



GAME NOTES

2025-26 SEASON IN REVIEW: The Thunderbirds used a 13-5-3-2 run over the final two months of the regular season to go from outside the Western Conference playoff picture into the conference's seventh seed. Seattle was 18-22-2-1 entering February. The T-Birds then went 6-4-2-1 in February and 7-1-1-1 in March. The Thunderbirds were 13-14-2-1 pre-Christmas and 18-13-4-3 post-Christmas.

REGULAR SEASON SERIES: The Thunderbirds were 0-3-0-1 in four games versus Penticton in the regular season, including 0-2 here at the South Okanagan Events Centre. The T-Birds fell here, 10-4 on October 4th and lost in Penticton, 4-2, November 7th. Seattle dropped a 5-1 decision to the Vees December 12th at the accesso ShoWare Center. The T-Birds lone point earned in the regular season series was in a 5-4 shootout loss February 1st in Kent, overcoming a 4-0 deficit.

RECENT POST SEASON HISTORY: The Thunderbirds were the eighth seed in the 2025 WHL Playoffs and lost their first round series with the one seeded Everett Silvertips, in six games, losing Game Six, 1-0 in double overtime. The T-Birds missed the postseason in 2024. In 2023 The Thunderbirds were WHL Champions while in 2022 they lost in the WHL Championship Series.

GAME ONE: The T-Birds fell, 3-2 in overtime last Friday to open up the series with the Vees. Noah Kosick and Antonio Martorana were Seattle's goal scorers. Marek Sklenicka made 42 saves in goal. The T-Birds were 0-for-4 on the power play and 3-of-4 on the penalty kill. The T-Birds were outshot 45-27.

GAME TWO: Coster Dunn had Seattle's lone goal as the T-Birds fell, 4-1, in the second game of the series Saturday at the South Okanagan Events Centre. Matthew Gard had the lone assist. The Thunderbirds went 0-for-4 on the power play while the Vees were 2-for-5. Final shots were 41-30 in favor of Penticton.

GAME THREE: Cameron Schmidt scored twice but the T-Birds lost, 4-3. Joe Gramer had the T-Birds third goal. In his postseason debut Grayson Malinoski stopped 36 shots. Once again Seattle was 0-for-4 on the power play

BENCH BOSS: This was Matt O'Dette's ninth season as the head coach of the Thunderbirds. With a record of 283-225-31-16) O'Dette is the franchise leader in coaching wins O'Dette has been on the Thunderbirds bench as the head coach or an assistant for 13 seasons, a span that includes two WHL championships, four Western Conference titles and two U.S. Division banners. O'Dette's postseason head coaching record is now 35-28.

ROSTER BREAKDOWN: Of the 23 players currently on the T-Birds roster, eight (Cumby, Mayes, Gard, Bibeau, Hoher, Kosick, Schmidt and Cail) were acquired via trade. Three (Pekar, Sklenicka and Mrtko), were selected in the CHL Import Draft. Seattle's roster currently features three 20-year-olds (2005s), one 19 year old (2006), twelve 18 year olds (2007s), four 17 year olds (2008s) and three 16 year olds (2009s).

LOV TO C IT: The T-Birds named Simon Lovsin their captain after the departure of Braeden Cootes in a trade to Prince Albert. Lovsin was a second round pick of the T-Birds (44th overall) in the 2021 WHL Prospects Draft.

CENTRAL SCOUTING: Two T-Birds, Noah Kosick (55th among North American skaters) and Marek Sklenicka (8th among North American goalies) made NHL Central Scouting's Midterm rankings for the 2026 NHL Draft..

SERIES SCHEDULE: If necessary, Game Five will be back in Penticton Friday. Game Six would be Sunday, April 5th in Kent and a Game Seven would be Tuesday, April 7th in Penticton.



