



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

THE NEWS & OBSERVER

Canes' mystery man Maenalanen is making his mark. Just ask the Rangers.

By Chip Alexander

It had a little of the feel of Clemson making The Citadel its homecoming opponent in football.

The Carolina Hurricanes were in New York on Friday to play the Rangers in Madison Square Garden, but the Rangers also had other plans. They were feting their 1994 Stanley Cup champions in a lengthy pregame ceremony filled with Mark Messier's tears.

Many assumed what would then unfold: goalie Henrik Lundqvist would again be in net for the Rangers, thus another Rangers win over Carolina. It was at the Garden, wasn't it, where the Canes had not won since Jeff Skinner was a rookie and Paul Maurice the coach. The Garden was the Canes' Death Valley.

But this one was different. It was different, in a sense, from the moment the Canes forward Saku Maenalanen -- coincidentally born in 1994 -- put a shoulder into the chest of Rangers defenseman Brady Skjei along the boards as Skjei hopped up to paw down the puck a little more than eight minutes into the game.

It was hammering hit, clean and hard, and left Skjei on the ice. The Rangers' Ryan Strome and others took exception, a scuffle ensued and both Maenalanen and Strome ended up in the penalty boxes. But both the hit and a point had been made.

Nor was Maenalanen through. With Lundqvist and Canes goalie Petr Mrazek matching saves and the tension building, no one had scored almost seven minutes into the third period before the Canes' fourth line struck. On a rush into the Rangers zone, center Greg McKegg got the puck to Maenalanen on the right wing and Maenalanen made a perfect backhand pass to Warren Foegele between the circles for the shot and score.

"Great play, especially at that time of the game where somebody needs to do something," Canes coach Rod Brind'Amour said.

Foegele beat Lundqvist and soon the Canes beat the Rangers. Mrazek, in his best game of the season, turned back all 27 shots in a 3-0 victory that ended the Rangers' 16-game winning streak over Carolina at the Garden.

Foegele, Canes fans have come to know. The winger made the team this year after a training camp filled with grit and hustle.

McKegg was a callup from the Charlotte Checkers of the AHL as Jordan Staal struggled to recover from a concussion and has made his mark. In his first game with the Canes, McKegg was the game's first star.

Maenalanen, 24, still is something of a mystery guy -- the tall, lanky Finn who wears No. 8. He's quiet. He's still learning

English. He's still finding his way in his first hockey season in North America.

"It's a new world for him," Canes forward Teuvo Teravainen said.

Signed as a free agent out of the Finnish elite league in May 2018, Maenalanen made his NHL debut for the Canes in December before being sent back to the Checkers. Recalled Jan. 1, the 6-4, 207-pound winger scored his first NHL goal against the New York Islanders a week later.

On Jan. 15, Maenalanen played his first game at Madison Square Garden. The Rangers won 6-2, another awful night for the Canes in New York, but Maenalanen scored both goals. Now, he has a victory at the Garden and is solidifying a spot in the lineup as the Canes (28-21-6) continue to surge.

"He's a good player and he works hard," Teravainen said. "He has all the skills. He's a goal-scorer. He can play a two-way game and he's strong. He has a little of everything."

Teravainen and Maenalanen took different hockey paths in Finland. Teravainen, from Helsinki, was a big junior star and a first-round draft pick by the Chicago Blackhawks who quickly made the move to North America and to the NHL.

Maenalanen was a fifth-round pick by the Nashville Predators in 2013. His decision was to stay in Finland, first in junior hockey, then in the Finnish pro league.

"I think it took him a little more time to get better," Teravainen said. "He was always tall but now he's getting more muscle and getting stronger. You could see he had the skill to be a good player but it took him a while and he has been working hard to get to this point."

Maenalanen and the Canes' Sebastian Aho share the same hometown and have been friends for years. They played in juniors together, played for Oulu Karpat in the Finnish Liiga. They played for Finland in the World Championship last year, where Maenalanen drew the interest of NHL teams before signing a one-year contract with Carolina.

Aho said Maenalanen stayed with him during the Canes' preseason training camp, when Maenalanen caught the eye of Brind'Amour.

