

the Boiling Pot

The Official Booster Club of the Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs

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Bugs add AHL Defensman Mitch Love

The Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs of the Central Hockey League today announced the addition of defenseman Mitch Love to their 2010-11 roster. Love has spent his entire professional career in the American Hockey League, where he played 278 games over the past five seasons.

Love, 26, is a rugged defenseman who brings a wealth of high-level experience to the Mudbugs. The 6-0, 175-pounder has racked up 51 fighting majors over the past two seasons and 824 penalty minutes in his five-year career. With 282 pro games on his resume, Love qualifies as an AHL veteran but is still below the CHL's veteran limit.



Mitch Love (right)

"Mitch is exactly the kind of player we wanted to bring in this year," Head Coach Scott Muscutt said. "He's a tough, physical defenseman, but we always recruit character first and Mitch is a character player. He's also committed to getting out in the community and his wife has family in the area, so it really is a perfect fit for them here. He is all about coming to Bossier-Shreveport and making an impact for this team and this community."

Skating with the AHL's Peoria Rivermen last season, Love registered four points (1g, 3a) and 129 penalty minutes in 60 games worth of action. His 17 fighting majors ranked second on the team and his penalty minute total was Peoria's third-highest.

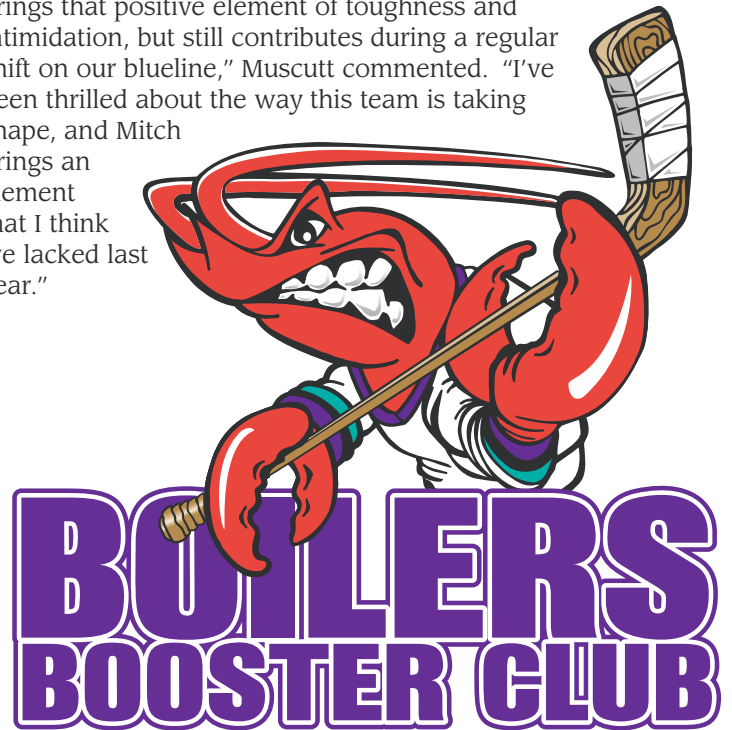
The Quesnel, British Columbia native had even more of an impact the year before in Houston. In addition to six points (2g, 4a) for the Aeros, Love dropped the gloves for a team-record 34 fighting majors in 2008-09, which led the AHL. He accumulated 214 PIMs and added 32 more in the playoffs as Houston advanced to the AHL's Western Conference Finals.

"I didn't have any opportunities as a veteran in the American League this year, and my agent said the Mudbugs were interested," Love said. "I asked around with guys I know, like Shawn Limpricht, and I've heard nothing but good things about the organization and the city. My wife and I are excited to be here and I'm itching to get the season going."

"I'm just going to bring some grit, character and leadership to an already veteran team. I pride myself on being hard to play against. I don't want the opponent's top-end players getting comfortable out there. Ask any athlete: we play the game to win, and I think we'll have a great chance bring the Championship back to this city."