SEATTLE THUNDERBIRDS 2025-26 Roster



#	FORWARDS	POS	SH	HT	WT	HOMETOWN	D.O.B	2024-25 Season	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	NHL	Pronunciation
7	Gard, Matthew	C	L	6-5	197	Winnipeg, MB	Apr 7/07	RED DEER REBELS	WHL	66	19	17	36	-4		PHIL '25	
9	Dunn, Coster	C	R	6-1	188	Stony Plain, AB	Sep. 13/05	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	67	26	30	56	-14	53	Free Agent	Kaw-ster
14	Mayes, Sawyer	C	L	6-4	188	Salmon Arm, BC	Jan. 8/07	HITMEN / THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	61	5	9	14	3	33	Eligible 2026	Mayz
16	England, Brock	C	L	5-10	160	Red Deer, AB	Aug. 22/09	Calgary Edge School U18 Prep	CSSHL	36	25	33	58		38	Eligible 2027	
17	Bibeau, Ethan	C	L	6-1	191	Winnipeg, MB	Jan 1/07	PRINCE ALBERT RAIDERS	WHL	65	9	11	20	E	46	Eligible 2026	Bee-boh
22	Lovsin, Simon	RW	R	6-0	184	Stony Plain, AB	Jan. 22/06	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	64	10	25	35	-5	77	Eligible 2026	Love-sin
24	Holberton, Brayden	RW	R	6-4	206	Sparwood, BC	Jun. 14/07	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	65	4	6	10	-19	120	Eligible 2026	
26	Miller, Logan	C	L	6-2	182	Grande Prairie, AB	Jul. 27/08	OHA Edmonton U17 Prep	CSSHL	35	19	31	50		30	Eligible 2026	
27	Laraque, Marcus	RW	R	6-3	204	Edmonton, AB	Mar. 30/09	HC Edmonton U18	JPHL	29	20	32	52		118	Eligible 2027	Luh-ROCK
36	Cail, Caden	RW	R	6-2	195	Kamloops, B.C.	Aug 17/07	VANCOUVER GIANTS	WHL	47	2	1	3	-4	13	Eligible 2026	Cayl
71	Kosick, Noah	C	L	5-10	160	Victoria, B.C.	Aug 18/08	SWIFT CURRENT BRONCOS	WHL	34	1	2	3	-5	10	Eligible 2026	Kaw-sick
88	Pekar, Matej	LW	L	5-10	165	Prerov, CZE	Sep. 8/07	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	64	17	15	32	-13	58	Eligible 2026	Mah-tay Peh-cash
89	Martorana, Antonio	RW	R	5-8	178	Edmonton, AB	Jul. 18/07	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	49	14	20	34	-4	46	Eligible 2026	Mar-toe-rah-nuh
91	Schmidt, Cameron	RW	R	5-8	161	Prince George, BC	Jan 19/07	VANCOUVER GIANTS	WHL	61	40	38	78	-7	44	DAL '25	
#	DEFENSE	POS	SH	HT	WT	HOMETOWN	D.O.B	2024-25 Season	LEAGUE	GP	G	A	PTS	+/-	PIM	NHL	Pronunciation
2	Hoher, Brennen	D	R	6-2	195	Calgary, AB	May 29/07	Okotoks Oilers	BCHL	25	0	4	4		16	Eligible 2026	Hawk-er
3	Cumby, Ashton	D	L	6-5	216	Bonnyville, AB	Jul. 19/05	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	68	2	11	13	-13	102	CHI '25	Cum-bee
6	Popil, Vanek	D	R	6-1	178	Edmonton, AB	May. 14/08	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	55	1	5	6	-14	40	Eligible 2026	Paw-pull
21	Mrtka, Radim	D	R	6-6	216	Havlickuv, CZE	Jun. 9/07	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	43	3	32	35	10	46	BUF '25	Rah-deem Mert-kuh
23	Gramer, Joe	D	L	6-0	196	Moorhead, MN	Jul 14/05	Univ. Nebraska-Omaha	NCAA	33	0	4	4	1	4	Free Agent	GRAM-mer
25	Riley, Tai	D	L	5-9	188	Whitecourt, AB	Sep. 23/07	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	63	2	9	11	-12	27	Eligible 2026	Tye
74	Tash, Grayson	D	R	5-10	160	North Vancouver, BC	Apr. 12/09	Burnaby Winter Club U18 Prep	CSSHL	29	1	10	11		20	Eligible 2027	
#	GOALTENDERS	POS	CA	HT	WT	HOMETOWN	D.O.B	2024-25 Season	LEAGUE	GP	W	L	OL	GAA	SV %	NHL	Pronunciation
31	Malinoski, Grayson	G	L	6-0	164	Saskatoon, SK	Apr. 11/07	THUNDERBIRDS	WHL	23	7	12	1	4.50	.874	Eligible 2026	Mal-in-AWE-skee
35	Sklenicka, Marek	G	L	6-4	180	Litinov, CZE	Aug. 27/07	BK Mladá Boleslav U20	CZE U20	15	5	10	0	2.18	.928	Eligible 2026	Skleh-neeck-kuh