"He was winning his shifts," Brind'Amour said. "He's competitive."

Caught in the numbers game at forward, Maenalanen began the season in Charlotte. Now, he has gotten in 18 NHL games -- with four goals and three assists -- and has a win over the Rangers in New York.

"I'm just working hard, skating hard, playing my own game," Maenalanen said.

That's what the Canes need, from everyone.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

"He looks pretty comfortable," Aho said. "It helps that he's a big body who can skate. It really makes it easier for him. I think

he's doing it right. He's not cheating on the ice, just working hard."



Preview: Hurricanes at Devils

Red-hot Canes storm into New Jersey

By Michael Smith

SHORT HILLS, N.J. - After collecting wins in each of their first three games on a season-long, five-game road trip, the Carolina Hurricanes will look to make it four in a row when they take on the New Jersey Devils in a Sunday matinee.

The Hurricanes shut out both the Pittsburgh Penguins and New York Rangers and topped the Buffalo Sabres in overtime thus far on this trip.

All Aboard

The Hurricanes are hot, and seemingly nothing is slowing them down.

That's a credit to the team's approach to each and every game.

"We're rolling, but we've got to keep the foot on the pedal. No steps back," said Warren Foegele, who scored the game-winning goal against the Rangers on Friday. "We need each win, and I think everyone in this room knows that."

The Canes are 8-2-1 on the road since the start of the new year, a stretch that includes a current four-game road winning streak and a current six-game road point streak.

Then & Now

When the Hurricanes last squared off with the Devils, they were shut out, 2-0, and fell to 3-8-1 in the month of December.

It was a frustrating loss that encapsulated a frustrating period for the Hurricanes in which nothing seemed to be going their way. Execution and finish were lacking, and so was confidence.

January Canes Prospect Profile: Jake Bean

Blueliner kicks-off 2019 with career January

By Nikki Stoudt

Welcome to the Canes Prospect Profile, pres. by Uber, a monthly feature here on CarolinaHurricanes.com. Each month we'll take a look at the top-performing Canes prospects across the minor leagues.

Since then, the team has scored a league-high 70 goals to assemble a 13-4-1 record and surge within a point of a playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

What's been the difference? Ask and they'll tell you: The team hasn't really changed much, but they're continuing to work hard for their chances, and they're getting pucks to go in the net.

"The resiliency of the group has pretty much been there all year," head coach Brind'Amour said Friday night. "These guys, from day one, have bought into what we're trying to do. It's playing for each other. ... It's given us a chance every night."

The Last Meeting

Rookie goaltender Mackenzie Blackwood stopped all 37 shots he saw in his third career start to earn his first career shutout, as the Devils blanked the Canes, 2-0. Pavel Zacha's shorthanded goal in the second period was all the offense the Devils needed. Prior to the Devils adding an empty-net goal with 33 seconds left to seal the victory, Teuvo Teravainen appeared to have scored the game-tying goal, but it was immediately waved off (and upheld upon review) due to goaltender interference.

"I thought it was soft, extremely soft. Trying to screen the goaltender. I think it's a very, very soft call," Justin Williams said after the game. "For that to be called no goal, certainly at that point in time, I wholeheartedly disagree with the call."

The Opposition

Today's matinee is the second half of a back-to-back for the Devils, who dropped a 3-1 decision to the Minnesota Wild on Saturday afternoon and are 2-3-1 since returning from the bye week and All-Star Weekend. Though New Jersey ranks 15th in the Eastern Conference, they own a 13-9-5 record at home.

This month, it's Canadian defenseman Jake Bean, who registered 10 points (4g, 6a) in 11 games for the Checkers through January.

Bean came out swinging in the Checkers' first game of 2019, earning two assists to help Charlotte to a 4-1 win over the Belleville Senators. Including this one on Julien Gauthier's power-play snipe.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

(Yes, that is the same goal in which Martin Necas scored from his belly.)

In his first pro season, Bean has quietly made his way to the top of the scoring column among rookie defensemen, recording 30 points (9g, 21a) through 49 games.