Love, who can also play forward, signed a rookie free agent contract with the Colorado Avalanche in 2005 and spent his first three seasons playing for Avalanche affiliates in Lake Erie, Albany, and Lowell. Prior to turning pro, he played five years of Major Junior with three teams in the Western Hockey League.

"I never like comparing current players to past players, but we've missed the 'Jim Sprott ingredient': a guy who brings that positive element of toughness and intimidation, but still contributes during a regular shift on our blueline," Muscutt commented. "I've been thrilled about the way this team is taking shape, and Mitch brings an element that I think we lacked last year."



IMPORTANT NOTICE!

As the season approaches, it's time to start getting the apartments ready for the arrivals of the players for camp. Plaayers are beginning to arrive, so the Housekeeping Committee is gearing up to stock food and get furnishings in place. Donations of gift cards would be appreciated. For more information, contact Lolette Dayberry at lolettedayberry@suddenlink.net

Plume, Harvey Boost Bugs Defense

The Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs of the Central Hockey League improved their defense for the 2010-11 season today with the return of defenseman Clay Plume and the addition of rookie goaltender Jeff Harvey to their roster. The Mudbugs now have five forwards, four defensemen and two goaltenders under contract for the coming year.

"We've got high hopes for both of these guys this season," said Head Coach Scott Muscutt. "We traded for 'Plumer' last year knowing that he could come in here and improve our D-corps, and I'm very pleased with the job he's done. Jeff is an experienced rookie goaltender that we started pursuing in the playoffs, and I just keep hearing more and more good things about what he'll bring to Bossier-Shreveport."

Plume, 27, becomes the fourth "veteran" status player signed by the Mudbugs this offseason, joining forwards Travis Clayton, Shawn Limpricht and Brett Smith in that category. The 6-2, 210-pound blueliner helped solidify the Mudbugs defense last season after coming over in a December trade with Rapid City.

In 38 regular season appearances with the Mudbugs and another 19 with the Rush last year, Plume scored one goal along with 15 assists while totaling 47 penalty minutes and a +17 rating. The Standoff, Alberta native then posted his first career two-goal game in the playoffs, scoring twice in Game 1 of the Northern Conference Finals. He also chipped in 13 penalty minutes in eight postseason games.

"I love the winning attitude around the Mudbugs, and everyone from Coach Muscutt and our player personnel all the way through the ownership, staff and fans has been great to work with," Plume said. "We have a good group of core guys coming back, and having so many of the same faces in the locker room will help us pick up right where we left off last year. Hopefully the hockey gods give us some luck this year and we can win it all."

Harvey, 27, enters his rookie pro season with plenty of high-level hockey experience. The St. Albert, Alberta native spent the past five seasons playing college hockey at the University of Saskatchewan, where he appeared in 130 games. In his Huskies career, Harvey won a Canada West Championship in 2007, was named a Canada West First or Second Team All-Star on three occasions and won two Adam Kryczka Memorial Trophies after posting the league's best goals-against average.

The 6-0, 180-pound netminder also played four seasons of Major Junior in the Western Hockey League, enjoying a career-best final season with Everett in 2003-04. Harvey was named a WHL Second Team All-Star that year after compiling a 24-15-5 record with a 1.97 GAA and a .926 SV% as the Silvertips advanced to the WHL Championship series. He went on to appear in ten pro games with Rockford of the UHL in 2004-05 before enrolling in college.

"Cheeze and Krackers" Return

The Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs of the Central Hockey League today announced two more player signings for the 2010-11 season, returning defenseman Dave Pszenyczny and forward Jeff Kyrzakos to the club. Pszenyczny (who is called "Cheeze" by some) returns for his third season in

purple and teal while Kyrzakos (nicknamed "Krackers") will skate in his second.

"Both of these guys are going to play important roles for our hockey club this season," said Head Coach Scott Muscutt. "'Krackers' proved last year that he is a dangerous goal scorer and a guy who will really contribute to our offensive attack. At the other end, 'Cheeze' is a gritty defenseman who is tough to play against, but also brings a real scoring threat from the blueline. I'm very happy to have them back."

