

# Rush moves past Mammoth

Scoring prowess from Small, Evans ruins Prout's return to Rexall Place

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Rush forward Corey Small.

**Photograph by:** Ed Kaiser , The Journal, File

Former Edmonton Rush forward Gavin Prout returned to Rexall Place as a member of the Colorado Mammoth on Friday night, but it was a pair of his old teammates - Corey Small and Scott Evans -who stole the show in a huge 14-10 win for the Rush.

Small is in just his second year in the National Lacrosse League, but on Friday he showed why he has become a reliable offensive weapon for head coach and general manager Derek Keenan.

The scrappy 24-year-old set up three of Edmonton's first five goals and scored his 16th goal of the season -a short-handed marker -with 52 seconds left in the first quarter to give his team a 3-1 lead.

Since being acquired from the Rochester Nighthawks early in the season, Evans has scored 23 times, including four against the Mammoth, to lead the team in goals.

Evans scored a power-play goal with 4: 41 left in the first quarter to put the Rush up 2-1. Then, just 1: 39 into the second quarter, he recorded his second of the game to put Edmonton up 4-1 after his shot dribbled through Mammoth goalie Chris Levis and just over the goal-line.

His hat-trick goal with 8: 09 left in the third was probably his best of the night. With the shot clock winding down, the veteran came around the left side, fought off a defender and with a diving bounce shot beat Levis to put the home side up 9-5.

Evans also scored midway through the fourth quarter, and pitched in with two assists, one of which came on Small's own hat-trick goal with 29 seconds left in the third quarter to give the Rush an 11-6 edge with one quarter to play. He finished the night with eight points.

Despite being down anywhere between three to six goals for most of the night, the Mammoth capitalized on three of four power-play chances to remain within shouting distance of the Rush.

At even-strength, the only Mammoth players who gave the Rush trouble were John Grant Jr. and Alex Gajic, who each scored four of Colorado's 10 goals.

The pair's offence wasn't enough for a team that has struggled to score goals this season. Colorado entered Friday's game as the only team in the NLL that had failed to score 100 goals.

The biggest reason Colorado was unable to keep up with Edmonton's offensive outburst was the great play of Rush goaltender Matt Disher. The 34-year-old turned aside 47 of the 57 shots he faced, and most of his saves were of the spectacular variety.

Disher even stoned Prout a few times. The ex-Rush forward finished the night with five assists, but he and the rest of the Mammoth will need a better effort in the back end of a home-and-home Saturday night at the Pepsi Centre in Denver.

With the win, the Rush improved to 4-9 on the season and created some space between themselves and the 2-9 Mammoth for the fourth and final playoff spot in the West Division.

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