



# THUNDERBIRDS V. WINTERHAWKS

Game Notes 10.9.21

**LAST GAME:** Seattle improved to 2-0 on the season with their second road win, defeating the Spokane Chiefs, 5-3, Friday night at the Spokane Arena. Ty Bauer scored the winning goal, breaking a 3-3 tie with seven minutes remaining in the third period. Jordan Gustafson with two assists and Conner Roulette with a goal and an assist, each had multiple point games.

**VERSUS PORTLAND:** This will be the second meeting with the Winterhawks this season. Seattle won down at the Portland Veterans Memorial Coliseum one week ago, 3-1. Matt Rempe led the attack with a pair of goals. Thomas Milic was the winning goaltender with 34 saves on 35 shots. The team's met once in the preseason with Portland prevailing, 5-1.

**TWO MUCH:** This is the first time the Thunderbirds have begun the season with wins in their first two games since 2018-19. That season they defeated Portland opening night at home and followed up with a road win in Langley, BC against the Vancouver Giants. The last time Seattle started a season with three straight wins was 2013-14 when they opened the campaign with wins over Portland, Vancouver and Tri-City.

**THAT'S AMORE:** The highlight of the game was Allesandro Segafredo's first WHL goal. The unassisted goal came at 9:57 of the first period. Segafredo also led the team in +/- against Spokane with a +3 rating. Seattle selected the Asiago, Italy native in the first round of the 2021 CHL Import Draft, 41<sup>st</sup> overall.

**GET TO THE POINT:** Four T-Birds have registered a point in both games to begin the season. In addition to Segafredo's goal against Spokane, he had an assist opening night in Portland. Reid Schaefer has scored a goal in both games (he added an assist opening night). Lucas Ciona was credited with an assist against Portland and scored his first goal of the season in the win over the Chiefs. Kevin Korchinski has registered an assist in each game.

**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK:** Earlier this week Seattle acquired 20 year old defenseman Eric Van Impe from the Medicine Hat Tigers. Seattle sent a pair of 2021 draft picks the other way. Van Impe made his T-Bird debut against the Chiefs, meeting the team at the arena before the game. Ironically, Van Impe was originally selected in the second round, 30<sup>th</sup> overall, of the 2016 WHL Draft by the Chiefs. He never played a regular season game for Spokane. He was traded to Medicine Hat, along with Hayden Ostir, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in exchange for Zach Fischer. In 152 games in the WHL he has 36 points (10g, 26a).

**FOUR ON THE FLOOR:** Through two games Seattle has scored eight goals for an average of four per game. They have compiled that offense without their leading scorer from last season being available. Henrik Rybinski was injured on the opening shift of the first game last Saturday in Portland. Rybinski is listed as day-to-day. In the abbreviated 23 game campaign last spring, Rybinski registered 28 points (7g, 21a). So far the Thunderbirds best period has been the second where they have accumulated five of their eight goals.

**YOUNG GUNS:** Prior to the acquisition of Van Impe the T-Birds possessed the youngest roster in the WHL with an average age of 17.56 years old.

**NEXT GAME:** The Thunderbirds host the Everett Silvertips next Friday at the accesso ShoWare Center. Game time is 7:05 p.m.