"Jake has come a long way from the beginning of the season until now," Canes alum and Head of Defensemen Development Tim Gleason said. "I believe his success has come from his commitment to his on- and off-ice training and putting quality time in whether that be shooting pucks after practice or ... watching video of his shifts on how to get better."

While contributing regularly with assists, Bean found the back of the net after 13 games on Jan. 19.

"He has done so far what is asked of him," Gleason said. "He has put his head down and just worked.

"His ability to make plays under pressure, defending well and joining the rush at the right times to add offense are his strengths."

The 20-year-old Calgary native leads all rookie defensemen, is tied for fifth among all rookies and ranks sixth among all defensemen in scoring (30).

"He is on the right track and it's great to see him progress along the way and have a good attitude up to this point of the year," Gleason said.

An attitude no doubt helped by scoring on teammate and fellow rookie Morgan Geekie.

ONE TO WATCH

Traded from the Calgary Flames to the Canes along with Dougie Hamilton and Micheal Ferland on June 23, 2018, it was no secret that Harvard University defenseman Adam Fox (2g, 5a through eight games in January) was a good get.

The junior blueliner has been named First Team All-American two years in a row, leads the Crimson with 27 points (7g, 20a) through 21 games this season, and ranks first among all NCAA d-men in assists per game (0.95).

Fox's hockey sense and offensive instincts have long been noted, and for good reason.

There's still plenty of time to cast your vote for Foxy in the Hobey Baker Fan Vote.



Hurricanes could be buyers or sellers at Trade Deadline, GM says

Waddell tells NHL.com about keeping focus on long-term success

By Tom Gulitti

The Carolina Hurricanes plan to be active before the 2019 NHL Trade Deadline, but whether they'll be buyers or sellers will probably be determined by how they play in the next two weeks.

The Hurricanes (28-21-6) are 13-4-1 since Dec. 31 and are one point behind the Pittsburgh Penguins for the second wild card into the Stanley Cup Playoffs from the Eastern Conference. If that trend continues, general manager Don Waddell would love to add another scoring forward or upgrade the goaltending to help them reach the playoffs for the first time since 2008-09.

"We're talking to a lot of teams," Waddell said. "We still maintain we have a plethora of defensemen. I feel like with the right player or right package, [moving a defenseman] is something we'd certainly entertain. ... It's got to make sense. It's got to help us on the ice today."

But Waddell remains focused on building the Hurricanes for long-term success. That's why he isn't interested in giving up prospects or draft picks to acquire players who aren't signed beyond this season. Instead, he would prefer to do a player-

for-player trade similar to the one he made with the Minnesota Wild on Jan. 17, acquiring forward Nino Niederreiter for center Victor Rask.

"We're not in a position where we're going to be mortgaging futures to win today," Waddell said. "We've got a ways to go. You don't want to be giving up assets or draft picks for rental players to try to get in and then you don't get in. It's one thing if you pick up a player or you do a hockey trade and a player's got term left, but I don't see us at all being in the rental market.

"The only difference is we have a few unrestricted free agents. We'll see how the next 10-12 days go."

One of those potential unrestricted free agents is Micheal Ferland, who has 28 points (14 goals, 14 assists) in 46 games this season. The 26-year-old forward would be a valuable addition for a contender that needs more scoring depth.

If the Hurricanes lose touch in the playoff race before the deadline, Waddell would likely trade Ferland, but at the moment, he's considering keeping him.

"Maybe he's our rental player," Waddell said. "You trade him and then you might need someone like that if you're still in the thick of things, so you can look at it the other way and say, 'Well, we like him. We'd love to keep him, so why do we even think about trading him?'"



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

Waddell went more in depth about the state of the Hurricanes in an interview with NHL.com.

On the state of the trade market:

"There's still lot of teams like us who are trying to figure out if they're in or out that are on the cusp, probably more so in the West because of how close it is out there. It's people that feel like one player is going to help them get in vs. you make a trade and give up an asset and don't get in. So, that's why I do think this one is going to go a little further. There might be a few little things happen here in the next little bit, but I think once we get to the middle of the month that's when things will really pick up."

