

2026 27

WHL Season Preview

Medicine Hat and Prince Albert lead the East, while Victoria and Seattle set the pace in our Western forecast. Inside are all 23 clubs, readable team and goaltending outlooks, and 69 player spotlights for the season ahead.

23 teams • 69 player spotlights • Season opens September 18

PRESEASON MAGAZINE

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How to read this edition

The WHL season opens September 18. Each club has a team preview followed by three player spotlights. This edition updates the summer forecast with September 16 roster listings, club announcements and late trades. Final assignments and professional camp returns can still change the picture.

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Each team preview is followed immediately by its three player spotlights. Method and publication notes appear on page 50.

The updated league forecast

Medicine Hat and Prince Albert set the Eastern benchmark. Victoria leads the West after adding major scoring help, but its unproven WHL crease leaves a meaningful question. Seattle follows, while defending champion Everett begins with a changing lineup. Treat close projections as a group.

Eastern Conference

Projected rank	Team	Projected points
1	Medicine Hat Tigers	109
2	Prince Albert Raiders	106
3	Calgary Hitmen	90
4	Brandon Wheat Kings	78
5	Moose Jaw Warriors	76
6	Regina Pats	75
7	Lethbridge Hurricanes	74
8	Saskatoon Blades	70
9	Swift Current Broncos	70
10	Edmonton Oil Kings	67
11	Red Deer Rebels	66

Western Conference

Projected rank	Team	Projected points
1	Victoria Royals	91
2	Seattle Thunderbirds	86
3	Spokane Chiefs	80
4	Everett Silvertips	77
5	Penticton Vees	70
6	Prince George Cougars	68
7	Portland Winterhawks	65
8	Kamloops Blazers	63
9	Wenatchee Wild	62
10	Kelowna Rockets	60
11	Tri-City Americans	57
12	Vancouver Giants	55

Points are rounded estimates for 68 games. Conference ranks show projected order, not official playoff seeds. These are provisional forecasts: incomplete rosters, professional camp returns and newcomers can change the outlook.

Medicine Hat Tigers

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
1	1	109

Forecast

Projected 1 of 23 overall and 1 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 109 points. The offence makes the Tigers our preseason leader, with goaltending the clearest route to either exceeding or falling short of that expectation.

How the team is taking shape

Markus and Liam Ruck give Medicine Hat the strongest scoring foundation in this edition. They combined for 212 points last season, and the supporting group includes Noah Davidson, Yaroslav Bryzgalov and Kadon McCann. Josh Evaschesen adds another established scorer. The Tigers have enough attacking options to make opponents defend beyond one line; keeping the puck out will decide how far that advantage carries them.

Goaltending outlook

Carter Casey brings 28 appearances and an .882 save percentage from last season. Cash Christie has only a brief WHL record, while Ben Meyer is another young option on the preseason list. Casey's development and the eventual division of starts are major questions behind an otherwise imposing attack.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Markus Ruck C 68 GP 108 PTS	Preseason roster
Liam Ruck RW 68 GP 104 PTS	Preseason roster
Tyson Moss LD 55 GP 29 PTS	Preseason roster

Roster changes

The August trade for Evaschesen strengthens the forward group, while Brayden Holberton also arrives through a deal. The large camp list still contains several overage candidates, so this forecast allows for further decisions. NHL camp returns could affect the first weekend.

[League roster](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Markus Ruck

The playmaker at the centre of it

In 2025-26, Ruck recorded 21 goals and 87 assists for 108 points in 68 WHL games. His 87 assists are the clearest expression of what Medicine Hat can build around. With Liam Ruck and several other established scorers in the group, Markus does not need to carry every finishing chance himself. The next challenge is sustaining that influence when opponents devote their best checking to him. Another strong season would keep the Tigers' attack among the league's most difficult assignments.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

2 Liam Ruck

A proven finisher in a loaded attack

In 2025-26, Ruck recorded 45 goals and 59 assists for 104 points in 68 WHL games. Forty-five goals give the Tigers a scoring threat opponents already have to respect. His partnership with Markus is a major reason Medicine Hat leads this forecast, but the surrounding depth matters too: it can stop teams from concentrating exclusively on the brothers. Liam's task is to maintain that production through tougher attention and the interruptions that can accompany professional camps and a demanding junior schedule.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

3 Tyson Moss

Support from the blue line

In 2025-26, Moss recorded 8 goals and 21 assists for 29 points in 55 WHL games. Moss gives Medicine Hat a defender with a meaningful offensive record behind its headline forwards. The Tigers do not need every attack to run through the same players, and his contribution can help distribute that responsibility. His season will also be judged by how the team defends. A more complete performance from the blue line would make the club's powerful scoring group considerably harder to contain.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Prince Albert Raiders

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
2	2	106

Forecast

Projected 2 of 23 overall and 2 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 106 points. Prince Albert looks capable of staying near the top of the East, with more balance between scoring depth and returning goaltending than most challengers.

How the team is taking shape

The Eastern Conference champions still have a deep collection of productive forwards. Brandon Gorzynski, Riley Boychuk, Maddix McCagherty and Jonah Sivertson all cleared 50 points last season. Brock Cripps and Benett Kelly provide younger building blocks on defence. Braeden Cootes remains part of the forecast with an allowance for uncertainty while he pursues an NHL opportunity.

Goaltending outlook

Michal Orsulak's .907 save percentage over 36 appearances and Steele Bass's .915 over 16 give the Raiders two encouraging returning records. Those numbers support optimism without guaranteeing the same results under a different workload. Brady Holtvogt is also listed; the established pair offers the clearest starting point.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Brandon Gorzynski LW 65 GP 69 PTS	Season roster
Riley Boychuk C 68 GP 59 PTS	Season roster
Brock Cripps D 62 GP 37 PTS	Season roster

Roster changes

Carter Kingerski arrived from Tri-City on September 15, adding another forward with a full WHL season behind him. The current roster and NHL camp list take precedence over the older summer candidate pool. Cootes's eventual assignment remains worth watching.

[League roster](#) | [NHL camps](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Transactions](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Brandon Gorzynski

A leading scorer with more to build on

In 2025-26, Gorzynski recorded 27 goals and 42 assists for 69 points in 65 WHL games. Gorzynski supplies an established attacking presence on a team aiming to remain near the top of the East. The Raiders have several other productive forwards, which should give him support through difficult stretches and demanding matchups. His mix of goals and assists makes him central to that balance. Maintaining his output while helping the reshaped group settle would be a valuable follow-up to last season.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Riley Boychuk

A central part of the Raiders attack

In 2025-26, Boychuk recorded 15 goals and 44 assists for 59 points in 68 WHL games. Boychuk's 44 assists show how much of his contribution came from helping teammates score. Prince Albert has enough finishers to make that especially useful. As the lineup changes around him, the opportunity is to become an even more consistent source of offence rather than relying on occasional big nights. A strong year from Boychuk would help preserve the forward depth that makes the Raiders a leading contender.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Roster update](#)

3 Brock Cripps

The next step on defence

In 2025-26, Cripps recorded 6 goals and 31 assists for 37 points in 62 WHL games. Cripps already has enough WHL experience to be more than a prospect to keep in reserve. His production gives Prince Albert a younger defender capable of contributing to the attack as responsibilities change. The important next step is handling a larger share of the work without losing consistency. For a club with ambitions of another long season, his development could help determine how complete the defence becomes.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Victoria Royals

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
3	1	91

Forecast

Projected 3 of 23 overall and 1 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 91 points. The Royals lead our Western forecast on the strength of their attack. A largely unproven WHL crease makes that position less secure than the points estimate might suggest.

How the team is taking shape

Victoria's summer additions change the scale of its ambitions. Cameron Schmidt brings a 100-point season, Savin Virk adds another 65-point record, and Filip Novak offers experience from Czech hockey. Nolan Stewart, Hayden Moore and Miles Cooper give that incoming talent an established supporting cast. There is enough scoring here to put real pressure on the Western Conference.

