



For immediate release

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Wildcats Trade for Veteran Defender

Deal with Edmundston brings in three new faces

BERWICK, NS --- The Valley Junior A Wildcats, proud members of the Maritime Hockey League, have completed a trade with the Edmundston Blizzard, adding players for the present and future.

The deal sends Brock McLeod, a 20 year old forward who spent most of last season with the Halifax Mooseheads of the QMJHL, and a conditional second round pick in the 2021 draft, to northern New Brunswick. In return, the Wildcats receive 20 year old defenceman Keenan Gillis, 17 year old defender Brant King, and 16 year old forward Joseph Merriam.

Gillis has spent the last two years with the Blizzard. The Port Hawkesbury native tallied 27 points last season, and played in all fifty games for the club. Wildcats General Manager Brandon Benedict says Gillis is a top defenceman in the MHL, and will be an impact player this season.

Brant King, a native of Lower Sackville, NS, scored 23 points last season with the Halifax Macs in the Nova Scotia Major Midget Hockey League. “King is a strong, puck moving defenceman,” says Benedict. “He has the ability to jump up into the rush and contribute on both sides of the puck.”

Joseph Merriam played his first season of Major Midget hockey last year, lacing up with the Cole Harbour Wolfpack. The 16 year old from Milford, NS scored 14 points last season. Benedict says Merriam is an exciting forward who plays with lots of energy. “He does all the little things to help the team have success.”

The Valley Junior A Wildcats kick off their sixth season at the Appledome in Berwick on Friday, September 13 hosting the Fredericton Red Wings. Two home pre-season games are also scheduled: Sunday, September 1 at 4pm in Berwick hosting the Truro Bearcats, and Saturday, September 7 hosting the Yarmouth Mariners at Credit Union Place in Kingston at 7pm. For more information, and all the latest news, visit www.valleywildcats.ca

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