

WICHITA JUNIOR THUNDER PRESS RELEASE

WICHITA JUNIOR THUNDER HOCKEY CLUB

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Junior Thunder Add Two More

(July 29h, 2019) The Wichita Junior Thunder, proud members of the Western States Hockey League, are pleased to announce the signing of newcomers Royce Gruninger and Cannon Steggall for the 2019-20 Season.



Royce Gruninger is a big left shooting defenseman at 6'1, 195 lbs and is originally from Lexington KY. The 2000 birth year will be entering his second season at the junior level after splitting time between two teams. Royce played 24 games for Decatur Blaze and 2 games for the Tri-City Hawks, both teams play out of the USPHL Midwest- East Premier Division, recording 1 assist and 10 penalty minutes in those games. During his final year of high school, for the Lexington Thoroughbreds (CKHA), Gruninger had a solid campaign notching 11 goals while adding 6 assists and had 54 penalty minutes in 57 games during the 2017-18 season. "Royce was one of those players that took the time to market himself in the correct way, he sent out video, stats and introduction letter sating what he was looking for. He went to a couple of camps and

had lots of opportunities to play elsewhere, but ultimately chose Wichita. We are excited to work with Royce, he has already displayed leadership skills in his approach and we hope that translates into a solid year for him", stated Rob Weingartner. Spoken with type of attitude we are looking for, was this quote from Royce, "I wanted to come to Wichita because of development and experience at the higher level to expand my hockey knowledge and bring a positive contribution to the team."

Although new to the Junior Thunder, 2000 born forward, Cannon Steggall is no stranger to the Wichita Ice Center as he has played high school hockey for the St. Joe Griffons of the Mid-American High School Hockey League for the past 3 seasons. Last season as a senior the right handed centerman sniped 31 goals and had 9 assists for 40 points in just 16 games played. Cannon's 31 goals was second in the league behind Austin Franck of Missouri and he finished fourth overall in scoring, which was lead by now teammate Rory Neish. "I was able to come scout Cannon during one the high school games here in Wichita last year, I though Cannon had a lot of speed and he clearly new his way around the net. I think playing on our Olympic ice sheet and playing with better players around him, Cannon should be able to elevate his play. Like many first year Junior players Steggall will need to gain some weight and get used to the contact at this level", commented coach Weingartner