President: Colin Campbell

VP of Hockey Operations: Russ Farwell

General Manager: Bil La Forge

Assistant GM: Craig Goebel

Head Coach: Matt O'Dette

Assistant Coach: Carter Cochrane

Assistant Coach: Taylor Makin

Assistant Coach: Brett Cameron

Athletic Therapist: Tom Orr

Equipment Manager: Ryan Campbell

Director of Player Development: Steven Goertzen

Goaltending Coach: Brad Guzda

Director of Scouting: Jag Bal



Wednesday, April 1, 2026

The Penticton Vees take on the Seattle Thunderbirds in Game 4 of their first round series. A win tonight would advance Penticton to the second round as they enter with a 3-0 series lead.

SERIES SO FAR: In their first ever WHL playoff game the Vees used a strong penalty kill and solid play from their goaltender AJ Reyelts to guide them to a 3-2 OT victory.

In Game 2, the Vees were dominant from start to finish on their way to a 4-1 win and 2-0 series lead. Jacob Kvasnicka and Tristan Petersen each had a goal and an assist in the Game 2 victory.

Last night, the two teams went back-and-forth for much of the night. Penticton would strike twice in the third and hang on to a 4-3 victory. Brady Birnie (2) opened the scoring while Jacob Kvasnicka (3), Ryden Evers (2) and Ethan Weber (1) also found the back of the net. AJ Reyelts made 29 saves in the victory.

PLAYERS TO WATCH: **Brady Birnie** has opened the scoring in two of the three games in this first round series and has three points in three games. **Tristen Petersen** has been a dominating force in front of the net in this series. All three of his first round points have come right on the Thunderbirds door step.

HEAD TO HEAD: The Vees went 4-0 against the Thunderbirds in the regular season outscoring Seattle 24-11. They did only play once after a flurry of deadline moves by the Thunderbirds, a game which the Vees won 5-4 in a shootout.

PLAYOFF SCHEDULE:

G5 - 04.03.26, SOEC (7:05PM)*

G6 - 04.05.26, @ SEA (5:05PM)*

G7 - 04.07.26, SOEC (7:05PM)*



TEAM NOTES

AJ Reyelts: 4th in playoff GAA (1.93), 5th in playoff Save% (.933)

Jacob Kvasnicka: 1st in Vees playoff points (3g, 2a), 9th in WHL playoff points

Ryden Evers: 3rd in playoff faceoff wins (42).

Matteo Danis: Leads the Vees in playoff experience with 30 post-season games.

Eight Vees: Have WHL post-season experience (Danis, Birnie, Tastad, Drancak, Pederson, Norrie, Valliant, McCallum)

Expansion Record Holders: Passed Everett for wins most in WHL expansion season (35 in 03/04). Passed Longueuil (QMJHL, 37 wins 82/83) for CHL record, Tied CHL&WHL Record for Shutouts by Expansion team (7).

YEARLY BREAKDOWN

2005-born (4): Nolan Stevenson, Brady Birnie, Ryden Evers, Matteo Danis,

2006-born (12): Ethan Weber, Louie Wehmann, Doogan Pederson, Chase Valliant, Diego Johnson, AJ Reyelts, Brittan Alstead, Morgan Tastad, Charlie Michaud, Tristan Petersen, Ethan McCallum, Samuel Drancak

2007-born (3): Callum Stone, Jacob Kvasicka, Cameron Norrie,

2008-born (3): Kash Alger-East, Sean Burick ,Noah Milford

2009-born (1): Brooks DeMars

Pronunciations

#4 Sean Burick (Burr-ick)

#7 Kash Alger-East (All-jurr)

#9 Louis Wehmann (Way-mehn)

#11 Charlie Michaud (Mee-Show)

#21 Ryden Evers (Ehh-Vers)

#27 Samuel Drancak (Drahn-Chack)

#29 Matteo Danis (Duh-nee)

#33 AJ Reyelts (Rye-ehIts)

#52 Morgan Tastad (tass-Tad) (As it looks)

#83 Jacob Kvasnicka (Kwas-nee-ka)



