

2016-17 Season Notes

Season in Review

-After qualifying for the Calder Cup playoffs in 2014-15 and 2015-16, the IceHogs finished eighth in the Central Division in 2016-17 to snap the two-year streak.

-Overall, nine players scored their first North American professional goals with the IceHogs this season. The list includes Carl Dahlstrom, Matheson Iacopelli, Luke Johnson, Anthony Louis, Martin Lundberg, Evan Mosey, Robin Norell, William Pelletier and Luc Snuggerud.

-Throughout the course of the season, six IceHogs alumni joined the ranks of players who have played in the NHL including four with Rockford's parent club, the Chicago Blackhawks. Overall, 94 former IceHogs players have played in the NHL, including 70 with the Blackhawks.

Dowell Breaks Franchise Record

-Jake Dowell played in his 300th career game with the IceHogs on Dec. 21 2016 against Chicago, becoming Rockford's all-time regular season games leader. He also holds the franchise record for playoff games (23).

-He has spent parts of five seasons with the IceHogs, making his first appearance in the 2007-08 campaign.

-Dowell is the only player to serve as IceHogs captain through multiple years (2009-10, 2015-16, 2016-17).

-Including the 2016-17 season, Dowell has skated in a total of 340 games for the IceHogs with a combined 110 points (35g, 75a).

Abbott the All Star

-Spencer Abbott represented the Rockford IceHogs at the 2017 AHL All-Star Classic. In his first career All-Star appearance, Abbott helped the Western Conference win the skills competition and the Central Division win the All Star Challenge.

-Abbott led the team with 35 points (15g-20a) prior to his trade to the Anaheim Ducks on March 1.

Deadline Dealing

-The Rockford IceHogs lost each of their top three point scorers in transactions just prior to the 2016-17 NHL Trade Deadline. Points-leader Abbott (15g-20a-35pts) was traded alongside fellow winger Sam Carrick (11g-17a-28pts) to Anaheim, while Mark McNeill (6g-22a-28pts) was dealt to the Dallas Stars in exchange for Johnny Oduya on Feb. 28.

-The trio combined for 91 points for the IceHogs in 2016-17.

First time under .500

-The IceHogs finished the season with a .408 winning percentage for their lowest winning percentage since joining the AHL, as well as the first time the club finished under the .500 mark in the AHL era.

-However, Rockford posted a .513 winning percentage at the BMO Harris Bank Center this season and has now finished over .500 at home in each of the team's 10 AHL seasons.

-The IceHogs recorded the club's most road losses in the AHL era with 24, and fewest road victories in franchise history with just nine.

-Rockford also matched its franchise record for fewest overtime wins in a season with one, recording that lone victory in its ninth overtime contest of 2016-17 on Feb. 10 at Milwaukee.

Late-Season Additions

-Rookies Radovan Bondra, Matheson Iacopelli, Anthony Louis, William Pelletier and Luc Snuggerud joined the Hogs from their respective college or junior teams and totaled a combined 19 points.

-Louis had a game-winning shootout goal in his professional debut on March 17 in Manitoba.

-Pelletier notched four points on April 1, the most points in a single game for any IceHogs skater during the 2016-17 campaign, scoring two goals and two assists against the Grand Rapids Griffins.

-Iacopelli scored his first pro goal in his pro debut on March 31 against Texas, and Pelletier performed the feat the very next night vs. Grand Rapids. Both goals stood as game-winning tallies.

Enjoy the Show

-Several former IceHogs made the jump to the National Hockey League with the Chicago Blackhawks throughout the 2016-17 campaign.

-Ryan Hartman, who had 31g-48a-79pts in 139 games over parts of three seasons with Rockford, made the Blackhawks roster out of camp and finished the year with 19g-12a-31pts in 76 NHL games.

-Tanner Kero began the season with Rockford and had 7g-13a-20pts in 28 games before graduating to Chicago. He then picked up 6g-10a-16pts in 47 games at the NHL level. Last year, Kero became the first IceHogs rookie to score 20 goals in a single season.

-Other former IceHogs to make their NHL debuts during the 2016-17 campaign include Chris DiDomenico (Ottawa), Mike Liambas (Nashville) and Tyler Motte (Chicago).

-Spencer Abbott, Nick Schmaltz and Gustav Forsling also joined the list of players who have played with both Rockford and Chicago, pushing the franchise's alumni total with the Blackhawks to 70 skaters.

IceHogs 2016-17 Team Awards

<i>[AWARD]</i>	<i>[PLAYER]</i>	<i>[POINTS]</i>	<i>[DETAILS]</i>
<u>Most Valuable Player</u>	Brandon Mashinter	30 pts (15g, 15a)	Led team in goals
<u>Rookie of the Year</u>	Luke Johnson	17 pts (8g, 9a)	Led IceHogs rookies in points and assists
<u>Defenseman of the Year</u>	Eric Gustafsson	30 pts (5g, 25a)	Led IceHogs defenseman in points and assists
<u>Unsung Hero Award</u>	Martin Lundberg	21 points (9g, 12a)	Led team in plus/minus (+1)
<u>Heavy Hitter Award</u>	Chris DeSousa	4 points (1g, 5a)	Led team in PIM/game (2.14)
<u>Most Improved Player</u>	Kyle Baun	34 points (14g, 20a)	Led team in points
<u>Man of the Year</u>	P.C. Labrie	8 points (1g, 7a)	Honored for anti-bullying initiatives