



MATCHUP OF THE WEEK

COLORADO AT MEMPHIS, Friday

Colorado has won 15 straight games, a CHL record, and that streak will face its toughest test against Northeast Division leader Memphis. This game is the first meeting between the teams this season. Colorado leads Memphis by three points for first overall and the RiverKings probably come closer to matching the Eagles' firepower than any other CHL team. This could very well be a preview of the Northern Conference finals.



2006-07 RAYZ SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Oct. 21	vs. Laredo	L, 4-2	Fri.	vs. Youngstown	7:05
Oct. 27	at Rio Grande	L, 5-2	Sat.	vs. Arizona	8:05
Oct. 28	vs. Austin W, 3-2 (OT)		Jan. 19	vs. Rocky Mtn.	7:05
Oct. 31	at Laredo	W, 5-3	Jan. 20	at Austin	3
Nov. 3	at Amarillo	L, 2-1	Jan. 23	vs. Austin	11:05 a.m.
Nov. 4	at Austin	W, 3-1	Jan. 26	at Lubbock	7:05
Nov. 5	vs. Odessa	W, 3-0	Jan. 27	vs. Laredo	8:05
Nov. 9	vs. Austin	L, 5-2	Jan. 28	vs. Laredo	3:05
Nov. 10	at Odessa	L, 4-2	Feb. 1	at Rio Grande	7:35
Nov. 11	vs. Memphis	L, 4-0	Feb. 2	vs. Rio Grande	7:05
Nov. 16	at Austin W, 3-2 (OT)		Feb. 3	at Rio Grande	7:35
Nov. 18	vs. N. Mexico	W, 5-3	Feb. 9	vs. Odessa	7:05
Nov. 19	vs. Arizona	W, 3-2	Feb. 10	vs. Odessa	7:05
Nov. 22	at Y'stown	SOL, 4-3	Feb. 11	at Laredo	4
Nov. 24	at Y'stown	SOL, 2-1	Feb. 14	at Laredo	7
Nov. 25	at Y'stown W, 5-4 (OT)		Feb. 16	vs. Tulsa	7:05
Nov. 28	vs. Amarillo	L, 6-4	Feb. 20	at Shreveport	7:05
Dec. 1	at RGV	OTL, 4-3	Feb. 23	vs. Austin	7:05
Dec. 2	vs. Rio Grande	L, 6-3	Feb. 24	vs. Laredo	8:05
Dec. 3	vs. Laredo	L, 3-2	Mar. 2	at Odessa	7
Dec. 6	at Laredo	OTL, 2-1	Mar. 3	vs. Rio Grande	7:05
Dec. 8	at RGV W, 3-2 (SO)		Mar. 4	vs. Laredo	3:05
Dec. 9	at Austin	W, 3-0	Mar. 9	vs. Rio Grande	7:05
Dec. 14	vs. Austin	L, 3-2	Mar. 10	vs. Rio Grande	7:05
Dec. 15	vs. Lubbock W, 3-2 (SO)		Mar. 11	at Laredo	4
Dec. 17	at Rio Grande	W, 5-1	Mar. 14	at New Mexico	8:35
Dec. 22	at Laredo	OTL, 5-4	Mar. 16	at Arizona	8
Dec. 23	vs. Odessa	L, 4-2	Mar. 17	at Arizona	8
Dec. 29	at Lubbock	W, 3-1	Mar. 23	at Austin	7:30
Dec. 30	at Odessa	L, 3-1	Mar. 24	vs. Laredo	7:05
Dec. 31	vs. Sh'port W, 5-4 (SO)				
Jan. 5	vs. Rio Grande W, 6-1				
Jan. 6	at Shreveport L, 4-3				
Jan. 7	at Memphis	L, 3-2			

NOTE

All times p.m. unless noted.
All home games played at American Bank Center.

