular use of his scoring touch. A balanced attack would make that threat harder to isolate.

[Crookshank offseason profile](#) | [Charlotte assignments Sep 28](#)

2 Will Bitten

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 28

An experienced forward returns from Europe

Bitten joins Charlotte after two seasons in Russia, including a 21-point campaign with Sochi in 2025–26. He already has 346 AHL games behind him. His return is worth watching because Charlotte needs established forwards alongside its younger players. The useful early test is how quickly he adapts to his new linemates and earns a dependable place in the rotation.

[Charlotte AHL signings](#) | [Charlotte assignments Sep 28](#)

3 Cooper Black

Goaltender | Assigned to AHL September 28

Back in Charlotte with work to earn

Black's assignment gives Charlotte a familiar option in goal after his two-year Florida extension. He joins a group that also includes Kirill Gerasimyyuk and Tyler Muszelik. The early story is the workload he earns and the consistency he brings from start to start. Good communication with a changed defense will matter as much as any single impressive save.

[Checkers offseason tracker](#) | [Charlotte assignments Sep 28](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Hartford Wolf Pack

Division	NHL affiliate
Atlantic	New York Rangers

Forecast

Hartford has an appealing mix of new prospects, experienced forwards and a familiar goaltender. Liam Greentree gives the attack a development story, while Dylan Garand's return makes the outlook firmer. Improvement under Jay Leach will depend on turning those individual options into more dependable team play.

How the team is taking shape

Greentree joins a young group that includes Nathan Aspinall, Cole Beaudoin and Carey Terrance. Glenn Gawdin is on the club roster, and Taylor Raddysh arrived with Garand on September 28. The experienced forwards should help the staff spread responsibility while the newcomers adjust.

In goal

Garand is back after a 36-game Hartford season with a .896 save percentage and 2.83 goals-against average. His return supplies familiarity, with Spencer Martin and Callum Tung among the earlier assignments. The challenge is a steadier team performance that reduces difficult second chances.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Liam Greentree — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 25
Glenn Gawdin — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Dylan Garand — Goaltender	Assigned to AHL September 28

Roster changes

Last season's leading scorers Trey Fix-Wolansky and Brendan Brisson moved on, as did captain Casey Fitzgerald. Hartford is replacing meaningful experience as well as points. The new coaching staff and incoming players make this a genuine reset.

[Wolf Pack roster tracker](#) | [Rangers and Wolf Pack camp outlook](#) | [Hartford September 24 assignments](#) | [Hartford September 25 assignments](#) | [Hartford roster](#) | [Garand assigned Sep 28](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Liam Greentree

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 25

A new professional chapter

Greentree's first professional chapter now has a confirmed AHL destination: the Rangers assigned him to Hartford on September 25. After four seasons with Windsor, his challenge is translating his offense against older, stronger defenders. Follow the opportunities he earns on scoring lines and special teams. His junior experience creates interest, while his early professional performances will show how quickly he can take on responsibility.

[Rangers and Wolf Pack camp outlook](#) | [Hartford September 25 assignments](#)

2 Glenn Gawdin

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

Experience for a changing forward group

Gawdin is on Hartford's roster after signing a two-year Rangers contract. He gives the changed forward group an experienced option alongside its new prospects. Watch his linemates and special-teams usage: those choices will show where the staff most needs his help. His contribution will be especially valuable if it lets younger forwards take on responsibility gradually while still keeping the attack competitive.

[Wolf Pack roster tracker](#) | [Hartford roster](#)

3 Dylan Garand

Goaltender | Assigned to AHL September 28

A familiar goalie returns to the crease

Garand returns after 36 Hartford appearances last season, posting a .896 save percentage and 2.83 goals-against average. His three Rangers appearances also gave him a taste of the next level. The immediate opportunity is to bring greater consistency to the Wolf Pack. Watch his response to difficult outings and whether improved support helps him turn strong stretches into a sustained run.

[Wolf Pack roster tracker](#) | [Rangers and Wolf Pack camp outlook](#) | [Garand assigned Sep 28](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Hershey Bears

Division	NHL affiliate
Atlantic	Washington Capitals

Forecast

Hershey’s opening outlook has gained substance with Andrew Cristall and Jacob MacDonald in the group. The Bears have an interesting blend of developing forwards and experienced support. A competitive season will require that mix to produce consistently while a changed goaltending arrangement settles.

How the team is taking shape

Cristall joins a prospect group that includes Terik Parascak. MacDonald gives the blue line an attacking option, with his sustained availability an important storyline. The Bears have enough different types of forwards to experiment with combinations without placing every scoring expectation on one newcomer.

In goal

Mitch Gibson and professional-tryout addition Cal Petersen form the latest announced group. Ben Kraws was loaned to South Carolina, and Clay Stevenson was claimed by Winnipeg. Petersen brings experience, while the share of starts must be earned through performance.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Andrew Cristall — Forward	AHL arrival confirmed September 28
Jacob MacDonald — Defenseman	AHL arrival confirmed September 28
Cal Petersen — Goaltender	Professional tryout

Roster changes

The September 28 update added Cristall and MacDonald and changed the crease. This is a different opening picture from the early camp roster, with the main interest now shifting to line combinations and dependable goaltending.

[Bears offseason tracker](#) | [MacDonald signing and season record](#) | [Hershey initial camp roster](#) | [Hershey September 24 camp roster](#) | [Hershey moves Sep 28](#)

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Three players to watch

1 Andrew Cristall

Forward | AHL arrival confirmed September 28

A new offensive option takes the ice

Cristall has joined Hershey, turning an anticipated arrival into a player the Bears can build into their attack. Watch the responsibilities he earns with his linemates and on the power play. The interesting test is how often he can create a useful chance when opponents close space quickly. Consistent involvement over several games will say more than one memorable highlight.

[Bears offseason tracker](#) | [Hershey moves Sep 28](#)

2 Jacob MacDonald

Defenseman | AHL arrival confirmed September 28

Offense from the blue line with a health question

MacDonald recorded 12 points in 17 regular-season games for Colorado in an injury-shortened 2025–26 campaign. His earlier 31-goal AHL season demonstrates a much higher offensive ceiling, but that came in 2024–25. Now with Hershey, he is a compelling power-play option to watch. A sensible outlook depends on sustained availability rather than simply projecting a return to his best season.

[MacDonald signing and season record](#) | [Hershey moves Sep 28](#)

3 Cal Petersen

Goaltender | Professional tryout

Experience in a changing crease

Petersen joins Hershey on a professional tryout with 248 AHL appearances and 106 NHL games behind him. That experience makes him an intriguing part of the Bears' changed goaltending picture. The immediate task is earning work and building trust with a new defense. Watch how comfortably the group handles rebounds and traffic as the opening rotation develops.

[Hershey moves Sep 28](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Lehigh Valley Phantoms

Division	NHL affiliate
Atlantic	Philadelphia Flyers

Forecast

Lehigh Valley’s attack now has more substance behind its early promise. Cam Dineen, Danila Klimovich and Jack Studnicka have joined the Phantoms, followed by another wave of prospects. The task is turning those arrivals into balanced lines and dependable support, with the strongest combinations still to be established.

How the team is taking shape

Dineen and Klimovich cleared waivers and joined Lehigh Valley on September 24 with Studnicka, Zach Aston-Reese and Nolan Foote. Their arrival adds experience to a developing group. Philadelphia’s next round brought Jett Luchanko, Cole Knuble, Jacob Gaucher and Oliver Bonk, broadening the options at both ends.

In goal

Aleksei Kolosov, Carson Bjarnason and Yaniv Perets are on the opening roster. Kolosov gives the group recent AHL experience, while Bjarnason’s development adds interest. Better consistency in goal and stronger protection around the crease would help turn the new forward options into a more competitive team.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Cam Dineen — Defenseman	Opening AHL roster
Danila Klimovich — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Aleksei Kolosov — Goaltender	Opening AHL roster

Roster changes

The opening roster confirms Dineen, Klimovich and Kolosov. David Goyette also arrives in the trade that sends Devin Kaplan to Seattle’s organization. The Phantoms now have a clearer group with which to establish their scoring lines and special teams.

[Flyers depth signings](#) | [Kolosov and Petruzzelli extensions](#) | [Lehigh Valley camp announcement](#) | [Phantoms September 24 arrivals](#) | [Phantoms September 25 roster](#) | [Phantoms opening roster](#)

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Three players to watch

1 Cam Dineen

Defenseman | Opening AHL roster

Experience and offense join the blue line

Dineen produced 21 points in 40 Bakersfield games in 2025–26 before signing with Philadelphia. He has now cleared waivers and joined Lehigh Valley. Watch how the Phantoms use him to start attacks and support special teams. His experience offers a useful addition, while the share of power-play work remains something to establish through the opening games.

[Flyers depth signings](#) | [Phantoms September 24 arrivals](#) | [Phantoms opening roster](#)

2 Danila Klimovich

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A change of organization creates a new opportunity

Klimovich has joined Lehigh Valley after clearing waivers, beginning a new chapter following five AHL seasons with Abbotsford. His 25-goal year came in 2024–25, so it shows past potential rather than last season's production. The fresh setting now becomes a practical opportunity. Watch whether he secures consistent offensive minutes and turns those chances into a dependable contribution.

[Flyers depth signings](#) | [Phantoms September 24 arrivals](#) | [Phantoms opening roster](#)

3 Aleksei Kolosov

Goaltender | Opening AHL roster

A returning option with something to improve

Kolosov returns on the opening roster after a 2025–26 Phantoms season with a 2.98 goals-against average and .895 save percentage in 38 appearances. There is room to improve, both in his own consistency and in the chances the team allows. Watch how he handles successive starts and whether the defense helps him control the crease. Those pieces together will tell more than wins and losses alone.

[Kolosov and Petruzzelli extensions](#) | [Phantoms opening roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Providence Bruins

Division	NHL affiliate
Atlantic	Boston Bruins

Forecast

Providence opens with a substantial veteran forward group for new head coach Trent Whitfield. Brendan Gaunce and Brian Halonen are confirmed additions, giving the Bruins more than a list of possible reinforcements. The challenge is turning that depth into several effective lines while establishing a new goaltending balance.

How the team is taking shape

Gaunce, Halonen and Wyatt Bongiovanni are on the opening roster alongside experienced forwards such as Alex Steeves. The group gives Whitfield options around the younger players. Providence should be able to spread responsibility, but finding the best combinations remains an early-season task.

In goal

Jiri Patera and Simon Zajicek are the opening-roster goalies. The competition now has a clear starting point. Providence will need reliable work from both as the schedule develops, with defensive support especially important while the new arrangement settles.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Brendan Gaunce — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Brian Halonen — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Wyatt Bongiovanni — Forward	Opening AHL roster

Roster changes

The opening roster resolves the earlier waiver questions around Gaunce and Halonen. Billy Sweezey is the new captain, providing a familiar voice as the Bruins begin another season with a changed coaching and playing group.