On the potential return for trading a defenseman:

"More scoring. A centerman. We'd look at maybe a goalie for down the road. I think this year both guys [Petr Mrazek and Curtis McElhinney] have done a good job for us to put us in our position, but they are both unrestricted at the end of the year. So you've got to be careful there. I don't know what either one of their plans are, so we've just got to stay in tune with that. And defense, I think we look for the best forward, the best player regardless of the position. If there's a centerman, that would be ideal, but if it's a guy up front who can score, we always know [the importance of] scoring in the National Hockey League."

On whether captain Justin Williams, who is eligible to become an unrestricted free agent July 1, might be traded:

"He's been such a key part for us. We haven't talked to him, nor would I talk to him at this point. If we're in the thick of things, it's not even an option we'd think about. If something happened and we went the other way, then that would be something else we'd talk about."

On where things stand on contract talks with forward Sebastian Aho, who can become a restricted free agent July 1:

"We had said back in November that he didn't want to get into it in the middle of the year and we respected that. Being a restricted free agent it's not as intensive as guys that are UFAs, so once we get through the season we'll figure out where we go with that one."

On how the trade for Niederreiter (six goals, one assist in eight games since trade) has worked out:

"He's what we needed: He's a bigger body (6-foot-2, 218 pounds), he's got a knack for the net, he's really good down low below the face-off dots and he really complements Aho. And he's a great kid in the locker room and everything else, so to date we're very happy with it and I think we'll continue to be moving forward."

On being happy with the direction the Hurricanes are headed in the long term:

"One hundred percent. Nothing against our older players, but if you look at our lineup and our younger player or players that are under contract at forward, that's what we're excited about. You've got Aho, obviously, leading the way, who might be a restricted free agent, but we all know [we intend to sign him]. We locked up [forward] Teuvo Teravainen for another five years and you've got [defenseman] Jaccob Slavin, you've got [rookie forward] Andrei Svechnikov and you go right down and all those guys are signed."

On whether center Jordan Staal, who hasn't played since Dec. 22 because of a concussion, will return this season:

"I think he will. But you know what happens when you get put timelines on it. There could be setbacks and all that. We're just letting him work back into it at his pace, and at some point he'll start to come back and be with the team and be ready to go. But when that happens still is up in the air."



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019



About Last Night: The Curse Is Broken

It took 17 games for the Hurricanes to do it, but they finally got a win in Madison Square Garden.

By Cody Hagan

In case you are late to the party, the Carolina Hurricanes held an exorcism in New York City last night. That exorcism was to rid the demons that haunted them every time they visited Madison Square Garden to take on the New York Rangers. Year after year those very demons would rear their ugly heads, allowing blowout losses, goals from center ice, and generalized heartbreak in Raleigh.

The last time the Hurricanes won in MSG Rod Brind'Amour was still a player and the Canes were only one season removed from a playoff run. But ever since that October 2010 night, a curse was placed on the Canes and they had been unable to break it until last night. With their 3-0 victory over the Rangers the Hurricanes have officially broken the curse and rid themselves of those wretched demons.

The Good - Foeg Daddy

At the start of training camp Warren Foegele stood out as a guy who did everything right. He never took shifts off, he contributed offensively, and he was eager to learn. He started the season hot offensively but then went through a drastic cooling off period. Yet every night he continued to grind and work hard trying his best to make something happen. It's common to see Foegele win a race to beat out an icing or outskate an opponent to a loose puck, but for so long he went unrewarded for those efforts.

All of that is exactly why it seems perfectly natural for Foegele to be the guy who scored the game winning goal to break the curse of MSG. He is everything a Hurricane should be and he was rightfully rewarded for that last night.

The goal itself was a simple one created by a great pass from Saku Maenalanen and Foegele quickly got the puck on net to beat Henrik Lundqvist.

Twitter Ads info and privacy

Thanks to Petr Mrazek's outstanding goaltending this was all the Canes needed to claim victory. Andrei Svechnikov and Brock McGinn would add empty netters but it was Foegele's goal that won the game.

