

# ICEHOGS GAMEDAY

H-E-B CENTER • **ICEHOGS AT STARS** • REGULAR SEASON GAME 59 (AWAY GAME 28)  
 FEBRUARY 28, 2020 • **TIME:** 7 PM • **RADIO:** FACEBOOK, SPORTSFAN1330.COM

## GAME NOTES

- **BLAME IT ON TEXAS:** In four seasons from 2012-13 through 2015-16, the IceHogs lost just once across 14 games in the state of Texas. In that span, the club was a clean 7-0 against the Texas Stars and went 6-1 against the San Antonio Rampage. In the four seasons since then, however, the IceHogs have struggled in the Lone Star State, going a combined 5-10-1-5 against the two Texas teams from 2016-17 to present day.
- **GOTTA GET ON THE GOOD FOOT:** The IceHogs defeated the Texas Stars on Wednesday after being tied 1-1 heading into the first intermission. Rockford boasts a record of 10-3-1-0 this season when leading after the opening frame but is just 10-11-0-2 when tied after one and 7-14-0-0 when trailing after one for a combined 17-25-0-2 when entering the first intermission tied or trailing.
- **BRENN THERE, DONE THAT:** Defenseman T.J. Brennan suited up for the IceHogs on Wednesday for the first time since he played 54 games with Rockford in the 2014-15 campaign. He now usurps Garrett Mitchell as the most experienced player on the roster with 674 AHL games under his belt while Mitchell possesses 412. Brennan dished an assist in his return to the Hogs to mark his first point since Dec. 14.
- **I SAY RIP IT! RIP IT GOOD!:** At the time of his recall to the Blackhawks on Dec. 7, Dylan Sikura led the entire AHL in shots on goal with 99 through 22 contests. He's now fired 28 shots across his last six appearances to climb back up to 12th in the league with 153 through 40 games. However, he is the only skater in the AHL this season to have put over 150 shots on goal in fewer than 45 games. He's also recorded at least three shots on goal in 30 of his 40 contests in 2019-20.

## MATCHUP SNAPSHOT



<b>RECORD</b>	27-28-1-2	23-25-2-4
<b>GOALS/GAME</b>	2.50	2.72
<b>SHOTS/GAME</b>	27.40	29.35
<b>GOALS AGAINST/GAME</b>	3.15	3.00
<b>POWER PLAY PCT.</b>	11.9%	18.0%
<b>PENALTY KILL PCT.</b>	76.8%	77.5%
<b>STREAK</b>	1-0-0-0	0-1-0-1
<b>LEADING SCORER</b>	T. Sikura (33)	J. Robertson (37)

The Rockford IceHogs visit the Texas Stars for the second time in three nights when the two clubs square off Friday night. The IceHogs were victorious in a shootout on Wednesday and have now climbed to a tie for the fourth and final playoff spot in the Central Division with 57 points alongside the Chicago Wolves. The Stars picked up a point in the loss Wednesday and sit in sole possession of seventh in the Central with 52 points.

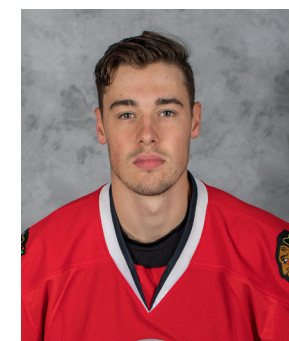
## PLAYERS TO WATCH



**GABRIEL  
GAGNE  
#32**

AGE	POS	GP	G	A	PIM	+/-
23	F	19	5	5	5	+1

Gabriel Gagne netted his first multi-goal game since Jan. 2, 2019, on Wednesday to help the IceHogs defeat the Texas Stars. In three games against the Stars this season, Gagne has racked up three markers.



**ALEXANDRE  
FORTIN  
#26**

AGE	POS	GP	G	A	PIM	+/-
23	F	39	6	8	10	-1

Alexandre Fortin assisted on one of Gagne's goals Wednesday and now trails John Quenneville by just one point for the team-lead in points against the Stars this season. His four assists tops the Rockford roster against Texas.



**JOEL  
L'ESPERANCE  
#11**

AGE	POS	GP	G	A	PIM	+/-
24	F	50	20	13	33	-7

Joel L'Esperance netted two power-play goals for his 19th and 20th goals of the season, respectively. With the tallies, the 2020 AHL All-Star extended his lead on the team in power-play goals to nine.

## NEXT HOME GAME



VS.



**BMO Harris Bank Center  
Fri. March 6 | 7:00 PM**