

WICHITA JUNIOR THUNDER PRESS RELEASE

WICHITA JUNIOR THUNDER HOCKEY CLUB
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McClelland, McDonald Back For Third Season

(August 17th, 2016) - The Wichita Junior Thunder organization would like to welcome back Matt McClelland and Dylan McDonald for the 2016-17 season.

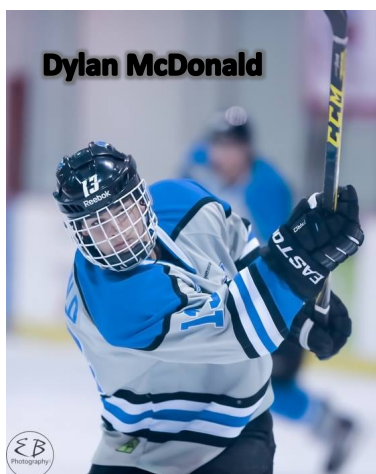
Matt McClelland, a 6'2", 175 pound forward, originally from Oshawa, Ontario moved to Wichita in 2010 when his father Kevin McClelland became the head coach for the Wichita Thunder of the then Central Hockey League, now ECHL. Matt is the younger brother of teammate Jack McClelland and the twin brother of Max McClelland who played with the Junior Thunder the last two seasons but has not yet committed to play during the 2016-17 season.

Matt played in 33 games during the 2014-15 season, his rookie season scoring 4 goals and adding 5 assists for 9 points and 13 penalty minutes. "Matty showed flashes of brilliance during his first year, he was a little undersized and battled a few injuries but the coaching staff new once he got his confidence he would put up solid numbers", commented coach Weingartner. A summer of training had Matt in great shape to start last season and his hard work paid off. McClelland had a 25 point increase in production from the season before, scoring 17 goals and adding 17 assists for 34 points and 30 penalty minutes in 44 games. "Matt had a really strong year, he was a constant scoring threat while still competing hard defensively and was great on the power play scoring 10 goals. We have high expectations for Matty this year, if he continues to work hard and continue to improve his game he will be scoring 25 or more goals this year"- Weingartner.



Matt McClelland

Dylan McDonald, like Matt McClelland will entering his third year with the Junior Thunder, he is a 5'9", 170 pound forward from Wichita, Kansas. McDonald has appeared in 66 games for the Junior Thunder over the past two seasons scoring 3 goals and adding 3 assists for 6 points and 41 penalty minutes. "Dylan is one the hardest working players both on and off the ice, this will be his third year with us so he should be very comfortable with our systems and the way we like to play, now it's up to him to put the work in and become a player we can count on in all three zones and on the penalty kill", commented assistant coach Kevin St. Pierre. Dylan said his reason for coming back was an easy choice, with all the returning players, we have a great chance to build on last years success, he plans to do all he can on and off the ice to help the Junior Thunder in their pursuit of the Thorne Cup. McDonald is one of 6 players on this years team who have played for the Wichita Warriors High School team, Matt, Max and Jack McClelland, Alec Risser and first year player Corey Steinbarger are the others.



Dylan McDonald

The Wichita Junior Thunder open their season on the road in Springfield the weekend of September 30th- October 2nd. All games can be watched via live stream through our new league sponsor BlackDog Enterprises, information will be posted on www.wshl.org, later this month.



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