Goaltending outlook

The crease is much less settled than the attack. Vladimir Proskurin, Cole Prelusky and Seth Badry appear on the preseason list, with very little prior WHL action among them. Proskurin's NHL camp invitation adds interest, but it does not settle the starting job. Early-season goaltending will tell us a great deal about Victoria's ceiling.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Cameron Schmidt RW 72 GP 100 PTS	Preseason roster
Savin Virk RW 66 GP 65 PTS	Preseason roster
Odin Vauhkonen D 65 GP 23 PTS	Preseason roster

Roster changes

Schmidt came from Seattle, Virk from Tri-City, and Novak's rights from Lethbridge. Nate Yellowaga and Jonas Kohn add options on defence. Victoria released Owen McCarthy and reassigned Roan Greschuk on September 15; those changes are included here.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Cameron Schmidt

A major arrival for Victoria

In 2025-26, Schmidt recorded 51 goals and 49 assists for 100 points in 72 WHL games. Schmidt's 51 goals immediately change the expectations for Victoria's attack. Acquired from Seattle, he joins a forward group that also added Savin Virk and Filip Novak. The attraction is straightforward: the Royals now have a scorer who has already reached an exceptional level in this league. The challenge is fitting those pieces together so his individual threat produces a dependable team advantage throughout the season.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

2 Savin Virk

Another established scoring option

In 2025-26, Virk recorded 27 goals and 38 assists for 65 points in 66 WHL games. The trade from Tri-City places Virk in a Victoria attack with several players capable of drawing defensive attention. That gives the Royals more ways to create offence and reduces the need for one line to solve every game. Virk's previous production is a useful foundation, but chemistry still has to develop. His ability to reproduce that contribution in a new setting is central to Victoria's ambitious outlook.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

3 Odin Vauhkonen

Room to grow behind the headline forwards

In 2025-26, Vauhkonen recorded 3 goals and 20 assists for 23 points in 65 WHL games. Victoria's new scorers will attract attention, but Vauhkonen gives the club a younger defender with a full season of experience to build on. His contribution does not need to match the forward stars to be important. More reliable work moving the team from defence into attack, together with sound decisions in his own end, would help the Royals turn their offensive promise into a more complete performance.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Calgary Hitmen

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
4	3	90

Forecast

Projected 4 of 23 overall and 3 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 90 points. The Hitmen sit in the East's leading group. Their established scoring gives them a solid base, with the crease the biggest opportunity for improvement.

How the team is taking shape

Julien Maze and Andrei Molgachev headline an attack with several useful layers. Caine Wilke, Blake Vanek and Landon Amrhein provide additional scoring experience, while Hunter Aura, Wyatt Pisarczyk and Calder Hamilton can contribute from defence. That distribution gives Calgary a good chance to remain competitive even when its leading scorers face the toughest matchups.

Goaltending outlook

Eric Tu is the most established option after 45 appearances and an .898 save percentage. Aidan Hesse played 30 games with an .867 mark, leaving room for a more consistent tandem. Donagh Esler-Twiss is also listed. Calgary's outlook improves considerably if its goaltending becomes as dependable as its returning attack.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Julien Maze LW 68 GP 78 PTS	Preseason roster
Andrei Molgachev C 61 GP 59 PTS	Preseason roster
Hunter Aura D 64 GP 40 PTS	Preseason roster

Roster changes

Brennan Brown arrived in the deal that sent Ty Meunier to Swift Current. Kaden Meyer was then traded to Red Deer on September 14, reducing the returning defensive group. Carter Sanderson and Jakob Leander are among the newer names to monitor as NHL camps conclude.

[League roster](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Julien Maze

The reference point for Calgary

In 2025-26, Maze recorded 38 goals and 40 assists for 78 points in 68 WHL games. Maze's nearly even split between goals and assists makes him a useful centrepiece for the Hitmen attack. Calgary has other established contributors, but his production sets the standard for the returning forwards. Repeating a strong season while opponents focus more closely on him is the next test. If the supporting group also grows, the Hitmen should have enough scoring to stay with the East's better teams.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

2 Andrei Molgachev

A second major source of offence

In 2025-26, Molgachev recorded 29 goals and 30 assists for 59 points in 61 WHL games. Molgachev finished one goal short of 30 and offers Calgary another substantial threat alongside Julien Maze. His production makes the Hitmen less dependent on a single player having a good night. The opportunity now is to carry that influence through a full season and into important matchups. Calgary's ceiling rises if Molgachev and the surrounding forwards can make their scoring depth more consistent.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

3 Hunter Aura

Creating from defence

In 2025-26, Aura recorded 4 goals and 36 assists for 40 points in 64 WHL games. Aura's 36 assists make him one of the key returning sources of offence on Calgary's blue line. That production complements the forwards and gives the Hitmen another way to keep possessions moving. With Kaden Meyer traded to Red Deer, the defensive group has changed again. Aura's value will lie in combining his contribution to the attack with the dependable all-around work needed from an experienced defender.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Seattle Thunderbirds

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
5	2	86

Forecast

Projected 5 of 23 overall and 2 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 86 points. Seattle projects among the West's stronger clubs, supported by multiple established scorers and experienced goaltending.

How the team is taking shape

Noah Kosick, Antonio Martorana and Brock England each reached 50 points last season. Matthew Gard, Simon Lovsin and Sawyer Mayes make the group deeper than a single scoring line. The departure of Cameron Schmidt changes the spotlight, but Seattle still has enough proven production to build a strong attack around its returning centres and wings.

Goaltending outlook

Marek Sklenicka posted a .902 save percentage in 42 appearances, while Grayson Malinoski finished at .896 across 32. That gives Seattle two goalies with meaningful WHL experience. Jaxson Dikur is another listed option. The returning records suggest a useful foundation, although the eventual workload remains a coaching decision.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Brock England C 64 GP 51 PTS	Season roster
Noah Kosick C 69 GP 54 PTS	Season roster
Marek Sklenicka G 42 GP .902 SV%	Season roster

Roster changes

Seattle moved Schmidt to Victoria and added options elsewhere, including Jonas Kemps, Owen Hayden and Luke Puchner through offseason transactions. Reko Alanko and Dominik Ripa are also on the current roster. How quickly the new defence group settles will matter.

[League roster](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Brock England

A young scorer ready for more

In 2025-26, England recorded 21 goals and 30 assists for 51 points in 64 WHL games. England enters the season with a substantial body of work for a younger forward. Seattle's attack still includes Noah Kosick and Antonio Martorana, so he can grow within an established group rather than being asked to supply everything. His next step is to make that production more influential over the full schedule. Continued progress would help Seattle replace Cameron Schmidt's offence collectively and stay near the Western leaders.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

2 Noah Kosick

A playmaking foundation for Seattle

In 2025-26, Kosick recorded 16 goals and 38 assists for 54 points in 69 WHL games. Kosick's assist total gives Seattle a clear reason to trust him as part of its attacking core. The Thunderbirds have several forwards with productive WHL records, creating possibilities for a balanced lineup. His job is to help turn that collection into dependable scoring. If Kosick can maintain his creation while the new pieces settle, Seattle will have a stronger chance of making its promising depth count.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

3 Marek Sklenicka

Experience behind a competitive roster

In 2025-26, Sklenicka made 42 WHL appearances with a .902 save percentage. That workload gives Seattle a useful foundation in a position where several rivals are starting over. Grayson Malinoski also brings substantial WHL experience, so the club has options when assigning starts. Sklenicka's next season will be about sustaining his performance through that competition and the changing defence in front of him. Steady goaltending would allow Seattle's established forwards to turn more of their scoring into standings points.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Spokane Chiefs

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
6	3	80

Forecast

Projected 6 of 23 overall and 3 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 80 points. The Chiefs belong in the West's competitive upper group, with enough returning attack to challenge the teams immediately above them.

How the team is taking shape

Tyus Sparks, Chase Harrington and Owen Martin give Spokane three forwards with more than 50 points in their most recent WHL season. Rhett Sather adds offence from the blue line, and players such as Cohen Harris and Brody Gillespie can help spread the work. This is a promising core if the Chiefs can turn individual production into a more consistent team performance.

