

## Vegas Affiliate Signs Defenseman

By Dave Lukow

Kevin Lough is returning to the Chicago Wolves.

Chicago, the top farm club for the Vegas Golden Knights, signed Lough, who appeared in 45 games for the AHL squad last season, to a standard player contract June 25. Formerly with the Adirondack Thunder of the ECHL, Lough agreed to a professional tryout contract with the Wolves December 5.

While with the Wolves, the Colgate University product had three goals, seven assists and 17 penalty minutes. In 21 games with Adirondack, he totaled two goals and 12 assists. Lough began his pro career with Adirondack at the end of the 2015-16 season. The next year, he had four goals, 14 assists and 26 penalty minutes in 51 games with the Thunder. He also played one game with Binghamton of the AHL.

A native of Kanata, Ontario, Lough played four years at Colgate.

Chicago is coached by Rocky Thompson, who began his coaching career with the Edmonton Oil Kings of the Western Hockey League (WHL) during the 2007-08 season. In 2017-18 - in his first season as head coach of the Wolves - Thompson led Chicago to 42 wins, 95 points and a first-place finish in the Central Division.

Drafted by the Calgary Flames in the third round of the 1995 NHL Entry Draft, Thompson played 25 games in the NHL. A right wing, he finished with 117 penalty minutes.

Thompson's assistants with the Wolves are Chris Dennis and Bob Nardella. Prior to joining Chicago, Dennis spent two seasons as head coach for York University in Toronto. Nardella, from Melrose Park, Ill., played his college hockey at Ferris State University.

After two years playing professionally in Italy, Nardella first played with the Wolves - while the team was a member of the International Hockey League (IHL) - during the 1994-95 campaign. A defenseman, he had nine goals and 40 assists in 74 games. He added three points in three playoff games.

Nardella was with the Wolves during their first AHL season (2001-02). In 52 games, he had eight goals and 18 assists. During a 24-game postseason run, he contributed five goals and nine assists.

He ended his playing career following the 2005-06 season.