

# WICHITA JR. THUNDER NEWS RELEASE

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## Junior Thunder Welcome Back O'Malia, Add Risser

**Wichita, KS (July 19th)** Keaton O'Malia is no stranger to the Junior Thunder organization as he will be entering his third season with the club. He was on the inaugural team back in 2012-13 where he played in 26 games as a rookie, Keaton then started the year last year only to end up with a season ending injury after a promising start 9 games in, recording 2 assists and getting 8 penalty minutes. Keaton had surgery back in November and traveled with the team for the remainder of the year. He has been working hard to strengthen his repaired shoulder and looks to make a full recovery. Weingartner said, "Since getting the OK from his doctors, Keaton has been on the ice doing his best to get back to speed and rehabbing his shoulder. He looks better every time I see him out there and I know he excited to have a solid year in his last season of eligibility. Keaton is wanting to take on more of a leadership role and is looking to have a solid year that will hopefully lead to a college opportunity for himself."



Alec Risser is another product of the Wichita Warriors high school hockey team, looking to make his mark as a Junior Thunder player. Alec is 6'1, 160 pound forward that can play center or wing, he played in the Mid America High School Hockey League scoring 6 goals and had 11 assists for 17 points in 24 games at the Varsity level last season. This is what coach Weingartner had to say about Alec, "We used Alec mainly as a practice player last year although he did suit up for one game when we were struggling with injuries. I really feel that by getting him used to the speed in practice last year, he will have a lot more confidence this year as well as having a familiarity with how I run practices. I hope some Varsity players this year, that plan on making the jump to junior hockey, follow in Alec's footsteps. Like over a handful of current players that have made the jump to Junior Hockey from the Warrior organization, Alec who is a good skater, will need to focus on gaining some confidence and continue to build core strength in order to have a successful rookie season in the WSHL".