The line of Foegele, Maenalanen, and Greg McKegg has been solid for weeks now and there is clear chemistry between the three. If Jordan Staal returns this season you would figure one of these three would be the odd man out, but for now lets enjoy one of the best bottom six lines the Hurricanes have had in years.

The Bad

Could the Canes have scored more last night? Absolutely. Could we be nit picky and grill them on it? Certainly.

But they just broke the dreaded MSG curse so any transgressions along the way are forgiven.

The Great - The Second C Stands For Goalie

The Carolina Hurricanes do not win last night without Jacob Slavin, period. He saved three pucks that were loose near, or inside, the crease, from going in the net. As the most underrated defenseman in the NHL, Canes fans have grown accustomed to Slavin's elite play, but last night beat every expectation of #74.

We're all with Brett on this one, if Slavin won't get the national respect for a Norris nomination he at the very minimum deserves the Vezina.

In all seriousness, Slavin saved the game for the Hurricanes last night - literally. He is the backbone of the defense and one of the leaders of the team. Combine all of that with his contributions to the Raleigh area and you have yourself one of the faces of your organization. He may not score like Sebastian Aho, but there's an argument to be made that he is almost as valuable to this team as Aho is.

This five game road trip has started out as great as it possibly could have for the Hurricanes. They now sit one point back of a playoff spot and they aren't showing any signs of slowing down. They have beaten the Penguins on the road, fought off a challenging comeback by the Sabres, and ended the dreaded MSG curse. With a day to rest in New York, they will get back at it tomorrow afternoon against the Devils. The hardest three games are behind them but they cannot let off the gas now - especially when it seems very realistic at this point for 10 points on this trip.

Soak in the fun, enjoy the moment, and be thankful the curse has been broken. But truthfully, should we be surprised they managed to do it? They already broke the Vancouver curse this season. Now this one at MSG. There's only one more curse to break and the way the Hurricanes are playing, it is starting to seem more and more likely that one may get broken as well. With that in mind we leave you with something to think about:

The Hurricanes have won 28 of their first 55 games this season. That's their second-highest win total through 55 games since the franchise relocated to Carolina - trailing only the 2005-06 team.

And while we're riding high, one more for the road:

Canes are 6 points out of the division lead



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019



Checkers escape with point but fall to Hershey in shootout

By Nicholas Niedzielski

In another low-scoring contest, the Checkers were able to escape with a point in the standings but fell to the Hershey Bears 3-2 in a shootout.

Charlotte's struggling power-play found a spark and converted twice of five attempts on the night, including a point snipe by Jake Bean late in the third to give the visitors a 2-1 advantage. That lead wouldn't survive to the end of regulation, however, as the Bears snuck a pinballing puck through a mass of bodies in front and into the back of the net to tie things up with less than two minutes to go, forcing overtime.

The extra frame featured several grade-A chances for both sides, but nothing connected and the contest proceeded to a shootout.

The goalies took center stage in the shootout, with each netminder turning aside their opponent's first four attempts. Nathan Walker finally broke the ice with a conversion in the fifth round and, with the game on his stick, Janne Kuokkanen was turned aside, clinching a victory for the red-hot Bears.

NOTES

Tonight was Charlotte's second shootout of the season, with the first also coming against Hershey ... This marked the team's first shootout loss of the season and their first since Feb. 3 of last season, also in Hershey ... Hershey extended its point streak to 11 games ... Jake Bean is now tied for the third-most goals in a single season by a defenseman in franchise history ... The Checkers snapped a three-game, nine power-play drought with Patrick Brown's tally in the first ... Tonight was Charlotte's first game with multiple power-play goals since Dec. 22 ... The Checkers have allowed two or fewer goals in four of the last five games ... The Checkers are 1-1-2-1 in their last five games ... Alex Nedeljkovic extended his point streak to seven straight games and has just one regulation loss since Dec. 2 ... Spencer Smallman missed the game due to injury ... Zack Stortini and Dennis Robertson served as healthy extras

UP NEXT

The two squads will face each other once again tomorrow in Hershey for a 5:00 p.m. puck drop.