Pszenyczny, 25, enjoyed perhaps his best pro season in 2009-10. In his second year as a Mudbug, the fan favorite set new career highs in goals (11) and points (25) to rank second on the team in scoring among defensemen. Pszenyczny also led the team with 134 penalty minutes (another career high) while skating in all but one regular season game.

"I can't wait to get down there and start the season," Pszenyczny said. "Having a great team that made it so close to the Finals last year can only make us stronger this season. I'm extremely competitive, so I look forward to playing any role that's needed for this team to succeed. I want to be a guy who is depended on in any situation that is asked of me."

Kyrzakos, 25, was a difference-maker in his first year with the Mudbugs in 2009-10. The Mississauga, Ontario native finished second on the team in goal scoring last season, netting a career-high 22 tallies. Completing a dangerous line with Travis Clayton and Shawn Limpricht, Kyrzakos collected 24 assists to finish fourth on the team with 46 points. He also tied the franchise record with four assists in a 6-0 win over Arizona on December 1.

The 6-2, 195-pound winger then totaled eight points in 11 playoff games, finishing second on the team with seven postseason assists. Kyrzakos spent his first three pro seasons in the ECHL, where he posted a career-high 53 points in 2007-08 with Phoenix and Charlotte.

"Last year we had a great group of guys, good cohesiveness and we all had a strong desire to win," said Kyrzakos. "We got a taste of it in the playoffs, and with the guys we're bringing in this year, I think we will have a good chance to win it all. That's what you play for, so hopefully this year we can take that next step."

Smith, DeCaro Re-Sign with Bugs

The Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs of the Central Hockey League today announced the signings of their Captain and number-one goaltender for the coming season with the return of forward Brett Smith and goaltender John DeCaro. Both players are longtime Mudbugs fixtures who will look to help lead the team toward its fourth Championship in 2010-11.

"When you're recruiting in the offseason you want to base your team around two pivotal points: sound goaltending and strong leadership," Head Coach Scott Muscutt said. "This week Mudbugs fans can be treated to a pair of guys coming back to our team who are among the best in the league in those categories. We're obviously very excited to have Johnny's savvy back between the pipes and Smitty's energy and leadership up front."

Smith, 28, returns for his sixth year in Bossier-Shreveport and second as team Captain in 2010-11. The Guelph, Ontario native is coming off a season in which he fought through injuries and illness to accumulate 45 points on 14 goals and 31 assists. Smith also led the club in shorthanded goals for a third straight year to become the all-time franchise leader in shorthanded tallies.

In the playoffs, the former Ferris State Bulldog scored three goals and added four assists in 11 games as the Mudbugs came within one victory of the President's Cup Finals. In his last 18 postseason contests, Smith has totaled 15 points (8g, 7a).

Since joining the Mudbugs as a rookie in 2004-05, Smith has averaged 18 goals and 50 points per year with the club. During that time the 5-8, 180-pound center has ascended into the top ten in franchise history in games played, goals, assists and points. Despite seeing action in 44 career playoff games and appearing in the 2006 President's Cup Finals, Smith has yet to win a professional Championship.

"I know I always say this, but now more than ever I'm really excited for the season to start with who we've got coming back and the additions we're making to our team," Smith said. "I truly believe we were capable of winning it all last year if some of the breaks would have gone a little differently, and that just makes our drive to win a Championship that much stronger."

DeCaro, 27, will tend goal for the Mudbugs for a fourth

year in 2010-11 as he looks to improve upon an impressive 89-37-10 career win-loss record. The 6-3, 200-pound netminder recorded his third 20-win season last year, going 24-14-1 with a 2.73 goals-against average, .912 saves percentage and two shutouts. He was the CHL's Goaltender of the Week for February 1 after going 3-0 and making 93 saves during the previous week.

DeCaro was forced out of action just two games into the 'Bugs 2010 playoff run, suffering a season-ending injury in the first period of Bossier-Shreveport's 4-3 Game 2 win over the Colorado Eagles.