Goaltending outlook

Carter Esler returns with a substantial record: 44 appearances and a .903 save percentage. Bryce Francisco is also on the preseason list following Alexander Watren's reassignment. Esler provides the strongest evidence in the crease, while support behind him remains an early-season question.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Tyus Sparks RW 69 GP 65 PTS	Preseason roster
Chase Harrington LW 61 GP 57 PTS	Preseason roster
Rhett Sather D 66 GP 40 PTS	Preseason roster

Roster changes

Spokane reassigned four players on September 14, including Watren and defenceman Taylor Curtis. The same announcement confirmed that Gillespie and Martin had returned from NHL rookie events. Other camp participants may arrive later, so the opening lineup can differ from the season outlook.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Tyus Sparks

A leading threat in Spokane

In 2025-26, Sparks recorded 28 goals and 37 assists for 65 points in 69 WHL games. Sparks gives the Chiefs an established scorer who can contribute through both goals and assists. Chase Harrington and Owen Martin offer strong support, so Spokane has the potential to spread its offence across more than one combination. The test is consistency against teams that know where the danger lies. A productive full season from Sparks would reinforce the Chiefs' case for a place among the West's stronger clubs.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

2 Chase Harrington

Finishing that Spokane can build around

In 2025-26, Harrington recorded 28 goals and 29 assists for 57 points in 61 WHL games. Harrington's 28 goals are a strong starting point for a forward group with several proven contributors. His production came in fewer than a full schedule of appearances, leaving a straightforward benefit if he can stay available more often. Spokane does not need to turn every game into a scoring contest, but another productive year from Harrington would give the Chiefs more room to manage the developing parts of their lineup.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

3 Rhett Sather

Offence from the back end

In 2025-26, Sather recorded 11 goals and 29 assists for 40 points in 66 WHL games. Sather's double-digit goal total gives Spokane a useful contribution beyond its leading forwards. The Chiefs can build on that experience while asking him to become a more dependable part of the overall defensive effort. Production alone will not settle the team's position in the West. His value increases if he can keep helping the attack while the group gives its goaltenders more manageable games.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Brandon Wheat Kings

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
7	4	78

Forecast

Projected 7 of 23 overall and 4 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 78 points. Brandon's best players give it a higher ceiling than a middle-of-the-pack points estimate alone conveys. More consistent support would help close the gap to the East's leaders.

How the team is taking shape

Jaxon Jacobson's playmaking and Joby Baumuller's finishing give Brandon a compelling starting point. Chase Surkan, Prabh Bhathal and Brady Turko offer support and room for growth. The club's August features confirmed Baumuller's return and Jacobson's focus on a stronger all-around season after a disappointing playoff exit. There is a clear path to improvement without asking one newcomer to transform the team.

Goaltending outlook

Filip Ruzicka posted a .906 save percentage in 42 appearances. Ryley Budd arrives from Saskatoon with 11 games of WHL experience, while Joffrey Chan is another listed prospect. Ruzicka gives the Wheat Kings a credible foundation, and Budd has an opportunity to grow into a larger supporting role.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Jaxon Jacobson C 63 GP 85 PTS	Season roster
Joby Baumuller RW 58 GP 62 PTS	Season roster
Filip Ruzicka G 42 GP .906 SV%	Season roster

Roster changes

Brandon brought in Budd after moving Jayden Kraus to Everett. Josh McGregor joins the defence, while Giorgos Pantelas moved to Penticton. The changes leave a younger group around an established scoring pair, with several players positioned to take on more responsibility.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Jaxon Jacobson

An important season at home

In 2025-26, Jacobson recorded 25 goals and 60 assists for 85 points in 63 WHL games. Jacobson has already established himself as Brandon's leading playmaker. In the club's August preview, he emphasized improving his two-way contribution and helping the team respond to its playoff exit. With Joby Baumuller returning and younger forwards developing around them, the support is there for another productive season. His progress will be especially interesting as he balances a central team role with the attention of his NHL draft year.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club feature](#)

2 Joby Baumuller

Forty goals and a return to Brandon

In 2025-26, Baumuller recorded 40 goals and 22 assists for 62 points in 58 WHL games. Baumuller confirmed that he would return to the Wheat Kings for 2026-27, with college remaining part of his longer-term plan. That decision preserves a proven finishing presence beside Jaxon Jacobson and the younger forwards. Repeating a 40-goal season is a demanding target, but Brandon does not need to guess whether he can score at this level. His return materially strengthens the club's immediate ambitions.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Club feature](#)

3 Filip Ruzicka

A solid base in the crease

In 2025-26, Ruzicka made 42 WHL appearances with a .906 save percentage. Ruzicka gives Brandon a goalie with both a substantial workload and an encouraging save record. Ryley Budd's arrival changes the supporting group, but Ruzicka remains a clear reference point for the season ahead. The challenge is maintaining his performance while the defence settles into its new shape. Reliable goaltending would give the Wheat Kings' productive leading forwards a better chance of turning their offence into a stronger finish.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Everett Silvertips

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
8	4	77

Forecast

Projected 8 of 23 overall and 4 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 77 points. Everett remains a competitive Western team in this forecast. Replacing departed production is the central challenge for the defending champion.

How the team is taking shape

The defending WHL champions enter this snapshot with a substantially different scoring picture. Jaxsin Vaughan is the leading returning scorer among the currently listed players, while Lukas Kaplan, Rhys Jamieson and Mirco Dufour have opportunities to grow. Brek Liske and Luke Vlooswyk remain important names on defence, and USHL arrival Bode Laylin adds another source of offence from the back end.

Goaltending outlook

Jayden Kraus comes from Brandon after 30 appearances and an .895 save percentage. Bennett Byers is the other goalie on the regular-season page. Kraus supplies the WHL experience, but the new pairing still needs to establish itself behind Everett's reshaped lineup.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Jaxsin Vaughan RW 68 GP 38 PTS	Season roster
Brek Liske D 52 GP 24 PTS	Season roster
Bode Laylin D See spotlight	Season roster

Roster changes

The Silvertips added Kraus and Laylin, along with several younger newcomers. Nickolas Kovich was traded to Vancouver on September 12. This forecast uses the current roster rather than assuming last spring's championship lineup returns intact; later assignments could change the picture.

[League roster](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Jaxsin Vaughan

More responsibility after a title

In 2025-26, Vaughan recorded 21 goals and 17 assists for 38 points in 68 WHL games. Vaughan is the most productive returning forward on Everett's current league roster. That makes him an important figure as the defending champions redistribute their scoring responsibilities. His previous goal total provides a useful foundation, but the group will need help from several developing players around him. Vaughan's season is worth following as a measure of how effectively the Silvertips can turn a changed lineup into another competitive team.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

2 Brek Liske

A familiar piece on a changing team

In 2025-26, Liske recorded 7 goals and 17 assists for 24 points in 52 WHL games. Liske gives Everett a returning defender with an established role in the club's recent success. His offensive record is useful, and the addition of Bode Laylin offers another option for sharing that work. The larger challenge is helping a reshaped roster establish its own standard. Consistent defence, alongside continued growth in his contribution to the attack, would make Liske a valuable part of that transition.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

3 Bode Laylin

An experienced newcomer on defence

Laylin produced 11 goals and 27 assists in 55 USHL games for Tri-City in 2025-26, earning third-team all-star recognition. Everett's signing announcement highlighted his skating and puck movement. He therefore arrives with a meaningful junior record, even though it should not be treated as a promise of identical WHL production. His adjustment will help determine how much offence the new-look Silvertips can generate from their defence.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Outside-league record](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Moose Jaw Warriors

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
9	5	76

Forecast

Projected 9 of 23 overall and 5 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 76 points. Moose Jaw has enough scoring talent to push into the East's competitive middle. Its defensive results and goaltending will shape the next step.

How the team is taking shape

Landen McFadden gives Moose Jaw a productive lead forward, and the blue line contributes unusual scoring depth through Connor Schmidt and Colt Carter. Riley Thorpe, Kash Andresen and Mathieu Lajoie provide additional attacking options. The Warriors have several players who can improve together, making their progress through the season particularly interesting.