Canes assign Fleury to Charlotte, Checkers swap Lorentz for Pu

By Nicholas Niedzielski

The Checkers' blue line is getting another reinforcement as the Canes have assigned Haydn Fleury to Charlotte.

Additionally the Checkers are making a swap at forward, recalling Steven Lorentz from the ECHL's Florida Everblades and assigning Cliff Pu there.

Fleury was recalled to Carolina earlier this week but has served as a healthy extra for the Canes in each game during this stint. He has logged one assist in 12 NHL games this season.

The third-year blue liner now returns to Charlotte where he has put up four points (1g, 3a) in 14 AHL games this season.

Lorentz recorded another two points in two games during his most recent ECHL stint, bringing his total with Florida to 23 points (9g, 14a) through 19 games. He now returns to Charlotte where he has logged a goal and an assist through 13 games this season. Prior to his most recent time in the ECHL, Lorentz had been with Charlotte since early December but was a healthy extra more often than not, appearing in just four AHL games since Christmas.

This marks the first ECHL assignment for Cliff Pu, who has six points (1g, 5a) in 42 AHL games thus far in his rookie campaign. Pu, a third-round pick by Buffalo in 2016, has periodically been a healthy scratch for the Checkers, including twice in the last seven games.

The Checkers are in Hershey this weekend for a pair of road contests starting Saturday night.

TODAY'S LINKS

<https://www.newsobserver.com/sports/article226031820.html>

<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/gameday-preview-carolina-hurricanes-new-jersey-devils/c-304657004>

<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/january-can-es-prospect-profile-jake-bean/c-304586276>

<https://www.nhl.com/news/carolina-general-manager-don-waddell-talks-trade-deadline/c-304637504>

<https://www.canescountry.com/2019/2/9/18217917/about-last-night-curse-broken-carolina-hurricanes-new-york-rangers-msg-warren-foegele-svechnikov-aho>

<http://gocheckers.com/game-recaps/checkers-escape-with-point-but-fall-to-hershey-in-shootout>

<http://gocheckers.com/articles/transactions/haydn-fleury-assigned-to-charlotte>



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

SportScan

Articles from outlets covering the Hurricanes' upcoming opponents and league-wide news

1129940 Carolina Hurricanes

Canes' mystery man Maenalanen is making his mark. Just ask the Rangers.

BY CHIP ALEXANDER

FEBRUARY 09, 2019 11:21 AM

It had a little of the feel of Clemson making The Citadel its homecoming opponent in football.

The Carolina Hurricanes were in New York on Friday to play the Rangers in Madison Square Garden, but the Rangers also had other plans. They were feting their 1994 Stanley Cup champions in a lengthy pregame ceremony filled with Mark Messier's tears.

Many assumed what would then unfold: goalie Henrik Lundqvist would again be in net for the Rangers, thus another Rangers win over Carolina. It was at the Garden, wasn't it, where the Canes had not won since Jeff Skinner was a rookie and Paul Maurice the coach. The Garden was the Canes' Death Valley.

But this one was different. It was different, in a sense, from the moment the Canes forward Saku Maenalanen -- coincidentally born in 1994 -- put a shoulder into the chest of Rangers defenseman Brady Skjei along the boards as Skjei hopped up to paw down the puck a little more than eight minutes into the game.

It was hammering hit, clean and hard, and left Skjei on the ice. The Rangers' Ryan Strome and others took exception, a scuffle ensued and both Maenalanen and Strome ended up in the penalty boxes. But both the hit and a point had been made.

Nor was Maenalanen through. With Lundqvist and Canes goalie Petr Mrazek matching saves and the tension building, no one had scored almost seven minutes into the third period before the Canes' fourth line struck. On a rush into the Rangers zone, center Greg McKeeg got the puck to Maenalanen on the right wing and Maenalanen made a perfect backhand pass to Warren Foegele between the circles for the shot and score.

"Great play, especially at that time of the game where somebody needs to do something," Canes coach Rod Brind'Amour said.

Foegele beat Lundqvist and soon the Canes beat the Rangers. Mrazek, in his best game of the season, turned back all 27 shots in a 3-0 victory that ended the Rangers' 16-game winning streak over Carolina at the Garden.

