

Valley Jr A Wildcats Newsletter Update



January 2022

Coach's Message

Brandon Benedict
Head Coach & GM



The first half of the season has been one of many ups and downs both on and off the ice; to wins and losses, to players coming in and going out through trades. Everything considered where we stand in the league at the moment, I'm happy with how the team has progressed towards the end of the first half of the season as we sit third in a very competitive division.

Throughout the holiday period we've made some acquisitions which I believe makes us a stronger team to contend down the stretch. I believe as a group we have an opportunity here to stay in the mix, and to grow and climb for a great second half push. However, our competition has all gotten stronger, so the team which finds their "groove" and comes together the quickest after the long break will be the team with the highest chance of having success.

Hockey was going strong early in the season to now being in a pause stage: and that is probably the biggest obstacle we all face and hope to overcome in the second half. When we get back on the ice I'm looking forward to a fresh start and to a new and exciting opportunity for the Wildcats in 2022!

Brandon Benedict





Scoring Leaders as of January 10, 2021

#9 Luke Wilson	25 GP	11 G	19 A	30 Pts
#19 Felix Laniel	24 GP	12 G	13 A	25 Pts
#11 Julian Vandervoet	24 GP	10 G	9 A	19 Pts
#16 Ethan Landry	26 GP	6 G	11 A	17 Pts
#24 Josh Crooks	26 GP	8 G	7 A	15 Pts
#20 Brendan MacRitchie	18 GP	6 G	6 A	12 Pts

Standings as of January 10, 2022

EastLink South Division

GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS
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1	Yarmouth Mariners
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28	18	7	3	0	39
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2	Amherst Ramblers
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27	17	7	1	2	37
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3	Valley Wildcats
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26	12	11	2	1	27
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4	Truro Bearcats
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24	11	11	2	0	24
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5	Pictou County Weeks Crushers
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22	8	11	2	1	19
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6	South Shore Lumberjacks
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25	4	19	1	1	10
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Big Moves on the Trade Market



The Wildcats are thrilled to announce the acquisition of Philippe Casault. Head Coach/GM Brandon Benedict brings in a 20 year-old veteran with two seasons of Major Junior experience with the Rimouski Oceanic. As team Captain with Fredericton, Casault brings elite leadership and ability to the table. His two-way play and high-end skillset is a major addition to the Wildcats lineup. Expect to see Philippe out there for big minutes in the second half of the Wildcats season.



Riley Spears comes to the Wildcats from the South Shore Lumberjacks as one of the top Forwards in the League and has been a major contributor over the last two seasons. He posted 18 goals and 27 points overall in 30 games in 2020-21. His current statline has the veteran scoring 8 goals and 7 assists in 22 games played this season. The Wildcats are extremely excited about the addition of Riley's scoring acumen!



Familiar faces return to the Cats'



Blake Deacon rejoins the Wildcats to add to the ever-growing depth up front for Coach Benedict. His addition brings in a teammate capable of stepping in to multiple roles and being a solid contributor. Blake posted 11 points in the abbreviated 2020-21 campaign and is looking ahead to an even greater impact on the Wildcats' second-half run to the playoffs. Welcome back Blake!!



The Wildcats are also pleased to announce that Cameron Henderson is set to return to the Valley after being assigned to the club from the Acadie-Bathurst Titan of the QMJHL. The 16-year old winger brings a solid 5'11, 196 lb frame to the table and is coming off of a goal and three assists in his last five games in the Q. Having the opportunity to gain more experience in the MHL is a plus for both Cam and Wildcats fans who get to enjoy his presence in the lineup! Welcome home Cam!!



Wildcats' MHL Player of the Week Honourees



Week of Dec 6-12

1-0-0-1, 1.44 GAA
81 Saves, 0.964 SV %

29 Antoine Lyonnais



Week of Nov 29 - Dec 5

2 GP
1 Goal, 1 Assist

5 Vincent Bujold



Week of Nov 22-28

2 GP
1 Goal, 2 Assists

5 Vincent Bujold



Week of Nov 15-21

2 GP
4 Goals, 4 Assists

9 Luke Wilson



Wildcats Community Update

Holiday Food Drive A Success

Thanks to the volunteer work of our players and staff, along with the generosity of our fans, the Wildcats were able to make a sizable donation to the Berwick Food Bank. Pictured below is Coach Benedict and co. delivering the goods. Thank you to all involved!!



Christmas Events in Berwick

The guys were out in full force for the Town of Berwick Christmas gatherings throughout December; including this special visit from Santa pictured here!!



Wildcats Community Update



Curling Night

The Wildcats were hosted by the Berwick Curling Club for an evening of team-building and competing on the ice in a different way! Fun was had across the board and a big thank you goes out to the Club for their hospitality!! 🏹

Billet Family Bonding Event

Our players and organization are so appreciative of the great group of Billet families we have this season. A great night was shared by all when our guys got together with some billet family 'brothers and sisters' for a special bonding event. Thanks to our Billet Coordinator, Michelle Connors!



Three-Star Award Race

IPC Securities sponsors an annual cash award to the player who accumulates the most points from being named one of the 'Three Stars' of the game after each contest.

The points race stays tight heading into the second half. The current top 5 are Luke Wilson, Justin Bourque, Antoine Lyonnais, Felix Laniel, Josh Crooks.



'Every Child Matters' Night A Success

Our November 26 home game was played in dedication to the 'Every Child Matters' movement supporting Indigenous rights and the path to reconciliation. Our own Brendan MacRitchie, a member of the Miawpukek First Nation took the ceremonial faceoff and proceeded to score the game's first goal! It was a special night the whole organization was proud to be a part of.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who took part in the jersey auction that took place in the week following the game.

Special thanks goes out to season ticket holder Larry Morse who won the bidding on five player jerseys and presented them back to the guys as a lovely memento.



Drake Batherson - NHL All-Star!

Valley Wildcats alumnus, and current Ottawa Senators forward Drake Batherson had another big accolade come his way being named a first-time NHL All-Star. Drake will play on the Atlantic Division squad during this year's event held in Las Vegas, NV on February 5th. Congratulations goes out to one of our own, well deserved!!



Justin Bourque named MHL Goalie of the Month

Wildcats backstop Justin Bourque received the league honor of being named Goaltender of the Month for November. Congratulations to Justin on a hard earned recognition.





Upcoming Home Games

Friday February 11th vs Yarmouth

7pm

Saturday February 12th vs South Shore

7pm

Friday February 25th vs Miramichi

7pm

Saturday February 26th vs Amherst

7pm

Saturday March 5th vs Truro

730pm

Sunday March 6th vs Pictou County

3pm