Goaltending outlook

Jordan Switzer brings 44 appearances and an .889 save percentage, while Kyle Jones played 29 games with an .862 mark. Dylan Mingo's two appearances are too small a sample to judge his readiness for a larger role. The group has options, but better consistency in net would make a meaningful difference.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Landen McFadden C 67 GP 68 PTS	Preseason roster
Connor Schmidt D 66 GP 40 PTS	Preseason roster
Colt Carter D 61 GP 38 PTS	Preseason roster

Roster changes

Griffin Darby adds WHL experience on defence. The club's September 9 release identified its latest reassignments, including Charlie Tobin and Jett Prpich, and left 28 players in the preseason group. Those departures are reflected in this edition.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Landen McFadden

The Warriors offensive leader

In 2025-26, McFadden recorded 32 goals and 36 assists for 68 points in 67 WHL games. McFadden's 32 goals give Moose Jaw a proven scorer around whom to organize its forward group. Riley Thorpe, Kash Andresen and Mathieu Lajoie offer supporting production, making the next step a team-wide challenge. The Warriors need their attack to translate into more complete games. Another strong season from McFadden would give them room to work through the developing pieces behind him without losing their main offensive threat.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

2 Connor Schmidt

A significant scoring contribution from defence

In 2025-26, Schmidt recorded 16 goals and 24 assists for 40 points in 66 WHL games. Sixteen goals from the blue line gave Moose Jaw an additional source of offence last season. Schmidt's contribution is particularly interesting alongside the younger Colt Carter, whose production came more heavily through assists. The combination offers options, but the Warriors also need better goal prevention. Schmidt's next step will be measured by how effectively he balances that offensive involvement with the demands of a more consistent team performance.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

3 Colt Carter

A young defender with a strong first foundation

In 2025-26, Carter recorded 8 goals and 30 assists for 38 points in 61 WHL games. Carter's 30 assists give Moose Jaw a younger player who has already contributed meaningfully from defence. There is room for him to grow alongside Connor Schmidt and the rest of the group. More responsibility will bring a different test from simply adding points. If Carter can become steadier while maintaining his attacking contribution, he could help the Warriors make progress at both ends of the rink.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Regina Pats

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
10	6	75

Forecast

Projected 10 of 23 overall and 6 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 75 points. The Pats have clear upside beyond this cautious middle-group forecast, particularly if Schultz and Pue make a sustained leap.

How the team is taking shape

Regina offers one of the league's most interesting combinations of established production and young upside. Zachary Lansard, Keets Fawcett and Cohen Klassen provide experience around Maddox Schultz and Liam Pue. Reese Hamilton and Matt Paranych add scoring from defence. The younger forwards have already shown they can contribute; a longer season of progress could change how this team is viewed.

Goaltending outlook

Taylor Tabashniuk's 21 appearances and .886 save percentage provide the main returning WHL record. Drake Mooney's one appearance is too brief to support a firm judgment. Regina will need its developing goalie group and team defence to grow alongside an attack that attracts much of the attention.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Maddox Schultz C 34 GP 29 PTS	Season roster
Liam Pue RW 34 GP 16 PTS	Season roster
Zachary Lansard RW 68 GP 56 PTS	Season roster

Roster changes

Jonas Kohn moved to Victoria during the summer. Regina's current list still contains four 2006-born skaters, so this scenario shares the available overage contribution across them. Final decisions could change both the forward depth and defensive mix.

[League roster](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Maddox Schultz

The young forward who can change the outlook

In 2025-26, Schultz recorded 15 goals and 14 assists for 29 points in 34 WHL games. Schultz enters his 16-year-old season having already made a meaningful WHL impact. Regina's established forwards give him support, but his development is one of the main reasons the Pats could exceed a cautious forecast. A larger workload will test his consistency over the longer season. The attraction is the room for growth: the team does not need his progress to stop at last year's scoring pace.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

2 Liam Pue

Another young piece of Regina's future

In 2025-26, Pue recorded 6 goals and 10 assists for 16 points in 34 WHL games. Pue gives Regina a second 2010-born forward with substantial early exposure to the WHL. His numbers are a foundation rather than a finished picture, and the next season should offer a clearer view of how quickly his role can expand. With Maddox Schultz and experienced scorers around him, Pue has several possible sources of support. Sustained progress from both younger forwards would make the Pats more dangerous.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

3 Zachary Lansard

Established production beside the rising prospects

In 2025-26, Lansard recorded 24 goals and 32 assists for 56 points in 68 WHL games. The attention around Regina's youngest forwards should not obscure Lansard's importance. He has already delivered a productive full schedule, giving the Pats a scorer with a more substantial record to lean on. That helps distribute the pressure while Schultz and Pue develop. If Lansard maintains his output and the younger players add more, Regina's attack could become considerably deeper than its preseason position suggests.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Lethbridge Hurricanes

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
11	7	74

Forecast

Projected 11 of 23 overall and 7 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 74 points. Lethbridge has enough scoring to compete in the East's middle group. Preventing goals is the largest obstacle to a stronger finish.

How the team is taking shape

Easton Daneault leads a group with useful returning production from Owen Berge and Kade Duell. Kyle Heger, Nathan Maloney and Will Scott can contribute from defence. Logan Stuart adds a different development background to the forward mix. The names provide reasons for optimism, but Lethbridge needs a more complete performance than its winless four-game exhibition schedule delivered.

Goaltending outlook

Koen Cleaver and Leif Oaten both logged substantial work last season, finishing at .867 and .876 respectively. Experience is available; improvement is the requirement. Better protection in front of them and steadier saves must develop together if the Hurricanes are to move up the standings.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Easton Daneault C 67 GP 53 PTS	Season roster
Kyle Heger LD 64 GP 35 PTS	Season roster
Owen Berge C 63 GP 48 PTS	Season roster

Roster changes

Kayden Longley moved to Wenatchee, while Jake Stuart arrived through a Brandon transaction. Filip Novak's rights went to Victoria. The September club reports and regular-season roster give this edition a more current picture than the summer candidate pool.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Easton Daneault

A playmaking base for Lethbridge

In 2025-26, Daneault recorded 13 goals and 40 assists for 53 points in 67 WHL games. Daneault's 40 assists make him an important part of how the Hurricanes create offence. Owen Berge and Kade Duell provide established scoring around him, so Lethbridge has a group that can share the attacking responsibility. The next challenge is turning that production into more consistent results. Continued progress from Daneault would help the Hurricanes remain dangerous while they work to improve their defensive performance.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

2 Kyle Heger

A productive defender with a broader task

In 2025-26, Heger recorded 11 goals and 24 assists for 35 points in 64 WHL games. Heger reached double figures in goals and gives Lethbridge a useful contributor from the back end. His role matters beyond that total because the Hurricanes need better results in their own zone. The opportunity is to build a more complete season while retaining his ability to support the attack. If the defensive group becomes steadier around him, Lethbridge's existing forward production will carry considerably more weight.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

3 Owen Berge

An experienced scoring option

In 2025-26, Berge recorded 23 goals and 25 assists for 48 points in 63 WHL games. Berge gives the Hurricanes a forward with a balanced record of goals and assists. That matters on a club with several developing players and new arrivals who still have to establish their WHL contribution. Lethbridge will look for its experienced group to provide consistency through the transition. Berge's ability to keep contributing while the team improves elsewhere is an important part of any move up the standings.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Saskatoon Blades

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
12	8	70

Forecast

Projected 12 of 23 overall and 8 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 70 points. The Blades have a stronger established scoring core than their unsettled crease. A successful goalie transition could lift this forecast.

How the team is taking shape

Cooper Williams, Hunter Laing and Kazden Mathies form an experienced attacking core. Brayden Klimpke gives the defence a productive distributor, with Jack Kachkowski and Jordan Martin adding support. David Lewandowski is included cautiously while away at NHL camp. His eventual return would make an important difference to the depth of the forward group.