[Boston depth signings](#) | [Providence AHL signings](#) | [Providence team news](#) | [Providence initial camp roster](#) | [Boston September 21 roster moves](#) | [Boston September 25 moves](#) | [Providence opening roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Brendan Gaunce

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A veteran anchor for the new group

Gaunce joins Providence after producing 36 points in 44 Cleveland games last season. His opening-roster place gives the Bruins an experienced forward who can help younger teammates settle. Watch how Whitfield distributes the demanding minutes and whether Gaunce's line becomes a dependable source of possession. His value can extend beyond his own scoring if it helps several players become more comfortable in their roles.

[Boston depth signings](#) | [Boston September 25 moves](#) | [Providence opening roster](#)

2 Brian Halonen

Forward | Opening AHL roster

Recent scoring strengthens the forward group

Halonen scored 20 goals in 51 Utica games last season before signing with Boston. He is now on Providence's opening roster, giving the attack another forward with a recent record of finishing chances. Watch whether he finds a productive combination quickly and earns regular offensive opportunities. The Bruins' depth becomes more valuable if it produces threats across several lines.

[Boston depth signings](#) | [Boston September 25 moves](#) | [Providence opening roster](#)

3 Wyatt Bongiovanni

Forward | Opening AHL roster

An AHL signing with a chance to establish a role

Bongiovanni recorded 15 goals and 30 points in 65 games split between Belleville and Hershey last season. His one-year AHL deal gives Providence an experienced forward in the changed forward group. Watch how often the staff uses him in offensive situations and whether he can become a regular scoring option when call-ups change the available group. A productive second line can make a large difference over the schedule. Boston sent him to report to Providence's camp on September 21.

[Providence AHL signings](#) | [Bears offseason tracker](#) | [Boston September 21 roster moves](#) | [Providence opening roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Springfield Thunderbirds

Division	NHL affiliate
Atlantic	St. Louis Blues

Forecast

Springfield has an encouraging mix of experienced help and developing talent. T.J. Tynan gives the forwards an established playmaker, and Georgii Romanov’s return strengthens the picture in goal. The key is turning that support into consistent progress from the younger players across a full season.

How the team is taking shape

Juraj Pekarcik, Simon Robertsson and Jakub Stancl are among the assigned forwards, with Michael Buchinger and Lukas Fischer on defense. Tynan and Chris Wagner offer experience around them. The group’s upside depends on younger players earning more responsibility without being asked to carry every difficult situation.

In goal

Romanov returned September 28 after a strong playoff run: a .939 save percentage in 11 postseason appearances. His regular-season mark was .896, so repeating the spring form over a longer schedule is the challenge. Parker Gahagen was among the earlier assignments.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
T.J. Tynan — Forward	AHL contract
Juraj Pekarcik — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 20
Michael Buchinger — Defenseman	Assigned to AHL September 20

Roster changes

Calle Rosen arrived with Romanov, adding an experienced defenseman after a 31-point Springfield regular season. They join the earlier assignments of Aleksanteri Kaskimaki, Dylan Peterson, Otto Stenberg and Adam Jiricek, giving the staff a fuller group to organize.

[Thunderbirds offseason tracker](#) | [September 20 assignments](#) | [Tynan AHL signing](#) | [Springfield September 25 arrivals](#) | [Romanov and Rosen assigned](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 T.J. Tynan

Forward | AHL contract

An established addition for the new group

Tynan recorded 47 assists and 50 points in 67 Colorado games last season, then added 14 points in 17 playoff appearances. His one-year AHL deal gives Springfield an accomplished playmaker to pair with its developing forwards. Watch which players benefit from his passing and whether the Thunderbirds can build productive combinations around him. He begins the season eight points short of 700 in his AHL career.

[Tynan AHL signing](#) | [Thunderbirds offseason tracker](#)

2 Juraj Pekarcik

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 20

A developing forward with room to grow

Pekarcik's September 20 assignment gives him an opportunity to build a regular contribution in Springfield. The interesting question is how the Thunderbirds connect their younger forwards with experienced additions such as T.J. Tynan. Watch the responsibility Pekarcik earns and the consistency of his involvement away from the puck. Useful shifts across several games would provide a foundation for a larger attacking role.

[September 20 assignments](#)

3 Michael Buchinger

Defenseman | Assigned to AHL September 20

A place to build on the blue line

Buchinger begins with an opportunity to establish a dependable role within Springfield's defense after his September 20 assignment. Watch the situations in which the staff trusts him, from routine exits to shifts under pressure. His first pass and positioning will help determine how much responsibility he earns. Consistent decisions over a run of games would make his contribution increasingly valuable to a changing group.

[September 20 assignments](#) | [Thunderbirds offseason tracker](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins

Division	NHL affiliate
Atlantic	Pittsburgh Penguins

Forecast

Avery Hayes gives the Penguins a familiar attacking foundation after their conference-final run. The club will need useful contributions from its developing forwards and depth signings to sustain that standard. The early interest is how quickly the new combinations can share the scoring work.

How the team is taking shape

Hayes joins Atley Calvert, Tanner Howe and Mikhail Ilyin among the assigned forwards. Bill Zonnon and defenseman Harrison Brunicke arrived in Pittsburgh’s September 27 moves. Those additions give the staff more young players to integrate around the established AHL group.

In goal

Joel Blomqvist was assigned September 27, giving the Penguins a clearer option in goal. Taylor Gauthier was on the earlier preseason roster. The season’s test is the reliability of the available rotation and its communication with a defense that will continue to change through call-ups.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Avery Hayes — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 25
Brent Johnson — Defenseman	AHL camp roster — September 25
Joel Blomqvist — Goaltender	Assigned to AHL September 27

Roster changes

The September 27 assignments sharpen the opening picture beyond the first preseason list. Hayes remains an important returning forward, while Zonnon and Brunicke add development stories to follow as the Penguins seek another productive season.

[Pittsburgh camp competition](#) | [Penguins AHL additions](#) | [Cam Johnson signing](#) | [Pittsburgh September 25 assignments](#) | [Penguins September 25 camp roster](#) | [Pittsburgh assignments Sep 27](#)

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Three players to watch

1 Avery Hayes

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 25

A confirmed return strengthens the attack

Hayes was assigned to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton on September 25 after competing for a Pittsburgh place. He returns with experience from last season's NHL appearances and the AHL club's conference-final run. His presence gives the Penguins a familiar attacking option. Watch the combinations built around him and whether the group can share scoring responsibility as the rest of the roster settles.

[Pittsburgh camp competition](#) | [Pittsburgh September 25 assignments](#)

2 Brent Johnson

Defenseman | AHL camp roster — September 25

A productive ECHL season opens another door

Johnson recorded 55 points with Wheeling in 2025–26 and earned an ECHL All-Rookie Team selection. He returns on an AHL contract with only a small amount of AHL experience. The next test is translating that contribution to a more demanding level. Watch whether his puck movement earns regular minutes and how his defensive play holds up when the available time shrinks.

[Penguins AHL additions](#) | [Penguins September 25 camp roster](#)

3 Joel Blomqvist

Goaltender | Assigned to AHL September 27

An important return to the crease

Blomqvist's September 27 assignment gives Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a clearer starting point in goal. His workload will be earned through the season, with the first task building a dependable rhythm behind the available defense. Watch his positioning through traffic and the way the group limits second chances. Consistency across successive appearances would help the Penguins establish confidence early.

[Pittsburgh assignments Sep 27](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Belleville Senators

Division	NHL affiliate
North	Ottawa Senators

Forecast

Belleville has a plausible route to a playoff push if its changed group settles quickly. The incoming forwards offer opportunities to build several useful lines. The club's progress will depend on making the most of that variety while supporting a different goaltending arrangement.

How the team is taking shape

Philip Tomasino joins the AHL group. Landen Hookey and Luke Mistelbacher offer development stories under direct AHL contracts. The useful early question is how the staff distributes the attacking work so that new combinations can grow without relying on one player to solve every problem.

In goal

Jackson Parsons and Kevin Reidler have been assigned. The crease is a central storyline following the organization's offseason changes. The staff needs a dependable rotation, and the defense can help by controlling rebounds and making exits that prevent repeated pressure.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Landen Hookey — Forward	AHL contract
Philip Tomasino — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 28
Jackson Parsons — Goaltender	Assigned to AHL September 27

Roster changes

Carter Yakemchuk begins in Ottawa. Belleville therefore needs its available defensemen to take the next step rather than building its outlook around a presumed return. The forward changes create opportunity, but dependable play through the middle of the ice will be just as important.

[Senators offseason tracker](#) | [Hookey camp feature](#) | [Vancouver claims Merilainen](#) | [Ottawa moves Sep 28](#) | [Ottawa assignments Sep 27](#)

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Three players to watch

1 Landen Hookey

Forward | AHL contract

A second season built around stronger puck possession

Hookey scored five goals and 12 points in 49 Belleville games as a rookie. In his September interview, he identified skating and strength on the puck as offseason priorities. Those are useful things to watch when play moves below the faceoff circles. If he can hold possession longer and make the next pass under pressure, his contribution can grow beyond last season's modest scoring totals.

[Hookey camp feature](#)

2 Philip Tomasino

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 28

A new option for the attack

Tomasino's arrival gives Belleville another forward around whom to explore combinations. The early question is where his skills fit best and which linemates help him become consistently involved. Watch how often his line can keep possession and turn it into useful chances. A productive fit would spread the scoring responsibility and give the Senators more ways to stay in close games.

[Ottawa moves Sep 28](#)

3 Jackson Parsons

Goaltender | Assigned to AHL September 27

An opportunity in a changing goaltending group

Parsons's assignment makes him part of Belleville's changing goaltending picture. The opportunity is to earn repeat starts and turn them into a dependable run of performances. Watch his communication with the defense and his response after a difficult period. As the staff settles the rotation, steady work over successive appearances will matter more than an assumed position on a preseason depth chart.

[Senators offseason tracker](#) | [Ottawa assignments Sep 27](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Cleveland Monsters

Division	NHL affiliate
North	Columbus Blue Jackets

Forecast

Cleveland’s opportunity is to build enough dependable scoring around its developing players to withstand the season’s inevitable movement. Returning forwards provide some continuity, and Pheonix Copley adds experience in goal. The opening games should reveal whether the new combinations can replace the offense that departed.

How the team is taking shape

Owen Sillinger is on Cleveland’s September 25 camp roster, providing continuity alongside developing forwards such as Jordan Dumais, James Malatesta and Luca Pinelli. That gives the staff a more concrete group to assess. The challenge is distributing the scoring work after important offseason departures.

In goal

Copley is on Cleveland’s current roster, alongside younger options including Evan Gardner and Nolan Lalonde. His recent AHL experience gives the group a useful reference point. The challenge is reliable work across the rotation, supported by a defense that keeps pressure from building around the crease.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Owen Sillinger — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Tate Singleton — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Pheonix Copley — Goaltender	Listed on AHL roster

Roster changes

Cleveland announced five more arrivals September 25, including goalie Nolan Lalonde and defenseman Charlie Elick. The expanded camp group gives the staff more options around its returning forwards and AHL signings. Replacing the contributions of Brendan Gaunce and Justin Pearson remains an important challenge for the attack.