2006-07 RAYZ STATISTICS

PLAYER	GP	G	A	PT	+/-	PIM	PP	SH	GW
Justin Quenneville	33	15	20	35	-1	80	7	1	3
Jason Baird	34	8	24	32	0	71	2	0	0
Derrick McIver	34	12	19	31	+4	33	3	1	1
Ryan Carter	34	12	15	27	+1	14	1	1	4
Matt Turek	34	9	16	25	+6	28	3	0	1
Kevin Watters	34	9	15	24	+3	37	4	0	2
Nick Lindberg	17	5	10	15	+9	26	0	1	0
Jason Lepine	20	4	9	13	-5	4	1	0	0
Geno Parrish	18	4	9	13	0	31	3	0	0
Adam Powell	34	6	5	11	-4	67	0	0	1
Steve Pelletier	34	3	6	9	+1	40	2	0	1
Todd Paul	34	2	6	8	-3	21	0	0	1
Chris Mei	33	0	8	8	+5	17	0	0	0
Jay Hardwick	34	2	5	7	+9	46	0	0	0
Blair Stayzer	30	4	2	6	-6	49	0	0	1
Tony Johnson	34	2	2	4	+10	33	0	0	0
x-Connor Hughes	24	1	0	1	-3	0	0	0	0
Ron Vogel	21	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0
Brent Zelenevich	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
x-Tim Vitek	7	0	0	0	-2	19	0	0	0
TOTALS	34	98	171	269	+25	640	26	4	15

GOALIE	GP	MIN	W	L	OTL	SO	GA	GAA	PCT
Zelenevich	17	917:00	5	6	2	1	43	2.81	.912
Vogel	21	1151:57	10	8	3	0	55	2.86	.906
TOTALS	31	2068:57	15	14	5	2	101	2.97	.906

KEY: GP: Games played; G: goals; A: assists; PT: points; +/-: plus/minus rating; PIM: penalty minutes; PP: power-play goals; SH: short-handed goals; GW: game-winning goals; W: wins; L: losses; OTL: overtime/shootout losses; SO: shutouts; GA: goals against; GAA: goals against average; PCT: save percentage; MIN: minutes played; I--on injured reserve; X--traded/released

CHL STATISTICAL LEADERS

POINTS	PLUS-MINUS
Jeff Christian, Yng	58
Chris Richards, Yng	56
Brent Kelly, Arz	48
Riley Nelson, Col	42
Travis Banga, Mem	40

GOALS	GOALIE WINS
Brent Kelly, Arz	23
Jeff Christian, Yng	20
David Masse, Tul	20
Travis Banga, Mem	19
Chris Richards, Yng	19

ASSISTS	GOALS AGAINST AVG.
Jeff Christian, Yng	38
Chris Richards, Yng	37
Derek Landmesser, Mem	31
Brad Williamson, Col	29
Daniel Laperriere, Arz	26

POWER-PLAY GOALS	SAVE PERCENTAGE
Greg Pankewicz, Col	12
Chris Richards, Yng	11
Mike Falk, NMX	11
Jeff Christian, Yng	10
Jason Sessa, Mem	10

PENALTY MINUTES	MINUTES
Jeff Ewasko, Ode	164
Steve Dix, Wic	144
David Silverstone, Ama	144
Dan Wildfong, Bos	144
Paul McBrien, Lub	135

CHL ATTENDANCE

TEAM	TOTAL	DATES	AVG.
Oklahoma City Blazers	136,411	17	8,024
Wichita Thunder	100,720	16	6,295
Colorado Eagles	95,202	18	5,289
Laredo Bucks	94,342	18	5,241
Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees	78,871	16	4,929
Bossier-Shreveport Mudbugs	74,596	15	4,973
Tulsa Oilers	62,196	13	4,784
Arizona Sundogs	58,046	14	4,146
Rocky Mountain Rage	51,996	13	3,999
Corpus Christi Rayz	53,443	15	3,562
Youngstown SteelHounds	42,435	13	3,264
Lubbock Cotton Kings	48,783	15	3,252
New Mexico Scorpions	53,271	17	3,133
Amarillo Gorillas	38,684	14	2,763
Odessa Jackalopes	41,103	15	2,740
Memphis RiverKings	57,768	19	2,724
Austin Ice Bats	26,600	14	1,900
LEAGUE	1,108,467	262	4,230