Goaltending outlook

Saskatoon's September 13 roster names Taye Timmerman, Max Hartel and Martin Psohlavec. Timmerman has only two prior WHL appearances, and the others bring different development backgrounds. Psohlavec is attending an NHL camp, but the available WHL numbers cannot establish a reliable pecking order. This is a major area to watch.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Cooper Williams C 66 GP 57 PTS	Preseason roster
Brayden Klimpke D 68 GP 47 PTS	Preseason roster
Kazden Mathies LW 68 GP 37 PTS	Preseason roster

Roster changes

Tyrone Sobry returned from Prince George, while Tristan Petersen moved to Penticton and Ryley Budd to Brandon. The club cut its listed group to 27 on September 13. Lewandowski's camp status is tracked separately from that published list.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [NHL camps](#) | [Transactions](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Cooper Williams

A central scorer for the Blades

In 2025-26, Williams recorded 23 goals and 34 assists for 57 points in 66 WHL games. Williams gives Saskatoon a productive centre around whom to organize a changing group. Hunter Laing and Kazden Mathies provide familiar support, while David Lewandowski's eventual NHL camp assignment could further strengthen the attack. The Blades need their established forwards to provide consistency while the crease takes shape. Another strong season from Williams would help keep the team's scoring competitive during that adjustment.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Brayden Klimpke

The defence's leading distributor

In 2025-26, Klimpke recorded 4 goals and 43 assists for 47 points in 68 WHL games. Klimpke's 43 assists account for most of his production and make him a key source of offence from the blue line. Saskatoon has experienced defenders around him, which should give the group a workable base as the new season begins. His next challenge is sustaining that contribution while helping protect a less experienced WHL goalie group. The Blades need both parts of that responsibility to come together.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

3 Kazden Mathies

A chance to carry preseason momentum forward

In 2025-26, Mathies recorded 19 goals and 18 assists for 37 points in 68 WHL games. Mathies followed that season with a productive exhibition showing, including a five-point finale noted in Saskatoon's September 13 report. Preseason scoring does not guarantee the same results once the schedule begins, but it adds interest to his next step. The Blades already have established contributors around him. A more influential full season from Mathies would deepen their attack and reduce the pressure on the leading names.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Swift Current Broncos

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
13	9	70

Forecast

Projected 13 of 23 overall and 9 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 70 points. The Broncos sit in a closely packed part of the East. Their offseason additions give them a plausible route to outperforming that starting position.

How the team is taking shape

Swift Current has added useful experience around Trae Wilke and an emerging group of forwards. Ty Meunier and Hudson Kibblewhite give the attack more options, while Brendan Rudolph and Sawyer Dingman can build on meaningful WHL seasons. Kayd Ruedig and Jace McFaul supply offence from defence. The ingredients suggest a team that could improve through collective growth.

Goaltending outlook

Cal Conway arrives with a .901 save percentage in 27 games. Aiden Eskit played 31 games at .872, and Archer Cooke recorded an .889 mark in 23. Wyatt Riemer is another listed option. There is more experience than a simple two-goalie summary would capture, and the final workload is still open.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Ty Meunier LW 64 GP 32 PTS	Preseason roster
Kayd Ruedig D 66 GP 36 PTS	Preseason roster
Brendan Rudolph LW 65 GP 31 PTS	Preseason roster

Roster changes

Meunier came from Calgary, Ruedig from Everett, Kibblewhite from Brandon and Conway from Wenatchee. Brennan Brown and Josh McGregor moved out in separate deals. The club's published preseason list helps narrow a much larger league camp page.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Ty Meunier

A new opportunity in Swift Current

In 2025-26, Meunier recorded 12 goals and 20 assists for 32 points in 64 WHL games. The move from Calgary gives Meunier a different setting in which to build on his WHL experience. Swift Current has added several players who can help share the scoring work, and his previous season offers a useful starting point. The question is how much that role can grow. More regular production from Meunier would help the Broncos turn their offseason changes into a deeper, more competitive attack.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

2 Kayd Ruedig

A new source of offence on defence

In 2025-26, Ruedig recorded 16 goals and 20 assists for 36 points in 66 WHL games. Ruedig arrives from Everett with a notable goal total for a defenceman. Swift Current can use that contribution alongside Jace McFaul and the younger players on its blue line. Changing teams brings new responsibilities, so repeating the scoring is only part of the task. A successful adjustment would give the Broncos another established contributor while they build the defensive consistency needed to support their improving forward group.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

3 Brendan Rudolph

Building on a useful full season

In 2025-26, Rudolph recorded 16 goals and 15 assists for 31 points in 65 WHL games. Rudolph gives Swift Current a returning forward with enough experience to take on more responsibility. The additions of Ty Meunier and Hudson Kibblewhite should create more options around him, but the Broncos also need progress from within. His next season is a chance to make scoring a more regular part of his contribution. That kind of collective improvement would help Swift Current rise through a closely matched group.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Penticton Vees

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
14	5	70

Forecast

Projected 14 of 23 overall and 5 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 70 points. Penticton projects near the Western middle, with greater uncertainty than teams returning most of their scoring. Its established goalie could help smooth the transition.

How the team is taking shape

Penticton's second WHL season brings substantial turnover. Giorgos Pantelas strengthens the blue line, while Tristan Petersen and Carter Cunningham add established forward production. Returning names include Callum Stone, Brooks DeMars, Cameron Norrie and Noah Milford. The Vees have a useful foundation, but their many newcomers make the group's eventual scoring depth harder to assess.

Goaltending outlook

Andrew Reyelts brings a .906 save percentage from 43 appearances, giving Penticton an experienced starting point. Kaenan Smith is the other goalie on the current league list. The September 14 club announcement also confirmed a two-goalie group after reassignments. Reyelts's record is one of the clearer strengths in this reshaped team.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Giorgos Pantelas D 68 GP 37 PTS	Season roster
Tristan Petersen LW 63 GP 37 PTS	Season roster
Andrew Reyelts G 43 GP .906 SV%	Season roster

Roster changes

Pantelas arrived from Brandon and Petersen returned through a September trade with Saskatoon. Graham Jones and other new forwards broaden the options. Penticton announced 26 remaining players on September 14, while the league page lists 25; the forecast therefore remains a working snapshot.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Giorgos Pantelas

An important addition to the Vees defence

In 2025-26, Pantelas recorded 6 goals and 31 assists for 37 points in 68 WHL games. The move from Brandon gives Penticton a defender with a full WHL season and substantial production behind him. Pantelas can help a heavily changed roster establish a more dependable base alongside Callum Stone and the returning players. His contribution need not be measured only in points. If he adapts quickly to the new group, he could become one of the more important pieces of Penticton's second WHL season.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

2 Tristan Petersen

Familiar surroundings, useful experience

In 2025-26, Petersen recorded 18 goals and 19 assists for 37 points in 63 WHL games. Petersen's September return from Saskatoon gives Penticton another forward with a meaningful scoring record. The Vees have many new faces, so established WHL experience is especially valuable while the lineup comes together. His nearly even balance of goals and assists provides a flexible starting point for that contribution. A settled, productive season would help make the team's forward depth less dependent on newcomers adjusting immediately.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

3 Andrew Reyelts

A strong reference point amid turnover

In 2025-26, Reyelts made 43 WHL appearances with a .906 save percentage. Reyelts gives Penticton an experienced goalie while much of the roster changes around him. His previous save record supports optimism, but the defence in front of him will still need time to establish its own habits. Kaenan Smith offers another option in the crease. If Reyelts can maintain his level of play, he could give the Vees valuable stability while their many newcomers find their roles.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Prince George Cougars

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
15	6	68

Forecast

Projected 15 of 23 overall and 6 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 68 points. Prince George has enough established players to stay competitive, but its goalie transition and changing depth make another high finish something to earn.

How the team is taking shape

Dmitri Yakutsenak, Lee Shurgot, Aiden Foster and Jett Lajoie give Prince George several experienced forwards to build around. Arsenii Anisimov's production is especially useful on defence. The Cougars have a competitive core, but this version of the team will need new contributors to take on responsibilities that previously belonged to more established stars.

Goaltending outlook

The club has confirmed a new pairing of Alexander Levshyn and Peyton Shore as Joshua Ravensbergen moves on. Levshyn posted .902 in 24 appearances; Shore's .859 over 21 games came with Red Deer. Levshyn's record offers encouragement, while Shore gets a fresh opportunity in a different team environment.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Dmitri Yakutsenak C 65 GP 50 PTS	Season roster
Arsenii Anisimov D 68 GP 41 PTS	Season roster
Alexander Levshyn G 24 GP .902 SV%	Season roster

Roster changes

Shore arrived in a September 13 trade, with the league announcement following the next day. Tyrone Sobry moved to Saskatoon in August. Those changes are included, and Ravensbergen is not assumed to return to the WHL crease.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Dmitri Yakutsenak

A balanced scorer for a changing attack

In 2025-26, Yakutsenak recorded 25 goals and 25 assists for 50 points in 65 WHL games. Yakutsenak's equal totals of goals and assists give Prince George an established forward to build around. Lee Shurgot, Aiden Foster and Jett Lajoie provide further experience, but the Cougars need the group to become consistently productive together. Yakutsenak's next step is important in that process. A strong follow-up season would help keep the attack competitive while the club adjusts to changes elsewhere in the lineup.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Arsenii Anisimov

An important contribution from defence

In 2025-26, Anisimov recorded 7 goals and 34 assists for 41 points in 68 WHL games. Anisimov's 34 assists give the Cougars a substantial source of offence beyond their forwards. With a new goalie pairing taking shape, his all-around contribution will matter as much as the points. Prince George needs its experienced defenders to make the transition manageable for the players behind them. Maintaining his attacking involvement while helping the team defend consistently would make Anisimov central to that effort.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

3 Alexander Levshyn

A larger opportunity in a new pairing

In 2025-26, Levshyn made 24 WHL appearances with a .902 save percentage. With Joshua Ravensbergen moving on, Levshyn has a chance to carry more responsibility in Prince George's crease. Peyton Shore's arrival gives the club another experienced option, and the final workload remains open. Levshyn's previous performance provides a credible foundation for the transition. The challenge is sustaining that level if the assignment becomes larger and the team in front of him changes.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Edmonton Oil Kings

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
16	10	67

Forecast

Projected 16 of 23 overall and 10 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 67 points. Edmonton's forecast is cautious because the current attack has less established production. Development from its younger forwards is the strongest route upward.