Penticton Season Roster

#	Last Name	First Name	Shoots	Position	Height	Weight	Birthdate	Hometown	Home Prov
2	Weber	Ethan	R	D	6'0	191	12/6/2006	Manhattan Beach	CA
4	Burick	Sean	R	D	6'7	209	1/5/2008	San Clemente	CA
6	Stevenson	Nolan	R	D	6'2	176	1/4/2005	Shaunavon	SK
7	Alger-East	Kash	L	LW	6'1	180	4/18/2008	Meadow Lake	SK
8	Stone	Callum	L	D	5'8	170	2/8/2007	Kelowna	BC
9	Wehmann	Louis	L	LW	6'1	210	4/12/2006	Wayzata	MN
10	DeMars	Brooks	L	C	6'1	183	6/9/2009	Hugo	MN
11	Michaud	Charlie	L	D	6'0	196	8/12/2006	Denver	CO
12	Pederson	Doogan	L	D	6'3	185	6/27/2006	Langley	BC
15	Birnie	Brady	L	LW	5'8	167	9/7/2005	Regina	SK
18	Valliant	Chase	L	C	6'1	185	5/18/2006	Surrey	BC
19	Johnson	Diego	R	RW	5'11	178	9/7/2006	Fort St. James	BC
21	Evers	Ryden	L	C	6'3	196	6/22/2005	Burnaby	BC
24	Milford	Noah	R	C	5'11	168	3/7/2008	Okotoks	AB
27	Drancak	Samuel	L	C	6'0	194	2/4/2006	Strakonice	CZE
29	Danis	Matteo	L	C	6'0	185	3/27/2005	Calgary	AB
30	McCallum	Ethan	L	G	6'4	203	4/11/2006	Brandon	MB
33	Reyelts	Andrew	L	G	6'1	178	3/20/2006	Proctor	MN
51	Alstead	Brittan	L	LW	5'9	175	1/6/2006	Plymouth	MN
52	Tastad	Morgan	L	D	6'3	190	1/10/2006	Loreburn	SK
83	Kvasnicka	Jacob	R	RW	5'11	170	8/10/2007	Burnsville	MN
91	Petersen	Tristan	L	LW	6'1	191	7/3/2006	Hvidovre	DEN
92	Norrie	Cameron	L	LW	6'1	195	5/29/2007	Kelowna	BC

GAME DAY STATS

Date	Time	Location	Referees	Linesmen
Wednesday, April 1st	7:05: PM	accesso ShoWare Center	Jeff Ingram	Eric McLaughlin
Round 1, Game 4			Trevor Nolan	Brennan Walker



Penticton
Vees
44-14-6-4/ 3-0



Seattle
Thunderbirds
31-27-6-4/ 0-3

#	Player	Pos	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
2	Ethan Weber (06L)	D	3	1	1	2	3	2
4	Sean Burick (08)	D	3	0	0	0	1	7
6	Nolan Stevenson (05)	D	3	0	2	2	-1	0
7	Kash Alger-East (08)	LW	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Callum Stone (07)	D	3	0	0	0	3	2
9	Louis Wehmann (06)	LW	3	1	1	2	0	4
10	Brooks DeMars (09)	C	2	0	0	0	0	0
11	Charlie Michaud (06)	D	3	1	0	1	0	2
12	Doogan Pederson (06)	D	3	0	1	1	-2	2
15	Brady Birnie (05)	LW	3	2	1	2	0	2
18	Chase Valliant (06)	C	3	0	1	1	1	0
19	Diego Johnson (06)	RW	2	0	1	1	1	2
21	Ryden Evers (05) 	C	3	2	2	4	1	0
24	Noah Milford (07)	C	1	0	0	0	0	0
27	Samuel Drancak (04)	C	3	0	2	2	E	0
29	Matteo Danis (05)	C	3	0	0	0	-1	0
51	Brittan Alstead (06)	RW	3	0	0	0	2	4
52	Morgan Tastad (06)	D	1	0	0	0	0	0
83	Jacob Kvasnicka (07) 	RW	3	3	2	5	0	0
91	Tristan Petersen (06)	LW	3	1	2	3	0	0
92	Cameron Norrie (07)	LW	3	0	0	0	0	2