[Sillinger contract announcement](#) | [Singleton AHL signing](#) | [Columbus organizational roster review](#) | [AHL offseason signing tracker](#) | [Boston depth signings](#) | [Comets roster tracker](#) | [Cleveland September 22 arrivals](#) | [Cleveland September 25 roster](#) | [Cleveland roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Owen Sillinger

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A returning link in a changed group

Sillinger is listed on Cleveland's roster after re-signing for one year. His presence offers continuity while the Monsters assemble a changed forward lineup. Familiar players can help new combinations settle more quickly. Watch how much responsibility he earns and how effectively his line supports the younger attackers, especially when the team needs a dependable shift during a difficult stretch.

[Sillinger contract announcement](#) | [Cleveland September 25 roster](#) | [Cleveland roster](#)

2 Tate Singleton

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A familiar setting with room for a larger role

Singleton recorded six goals and 11 points in 39 Cleveland games last season before signing his new one-year AHL agreement. That gives him a familiar setting in which to pursue a larger role. With veteran departures opening opportunities, watch whether he can turn more regular appearances into a steadier offensive contribution. The useful measure is progress across a run of games, rather than a brief scoring surge. He returned to Cleveland from Columbus's NHL tryout group on September 22.

[Singleton AHL signing](#) | [Cleveland September 22 arrivals](#) | [Cleveland roster](#)

3 Pheonix Copley

Goaltender | Listed on AHL roster

Experience joins the Cleveland crease

Copley joins Cleveland's roster after a .901 save percentage and 2.59 goals-against average in 33 Ontario games last season. That experience is useful for a team introducing younger players. Watch how he builds communication with the defense and whether he can provide a dependable rhythm through a changing schedule. A steady veteran presence would help the Monsters absorb the adjustments that come with development and call-ups.

[AHL offseason signing tracker](#) | [Cleveland roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Hamilton Hammers

Division	NHL affiliate
North	New York Islanders

Forecast

Hamilton’s first season has an appealing mix of established AHL experience and incoming prospects. Matthew Highmore supplies continuity, while Cole Eiserman adds a new story for fans to follow. The test is how quickly the group becomes a coherent team under Jay McKee in its new North Division setting.

How the team is taking shape

Highmore and Eiserman are on the roster with forwards including Pierre Engvall and Liam Foudy. Brandon Scanlin, Ethan Bear and Isaiah George give the defense a mix of experience and development potential. The staff has options, with chemistry now the more important question.

In goal

Vitek Vanecek and Josh Kotai are the listed goalies. Ryan Fanti and Henrik Tikkanen were sent to Trenton, changing the picture from the initial camp roster. Reliable communication will be important while the new defense establishes its partnerships.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Matthew Highmore — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Cole Eiserman — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Brandon Scanlin — Defenseman	Listed on AHL roster

Roster changes

The late assignments brought Eiserman, Kashawn Aitcheson and George into the group. Hamilton’s opening lineup has considerably more substance than the first camp list, with the main challenge turning those arrivals into settled roles.

[Highmore AHL signing](#) | [Fanti and Healey signings](#) | [Scanlin AHL signing](#) | [Islanders September 22 assignments](#) | [Hamilton September 24 camp roster](#) | [Hamilton roster](#) | [Hamilton transactions](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Matthew Highmore

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A familiar professional foundation in a new home

Highmore signed a two-year AHL contract after producing 40 points in 70 Bridgeport games. That makes him a useful point of continuity for Hamilton. His contribution should be judged through the whole forward group: dependable minutes and workable combinations can matter as much as his own totals. Watch how the Hammers use him alongside the new arrivals.

[Highmore AHL signing](#) | [Hamilton roster](#)

2 Cole Eiserman

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A new forward to follow in Hamilton

Eiserman's arrival adds interest to Hamilton's first season and gives the staff another forward to work into its attack. The early focus is the responsibility he earns and the combinations that help him contribute most often. Watch his involvement between scoring chances as well as the chances themselves. Sustained useful shifts would make it easier to expand his role as the season progresses.

[Hamilton roster](#)

3 Brandon Scanlin

Defenseman | Listed on AHL roster

A new setting on the blue line

Scanlin joins Hamilton on an AHL contract after leaving Hartford. His arrival adds another established professional to a defense that is still being assembled. The early question is the role the staff gives him: who he partners with, which situations he handles, and how much continuity he can provide as other players move between leagues. Those decisions will clarify his importance to the Hammers. His September 22 assignment now puts him in Hamilton's group.

[Scanlin AHL signing](#) | [Wolf Pack roster tracker](#) | [Islanders September 22 assignments](#) | [Hamilton roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Laval Rocket

Division	NHL affiliate
North	Montreal Canadiens

Forecast

Laval has a promising mix of returning experience and new forwards, with Jacob Fowler's assignment giving the goaltending picture a firmer base. The Rocket should have several ways to construct a competitive attack. Their ceiling will depend on how quickly the changed defense and new combinations become dependable.

How the team is taking shape

Laurent Dauphin returns, while Alex Belzile cleared waivers with Montreal's other September 27 candidates. Owen Beck, Jared Davidson and David Reinbacher were among the direct assignments. That gives the staff familiar contributors and younger players with room for larger roles.

In goal

Fowler has been assigned and Kaapo Kähkönen cleared waivers for Laval. The group offers different levels of experience. The useful early test is how well the goalies work with the revised defense and whether each can find a consistent rhythm when called upon.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Laurent Dauphin — Forward	AHL arrival confirmed September 27
Alex Belzile — Forward	Cleared waivers for Laval September 28
Jacob Fowler — Goaltender	Assigned to AHL September 27

Roster changes

Sean Farrell, Joshua Roy, William Trudeau and Marc Del Gaizo are among the departures. The returning AHL veterans offer continuity, but several new forwards and a changed defense mean the final roster should be assessed on its own merits.

[Rocket roster overview](#) | [Laval season review](#) | [AHL offseason signing tracker](#) | [Laval assignments Sep 27](#) | [Montreal waiver outcomes Sep 28](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Laurent Dauphin

Forward | AHL arrival confirmed September 27

A firm part of the veteran base

Dauphin's AHL contract makes him a more certain part of Laval's planning than players awaiting Montreal assignments. He also offers continuity after a season in which the Rocket featured several developing forwards. The practical question is how the new arrivals fit around him. Watch whether the staff keeps an established combination together or uses its returning veterans to support different lines.

[Rocket roster overview](#) | [Laval season review](#) | [Laval assignments Sep 27](#)

2 Alex Belzile

Forward | Cleared waivers for Laval September 28

A familiar scoring threat returns

Belzile returns to the Laval picture after clearing waivers, bringing a 29-goal, 62-point AHL season as his recent reference point. His offense gives the changed forward group something familiar to build around. Watch how the staff preserves useful chemistry while introducing new linemates. Consistent support from other lines would make it harder for opponents to concentrate their coverage on one leading scorer.

[AHL offseason signing tracker](#) | [Rocket roster overview](#) | [Montreal waiver outcomes Sep 28](#)

3 Jacob Fowler

Goaltender | Assigned to AHL September 27

Development and assignment are the central questions

Fowler's assignment returns an important developing goalie to Laval. After his first NHL opportunity last season, the next challenge is building a dependable run of AHL performances. Watch how he manages traffic and responds when a game turns difficult. The staff's balance between regular work, development and team results will make his season one of the Rocket's central stories.

[Rocket roster overview](#) | [Laval season review](#) | [Laval assignments Sep 27](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Rochester Americans

Division	NHL affiliate
North	Buffalo Sabres

Forecast

Rochester has a useful forward foundation with Matthew Peca, Thomas Bordeleau and Trevor Kuntar in the group. The mix offers both established experience and room for individual growth. A competitive season will require more consistent support from the younger players and a dependable new arrangement in goal.

How the team is taking shape

Peca and Bordeleau join returning forward Kuntar on the club’s roster. Conor Sheary is another experienced option. The staff has several ways to spread the attacking work, with the early task finding combinations that can remain effective when call-ups change the available players.

In goal

Matthew Villalta is on the roster after joining Buffalo’s organization. Talyn Boyko and Scott Ratzlaff were among the earlier assignments. With Devon Levi gone, Rochester needs its available goalies and defense to establish their own dependable way of working together.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Matthew Peca — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Trevor Kuntar — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Thomas Bordeleau — Forward	Listed on AHL roster

Roster changes

The roster now includes Peca, Bordeleau and Kuntar, resolving the main forward questions from the earlier preview. Departures such as Levi, Zac Jones and Tyler Kopff still leave meaningful roles to replace, making the new combinations worth following closely.

[Amerks player tracker](#) | [Bordeleau and Boyko signings](#) | [Amerks offseason overview](#) | [Rochester current roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Matthew Peca

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A longer commitment to the AHL forward group

Peca's two-year AHL deal gives Rochester a confirmed veteran around whom to begin constructing its lines. The significance is partly continuity: the club can plan beyond a single short camp decision. Watch how he connects with the younger forwards and whether the staff uses him to stabilize one main line or to distribute experience more evenly through the lineup.

[Amerks player tracker](#) | [Amerks offseason overview](#) | [Rochester current roster](#)

2 Trevor Kuntar

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

Building on a productive season

Kuntar returns to Rochester's roster after producing 21 goals and 37 points in 2025–26. That preserves familiar offense while the Amerks introduce new teammates. Watch whether he can sustain that contribution within the new combinations and become involved more consistently from shift to shift. Repeating the useful habits behind his scoring will matter more than expecting last season's totals to carry over automatically.

[AHL offseason signing tracker](#) | [Amerks player tracker](#) | [Rochester current roster](#)

3 Thomas Bordeleau

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A September addition with room to rebound

Bordeleau had 21 points in 60 games split between Utica and Springfield last season. His earlier AHL career includes a 22-goal campaign, so Rochester is adding a player with demonstrated scoring ability and room to improve on his latest totals. A settled role could help. Watch whether regular linemates and offensive opportunities allow him to become a dependable part of the attack.

[Bordeleau and Boyko signings](#) | [Rochester current roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Syracuse Crunch

Division	NHL affiliate
North	Tampa Bay Lightning

Forecast

Jakob Pelletier’s return gives Syracuse a strong attacking reference point after his league-leading scoring season. The Crunch should have enough offensive options to make a competitive start. Their bigger question is whether a changed goaltending arrangement can support that attack reliably across the schedule.

How the team is taking shape

Pelletier is on the roster with Dylan Duke and experienced addition Clark Bishop. Jarred Tinordi adds a veteran presence on defense. The staff can now build around confirmed players, with secondary scoring and dependable play away from the puck important to the team’s balance.

In goal

Mads Sogaard and Olivier Rodrigue are on the current roster. The crease has changed substantially following the departures of Brandon Halverson and Ryan Fanti. The opening games will show how the new goalies settle behind the defense and how the staff shares the starts.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Jakob Pelletier — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Clark Bishop — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Mads Sogaard — Goaltender	Listed on AHL roster

Roster changes

The current roster resolves the major questions around Pelletier and Sogaard. The next task is finding effective combinations among the returning players and new arrivals, with enough support around Pelletier to keep the attack from becoming predictable.