Foegele, Canes fans have come to know. The winger made the team this year after a training camp filled with grit and hustle.

McKeeg was a callup from the Charlotte Checkers of the AHL as Jordan Staal struggled to recover from a concussion and has made his mark. In his first game with the Canes, McKeeg was the game's first star.

Maenalanen, 24, still is something of a mystery guy -- the tall, lanky Finn who wears No. 8. He's quiet. He's still learning English. He's still finding his way in his first hockey season in North America.

"It's a new world for him," Canes forward Teuvo Teravainen said.

Signed as a free agent out of the Finnish elite league in May 2018, Maenalanen made his NHL debut for the Canes in December before being sent back to the Checkers. Recalled Jan. 1, the 6-4, 207-pound winger scored his first NHL goal against the New York Islanders a week later.

On Jan. 15, Maenalanen played his first game at Madison Square Garden. The Rangers won 6-2, another awful night for the Canes in New York, but Maenalanen scored both goals. Now, he has a victory at the Garden and is solidifying a spot in the lineup as the Canes (28-21-6) continue to surge.

"He's a good player and he works hard," Teravainen said. "He has all the skills. He's a goal-scorer. He can play a two-way game and he's strong. He has a little of everything."

Teravainen and Maenalanen took different hockey paths in Finland. Teravainen, from Helsinki, was a big junior star and a first-round draft pick by the Chicago Blackhawks who quickly made the move to North America and to the NHL.

Maenalanen was a fifth-round pick by the Nashville Predators in 2013. His decision was to stay in Finland, first in junior hockey, then in the Finnish pro league.

"I think it took him a little more time to get better," Teravainen said. "He was always tall but now he's getting more muscle and getting stronger. You could see he had the skill to be a good player but it took him a while and he has been working hard to get to this point."

Maenalanen and the Canes' Sebastian Aho share the same hometown and have been friends for years. They played in juniors together, played for Oulu Karpat in the Finnish Liiga. They played for Finland in the World Championship last year, where Maenalanen drew the interest of NHL teams before signing a one-year contract with Carolina.

Aho said Maenalanen stayed with him during the Canes' preseason training camp, when Maenalanen caught the eye of Brind'Amour.

"He was winning his shifts," Brind'Amour said. "He's competitive."

Caught in the numbers game at forward, Maenalanen began the season in Charlotte. Now, he has gotten in 18 NHL games -- with four goals and three assists -- and has a win over the Rangers in New York.

"I'm just working hard, skating hard, playing my own game," Maenalanen said.

That's what the Canes need, from everyone.

"He looks pretty comfortable," Aho said. "It helps that he's a big body who can skate. It really makes it easier for him. I think he's doing it right. He's not cheating on the ice, just working hard."

News Observer LOADED: 02.10.2019



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

1129997 New Jersey Devils

New Jersey Devils vs. Minnesota Wild: LIVE score updates and chat (2/9/19)

Updated February 9, 2019 at 12:46 PM; Posted February 9, 2019 at 12:45 PM

By Chris Ryan cryan@njadvancemedia.com

NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

Cory Schneider, Joey Anderson, Nico Hischier, Kyle Palmieri and the New Jersey Devils will play the third game of a four-game home stand when they host the Minnesota Wild for the teams' first meeting of the season at 1 p.m. on Saturday at Prudential Center in Newark.

Schneider will make his second straight start in goal after losing a 2-1 shootout against the Islanders on Thursday. Anderson will play his first game since breaking his ankle in November.

Star Ledger LOADED: 02.10.2019

1129998 New Jersey Devils

3 takeaways from NJ Devils' loss to Wild: Penalties adding up for penalty killers

Abbey Mastracco, NHL writer

Published 5:51 p.m. ET Feb. 9, 2019

NEWARK – The Devils may have one of the best penalty kills in the NHL but when their key penalty killers are taking penalties on a near-nightly basis it can be challenging.

In New Jersey's 4-2 loss to the Minnesota Wild on Saturday at Prudential Center, Zach Parise scored a power play goal 10 seconds after Ben Lovejoy caught Jason Zucker with a high stick. Blake Coleman took a penalty in his fifth straight game.