GREG RAJAN'S CHL RANKINGS

TEAM	PVS	COMMENT
1. Colorado	1	They have four losses — all year.
2. Memphis	3	Statement game vs. Colorado.
3. Laredo	2	Starting to run away in South.
4. Shreveport	4	Bugs unbeaten in past 11 games.
5. Youngstown	5	Anderson circus coming to CC.
6. Oklahoma City	7	This team still hard to figure out.
7. Corpus Christi	6	Solid weekend despite losses.
8. Austin	12	They love the Valley: 5-0 vs. Rio.
9. Arizona	11	Open mouth, insert foot for Marco.
10. Odessa	13	Dolson may be back in February.
11. Amarillo	8	Topsy-turvy weekend for Gorillas.
12. New Mexico	14	Reid out, Cacciola in for Scorpions.
13. Tulsa	9	Back-to-back pathetic outings.
14. Wichita	16	Looking better after bad stretch.
15. Lubbock	10	Dashney nearing his boiling point.
16. Rio Grande	15	Bees in dire need of a shakeup.
17. Rocky Mtn.	17	DeCecco may be sidelined a while.

MIDTERM REPORT CARD

NAME: C C Rayz

CLASS: Central Hockey League

GRADE: A

- **JAY HARDWICK, DEFENSEMAN:** He's easy to overlook on the ice, but the third-year blueliner continues to improve each season and fills his defense-first role quite nicely. He is especially valuable on the penalty kill.
- **DERRICK MCIVER, FORWARD:** He has said this will be his final season, and if that's the case, it's a shame. He's brought a tenacious game to the rink on a nightly basis reminiscent of his rookie year and was the most notable all-star snub.
- **STEVE PELLETIER, DEFENSEMAN:** One of the team's ice-time leaders and among the better newcomers this season. He has helped improve the team's transition game while being dependable in the defensive end.
- **JUSTIN QUENNEVILLE, FORWARD:** Signed just before the start of training camp, he proved to be a huge pick-up. Has great hands and playmaking ability. Carried the team's offense early in the season and earned a starting nod in the all-star game.

GRADE: B-

- **RYAN CARTER, FORWARD:** After a nightmarish 2005-06, he's returned to the strong two-way game he flashed in his first Rayz season. He's on pace for a career-high in goals and leads the team in game-winners.
- **TONY JOHNSON, DEFENSEMAN:** Fought to earn a spot on the blue line in training camp and has kept it with solid defensive play. The team's plus-minus leader plays a simple, but effective game.
- **ADAM POWELL, FORWARD:** No player has made bigger strides from the start of the season. By flashing his offensive skills, the rookie has showed he's more than a one-dimensional enforcer.
- **BLAIR STAYZER, FORWARD:** His physical play and leadership were dearly missed after his season-ending injury early last year. He's provided both in spades so far in his return this season.

GRADE: B

- **JASON BAIRD, FORWARD:** He has nearly a point per game after coming back from a severe knee injury. But for the team to succeed, he has to score more often, especially on the power play.
- **NICK LINDBERG, FORWARD:** Signed in early December, he has added skill to the lineup and provided some much-needed depth at the center spot. He's tallied nearly a point per game since coming aboard.
- **CHRIS MEI, DEFENSEMAN:** A quiet contributor who's not flashy and won't ever be mistaken for a scoring threat. But he turns in solid defensive-zone work, often against opponents' top lines.
- **MATT TUREK, FORWARD:** The new captain has provided sound two-way play and put up decent offensive numbers. His experience will be paramount down the stretch.

GRADE: B

- **JASON LEPINE, DEFENSEMAN:** The youngest member of the team has had his ups and downs, but has plenty of upside. While he has flashed his offensive skill, his defensive-zone play could use some shoring up.
- **GENO PARRISH, DEFENSEMAN:** He finally got going after a slow start only to miss 16 games with an injury. Has returned with a bang, and that production, especially on the power play, needs to continue for the team to reach the playoffs.
- **TODD PAUL, DEFENSEMAN:** Like the rest of the defense corps, he has played well for the most part. If there's one quibble, it's that his numbers aren't on par with his skating and offensive ability.
- **RON VOGEL, GOALTENDER:** After being brought in to be the No. 1 goalie, stumbled at the start — especially at home — but has picked up his game in the past month. That's the kind of effort in net the team will need the rest of the season.
- **KEVIN WATTERS, FORWARD:** Decent numbers, but down from his 36 goals as a rookie in the UHL last year. On the bright side, he's meshed well on a line with Turek and Powell, and that might spur more production.
- **BRENT ZELENEVICH, GOALTENDER:** Like Vogel, he's had his good games and bad ones, but has been reliable when called upon. All-star selection shows he's earned league-wide respect.