[Crunch player tracker](#) | [Pelletier league scoring award](#) | [AHL offseason signing tracker](#) | [Syracuse September 25 moves](#) | [Syracuse 2026 27 roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Jakob Pelletier

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

The league scoring leader could transform the outlook

Pelletier returns on Syracuse's roster after leading the AHL with 77 points in 63 games, including 28 goals. That gives the Crunch an established player around whom to organize the attack. Opponents will pay close attention, so watch how his linemates use the space that attention creates. Syracuse becomes more difficult to defend when several players benefit from the opportunities he helps generate.

[Pelletier league scoring award](#) | [Crunch player tracker](#) | [Syracuse 2026 27 roster](#)

2 Clark Bishop

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A confirmed veteran addition

Bishop signed directly with Syracuse after a 27-point season in Calgary. Unlike the players waiting on NHL decisions, he gives the Crunch an established AHL contract to plan around. The interesting question is how the staff uses that experience: alongside younger forwards, in demanding situations, or as part of a broader rotation. His role could grow if Tampa Bay retains offensive players.

[AHL offseason signing tracker](#) | [Crunch player tracker](#) | [Syracuse September 25 moves](#) | [Syracuse 2026 27 roster](#)

3 Mads Sogaard

Goaltender | Listed on AHL roster

A new organization and an open competition

Sogaard is on Syracuse's roster after moving from Ottawa's organization. He enters a crease that has changed substantially, making communication with the defense an immediate priority. Watch how quickly he finds a rhythm and whether dependable performances follow when his opportunities come. His contribution will be judged through the work he earns and the consistency he provides across a run of games.

[Crunch player tracker](#) | [Senators offseason tracker](#) | [Syracuse 2026 27 roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Toronto Marlies

Division	NHL affiliate
North	Toronto Maple Leafs

Forecast

Toronto begins its title defense with meaningful continuity and a fresh set of challenges. Returning contributors give the Marlies a foundation, but the new combinations must earn their own results. Another competitive season will require depth that holds up when injuries and NHL movement interrupt familiar lines.

How the team is taking shape

Vinni Lettieri and Henrik Rybinski have been assigned to the Marlies. Captain Logan Shaw remains a central figure and signed an extension beginning in 2027–28. The combination of returning leadership and incoming forwards gives Toronto several ways to organize its attack.

In goal

Artur Akhtyamov, Samuel Hlavaj and Ken Appleby were among the September 24 assignments. That provides a clearer pool of available goalies. The division of work can evolve, with the team's defensive habits important to preserving confidence when the lineup changes.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Vinni Lettieri — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 25
Henrik Rybinski — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 25
Logan Shaw — Forward	AHL contract

Roster changes

The September 25 assignments resolved the waiver stage for Lettieri and Rybinski. Shaw's new extension reinforces continuity beyond this season. The challenge now is building effective combinations around that experience while new players establish their place in the group.

[Marlies AHL signings](#) | [Maple Leafs organizational signings](#) | [Marlies prepare for title defense](#) | [Wolf Pack roster tracker](#) | [Toronto September 25 camp roster](#) | [September 25 waiver outcomes](#) | [Toronto assignments Sep 25](#) | [Toronto assignments Sep 24](#) | [Marlies captain extension Oct 1](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Vinni Lettieri

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 25

A championship contributor whose assignment matters

Lettieri returns after producing 42 regular-season points and 26 playoff points in Toronto's championship campaign. His assignment preserves a familiar offensive contributor for the title defense. Watch how the incoming forwards fit around him and whether the team can build several productive combinations. Last spring provides a useful example of his contribution, while the new season will demand fresh chemistry.

[Maple Leafs organizational signings](#) | [September 25 waiver outcomes](#) | [Toronto assignments Sep 25](#)

2 Henrik Rybinski

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 25

A fresh option from the Hershey pipeline

Rybinski's assignment begins his AHL chapter in Toronto after moving from Washington's organization on a two-year NHL contract. He joins a team with championship experience and opportunities for new contributors. Watch which linemates bring out his most consistent involvement and whether he earns responsibility in close games. A dependable fit would help the Marlies sustain their attack as personnel changes through the season.

[Bears offseason tracker](#) | [Maple Leafs organizational signings](#) | [September 25 waiver outcomes](#) | [Toronto assignments Sep 25](#)

3 Logan Shaw

Forward | AHL contract

The captain leads the title defense

Shaw led Toronto with 54 regular-season points last season and added 17 points in 24 playoff games during the championship run. His October 1 extension keeps the captain committed beyond the coming campaign. Watch how he helps the changed forward group settle and whether his line remains a dependable source of offense. Familiar leadership is useful when the pressure of defending a title arrives.

[Marlies captain extension Oct 1](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Utica Comets

Division	NHL affiliate
North	New Jersey Devils

Forecast

Utica’s changed group has useful experience in the attack and in goal. The additions give the Comets a plausible route to greater consistency, but they will need to find productive combinations quickly. The key is whether the newcomers complement the returning players well enough to spread the scoring work.

How the team is taking shape

Riley Tufte and Colin White are among the new forwards, while Ben Steeves is on the opening roster. Xavier Parent supplies returning offense. The group offers different options, with the main task making those individual strengths work together over an entire game.

In goal

David Rittich joins Jakub Malek in the opening group after clearing waivers. Rittich brings substantial NHL experience. That gives Utica a different starting point in goal, with consistent support from the defense still essential.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Ben Steeves — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Riley Tufte — Forward	Opening AHL roster
David Rittich — Goaltender	Opening AHL roster

Roster changes

The opening roster contains 13 new players. Tufte and Rittich are two prominent additions, giving the Comets experience in key roles as the staff works to establish a more dependable team.

[Comets roster tracker](#) | [Steeves arrival profile](#) | [Boston depth signings](#) | [New Jersey September 25 moves](#) | [Utica September 25 arrivals](#) | [Utica opening roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Ben Steeves

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A leading scorer changes organizations

Steeves led Charlotte with 23 goals and 45 points last season before joining New Jersey in the offseason trade. His Utica assignment now makes that recent production a concrete addition to the attack. The early test is finding the same rhythm with new linemates and turning chances into sustained offense. Watch whether his line can contribute consistently while the wider forward group settles.

[Steeves arrival profile](#) | [Comets roster tracker](#) | [New Jersey September 25 moves](#) | [Utica opening roster](#)

2 Riley Tufte

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A productive forward changes teams

Tufte arrives after scoring 32 goals and 56 points in 64 Providence games last season. That recent production gives Utica an established attacking option in a changed lineup. Watch how the staff uses him with the returning forwards and whether the group creates chances consistently around the net. A good fit would help the Comets spread their scoring responsibility.

[Utica opening roster](#)

3 David Rittich

Goaltender | Opening AHL roster

Experience for a new goaltending group

Rittich joins Utica after clearing waivers, bringing 260 NHL appearances and 59 AHL games of experience. He gives the Comets a familiar professional presence in an important position. The early task is establishing communication with a new defense and finding a reliable rhythm. Watch how the group handles traffic and second chances as the opening rotation settles.

[Utica opening roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Chicago Wolves

Division	NHL affiliate
Central	Carolina Hurricanes

Forecast

Chicago begins with a competitive foundation after reaching the Calder Cup Final. A mix of experienced help and developing forwards gives the Wolves several ways to build their attack. The challenge is maintaining that standard while players seek larger roles and NHL opportunities.

How the team is taking shape

Josiah Slavin and Felix Unger Sorum are on the opening roster, with Bradly Nadeau, Justin Robidas and Ivan Ryabkin among the forward options. The staff has an interesting mix to organize. Spreading responsibility should help the Wolves remain effective through the changes that come with a long season.

In goal

Cayden Primeau, Zach Sawchenko and Ruslan Khazheyev are the opening-roster goalies. That provides depth and competition, with the share of starts still to emerge. The important measure will be dependable performances across the group rather than one short successful stretch.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Josiah Slavin — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Felix Unger Sorum — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Zach Sawchenko — Goaltender	Opening AHL roster

Roster changes

The opening roster confirms Slavin, Unger Sorum and Sawchenko. Chicago's attention can now move from anticipated assignments to the combinations that will support another competitive season.

[Slavin returns to Chicago](#) | [Unger Sorum offseason feature](#) | [Sawchenko contract](#) | [Carolina September 25 assignments](#) | [Chicago opening preview](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Josiah Slavin

Forward | Opening AHL roster

The captain stays with the finalist group

Slavin returns on a two-year AHL deal after producing 25 points in 69 regular-season games and seven more in 21 playoff appearances. The value here is continuity through a long season of changing teammates. Chicago can build around a captain who knows the demands of its schedule and dressing room. Watch how effectively his line supports the scoring units when the Wolves need a steady shift.

[Slavin returns to Chicago](#) | [Chicago opening preview](#)

2 Felix Unger Sorum

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A breakout season sets a higher bar

Unger Sorum returns on Chicago's opening roster after leading the Wolves with 66 points, including 49 assists, in 72 regular-season games. He added 12 points in 14 playoff outings. Opponents will pay close attention to his passing lanes. Watch how he adjusts to tighter coverage and whether his linemates continue to benefit from the opportunities he creates.

[Unger Sorum offseason feature](#) | [Chicago opening preview](#)

3 Zach Sawchenko

Goaltender | Opening AHL roster

A clearer opportunity in Chicago

Sawchenko's destination is clearer after Carolina announced his assignment to Chicago. He joins a changing goaltending group with the opportunity to earn regular work. Watch how quickly he develops communication with an unfamiliar defense and establishes a reliable routine. The meaningful question is the responsibility he wins through performance, with the share of starts still to be settled.

[Sawchenko contract](#) | [Carolina September 25 assignments](#) | [Chicago opening preview](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Grand Rapids Griffins

Division	NHL affiliate
Central	Detroit Red Wings

Forecast

Grand Rapids has established scoring around John Leonard and Sheldon Dries, with an interesting goaltending competition behind them. The foundation suggests a competitive team. Its ceiling will depend on how much the younger players contribute and whether the group can find several dependable ways to win close games.

How the team is taking shape

John Leonard and Sheldon Dries give the forward group established scoring experience. Shai Buium and William Lagesson are among the defensive options. The staff can build around familiar contributors while giving younger players room to develop into larger responsibilities.

In goal

Trey Augustine and Michal Postava are on the opening roster. Their competition gives the Griffins an important development story. The early test is establishing routines and dependable performances, with the defense helping keep difficult second chances to a minimum.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
John Leonard — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Sheldon Dries — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Trey Augustine — Goaltender	Opening AHL roster

Roster changes

The opening roster confirms Leonard, Dries and Augustine. Grand Rapids has an experienced attacking foundation and an interesting group in goal, making the balance between immediate results and continued development central to the season.