Goaltender	GP	W	L	GAA	Sv%
30 Ethan McCallum (06)	0	0	0	0.00	0.000
33 Andrew Reyelts (06)	3	3	0	1.93	0.933

#	Player	Pos	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM
2	Brennen Hoher (07)	D	3	0	0	0	E	4
3	Ashton Cumby (05) 	D	3	0	0	0	1	2
6	Vanek Popil (08)	D	1	0	0	0	0	0
7	Matthew Gard (07) 	C	3	0	2	2	E	4
9	Coster Dunn (05)	C	3	1	1	2	2	0
14	Sawyer Mayes (07)	C	3	0	0	0	-3	0
16	Brock England (09)	C	3	0	1	1	-2	0
17	Ethan Bibeau (07)	C	3	0	0	0	E	2
21	Radim Mrtka (07)	D	3	0	1	1	-1	2
22	Simon Lovsin (06) 	RW	3	0	1	1	-1	2
23	Joe Gramer (05)	D	3	1	0	1	-3	2
24	Brayden Holberton (07)	RW	3	0	0	0	-3	7
25	Tai Riley (07L)	D	3	0	0	0	-1	0
26	Logan Miller (08)	LW	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Marcus Laraque (09)	RW	3	0	0	0	-1	4
36	Caden Cail (07)	RW	0	0	0	0	0	0
71	Noah Kosick (08)	C	3	1	1	2	3	0
74	Grayson Tash (09)	D	2	0	0	0	-1	0
88	Matej Pekar (07)	LW	3	0	0	0	0	0
89	Antonio Martorana (07)	RW	3	1	0	1	0	2
91	Cameron Schmidt (07) 	RW	3	2	1	3	3	2

Goaltender	GP	W	L	GAA	Sv %
31 Grayson Malinoski (07)	1	0	1	4.13	0.9
35 Marek Sklenicka (08)	2	0	2	3.31	0.919

GM & Head Coach	Fred Harbinson
Asst General Manager	Matthew Miller
Assistant Coach	Jason McKee
Assistant Coach	Matthew Vanden Berg
Athletic Trainer	Bob Pond
Equipment Manager	Josh Armstrong



General Manager	Bil La Forge
Asst General Manager	Craig Goebel
Head Coach	Matt O'Dette
Assistant Coach	Carter Cochrane
Assistant Coach	Taylor Makin
Assistant Coach	Brett Cameron
Athletic Therapist	Tom Orr
Equipment Manager	Ryan Campbell



Seattle Thunderbirds



Seattle 0-3 vs Penticton 3-0 1 Apr 7:05 PM

Forwards

71

Kosick

5' 10" 150
8/18/2008

3 GP 1-1-2 +2
Victoria, B.C.

9

Dunn

6'1" 190
9/13/2005

3 GP 1-1-2 +2
Stony Plain, AB

91

Schmidt

5' 8" 158
1/19/2007

3 GP 2-1-3 +3
Prince George, B.C.



Defence

2

Hocher

6' 2" 195
5/29/2007

3 GP 0-0-0 E
Calgary, AB

21

Mrtka

6' 6" 200
6/9/2007

3 GP 0-1-1 -1
Havlickuv, CZE



35

Sklenicka

6' 4" 180
8/27/2007

2 GP 0-2 3.31 .919
Litinov, CZE

Goalies

Scratches

#6 Vanek Popil
#26 Logan Miller
#36 Caden Cail ?



Penticton Vees



Seattle 0-3 vs Penticton 3-0 Apr 1 7:05 PM

Forwards

91 [Petersen](#)

6' 1" 191 3 GP 1-2-3 E
7/3/2006 Hvidovre, DEN

21 [Evers](#) 

6' 3" 196 3 GP 2-2-4 +1
6/22/2005 Burnaby, BC

83 [Kvasnicka](#) 

5' 11" 170 3 GP 3-2-5 E
8/10/2007 Burnsville, MN

Defence

11 [Michaud](#)

6'0" 196 3 GP 1-0-1 E
8.12.2006 Denver, CO

6 [Stevenson](#)

6' 2" 176 3 GP 0-3-3 -1
1/4/2005 Shaunavon, SK

Goalies

30 [McCallum](#)

6' 4" 202 0 GP 0-0 0.00 .000
4/11/2006 Brandon, MB

Scratches

#7 Kash Alger-East

#24 Noah Milford

#19 Diego Johnson