— Greg Rajan



Forward Justin Quenneville gets an 'A' for his All-Star first half.

AROUND THE BOARDS: Rayz/CHL notebook

DOUBTING THOMAS

Rayz coach **Ken McRae** has been fairly quiet in terms of criticizing the officiating this season, but the work of referee **Tom Sterns** in Sunday's 3-2 loss at Memphis gave McRae fits.

McRae gave Sterns an earful after the game, and then voiced his displeasure to the CHL office. The coach declined to discuss the nature of that conversation, but didn't hide his displeasure with Sterns.

What really stuck in McRae's craw was the unsportsmanlike conduct penalty handed to **Jason Baird** midway through the third period that led to the winning goal.

"Give me a warning first," McRae said. "It wasn't like we were riding him up and down the ice. I thought it was a bad time (for a call like that). ... I wasn't happy with his performance. I just think that there were some calls that should've been made (that weren't called) and some that shouldn't have been made. And some of the calls cost us goals and (eventually) the hockey game."

EARNING THEIR STRIPES?

The Rayz may have lost at Bossier-Shreveport Saturday, but they apparently caught the eye of Mudbugs coach **Scott Muscutt**.

"Corpus Christi, in my opinion, is one phenomenal hockey club," Muscutt told the Shreveport *Times*. "They are three lines deep and they are exceptionally well coached. I have so much respect for Kenny McRae. That team is really going places. It felt like a playoff game all night."

TALKIN' FOOTBALL

If losing at Bossier-Shreveport on a late goal wasn't bad enough, McRae then watched in horror as his beloved Dallas Cowboys botched the potential winning field goal in their crushing playoff loss at Seattle.

"It was kind of tit for tat," McRae said. "We lose the game because the puck goes in off one of our guys' skates and then (Cowboys quarterback **Tony Romo**) can't handle a snap. Unbelievable."

However, Rayz winger **Adam Powell**, a huge Seahawks fan, didn't share McRae's sorrow. But he opted not to raze the coach. "I didn't, because we lost," Powell said.

"If we'd have won, I would've beaked him."

MEET THE TEAM

Rayz players will be meeting fans and signing autographs today from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Best Buy store located at 4717 S. Padre Island Dr.

NOT-SO-MAGIC MARCO

If Arizona and New Mexico develop a heated rivalry, the mouth of Sundogs coach **Marco Pietroniro** probably will be the main reason why.

Last week, Pietroniro took umbrage with the amount of games Arizona had against New Mexico. His comments to the *Reporter-Herald* of Loveland, Colo., left many around the CHL astonished.

"I would prefer to play Colorado 12 times than to play New Mexico," Pietroniro told the newspaper. "I have the most respect for (Colorado). They have a proven record, and it's fun to compare yourself to a team like that versus one that is struggling for consistency all the time."

Of course, if the Sundogs had dominated the Scorpions, that would be one thing. But Arizona is only 5-5 vs. New Mexico this year.

"What the hell was he thinking?" asked one CHL coach, undoubtedly echoing league-wide sentiments.

Pietroniro's comments definitely got noticed by the Scorpions, who were rumored to put his comments on their bulletin board. Alas, they were unable to make him eat his words last Saturday, as Arizona eked out a 2-1 victory on New Mexico ice.

FIXIN' TO FUME

After Rio Grande Valley's winless streak hit eight games with Tuesday's 4-3 shootout loss to Austin, Killer Bees coach **Paul Fixter** unloaded on his players.

"A point is (expletive) at this point — we need two points," Fixter told the *McAllen Monitor*. "I think what it comes down to is we didn't work for 60 minutes. We were (expletive) in the second period, and you can put (expletive). And that cost us the game."

"(Against Austin) it was a lack of effort, a lack of desire, a lack of commitment to win a hockey game. We played hard in the third (period), and we were good. We played pretty hard in the first, and we were good. But we were (expletive) in the second."

— Greg Rajan