[Griffins roster tracker](#) | [Leonard extension and All-Star selection](#) | [Detroit September 25 assignments](#) | [Grand Rapids opening roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 John Leonard

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A proven scorer returns to the Griffins

Leonard earned a second consecutive AHL Second All-Star Team selection and a one-year Detroit extension in April. His September 25 assignment now returns that scoring pedigree to Grand Rapids. The question is how much help develops around him. The Griffins become harder to defend when their leading threats create space for other lines and the attack can find several ways to win a close game.

[Leonard extension and All-Star selection](#) | [Detroit September 25 assignments](#) | [Grand Rapids opening roster](#)

2 Sheldon Dries

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A familiar source of goals

Dries returns after scoring 23 goals and 45 points in 57 Grand Rapids games last season, then adding seven points in eight playoff appearances. His production gives the Griffins a familiar attacking option alongside Leonard. Watch whether that experience helps new combinations settle quickly. The team becomes harder to defend when its established scorers also help create opportunities for the supporting lines.

[Grand Rapids opening roster](#)

3 Trey Augustine

Goaltender | Opening AHL roster

A confirmed arrival with work to earn

Augustine was assigned to Grand Rapids alongside Michal Postava on September 25. The staff now has a clearer group to evaluate, with the share of starts still open. Watch how Augustine adjusts to the schedule and handles repeat opportunities. Establishing a dependable routine and responding well after difficult outings would give him a useful foundation as his professional workload develops.

[Griffins roster tracker](#) | [Detroit September 25 assignments](#) | [Grand Rapids opening roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Iowa Wild

Division	NHL affiliate
Central	Minnesota Wild

Forecast

Iowa has a useful mix of familiar defensemen, experienced forwards and young goalies under new head coach Stu Bickel. The opportunity is to turn that structure into more dependable team play. Progress will require enough scoring support to let the developing players grow without carrying every difficult situation.

How the team is taking shape

All eight opening-roster defensemen played for Iowa last season. Carson Lambos is part of that continuity, while Caedan Bankier returns up front. Mason Shaw leads the forward group, giving the team experienced support around its developing players.

In goal

Riley Mercer and William Rousseau begin as the main options. Both spent time in the AHL and ECHL last season. Their opportunity is larger now, with consistency over repeated starts the important test.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Riley Mercer — Goaltender	Opening AHL roster
Carson Lambos — Defenseman	Opening AHL roster
Caedan Bankier — Forward	Opening AHL roster

Roster changes

The opening group confirms Lambos and Bankier, with Mercer and Rousseau in goal. Bickel’s arrival adds a coaching change to a team whose familiar defensive group offers a useful starting point.

[Wild re-sign Bankier, Lambos and Spacek](#) | [Pickard joins Minnesota](#) | [Maple Leafs organizational signings](#) | [Iowa camp announcement](#) | [Minnesota September 24 moves](#) | [Minnesota waiver clearances](#) | [Iowa September 25 preseason game](#) | [Iowa opening preview](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Riley Mercer

Goaltender | Opening AHL roster

A larger opportunity in Iowa

Mercer begins the season in Iowa's goaltending competition after going 4-3-1 with a .899 save percentage and 2.60 goals-against average in his AHL work last season. The modest sample provides a starting point, with a larger workload offering the real test. Watch how he manages consecutive opportunities and responds after difficult outings. A dependable rhythm would give the Wild valuable support.

[Iowa opening preview](#)

2 Carson Lambos

Defenseman | Opening AHL roster

A full season of work to build on

Lambos played 70 AHL games, scored eight goals and totaled 19 points in 2025–26. He also reached his NHL debut. The appeal is a defenseman with substantial recent experience at this level and another development step available. A stronger season would involve using that experience to make clean decisions under pressure while choosing the right moments to join the attack.

[Wild re-sign Bankier, Lambos and Spacek](#) | [Minnesota waiver clearances](#) | [Iowa opening preview](#)

3 Caedan Bankier

Forward | Opening AHL roster

The next step is a larger offensive contribution

Bankier recorded 10 goals and 20 points in 66 Iowa appearances before signing his new deal. That provides a clear baseline for the coming season. If his AHL role grows, the most useful question is whether additional responsibility produces more sustained offense. Watch his involvement over an entire shift: recovering possession, supporting a teammate and getting back into a position to finish.

[Wild re-sign Bankier, Lambos and Spacek](#) | [Minnesota waiver clearances](#) | [Iowa opening preview](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Manitoba Moose

Division	NHL affiliate
Central	Winnipeg Jets

Forecast

Manitoba’s opportunity is to turn individual development into more dependable team performance. Returning AHL leadership provides a useful foundation, and Brayden Yager’s assignment adds another familiar forward. A playoff push is a reasonable ambition if the group can produce consistently and limit difficult stretches in its own end.

How the team is taking shape

Ashton Sautner’s return gives the defense continuity. Mikey Milne and Evan Nause arrive on AHL contracts with different kinds of opportunity: Milne is trying to establish a more productive role, while Nause is looking to turn substantial ECHL work into regular AHL minutes.

In goal

Domenic DiVincentiis was assigned to Manitoba on September 28. His return gives the Moose a clearer option in goal after the early camp list. The useful test is how consistently the rotation performs behind a changing defense, especially when the schedule brings closely spaced games.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Ashton Sautner — Defenseman	AHL contract
Mikey Milne — Forward	AHL camp roster — September 21
Evan Nause — Defenseman	AHL camp roster — September 21

Roster changes

Yager and DiVincentiis were sent to Manitoba in Winnipeg’s final roster reduction. They join the earlier AHL additions, including Mikey Milne and Evan Nause. The group can now focus on finding combinations that keep the attack involved while providing dependable defensive support.

[Sautner and Empey re-sign](#) | [Moose sign Milne and Nause](#) | [Moose season review](#) | [Manitoba camp roster report](#) | [Manitoba assignments Sep 28](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Ashton Sautner

Defenseman | AHL contract

Experience that can steady a changing defense

Sautner returns after playing 68 regular-season games and seven playoff games for Manitoba. His 13 regular-season points were a secondary part of a much larger workload. With more than 500 career AHL appearances, he offers familiarity with the league's demands. The practical value is helping a changing group make simpler exits and limiting the mistakes that turn a manageable shift into sustained pressure.

[Sautner and Empey re-sign](#)

2 Mikey Milne

Forward | AHL camp roster — September 21

A fresh chance to find a regular role

Milne's last season included 39 AHL games across three clubs and six points. He subsequently produced nine points in 12 ECHL playoff games. Manitoba offers another opportunity to turn that experience into consistent AHL work. Watch whether a more settled role helps his involvement from night to night; a familiar set of responsibilities can matter as much as a short burst of scoring.

[Moose sign Milne and Nause | Manitoba camp roster report](#)

3 Evan Nause

Defenseman | AHL camp roster — September 21

A step up after a full ECHL season

Nause recorded 22 points in 65 games for Savannah, while his career AHL experience remains limited to nine appearances. His new deal is an opening to earn work at the higher level. The early test is handling quicker pressure when retrieving the puck and making the first pass. Reliable shifts would give the coaching staff a reason to expand his opportunities.

[Moose sign Milne and Nause | Manitoba camp roster report](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Milwaukee Admirals

Division	NHL affiliate
Central	Nashville Predators

Forecast

Milwaukee has a useful foundation of familiar leadership and experienced forwards. Kevin Gravel supplies continuity on defense, while John Farinacci and Jake Lucchini give the attack established help. The club’s ceiling depends on how much the developing players contribute around that base.

How the team is taking shape

Kevin Gravel preserves leadership on defense, while John Farinacci adds AHL experience up front. Jake Lucchini’s September 23 assignment makes his return concrete. Nashville also sent David Edstrom and Joakim Kemell, giving the staff more developing forwards to work into its combinations.

In goal

Matt Murray and Isak Posch arrived through Nashville’s assignments, with T.J. Semptimphelter providing another organizational option. Reliable work from the available rotation will be important to the Admirals’ balance. The early games should show how the staff distributes responsibility as performances establish a rhythm.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
John Farinacci — Forward	AHL contract
Kevin Gravel — Defenseman	AHL contract
Jake Lucchini — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 23

Roster changes

Lucchini’s assignment adds to the continuity secured through Gravel’s extension and Farinacci’s signing. Milwaukee made further camp cuts on September 27. The task now is turning its mix of experienced and developing players into dependable lines and pairings.

[Farinacci joins Milwaukee](#) | [Admirals contract extensions](#) | [Nashville September 23 assignments](#) | [Nashville September 25 assignments](#) | [Milwaukee moves Sep 27](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 John Farinacci

Forward | AHL contract

An established AHL forward gets a new setting

Farinacci arrives after scoring nine goals and 19 points in 68 Providence games. He accumulated 197 regular-season AHL appearances with that organization before moving to Milwaukee. The Admirals gain someone accustomed to the schedule, while he gains a chance to reshape his role. Watch whether new linemates and usage lead to more offensive involvement than he had in his final Bruins season.

[Farinacci joins Milwaukee](#)

2 Kevin Gravel

Defenseman | AHL contract

The captain provides continuity at the back

Gravel's two-year AHL extension keeps him with Milwaukee through 2027–28. For a team whose young players can change rapidly, keeping the captain gives the defense a familiar reference point. His importance is best seen in the overall stability of his shifts and partnerships. If the Admirals introduce new defensemen, having that continuity should make the transition easier to manage.

[Admirals contract extensions](#)

3 Jake Lucchini

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 23

A familiar option as the forward lines form

Lucchini's September 23 assignment returns an experienced forward to Milwaukee after his one-year two-way extension. The staff can now work him into combinations with its younger players. His eventual place in the lineup remains open. Watch whether he becomes part of a settled scoring line or helps several different groups as assignments and call-ups change the roster over the season.

[Admirals contract extensions](#) | [Nashville September 23 assignments](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Rockford IceHogs

Division	NHL affiliate
Central	Chicago Blackhawks

Forecast

Rockford has an opportunity to improve if its developing players turn experience into more consistent performances. Drew Comnesso supplies a familiar option in goal, while Brett Seney and Jamie Engelbert provide forward continuity. The question is how much support the younger attackers can contribute around them.

How the team is taking shape

Seney and Engelbert give the forwards familiar experience. Sacha Boisvert and AJ Spellacy are among the developing players in the group. The staff needs productive combinations that help the new arrivals adjust while keeping enough dependable play across the lineup.

In goal

Drew Comnesso is back in Rockford action after stopping 30 of 32 shots in the September 28 preseason win over Milwaukee. That confirms an important option beyond the initial camp list. The regular-season challenge is making strong performances repeatable over a meaningful workload.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Drew Comnesso — Goaltender	AHL return confirmed September 28
Jamie Engelbert — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Brett Seney — Forward	Listed on AHL roster

Roster changes

Rockford loaned seven players to Indy on October 1, including Kyler Kupka, leaving a 26-player group. The revised opening picture puts more emphasis on the available forwards and their ability to share the scoring responsibility.