How the team is taking shape

Aaron Obobaifo, Kayden Stroeder and Dylan Dean are central to Edmonton's next scoring group. Kanjyu Gojsic adds another developing option, while KJ Sauer and Olli Wahlroos bring fresh possibilities. The current roster gives younger players a clear opportunity to carry more of the attack. Translating that opportunity into reliable production will take time.

Goaltending outlook

Parker Snell recorded a .895 save percentage in 33 games, while Ethan Simcoe finished at .888 over 38 appearances. Those are two substantial samples rather than an entirely new crease. Elias Mitrikas is also listed. A step forward from the experienced pair would help Edmonton manage the growth elsewhere in the lineup.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Kayden Stroeder C 55 GP 32 PTS	Season roster
Aaron Obobaifo LW 59 GP 40 PTS	Season roster
Parker Snell G 33 GP .895 SV%	Season roster

Roster changes

Dylan Ronald came from Brandon, while Rhys Pederson moved to Vancouver. The club confirmed Luke Dahlen's departure for a USports opportunity on September 14. Stroeder's Notre Dame commitment is for after his WHL career; it is not treated as an immediate departure.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Kayden Stroeder

The next step in Edmonton

In 2025-26, Stroeder recorded 13 goals and 19 assists for 32 points in 55 WHL games. Stroeder is entering his second full Oil Kings season, with an opportunity to become a more influential part of the attack. His September commitment to Notre Dame is for after his WHL career, so it does not remove him from this outlook. Edmonton needs growth from players already in the group. Stroeder's ability to turn more experience into consistent offence is one of the most interesting possibilities.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

2 Aaron Obobaifo

A leading role in the current attack

In 2025-26, Obobaifo recorded 19 goals and 21 assists for 40 points in 59 WHL games. Obobaifo brings the strongest prior scoring total among Edmonton's currently listed forwards. That gives him an important place in a group that needs younger players and newcomers to take on more work. His nearly even goal and assist totals offer a useful base. Staying available and maintaining his production would help the Oil Kings develop the rest of the attack without losing their established reference point.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

3 Parker Snell

Experience with room for improvement

In 2025-26, Snell made 33 WHL appearances with a .895 save percentage. Snell shares the current crease with Ethan Simcoe and a younger listed prospect, giving Edmonton more than one experienced option. His workload last season was large enough to provide a meaningful foundation. The next step is greater consistency as the team changes around him. If Snell can improve on that record, the Oil Kings will have a better chance of staying competitive while their forward group develops.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Red Deer Rebels

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
17	11	66

Forecast

Projected 17 of 23 overall and 11 of 11 in the Eastern Conference, at about 66 points. Red Deer has enough forward talent to challenge this lower-middle forecast. Better goal prevention and a healthy, settled lineup would strengthen its case.

How the team is taking shape

Beckett Hamilton gives Red Deer a proven offensive leader, with Poul Andersen, Kalder Varga and Cameron Kuzma providing further scoring options. The defence now includes Kaden Meyer alongside Matus Lisy and Jiri Kamas. Cole Temple's illness creates uncertainty around his return, so this edition does not assume a full contribution from him.

Goaltending outlook

Matthew Kondro brings 44 appearances and an .892 save percentage. Nathan Salisbury is the other goalie on the current preseason list after Peyton Shore's trade. Kondro offers the experience; Salisbury has a chance to establish a supporting role. More reliable defensive support would help both.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Beckett Hamilton RW 67 GP 62 PTS	Preseason roster
Kalder Varga RW 68 GP 37 PTS	Preseason roster
Matthew Kondro G 44 GP .892 SV%	Preseason roster

Roster changes

The Rebels sent Shore to Prince George and acquired Meyer from Calgary in separate September deals. Earlier reassignments included Miller Robson. Temple was explicitly unavailable for preseason because of illness, which is reflected in the outlook without assuming a return date.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Beckett Hamilton

The Rebels offensive reference point

In 2025-26, Hamilton recorded 24 goals and 38 assists for 62 points in 67 WHL games. Hamilton gives Red Deer a forward who has already produced at a substantial level. Poul Andersen, Kalder Varga and Cameron Kuzma offer support, making the attack one of the clearer reasons the Rebels could beat a cautious forecast. Hamilton's next test is sustaining his influence through a full season of focused opposition. Reliable production from him would give the club more room to improve its defensive results.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Kalder Varga

A scorer with room for a bigger contribution

In 2025-26, Varga recorded 21 goals and 16 assists for 37 points in 68 WHL games. Varga's 21 goals give Red Deer another proven finishing option behind Beckett Hamilton. The next step is making that influence more consistent and expanding the ways he contributes to the attack. The Rebels have enough returning forwards to share the work, but they need collective progress. A stronger season from Varga would help turn that depth into a more dependable advantage rather than occasional high-scoring nights.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Roster update](#)

3 Matthew Kondro

The experienced option after a trade

In 2025-26, Kondro made 44 WHL appearances with a .892 save percentage. Peyton Shore's move to Prince George leaves Kondro as the goalie with the substantial returning WHL record in Red Deer's listed group. Nathan Salisbury offers another option as the pairing settles. Kondro's workload gives the Rebels experience to build around, while his save percentage leaves room for improvement. Better defensive support and steadier results in net would help the team's promising forwards make more of their scoring.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Portland Winterhawks

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
18	7	65

Forecast

Projected 18 of 23 overall and 7 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 65 points. Portland's ranking is sensitive to camp returns and the development of its supporting forwards. Duguay provides a dependable offensive reference point.

How the team is taking shape

Jordan Duguay is the leading scorer in Portland's current group, with Sam Spehar, Reed Brown and Kyle McDonough offering support. Will McLaughlin contributes from defence. Nathan Brown and Max Pšenička remain conditional parts of the season outlook while at NHL camps. Their eventual assignments could materially change both the depth and balance of the team.

Goaltending outlook

Ondřej Štěbeták handled 48 appearances with an .897 save percentage. Cruz Chase adds 19 games of experience, while Tyler DiCarlo and Blake Clark have smaller WHL records. Portland has a clear experienced option, but the larger listed goalie group should not be mistaken for a finalized rotation.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Jordan Duguay LW 68 GP 65 PTS	Preseason roster
Will McLaughlin D 68 GP 30 PTS	Preseason roster
Ondřej Štěbeták G 48 GP .897 SV%	Preseason roster

Roster changes

The Winterhawks reassigned three players on September 10. Griffin Darby moved to Moose Jaw during the summer. The forecast keeps confirmed NHL camp candidates in view while allowing for uncertainty, rather than treating every absence from the preseason page as a permanent departure.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [NHL camps](#) | [Transactions](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Jordan Duguay

Leading Portland's next attack

In 2025-26, Duguay recorded 22 goals and 43 assists for 65 points in 68 WHL games. Duguay's 43 assists make him a central source of creation in Portland's current group. Sam Spehar, Reed Brown and Kyle McDonough offer supporting production, while NHL camp returns could change the mix further. The Winterhawks need Duguay's established contribution as younger players develop around him. Another productive season would provide a dependable base for a team whose final depth is still taking shape.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Will McLaughlin

A full season to build upon

In 2025-26, McLaughlin recorded 9 goals and 21 assists for 30 points in 68 WHL games. McLaughlin gives Portland a defender with a complete schedule of experience and a useful offensive contribution. That matters while the club waits on assignments and sorts out its defensive roles. The next step is becoming a steadier presence without losing the ability to support the forwards. His progress could help Portland develop a more complete game around the established scoring of Jordan Duguay and the returning attack.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

3 Ondřej Štěbeták

A substantial workload in the crease

In 2025-26, Štěbeták made 48 WHL appearances with a .897 save percentage. Štěbeták gives Portland an experienced goalie at a time when several parts of the lineup remain unsettled. The club has other goalies on its preseason list, so his previous workload should not be read as a guaranteed assignment. Still, it provides a clear starting point. Greater consistency from the crease and defence together would help the Winterhawks turn a cautious forecast into a more competitive season.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Kamloops Blazers

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
19	8	63

Forecast

Projected 19 of 23 overall and 8 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 63 points. The Blazers need additional scoring to move above this lower-Western projection. Experienced goaltending gives them a useful platform while the attack develops.

