



Wildcats Enjoy Opening Weekend Split at Home

The Valley Jr A Wildcats enjoyed a solid split against a pair of perennial MHL powerhouse teams on opening weekend of the MHL regular season. Opening night saw the Yarmouth Mariners come to the Kings Mutual Century Centre and take care of business with a 3-0 victory. A tight opening period deadlock was broken with Yarmouth's first goal of the game on the power play at 18:29 of the frame. The Wildcats responded with a strong second period and enjoyed multiple scoring opportunities but Yarmouth netminder AJ DiChiara's strong play kept Valley off the board. After the scoreless second, most of the third was played that way until another late marker by Yarmouth's Alex Roode made it a two-goal deficit. The cats' gave it their all to finish the period but an empty netter in the latter stages spelled the end on this night for the home team.

Not to be deterred, the Wildcats immediately took the action to the visiting Amherst Ramblers the following night. The home squad upped their physicality early in the contest to set the tone and goaltender Antoine Lyonnais bolstered the defensive effort in the first with a phenomenal glove save. The game's opening goal came off the stick of Brendan MacRitchie streaking down the left wing at 13:26 of the second period, assisted by linemates Felix Laniel and Ethan Landry. The lead was short-lived however, with two Amherst goals coming 26 seconds apart taking the visitors into the second intermission with a one goal lead. Valley newcomer Laniel immediately stepped up just three minutes into the third and wristed a beautiful feed from Landry top corner to tie it at 2-2. Brendan MacRitchie was credited with an assist on this one as well. The MHL's hottest pre-season scorer took it from there as Aaron Brown netted the go-ahead goal in the period's final five minutes, with clear chemistry showing between he and team captain Luke Wilson. Fittingly, Ethan Landry potted an open net goal to seal the game, giving all three linemates a goal (and three points each) in this one.

The Wildcats next home game takes place Friday Oct 8, 7pm, against the Grand Falls Rapids serving as the second game of a three games in three nights stretch. The busy week begins this Thursday in Pictou County and concludes back on the road Sunday in Truro to take on the Bearcats.

As always, Wildcats tickets can be purchased through [showpass.com/wildcatstickets](https://www.showpass.com/wildcatstickets) & [showpass.com/vwseasonontickets](https://www.showpass.com/vwseasonontickets). All MHL games can also be viewed by subscription to the HockeyTV website and mobile app.