[Comnesso contract extension](#) | [IceHogs team awards](#) | [Kupka joins Rockford](#) | [Boucher and Mylymok NHL contracts](#) | [Rockford initial camp roster](#) | [Rockford September 25 arrivals](#) | [Rockford preseason Sep 28](#) | [Rockford loans October 1](#) | [Rockford roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Drew Commesso

Goaltender | AHL return confirmed September 28

A longer commitment and another development step

Commesso returns after a 37-game AHL season with a 3.08 goals-against average and .901 save percentage. His 30-save preseason performance against Milwaukee offered an encouraging introduction to the new campaign. The next challenge is making his best work repeatable. Watch how he handles rebounds and responds to difficult stretches, with sustained progress across a meaningful workload the useful measure.

[Commesso contract extension](#) | [Rockford preseason Sep 28](#)

2 Jamie Engelbert

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A rookie season earns another opportunity

Rockford's April team-awards announcement confirmed an extension for Engelbert through 2026–27. That makes him a returning player to follow as the new forward group forms. The next stage is earning responsibility over a full season rather than relying on the excitement of a first impression. Watch whether the staff uses him in more situations and whether his influence remains steady as teammates change.

[IceHogs team awards](#) | [Rockford initial camp roster](#) | [Rockford roster](#)

3 Brett Seney

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

The captain supplies continuity

Seney gives Rockford a familiar captain as another group of developing forwards takes shape. The club's 2025–26 team awards also recognized his contribution in the community, reflecting the responsibilities that extend beyond game nights. On the ice, watch how his line helps set a dependable standard and whether that experience gives younger teammates a more comfortable introduction to their own roles.

[Rockford roster](#) | [Rockford 2025 26 team awards](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Texas Stars

Division	NHL affiliate
Central	Dallas Stars

Forecast

Texas has a sturdy foundation in experienced forwards Curtis McKenzie and Mike Sgarbossa, with Brandon Halverson providing an established option in goal. The younger contributors will determine how far that base can carry the Stars. The main task is building combinations that remain useful when the lineup changes.

How the team is taking shape

McKenzie supplies familiar leadership, while Sgarbossa returns to the AHL after a season in Switzerland. Their experience should help the staff introduce developing forwards without asking them to carry the entire attack. The balance between those groups is the central early-season question.

In goal

Halverson and Arno Tiefensee are on the current Texas roster. The group has a clear starting point, with the share of starts to emerge through performance. Good communication and dependable defensive coverage will help both settle into the demands of the schedule.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Mike Sgarbossa — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Curtis McKenzie — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Brandon Halverson — Goaltender	Listed on AHL roster

Roster changes

Texas added eight players September 24, including Mike Sgarbossa, Emil Hemming, Dylan Hryckowian and the two goalies. Camp grew to 26 players. The mix gives the Stars more developing talent around their veteran AHL commitments as the staff begins to establish its main combinations.

[Stars offseason signings](#) | [Sgarbossa AHL signing](#) | [McKenzie returns to Texas](#) | [Texas September 24 camp additions](#) | [Texas roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Mike Sgarbossa

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A veteran returns to the league

Sgarbossa signed a one-year AHL deal after playing in Switzerland. He brings more than 600 regular-season AHL appearances and experience with Hershey's 2023 championship team. For Texas, the attraction is an established player who can help organize a changing forward group. His fit with the younger attackers will be worth watching, particularly when a close game calls for a composed possession rather than a rushed chance.

[Sgarbossa AHL signing](#) | [Texas September 24 camp additions](#) | [Texas roster](#)

2 Curtis McKenzie

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

The captain keeps the team's identity familiar

McKenzie played all 72 games last season, producing 11 goals and 29 points, and returns on another one-year AHL deal. His continued availability matters to a club that regularly adjusts to NHL movement. Texas gains a familiar captain and a substantial body of playoff experience. The useful question is how the staff combines that experience with the next group of players seeking larger roles.

[McKenzie returns to Texas](#) | [Texas roster](#)

3 Brandon Halverson

Goaltender | Listed on AHL roster

A new organization and a clear opportunity

Halverson joined Texas's camp group September 24 after moving to Dallas on a one-year two-way contract. His arrival makes the AHL opportunity concrete, with the workload still to be earned. The early adjustment is learning the defense's tendencies, developing communication and finding a reliable rhythm. Watch how those pieces come together as the staff decides how to distribute starts.

[Stars offseason signings](#) | [Texas September 24 camp additions](#) | [Texas roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Abbotsford Canucks

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Vancouver Canucks

Forecast

Abbotsford has an interesting group of developing players supported by direct AHL signings. The challenge is turning that depth into a consistent attack and dependable team play. The opening games should reveal which newcomers can earn larger roles and which combinations provide the most reliable support.

How the team is taking shape

Quinn Emerson arrives from college, Gavin White brings AHL experience on defense, and Mitchell Weeks joins the goaltending group. Ryan St. Louis and Tim Rego also signed AHL deals. These additions give camp competition a clearer shape, though they do not yet describe the full opening lineup.

In goal

Nikita Tolopilo cleared waivers September 28 and is listed with Abbotsford alongside Aku Koskenvuo, Ty Young and Mitchell Weeks. The group offers several options, with the work to be earned through performance. Consistent defensive coverage will help the staff assess the rotation as the schedule develops.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Quinn Emerson — Forward	AHL contract
Gavin White — Defenseman	AHL camp roster — September 21
Nikita Tolopilo — Goaltender	Cleared waivers September 28

Roster changes

The September 23 assignments brought Ty Mueller, Riley Patterson, Ilya Safonov and Chase Wouters, with Kirill Kudryavtsev and Sawyer Mynio on defense. They join earlier arrivals including Gavin White. Those additions give the staff a fuller developing group around its AHL commitments.

[Abbotsford AHL signings](#) | [Boston depth signings](#) | [Wolf Pack roster tracker](#) | [Thunderbirds offseason tracker](#) | [Vancouver September 21 assignments](#) | [Abbotsford assignments Sep 23](#) | [Tolopilo clears waivers September 28](#) | [Abbotsford roster listing](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Quinn Emerson

Forward | AHL contract

College production earns a professional opportunity

Emerson scored 10 goals and 33 points in 36 games for Bowling Green last season before signing with Abbotsford. He now faces a different level of pressure and a longer professional schedule. Watch whether the offensive involvement that stood out in college carries into regular AHL shifts. Earning the puck and making quick decisions will be important steps toward a dependable place in the lineup.

[Abbotsford AHL signings](#)

2 Gavin White

Defenseman | AHL camp roster — September 21

A familiar league and a new team

White brings 146 career AHL games and 34 points from time with Texas and Calgary. That experience gives Abbotsford another option as its defense takes shape. The immediate test is fitting into a new set of partnerships and responsibilities. Reliable puck movement and fewer extended defensive shifts would be useful contributions while the club works out how to distribute its minutes. Vancouver released him from his NHL tryout to join Abbotsford on September 21.

[Abbotsford AHL signings](#) | [Vancouver September 21 assignments](#)

3 Nikita Tolopilo

Goaltender | Cleared waivers September 28

An important option for the crease

Tolopilo cleared waivers before the season and is listed with Abbotsford's goaltending group. That makes his workload an important opening storyline. Watch how consistently he performs across repeat opportunities and how comfortably he communicates with the defense. The Canucks need dependable support in goal while their developing players establish roles, making a steady rhythm more valuable than any single outstanding appearance.

[Tolopilo clears waivers September 28](#) | [Abbotsford roster listing](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Bakersfield Condors

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Edmonton Oilers

Forecast

Quinn Hutson gives Bakersfield a confirmed finishing threat after his strong first AHL season. The Condors will need supporting offense to keep opponents from concentrating on one player. Their familiar coaching setup offers continuity as new contributors try to earn larger roles.

How the team is taking shape

Colin Chaulk’s coaching staff returns after a 37-23-12 season. The club was particularly effective at home, and its young scorers supplied an obvious reason for optimism. The task is preserving that attacking threat while finding replacements for established players who have moved elsewhere.

In goal

Nathaniel Day and Samuel Jonsson combined for a shutout in the preseason finale at San Jose. That is an encouraging start, with Connor Ungar among the earlier assignments. Regular-season opponents and repeated appearances will provide a much better test of the available rotation.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Nathaniel Day — Goaltender	AHL preseason appearance September 26
Quinn Hutson — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 25
Simon Tassy — Forward	AHL contract

Roster changes

Hutson, Aku Raty and Viljami Marjala were among Edmonton’s September 25 loans. The attack now needs its available forwards to find productive combinations. Day and Jonsson’s preseason work provides an early positive in goal without settling the eventual workload.

[Howard season review](#) | [Condors coaching extensions and season review](#) | [Condors AHL signings](#) | [Edmonton offseason tracker](#) | [Ducks sign four players](#) | [Flyers depth signings](#) | [Bakersfield camp announcement](#) | [Edmonton September 25 assignments](#) | [Condors preseason finale](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Nathaniel Day

Goaltender | AHL preseason appearance September 26

An early chance to make an impression

Day stopped all 14 shots he faced in the opening period of Bakersfield's preseason finale before Samuel Jonsson completed the shared shutout. It was an encouraging appearance, with the regular season still the meaningful test. Watch how Day handles traffic and second chances as opportunities arrive. Repeated dependable outings would give the staff more confidence in its goaltending options.

[Condors preseason finale](#)

2 Quinn Hutson

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 25

Thirty goals create an obvious focal point

Hutson scored 30 goals and joined Isaac Howard on the AHL All-Rookie Team. His September 25 assignment returns a proven finishing threat to Bakersfield's familiar coaching setup. Watch how opponents adjust and how the Condors respond. If he keeps finding good shooting positions while teammates benefit from the attention he draws, his influence can extend beyond the goals he scores himself.

[Condors coaching extensions and season review](#) | [Edmonton September 25 assignments](#)

3 Simon Tassy

Forward | AHL contract

A college scorer begins his professional test

Tassy scored 14 goals for Wisconsin during its run to the NCAA championship game. He signed an AHL contract after joining Bakersfield on an amateur tryout without appearing in a game. This is therefore an introduction to the level, not a continuation of an established role. Watch how quickly he earns regular shifts and whether his scoring touch survives the smaller windows available in professional hockey.

[Condors AHL signings](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Calgary Wranglers

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Calgary Flames

Forecast

Calgary has experienced forwards and developing players to organize into a competitive group. Luke Philp offers a familiar AHL reference point, while younger contributors have opportunities to establish themselves. The club's progress will depend on turning that variety into consistent scoring and dependable support for its goalies.

How the team is taking shape

Philp and Carter Wilkie are on the opening roster alongside forwards including Rory Kerins and William Stromgren. The staff has several options for its combinations. The useful early test is whether the supporting lines can maintain pressure when the leading attackers leave the ice.

In goal

Arsenii Sergeev and Kirill Zarubin are the opening-roster goalies. Their development is an important part of Calgary's season. Clear defensive coverage and manageable second chances would help both find a rhythm as the staff establishes the rotation.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Luke Philp — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Carter Wilkie — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Arsenii Sergeev — Goaltender	Opening AHL roster

Roster changes

The opening roster confirms Philp and Wilkie, with Sergeev and Zarubin in goal. Calgary can now concentrate on distributing minutes and finding dependable combinations rather than working from an early camp list.

