



PRINCE GEORGE
COUGARS GAME NOTES

GM 4/24- PRINCE GEORGE COUGARS vs. VANCOUVER GIANTS

LAST GAME: The Prince George Cougars (1-2-0-0) fell to the Kamloops Blazers (4-0-0-0) 6-1 on Thursday night at the Sandman Centre. The two teams were tied 1-1 after the first period, but the Blazers exploded for four goals in the second period, on their way to their third-straight win. Jack Sander ('00) scored the Cougars' lone goal in the first period. Taylor Gauthier ('01) stopped 36 of 42 shots. The power-play was 0-4 and the penalty-kill went 4-6. The Cougars fell to 0-2-0-0 against the Blazers.

TONIGHT: Tonight, is the first of six meetings between the Cougars and Vancouver Giants. Last season, the Cougars split the eight-game season series against the Giants, posting a 4-4-0-0 record. In the last five years, the Cougars are 15-15-2-1 against the Giants. These two teams haven't met since March 7, 2020 when the Cougars upended the Giants 4-3 in overtime. That's 393 days ago. Josh Maser ('99) had a team best 10 points (6-4-10) against the Giants last season. The Giants' Tristen Nielsen ('00) had nine points (3-6-9) in 8 games against the Cougars.

SEASON SERIES

Apr 4 th Vancouver at Prince George	Apr 19 th Prince George at Vancouver
Apr 8 th Prince George at Vancouver *PPD	May 2 nd Prince George at Vancouver
Apr 11 th Vancouver at Prince George	May 5 th Vancouver at Prince George

NEXT GAME: The Cougars are scheduled to play the Victoria Royals on Tuesday, April 6th at 7:00 pm in Kamloops. Prince George topped Victoria 5-3 back on March 29th in Kelowna. Fans can watch the game on CHL TV, or they can listen to 94-3 The GOAT.

REINFORCEMENTS: The Cougars' blue-line, which started the season with five skaters, has been reinforced. Rookie Jaren Brinson ('04) was cleared to play this week and made his WHL debut in Thursday's loss to Kamloops. Brinson was held pointless but had two shots on net and was an even rating. Hudson Thornton ('03) has completed his quarantine and has joined the team in the RE/MAX Hub Centre. Thornton started this season in the United States Hockey League.

KOHNER LOANED: The Cougars have loaned forward Mitch Kohner ('02) to the Spokane Chiefs for the remainder of the 2020-21 season. Due to the ongoing Canada / U.S. border closure, the Cougars were unable to bring Kohner to the RE/MAX Hub. Last season, the Rosemont, MN

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product had 14 points (8-6-14) in 59 games. Kohner will be returned to the Cougars at the conclusion of the season.

FRESH FACES: The Cougars roster features 10 rookies, including six 16-year-olds in Ty Young, Jaren Brinson, Keaton Dowhaniuk, Kyren Gronick, Carter MacAdams, and Koehn Ziemmer. 15-year-old Riley Heidt, the second overall selection in the 2020 WHL Draft, is also on the roster as an Affiliate Player (AP). Rounding out the rookie class is a trio of 17-year-olds in Hudson Thornton, Fischer O'Brien, and Michael Svenson. Prince George has 14 returning players: two goaltenders, four defencemen, and eight forwards. The Cougars are the second-youngest team in the WHL with an average age of just under 18.

VETERAN CORE: The Cougars have 14 players returning from the 2019-20 roster. That's 1,682 games of experience back in 2020-21. Both goalies are back from last season, as Taylor Gauthier and Tyler Brennan are joined by 16-year-old AP, Ty Young. On the blue line, the Cougars have four returning defencemen, led by Captain Jack Sander. The team's most experience is upfront, with eight players back from last year's squad. The Cougars did however graduate their top four scorers from last season. Who will lead the offence in 2021? Time will tell.

LEADERSHIP GROUP: The Cougars named defenceman Jack Sander the 26th captain in franchise history. Sander is set to begin his fourth season with the Cougars and is the most experienced defenceman on the team's roster. The 20-year-old has played in 181 career regular season games and has compiled 38 points (8g, 30a) to go along with 40 penalty-minutes. Last season, the Beaumont, AB product set career highs in goals (4), assists (24), and points (28) in 60 regular season games. The 6'1", 196-pound rear-guard was signed by the Cougars in May 2017. The Cougars also named Connor Bowie, Ethan Browne, Jonny Hooker, and Majid Kaddoura.

ROSTER COMPOSITION: The roster features 11 players from Alberta, six from B.C., four from Manitoba, and three from Saskatchewan. 14 of the 26 players are drafted by the Cougars, five were acquired via trade, and four were signed. Of the 14 that were drafted by the Cougars, six were in the first round, four in the second, one each in the third and fourth rounds, three in the fifth round and four drafted from rounds six through 10.

GAUTHIER WINS SILVER AT WJHC: Taylor Gauthier won a silver medal with Team Canada at the 2021 IIHF World Junior Hockey Championship in Edmonton, AB earlier this year. Gauthier was one of three goalies on Canada's roster. Canada went undefeated through the round-



robin and playoff rounds, before ultimately falling to Team USA in the gold medal game 2-0. Gauthier has a wealth of international experience, having played for Canada at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge, the Hlinka-Gretzky Cup, the World Under-18 Hockey Championship, and the World Juniors.

MOVING UP THE RANKS: A trio of players from last season's team signed professional contracts ahead the 2020-21 season. Forward Josh Maser signed with the Iowa Wild in the American Hockey League (AHL). Iowa is the Minnesota Wild's AHL affiliate. Defenceman Cole Moberg signed with the Rockford IceHogs in the AHL, and Vladislav Mikhalchuk signed with the Wheeling Nailers in the ECHL. The IceHogs are the Chicago Blackhawks' AHL affiliate and Moberg was drafted by Chicago in the seventh round, 194th overall, in the 2019 NHL Draft. The Nailers are part of the Pittsburgh Penguins farm system as Mikhalchuk signed there as a free agent.