How the team is taking shape

Ty Bonkowski, Cooper Moore and Ty Coupland give Kamloops several forwards with meaningful scoring experience. Isa Guram leads the listed defence in prior production, while Vit Zahejsky and Jacob Dumansky add room for growth. Harrison Brunicke's NHL opportunity makes his availability an important unresolved part of the season picture.

Goaltending outlook

Logan Edmonstone played 49 games with a .902 save percentage, providing one of the more established pieces of the lineup. Kaeden Tate has only two prior appearances. Kamloops can build around Edmonstone's experience, but developing dependable support remains valuable over a long schedule.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Ty Bonkowski C 64 GP 40 PTS	Preseason roster
Isa Guram D 68 GP 31 PTS	Preseason roster
Logan Edmonstone G 49 GP .902 SV%	Preseason roster

Roster changes

Josh Evaschesen's move to Medicine Hat removes a major scorer. Brunicke appears on the official NHL camp list and receives a cautious allowance in this forecast. Younger players and incoming defenceman Mikhail Cherepanov have an opportunity to change the outlook as roles settle.

[League roster](#) | [NHL camps](#) | [Transactions](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Ty Bonkowski

An opportunity after offensive turnover

In 2025-26, Bonkowski recorded 13 goals and 27 assists for 40 points in 64 WHL games. Bonkowski gives Kamloops a centre with a useful season of production already behind him. Josh Evaschesen's departure leaves more responsibility for the remaining forwards, including Bonkowski, Cooper Moore and Ty Coupland. The task is to spread that missing offence across the group. If Bonkowski can become a more consistent contributor, he will help the Blazers support an experienced starting point in goal.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Isa Guram

A key returning defender

In 2025-26, Guram recorded 7 goals and 24 assists for 31 points in 68 WHL games. Guram supplies the strongest prior scoring record among the defenders currently listed for Kamloops. Harrison Brunicke's NHL opportunity leaves uncertainty around the eventual group, making progress from the available players especially important. Guram's next step will involve more than adding points. Helping the Blazers defend reliably while continuing to support the attack would make him a valuable part of the team's attempt to climb the West.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#)

3 Logan Edmonstone

A foundation for the Blazers

In 2025-26, Edmonstone made 49 WHL appearances with a .902 save percentage. Edmonstone's workload and save percentage make him one of the more established pieces in Kamloops's current lineup. With the attack replacing a major scorer, dependable goaltending becomes even more valuable. Kaeden Tate has only a brief WHL record behind him, leaving support and workload decisions to develop. Another steady season from Edmonstone could keep the Blazers competitive while their younger players take on larger roles.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Wenatchee Wild

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
20	9	62

Forecast

Projected 20 of 23 overall and 9 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 62 points. Wenatchee's scoring depth keeps the forecast cautious, but strong goaltending gives the Wild a realistic way to collect points in close games.

How the team is taking shape

Josh Toll's passing from defence and Kayden Longley's arrival give Wenatchee two productive pieces around which to organize the attack. Levi Benson, Caelan Joudrey and Rui Han supply further experience, while Boston Tait is a younger defender worth following. The Wild need more of that group to become reliable scoring threats over the full schedule.

Goaltending outlook

Tobias Tvrznik's .913 save percentage in 39 appearances is a significant reason for optimism. Mark Djomo and Carsten Leyerzapf have only brief WHL records, so their percentages should carry little predictive weight. Tvrznik offers the clearest chance for the crease to outperform the team's overall forecast.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Josh Toll LD 67 GP 54 PTS	Season roster
Kayden Longley LW 63 GP 49 PTS	Season roster
Tobias Tvrznik G 39 GP .913 SV%	Season roster

Roster changes

Longley arrived from Lethbridge. Cal Conway moved to Swift Current and Owen Kraft to Tri-City, changing the depth behind the returning core. Tvrznik and Joudrey are NHL camp participants, so the opening-week lineup may be different from the longer-term group.

[League roster](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Josh Toll

Creating chances from defence

In 2025-26, Toll recorded 4 goals and 50 assists for 54 points in 67 WHL games. Toll's 50 assists make him an important part of Wenatchee's offensive picture. The Wild can use that contribution alongside new arrival Kayden Longley and the returning forwards. The challenge is ensuring the attack has enough other dependable sources of production. Toll's next season will be most valuable if his passing contribution remains strong while the group improves its ability to manage play at both ends.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

2 Kayden Longley

An experienced addition to the attack

In 2025-26, Longley recorded 16 goals and 33 assists for 49 points in 63 WHL games. The move from Lethbridge gives Wenatchee a forward with a productive WHL record to place alongside its developing group. Longley's assist total shows that his contribution extends beyond finishing chances himself. The Wild need that experience to make their scoring less dependent on a few names. A quick adjustment to the new club would help turn the summer acquisition into a meaningful improvement in forward depth.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

3 Tobias Tvrznik

A clear source of optimism

In 2025-26, Tvrznik made 39 WHL appearances with a .913 save percentage. Tvrznik's previous performance is one of the stronger reasons to believe Wenatchee can exceed its overall projection. The goalies listed behind him have only brief WHL records, making his experience particularly important. The Wild still need enough scoring and defensive support to benefit from good saves. If Tvrznik maintains his level, he can give the developing group a chance to collect points while those pieces improve.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Kelowna Rockets

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
21	10	60

Forecast

Projected 21 of 23 overall and 10 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 60 points. Kelowna's low projection reflects the current scoring picture and uncertain returns. Its goaltending and incoming talent offer reasons to watch for a better outcome.

How the team is taking shape

Kelowna's current roster shows a team with significant work to do in replacing established offence. Rowan Guest, Dawson Gerwing and Owen Folstrom provide returning production, while Dane Sorensen adds junior experience on defence. Vojtech Cihar and Tomas Poletin remain part of the outlook with reduced weight while at NHL camps; their returns would considerably strengthen the forward group.

Goaltending outlook

Harrison Boettiger posted a .911 save percentage in 41 appearances, and Josh Banini recorded .890 in 29. Linden Sobocan has only a brief WHL sample. The experienced pair makes the crease a stronger starting point than the current scoring forecast, with Boettiger especially important to Kelowna's chances.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Rowan Guest D 64 GP 25 PTS	Season roster
Dane Sorensen D See spotlight	Season roster
Harrison Boettiger G 41 GP .911 SV%	Season roster

Roster changes

Sorensen signed after Kelowna acquired his rights from Victoria. Recent club releases confirmed further cuts, including Braeden Payne and Joel Ngandu. The forecast also allows for unresolved overage and NHL camp decisions rather than assuming every veteran is available all season.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [NHL camps](#) | [Transactions](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Rowan Guest

Experience on Kelowna's blue line

In 2025-26, Guest recorded 1 goals and 24 assists for 25 points in 64 WHL games. Guest gives Kelowna a defender with a full season's worth of meaningful experience as the roster changes around him. Most of his scoring came through assists, making him a useful contributor to the team's attacking support. The Rockets also need that experience to help stabilize their overall play. A dependable season from Guest would provide valuable continuity while newcomers and returning camp participants settle into the group.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Dane Sorensen

Junior experience from two leagues

Sorensen recorded a goal and eight assists in 12 BCHL regular-season games with Brooks in 2025-26, after a USHL stint with Sioux Falls. Kelowna's signing announcement emphasized his defensive detail and physical contribution, as well as his championship experience with Brooks. Those nine points cover only the BCHL stint, not his whole season. His adjustment gives the Rockets an interesting addition beside their returning defenders and experienced goaltenders.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Outside-league record](#)

3 Harrison Boettiger

The crease offers a stronger starting point

In 2025-26, Boettiger made 41 WHL appearances with a .911 save percentage. Boettiger's record gives Kelowna a credible reason for optimism even while its scoring outlook remains uncertain. Josh Banini adds another experienced option, so the Rockets have choices in the crease. The next test is sustaining that level behind a changed lineup. If Boettiger can keep providing dependable saves, Kelowna will have more time for its new forwards and NHL camp returnees to establish their contribution.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Tri-City Americans

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
22	11	57

Forecast

Projected 22 of 23 overall and 11 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 57 points. Tri-City begins near the bottom of this forecast after losing established scoring. Its young forwards and experienced lead goalie provide a route to improvement.