[Wranglers sign Philp, Boulton and Wilkie](#) | [September 20 assignments](#) | [Murphy joins the Firebirds](#) | [Penguins AHL additions](#) | [Calgary initial camp roster](#) | [Calgary September 25 assignments](#) | [Calgary opening roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Luke Philp

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A veteran return with a substantial AHL record

Philp comes back after producing 35 points in 52 games for Farjestad in Sweden. His earlier AHL career included 181 points in 281 games. Calgary gains an experienced forward with a meaningful scoring history at this level. The interesting question is how that experience fits with the younger attack, particularly when a line needs someone to help turn a brief spell of possession into a useful chance.

[Wranglers sign Philp, Boulton and Wilkie](#) | [Calgary opening roster](#)

2 Carter Wilkie

Forward | Opening AHL roster

A chance to turn experience into more offense

Wilkie recorded three points in 27 AHL games last season and 13 points in 14 ECHL appearances for Rapid City. That contrast identifies his next challenge: finding more of that offensive involvement at the higher level. A stronger season would begin with a regular role and more shifts spent helping create pressure. The opportunity is to make progress visible across a sustained run of games.

[Wranglers sign Philp, Boulton and Wilkie](#) | [Calgary initial camp roster](#) | [Calgary opening roster](#)

3 Arsenii Sergeev

Goaltender | Opening AHL roster

A central role in Calgary's new season

Sergeev begins on Calgary's opening roster alongside Kirill Zarubin. That makes the crease one of the Wranglers' clearest development stories. Watch the workload he earns and the consistency he brings across successive appearances. Good communication with the defense and control of second chances would help him establish trust as the schedule grows more demanding.

[Calgary opening roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Coachella Valley Firebirds

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Seattle Kraken

Forecast

Coachella Valley has useful experience in Mitchell Stephens and Gustav Olofsson, giving the developing players familiar support. The Firebirds’ ceiling depends on the scoring contribution that grows around that foundation. The early test is whether the staff can find several combinations that sustain pressure and remain dependable when the lineup changes.

How the team is taking shape

Stephens’ new two-year AHL contract is an important piece of continuity. Olofsson remains covered by the AHL deal he signed in 2025. Those commitments give the team established players to support its developing group, while Connor Murphy adds another option in goal.

In goal

Connor Murphy and Victor Ostman are among the goalies on the club’s roster, with Logan Terness also listed. The group gives the Firebirds options, while regular-season work will determine the rotation. Consistent coverage in front of the crease should help the staff assess each goalie fairly.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Mitchell Stephens — Forward	AHL contract
Gustav Olofsson — Defenseman	AHL contract
Connor Murphy — Goaltender	AHL contract

Roster changes

Mitchell Stephens and Gustav Olofsson provide experienced AHL commitments. Devin Kaplan arrives in the trade that sends David Goyette to Philadelphia’s organization. The staff will need to integrate the new forward while finding combinations that support the developing players.

[Stephens returns for two seasons](#) | [Olofsson contract through 2026–27](#) | [Murphy joins the Firebirds](#) | [Firebirds roster](#) | [Phantoms opening roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Mitchell Stephens

Forward | AHL contract

A familiar forward stays for two more years

Stephens recorded 12 goals and 27 points in 69 games last season before signing a two-year AHL contract. He gives the Firebirds an established contributor as the surrounding roster changes. Watch how his role develops alongside the incoming forwards. A consistent line that can sustain possession and contribute beyond the leading scorers would be valuable over a season of assignments and call-ups.

[Stephens returns for two seasons](#)

2 Gustav Olofsson

Defenseman | AHL contract

Continuity from an existing commitment

Olofsson's two-year AHL agreement, signed in July 2025, covers the coming season. That detail matters: he is an established part of the planning rather than a new summer addition. Coachella Valley can use that familiarity while integrating other defensemen. His value will be visible in the stability of his partnerships and the team's ability to move out of its own end without prolonged pressure.

[Olofsson contract through 2026–27](#)

3 Connor Murphy

Goaltender | AHL contract

A new opportunity after a small AHL sample

Murphy posted a .904 save percentage in seven appearances for Calgary last season, alongside a much larger workload with Rapid City in the ECHL. His one-year AHL deal gives him another chance to expand that higher-level experience. The next test is earning enough work to show whether those encouraging appearances can become a consistent contribution across a longer stretch.

[Murphy joins the Firebirds](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Colorado Eagles

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Colorado Avalanche

Forecast

Colorado has experienced help around its developing players as the Eagles reshape the attack. Jayson Megna supplies continuity, and Taylor Makar returns to the roster with another opportunity to grow. The ceiling depends on how effectively the changed forward group shares the scoring work.

How the team is taking shape

Megna and Makar are joined by forwards including Vinnie Hinostroza, Fabian Lysell and Adam Beckman on the current roster. The group offers several ways to build the attack. Finding combinations that remain dependable through call-ups will be an important part of the season.

In goal

Ilya Nabokov and Nikita Novoselov are the listed goalies. Their work behind the Eagles' defense will be a central storyline. The useful test is consistency over repeated appearances, with clear communication and control of second chances helping the rotation settle.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Jayson Megna — Forward	AHL contract
Taylor Makar — Forward	Listed on AHL roster
Ilya Nabokov — Goaltender	Listed on AHL roster

Roster changes

The current roster gives Colorado a clearer opening picture following its offseason departures. Megna provides continuity, while the incoming forwards and goaltenders need to establish productive working relationships quickly.

[Megna extension](#) | [Makar contract extension](#) | [Saville AHL signing](#) | [Sharks sign four NHL contracts](#) | [MacDonald signing and season record](#) | [Penguins AHL additions](#) | [Colorado roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Jayson Megna

Forward | AHL contract

The captain stays through another season

Megna's AHL extension keeps him with Colorado for 2026–27, preserving an experienced captain as the roster changes around him. His presence is particularly useful when other established contributors depart. Watch how the staff builds his combinations and whether younger forwards can turn those opportunities into regular production. Colorado's attack will be more resilient if responsibility spreads across several lines.

[Megna extension](#)

2 Taylor Makar

Forward | Listed on AHL roster

A productive first full season creates a platform

Makar returns to Colorado's roster after a first full professional season with 17 points in 52 AHL games and six points in 17 playoff appearances. His 12 Avalanche games also gave him experience at the next level. The opportunity now is contributing more consistently within a changed attack. Watch whether his involvement grows beyond brief productive stretches into a dependable role across the schedule.

[Makar contract extension](#) | [Colorado roster](#)

3 Ilya Nabokov

Goaltender | Listed on AHL roster

A new crease to make his own

Nabokov is on Colorado's roster with Nikita Novoselov, making the goaltending group an important part of the Eagles' new season. The first task is building communication with the defense and finding a consistent routine. Watch his positioning through traffic and the way he responds after difficult sequences. A dependable run of performances would give the changed lineup valuable support.

[Colorado roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Henderson Silver Knights

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Vegas Golden Knights

Forecast

Henderson begins under Joel Ward with an encouraging foundation in goal. The Silver Knights will need their available forwards to develop consistent scoring around that support. The early question is whether the group can turn solid defensive stretches into enough sustained pressure at the other end.

How the team is taking shape

Jones returns to an organization he knows after a season split between levels elsewhere. Smith begins his professional career following a productive WHL season. Their competition for roles should be useful, but these signings alone do not identify Henderson’s leading lines.

In goal

Carl Lindbom and Cameron Whitehead return as the main opening options. Lindbom brings two AHL seasons of experience, while Whitehead enters his second professional campaign. Their consistency gives Ward a useful starting point as he establishes the team’s play in front of them.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Jett Jones — Forward	AHL camp roster — September 21
Shane Smith — Forward	AHL camp roster — September 21
Carl Lindbom — Goaltender	Opening group confirmed October 1

Roster changes

Alex Weiermair is among the newcomers to follow after an encouraging preseason. Trevor Connelly and Braeden Bowman begin with Vegas, creating opportunity for other forwards. The staff must replace their contributions with a broader, dependable attack.

[Jones AHL signing](#) | [Smith begins professional career](#) | [Papirny re-signs](#) | [Vikman joins Tucson](#) | [Henderson initial camp roster](#) | [Henderson September 23 arrivals](#) | [Henderson opening preview](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Jett Jones

Forward | AHL camp roster — September 21

A return with more professional experience

Jones produced 24 points in 55 ECHL games for Florida and added seven points during its championship playoff run. He also appeared in 11 AHL games for Springfield. Back in Henderson on an AHL deal, he has another chance to turn that experience into regular work. Watch whether he can establish a dependable role and bring more of his lower-level offense into this league.

[Jones AHL signing](#) | [Henderson initial camp roster](#)

2 Shane Smith

Forward | AHL camp roster — September 21

A junior scorer begins the next stage

Smith finished his WHL season with 33 goals and 68 points in 61 games before signing with Henderson. Those numbers make him an interesting newcomer, but the professional adjustment is substantial. The early goal is earning consistent minutes against older opponents. Watch his ability to find space away from the puck and make a useful play quickly when that space disappears.

[Smith begins professional career](#) | [Henderson initial camp roster](#)

3 Carl Lindbom

Goaltender | Opening group confirmed October 1

A familiar foundation in goal

Lindbom returns for a third AHL season after building on his rookie campaign last year. He gives Henderson a familiar goaltending foundation as Joel Ward takes over behind the bench. Watch whether he sustains that progress through a changing workload and a different team in front of him. Dependable performances would give the younger forwards more room to establish their own roles.

[Henderson opening preview](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Ontario Reign

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Los Angeles Kings

Forecast

Ontario opens with Lane Pederson and Scott Perunovich, giving the attack proven AHL help at forward and on defense. Their presence makes the outlook considerably firmer. The Reign's challenge is finding enough support around those players while developing a new goaltending arrangement.

How the team is taking shape

Pederson joins a forward group that includes Martin Chromiak and Koehn Ziemmer. Perunovich gives the blue line an attacking option alongside the developing defensemen. The mix should offer several routes to offense, provided the staff finds balanced combinations.

In goal

Erik Portillo, Hampton Slukynsky and Carter George are the opening-roster goalies. The group has a different look after Pheonix Copley's departure. The early interest is how the staff distributes work and which partnerships make the defense most comfortable.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Lane Pederson — Forward	Opening AHL roster
Scott Perunovich — Defenseman	Opening AHL roster
Carter George — Goaltender	Opening AHL roster

Roster changes

The 27-player opening roster confirms Pederson and Perunovich and clarifies the crease. The focus now shifts to making those additions effective within the team's regular combinations.

[Kings sign Pederson and Perunovich](#) | [Ontario AHL signings](#) | [Columbus organizational roster review](#) | [Ontario initial camp roster](#) | [Los Angeles September 24 moves](#) | [September 25 waiver outcomes](#) | [Ontario opening roster](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Lane Pederson

Forward | Opening AHL roster

An established scorer joins the attack

Pederson is on Ontario's opening roster after producing 23 goals and 48 points in 63 Lehigh Valley games. His recent scoring gives the Reign an established forward to build around. Watch how quickly he finds productive combinations and whether supporting lines benefit from the attention he draws. A balanced attack would make Ontario harder to contain over a full game.