"Getting hurt in the playoffs has really fueled the fire for me to get back and help finish what we started last year," DeCaro said. "We had a legitimate shot to win it and that definitely wasn't the way it was supposed to end. I don't care about stats or anything like that; I'm all about going out there and trying to help this team win games and ultimately a Championship."

The Marysville, Washington native was heavily decorated in his first two pro seasons, taking home the league's Goaltender of the Year honor and being named to both the All-CHL team and CHL All-Star Game in back-to-back seasons between 2006 and 2008.

DeCaro rewrote the CHL's goaltending record book during his sophomore campaign of 2007-08, shattering previous league marks for goals-against average, saves percentage, shutouts and individual shutout streak.

October 2010						HOME	AWAY
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
					1	2 Meet and Greet Party	
3	4 Booster Club Meeting	5	6	7	8	9	
			Gentlemen's Classic Golf Tournament				
10	11	12	13	14	15 MIS	16 MIS	
17	18	19	20	21 ALN	22 ALN	23 TEX	
24	25 Board Meeting	26 ALN	27	28 RGV	29	30 MIZ	
31							

Officers

PRESIDENT

KEVIN WALDROP
kwaldrop@landerscorp.com

VICE PRESIDENT

BRAD DENNIS
boilers@shreve.net

TREASURER

SHARON ANDERSON
scanderson@suddenlink.net

RECORDING SECRETARY

GAILYN DENNIS
lalady721@aol.com

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

TERRI RAKES
rakestr@aol.com

SERGEANT AT ARMS

CARL ANDERSON
scanderson@suddenlink.net

PAST PRESIDENT

JOANN SEAMAN
joseseaman@att.net

BY LAWS

SUSAN AULT
sault92@live.com

CALLING

JOANN SEAMAN
joseseaman@att.net

FUNDRAISING

VALERIE MUELLER
SHARON ANDERSON
scanderson@suddenlink.net

FAMILY SUPPORT

JOANN SEAMAN
joseseaman@att.net

HOUSEKEEPING

LOLETTE DAYBERRY
lolettedayberry@suddenlink.net

MEMBERSHIP

BRAD DENNIS
boilers@shreve.net

NEWSLETTER

BRAD DENNIS
boilers@shreve.net

ROAD TRIPS

CAROL PATE
cpatehockey@yahoo.com

TAILGATE

DAVID LANGSTON
davidlangston13@bellsouth.net

Player Sponsorships for 2010-11

There are still openings for Player/Personnel sponsors for this season. The cost to sponsor a player is \$100; an information packet may be picked up from Heidi Bennett at the October meeting if you haven't already gotten the paperwork. Remember that all contracts need to be signed, the fees paid in full, and membership should be current with dues paid. Contracts and info sheets are due to Heidi Bennett during the October general membership meeting. The drawing for the order in which players/personnel will be chosen will be done at the end of the meeting. The actual choosing of players will be done after the final roster is set.

This is a great way to get to know the Mudbugs players; many players and sponsors have become great friends over

the years and still keep in touch after the players have retired or have moved on to other teams. Don't forget, this is a fundraiser for the booster club, which in turn fully supports the team. A strong, supportive booster club is what brings and keeps premiere players here in Bossier-Shreveport, and this program is one of the many reasons that the Boilers have been voted the Best Booster Club in the CHL for the past five years. Let's make sure that the Mudbugs organization knows how much we care and love our hockey team! The best way to do that is to support the booster club and its activities as much as possible.

Heidi Bennett

Player Sponsorship
heidi1201@aol.com

Membership Committee

One of these days the heat is going to break. At this time of year, one of the reasons I look forward to hockey season is just the promise that the temperatures will be dropping a bit.

This is the time of the year to get your club membership renewed. If you haven't sent in your application yet, you can download one from the booster club website at www.mudbugboilers.org. Click on the "membership" link, then send it to the address on the form. Or if you prefer, pick up a copy at the next booster club meeting or at the Meet and Greet on October 2.

This year's membership packets will be including a new membership decal for you to proudly display on your vehicle windows. Let everyone know who's supporting the team!

Brad Dennis

Membership Chairperson