How the team is taking shape

Cruz Pavao is the leading established scorer in Tri-City's current forward group. Eli McKamey adds a younger player with room to grow, while Crew Martinson and Grady Martin provide support. Jakub Vanecek remains a conditional part of the defence while pursuing an NHL opportunity. The Americans need several developing players to take larger offensive roles.

Goaltending outlook

Xavier Wendt recorded a .905 save percentage over 43 appearances, giving Tri-City an encouraging foundation. Ryan Grout played 30 games with an .879 mark, and Karter Gibson is another listed prospect. Wendt's continued progress is one of the clearest ways this team could beat its forecast.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Cruz Pavao RW 64 GP 43 PTS	Preseason roster
Eli McKamey RW 48 GP 17 PTS	Preseason roster
Xavier Wendt G 43 GP .905 SV%	Preseason roster

Roster changes

McKamey arrived in the deal sending Savin Virk to Victoria. Cash Koch moved to Vancouver and Carter Kingerski to Prince Albert. The September 14 Pavao announcement says he is entering his third Americans season, so his college commitment is not treated as an immediate exit.

[League roster](#) | [Club update](#) | [NHL camps](#) | [Transactions](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Cruz Pavao

A leading role remains in Tri-City

In 2025-26, Pavao recorded 21 goals and 22 assists for 43 points in 64 WHL games. Pavao's September college announcement also confirmed that he is entering his third season with the Americans. He therefore remains a central part of this outlook. With established scorers moving elsewhere, Tri-City needs more responsibility from its returning group. Pavao's balanced production gives the club a useful base. Continued growth from him would help support Eli McKamey and the other younger forwards as the attack takes shape.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Eli McKamey

A new setting for the next step

In 2025-26, McKamey recorded 6 goals and 11 assists for 17 points in 48 WHL games. McKamey moves from Victoria to Tri-City in the trade involving Savin Virk. His previous WHL record is still an early foundation, making development more important than expecting an immediate replacement for Virk's scoring. The Americans have room for younger forwards to take on larger roles. McKamey's progress through that opportunity will be one of the clearest measures of how quickly the reshaped attack can improve.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

3 Xavier Wendt

A strong piece to build around

In 2025-26, Wendt made 43 WHL appearances with a .905 save percentage. Wendt gives Tri-City an experienced goalie with an encouraging save record. That is especially useful while the forward group replaces scoring and younger players gain responsibility. Ryan Grout offers another experienced option, but Wendt's previous season provides the stronger statistical foundation. If he can maintain that standard, the Americans will have a better chance of staying in close games while the rest of the lineup develops.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Club update](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

Vancouver Giants

League rank	Conference rank	Projected points
23	12	55

Forecast

Projected 23 of 23 overall and 12 of 12 in the Western Conference, at about 55 points. Vancouver has upside in its younger forwards, but this forecast asks for evidence of more consistent scoring depth and goal prevention before placing it higher.

How the team is taking shape

Mathis Preston, Jakob Oreskovic and Joe Iginla give Vancouver a promising group to build around. Brett Olson, Tobias Tomik and Blake Chorney add further scoring possibilities. The roster has recognizable talent, but the forecast sees less established production and defensive scoring than many Western rivals. Turning individual progress into a more balanced team will be the challenge.

Goaltending outlook

Burke Hood returns after 42 appearances and an .892 save percentage. Oliver Bryks has only one prior appearance, while Maverick Bell is another listed option. Hood's experience is valuable, but Vancouver will need both steadier team defence and dependable support in net to make a sustained climb.

Players to know

Player and 2025-26 WHL record	Current evidence
Mathis Preston RW 46 GP 44 PTS	Preseason roster
Joe Iginla RW 59 GP 31 PTS	Preseason roster
Burke Hood G 42 GP .892 SV%	Preseason roster

Roster changes

The Giants added Cash Koch, Rhys Pederson and Derek Thurston in offseason deals. Nickolas Kovich arrived from Everett on September 12; a duplicate preseason listing is counted only once here. Several overage candidates remain, leaving more roster decisions ahead.

[League roster](#) | [Roster update](#) | [Transactions](#) | [NHL camps](#)

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

Three players to watch

1 Mathis Preston

A central threat for Vancouver

In 2025-26, Preston recorded 18 goals and 26 assists for 44 points in 46 WHL games. Preston's production came in fewer than a full schedule of appearances, giving Vancouver a clear benefit if he can remain available more often. The Giants have other promising forwards, including Joe Iginla and Brett Olson, but need more consistent offence from the group. Preston's next season is important to that effort. A productive, sustained contribution would help make the attack more competitive than its preseason projection.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#)

2 Joe Iginla

More responsibility within a young attack

In 2025-26, Iginla recorded 15 goals and 16 assists for 31 points in 59 WHL games. Iginla gives Vancouver a younger forward with a useful season of WHL experience to build on. Mathis Preston and Jakob Oreskovic provide more established production, while the group has room for several players to grow together. His next step is making his scoring contribution more regular. If Iginla and the other developing forwards improve at the same time, the Giants could narrow the gap to their Western rivals.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#)

3 Burke Hood

An experienced goalie in a developing group

In 2025-26, Hood made 42 WHL appearances with a .892 save percentage. Hood gives Vancouver a substantial returning WHL record in the crease, with much less league experience among the other listed options. That makes his consistency important as the team works to improve its overall results. The Giants also need to give him better support rather than placing every difficult game on the goalie. Progress from Hood and the defence together would strengthen the club's chances of beating this forecast.

[League roster](#) | [WHL record](#) | [Roster update](#)

Profiles checked September 16 2026. Roles remain subject to roster changes.

What the rankings mean

The forecast

This edition refreshes the existing WHL scoring framework rather than fitting a new standings model. It combines previous team results, the production and experience represented by the current player pool, and limited information on incoming players. Updated individual scoring and save-percentage estimates supplement that picture. The resulting scores are converted to rounded points over 68 games. They are comparative estimates, not calibrated probabilities or guarantees.

The roster snapshot

The September 16 working pool contains 667 candidates across 23 clubs. Eleven teams have populated regular-season listings; twelve use preseason listings. Official cuts, available club lists and late trades refine those pages. Duplicates and players outside the normal 2006–2010 birth-year range are removed. These are not certified opening-night rosters. Absence from a working list does not establish a departure.

Remaining decisions

Listed players generally receive full weight. The combined contribution of 2006-born players is capped at three overage slots, without predicting who leaves. Selected players missing while at NHL camps remain in the pool at reduced weight; Cole Temple also receives reduced weight following Red Deer's illness update. Final assignments, health and professional camp returns can move teams materially.

What changed and what remains uncertain

The refresh includes all 72 goalies in the saved 2025–26 table, instead of only qualified leaders, and separates defencemen correctly from forwards in scoring estimates. Individual projections use past WHL production and experience; players without league history receive modest baselines. Only six verified outside-league records receive specific production adjustments. Import and incoming NHL-draft metadata remain partial. Coaching, chemistry and most development changes are not measured directly, and no team-specific confidence interval is claimed.

Sources and player records

Official league roster pages, club announcements, the transaction ledger and NHL camp coverage support this edition. Player statistics describe the whole 2025–26 WHL season, including multiple clubs where applicable; outside-league records are labelled separately. Linked sources accompany every team and spotlight. Profiles identify players worth following without guaranteeing a role or breakout. All reporting and projections are a September 16 snapshot.

[Official WHL schedule](#) | [League transactions](#)