[Kings sign Pederson and Perunovich](#) | [September 25 waiver outcomes](#) | [Ontario opening roster](#)

2 Scott Perunovich

Defenseman | Opening AHL roster

An attacking option from the blue line

Perunovich joins Ontario's opening roster after recording nine goals and 49 points in 64 Tucson games. His puck movement gives the Reign another route into the attack. Watch his partnerships and special-teams involvement, particularly when opponents prevent clean entries. Consistent support from the blue line could help the forwards create chances without having to manufacture every opening themselves.

[Kings sign Pederson and Perunovich](#) | [Ontario opening roster](#)

3 Carter George

Goaltender | Opening AHL roster

An opportunity in a new rotation

George begins on Ontario's opening roster with Erik Portillo and Hampton Slukynsky. The group creates an opportunity to earn work through dependable performances. Watch how he settles into the schedule and communicates with a new defense. Good control of rebounds and a composed response to difficult periods would help him build trust as the rotation develops.

[Ontario opening roster](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

San Diego Gulls

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Anaheim Ducks

Forecast

San Diego has useful new options as Dave Manson takes over behind the bench. Sean Farrell and James Hamblin have arrived, while Roger McQueen adds another forward to follow. The challenge is turning the changed lineup into a balanced attack with dependable support behind it.

How the team is taking shape

Farrell and Hamblin join the forward group, with Corey Schueneman and Jett Woo among the defensive arrivals. Matt Basgall adds a college development story. The staff has several ways to organize its combinations, with the young players' adjustment an important part of the season.

In goal

Laurent Brossoit was assigned September 28, adding an experienced option after Damian Clara's earlier arrival. The Gulls have a clearer starting point following the offseason changes. Reliable work in goal and consistent coverage around the crease will be important while the new lineup settles.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Roger McQueen — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 30
Sean Farrell — Forward	Assigned to AHL September 26
Matt Basgall — Defenseman	AHL arrival confirmed September 24

Roster changes

McQueen and Cruz Lucius were assigned September 30, while Tristan Luneau, Travis Mitchell and Noah Warren were recalled. The late movement changes the balance of the group again and makes the available defensemen's responsibilities especially important.

[Ducks sign four players](#) | [Gulls sign seven AHL players](#) | [Gulls offseason announcements](#) | [Clang moves to Rogle](#) | [San Diego camp details](#) | [San Diego September 24 arrivals](#) | [San Diego September 25 moves](#) | [Gulls assignments Sep 26](#) | [Brossoit assigned Sep 28](#) | [McQueen assigned Sep 30](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Roger McQueen

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 30

A late arrival brings another development story

McQueen's September 30 assignment adds a new forward to San Diego's opening picture. The immediate interest is how Manson works him into the available combinations and how quickly he adapts to the pace. Watch his decisions under pressure and the responsibility he earns away from the puck. Regular useful shifts would provide a foundation for a larger offensive contribution.

[McQueen assigned Sep 30](#)

2 Sean Farrell

Forward | Assigned to AHL September 26

A new setting and a chance to establish a role

Farrell has joined San Diego after signing a one-year two-way Anaheim contract. The new setting gives him a chance to establish productive combinations with the Gulls' changed forward group. Watch which linemates help him become regularly involved and how much responsibility he earns in offensive situations. Consistent useful shifts would make his contribution more dependable than a short run of scoring alone.

[Gulls offseason announcements](#) | [San Diego September 25 moves](#) | [Gulls assignments Sep 26](#)

3 Matt Basgall

Defenseman | AHL arrival confirmed September 24

A decorated college player moves into a full pro season

Basgall scored 20 points in 37 games for Michigan State and was named the Big Ten's Defensive Player of the Year. He then had a brief introduction to San Diego before signing for the coming season. The next step is maintaining that dependable play against professional opponents over a longer schedule. Watch his positioning and first pass as he works toward regular AHL responsibility.

[Gulls sign seven AHL players](#) | [San Diego September 24 arrivals](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

San Jose Barracuda

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	San Jose Sharks

Forecast

San Jose has experienced additions to support its developing players, but the opening outlook needs to account for absences. The available group must establish enough balanced scoring to stay competitive. Reliable play from the defense and goaltenders would give the new combinations time to settle.

How the team is taking shape

Roland McKeown gives the defense an established AHL presence, while Tye Felhaber is an incoming forward option. The roster’s strength will depend on how effectively that experience supports younger players. The early task is finding lines that can sustain pressure across an entire game.

In goal

Eric Comrie played the September 26 preseason finale for the Barracuda. Matt Davis also has an AHL contract. With Kyle Keyser listed as non-roster by the Sharks, the preview focuses on the available options rather than presuming his immediate participation.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Tye Felhaber — Forward	Sharks contract; AHL preseason participant
Roland McKeown — Defenseman	AHL contract
Eric Comrie — Goaltender	AHL preseason appearance September 26

Roster changes

Alex Barre-Boulet begins on San Jose’s NHL injured reserve, and Keyser is listed as non-roster. Those statuses change the opening picture from the summer contract list. McKeown, Felhaber and Comrie provide more useful immediate stories for the Barracuda edition.

[McKeown two-year AHL deal](#) | [Sharks sign four NHL contracts](#) | [Davis AHL extension](#) | [Sharks September signing](#) | [San Jose initial camp roster](#) | [Sharks opening roster statuses](#) | [Barracuda additions](#) | [Condors preseason finale](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Tye Felhaber

Forward | Sharks contract; AHL preseason participant

A new opportunity in the attack

Felhaber joins the organization after two productive AHL seasons with Colorado and took part in San Jose's preseason finale. He gives the Barracuda another forward to work into a changed attack. Watch whether he finds consistent offensive opportunities and helps the supporting lines sustain pressure. A dependable contribution would matter while the club works around its opening absences.

[Barracuda additions](#) | [Condors preseason finale](#)

2 Roland McKeown

Defenseman | AHL contract

Experience secured directly for the AHL club

McKeown signed for two AHL seasons after recording 25 points in 71 games for San Diego. He brings more than 600 career regular-season appearances at this level. That gives the Barracuda an experienced option as the new season begins. The value should extend to his partnerships: helping younger defensemen manage pressure and making the overall group more dependable from shift to shift.

[McKeown two-year AHL deal](#)

3 Eric Comrie

Goaltender | AHL preseason appearance September 26

An experienced option between the pipes

Comrie brings more than 100 NHL appearances to the organization and played San Jose's preseason finale. His experience gives the Barracuda a useful option while the opening group settles. Watch how he builds communication with the defense and handles repeated pressure around the crease. Reliable performances would help the developing players establish confidence through the first part of the schedule.

[Barracuda additions](#) | [Condors preseason finale](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Tucson Roadrunners

Division	NHL affiliate
Pacific	Utah Mammoth

Forecast

Tucson has retained useful experience while introducing an interesting group of younger players. Sammy Walker and Robbie Russo offer continuity, and the rookie class gives fans fresh stories to follow. The challenge is turning that mix into a more consistent team over a full season.

How the team is taking shape

Walker and Russo provide experience around newcomers including Caleb Desnoyers, Gabe Smith and Tomas Lavoie. Their adjustment to professional hockey will be worth following. The staff needs the younger players to grow without asking them to carry every difficult situation immediately.

In goal

Jaxson Stauber and Michael Hrabal played in the preseason finale, with Hrabal leaving after an injury. His availability is worth following as the season begins. Stauber gives the Roadrunners an option while the rotation settles, and dependable defensive support will be important whichever goalie gets the work.

Players to know

Player	Status at research date
Sammy Walker — Forward	AHL contract
Robbie Russo — Defenseman	AHL contract
Jaxson Stauber — Goaltender	AHL preseason appearance September 27

Roster changes

Tucson's opening preview identifies 16 returning players, providing continuity around the rookie arrivals. The group has changed in important areas, but familiar teammates should help the new players settle. The balance between that experience and the newcomers' progress will shape the season.

[Roadrunners signing tracker](#) | [Russo extension](#) | [Vikman joins Tucson](#) | [Amerks player tracker](#) | [Rocket roster overview](#) | [Kings sign Pederson and Perunovich](#) | [Tucson opening preview](#) | [Tucson preseason finale September 27](#)

Opening edition • October 2, 2026. Player status reflects the latest verified announcement or club listing at publication.

Three players to watch

1 Sammy Walker

Forward | AHL contract

A familiar contributor stays in the attack

Walker returns after producing 12 goals and 28 points in 57 games, including three overtime winners. The new AHL contract keeps a known offensive contributor in Tucson while other roles change. The next step is finding more consistent production over the full schedule. Watch whether new combinations help him create chances more regularly, reducing the need for the team to rely on late-game moments.

[Roadrunners signing tracker](#)

2 Robbie Russo

Defenseman | AHL contract

A veteran presence during another roster transition

Russo re-signed after recording 17 points in 59 games and reaching 700 career AHL appearances. That experience gives Tucson a familiar player around whom to arrange a changing defense. His contribution will be most useful if it helps the whole group spend less time under pressure. Watch his partnerships and the way the Roadrunners distribute demanding defensive assignments.

[Russo extension](#)

3 Jaxson Stauber

Goaltender | AHL preseason appearance September 27

Ready when the team needs him

Stauber entered Tucson's preseason finale after Michael Hrabal left injured and helped the Roadrunners complete a comeback win. That appearance highlights the importance of readiness within a changing rotation. Watch how he builds a rhythm when opportunities arrive and how the defense supports him through traffic. Dependable work would help the team settle while the opening goaltending picture develops.

[Tucson preseason finale September 27](#)

Profiles checked October 2, 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

About the preview

About this edition

This opening edition, dated October 2, 2026, covers all 32 AHL clubs and 96 featured players. Team forecasts are editorial assessments of the available players and recent performance. The previews focus on how the lines fit, where the scoring can come from, and which players have opportunities to grow.

Reading the player status

An opening-roster label refers to a published opening roster. A current club listing or dated assignment records the latest evidence checked. AHL contracts and professional tryouts are identified separately; neither promises a game-night place or a full season at this level. Call-ups, injuries and further assignments can change any team after publication.

Reading the numbers

Unless another period is specified, season statistics refer to 2025–26 regular-season play at the league named. Playoff, college, junior and ECHL results are identified separately. Small goaltending samples are described as such. Past production supplies context and is not a prediction that a player will repeat it.

Sources

Linked references appear with the team previews and player spotlights. Club and league announcements are the main sources, supplemented where needed by reporting on transactions. Roster trackers can be updated after this edition's research date.

Following the season

This magazine is a starting guide for the opening weekend. The most useful next assessment will come after teams have played enough games to reveal their combinations, goaltending rotation and distribution of responsibility. Individual performances should be read in that team context.

[Official AHL schedule](#) | [AHL team directory](#)