There are a few things to take away from Saturday's game but this one may be the biggest.

Coleman has his doubts about the legitimacy of some of the penalties he's taken in the last five games but he knows he's made a few effort-based mistakes. The fiery forward has always been able to effectively toe the line between playing with an edge and going over it, always able to keep his emotions in check before things boil over.

Third straight loss: Devils fall to Wild as Cory Schneider waits for first win since 2017

Right now, Coleman is admittedly operating on tired legs and the penalties have been a result of reacting to plays instead of being ahead of them.

"I'm chasing the game more than I have all season right now," he said. "I've had a little less jump in my legs this last week or so here. I've got to find that pop again. When you're feeling a step behind you tend to reach and use your stick a little more than you would have if you're skating. That's my focus right now is getting back to the way I was playing."

Coach John Hynes is also dubious of some of those penalties but he can't say he didn't see this coming.

Coleman had a five-game point streak and points in six of his last eight games before the bye week. But since then the Devils have lost even more bodies due to injuries and trades and Coleman has been forced into a bigger role. The increased ice time may have also increased his fatigue.

This lack of production is exactly why the Devils have avoided putting Coleman on the penalty kill this season.

"A month or two months ago there was an outcry for Coleman to be on the power play," Hynes said. "But when players are playing the right roles in those situations, that's when they can continue to thrive."

But New Jersey's roster is so depleted right now they have veteran Drew Stafford playing on the second power play unit. They Devils need Coleman on the power play right now but they don't want those minutes to come at a detriment to one of their best forwards.

"Sometimes when guys get in those situations, they lose their way a bit," Hynes said. "He needs to pay a certain style of game for him to be able to have success. And that's what happens. Just because a player happens to be scoring goals at a particular time in the year, you don't take them out of what they're real good at."

Feb 9, 2019; Newark, NJ, USA; New Jersey Devils goaltender Cory Schneider (35) makes a save during the first period against the Minnesota Wild at Prudential Center.

Grading Schneider

Schneider did little to lower his GAA but the stats aren't as important as other aspects of his game right now. While Hynes said he played a solid game, Schneider himself said he was good but not great.

It's clear the veteran goalie is still easing his way into a heavier workload after an injury-riddled few years.

"It's good to play two in three days like this and I think my body felt better than it did the other night. I was pretty sore and pretty tired after," he said. "I feel in shape, it's just getting back into that game shape. More action is good sometimes, it keeps you in it. But part of the process is getting your legs back and trying to play a heavier workload."

Bergen Record LOADED: 02.10.2019

1129999 New Jersey Devils

Devils fall to Wild for 3rd straight loss as Cory Schneider waits for first win since 2017

Abbey Mastracco, NHL writer

Published 3:49 p.m. ET Feb. 9, 2019 | Updated 4:45 p.m. ET Feb. 9, 2019

NEWARK — Twice during this four-game homestand, former Devils stars have come into the Rock and scored against their old team.

Zach Parise hasn't even played for the Devils for seven seasons but fans remain bitter over his decision to sign a free agent contract with the Minnesota Wild after the team fell to the Los Angeles Kings in the 2012 Stanley Cup Final. He gave them fuel for the fire on Saturday afternoon with a second-period power play goal that helped the Wild defeat the Devils 4-2 at Prudential Center.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

That other player who spurned the Devils? That was Ilya Kovalchuk, also a member of that 2012 team, who came into New Jersey earlier in the week with his new team: The Kings.

It all comes full circle, doesn't it?

Feb 9, 2019; Newark, NJ, USA; New Jersey Devils goaltender Cory Schneider (35) spits water during a break in the first period against the Minnesota Wild at Prudential Center.

"I was expecting the boos," Parise said. "But from what I heard, it wasn't as bad as Kovy the other night."

Cory Schneider continues to search for his first regular season NHL win since Dec. 27, 2017, after this latest loss. The injury-depleted Devils (20-26-8, 48 points) opened up to a 1-0 start when Brett Seney snapped one past Minnesota (27-23-5, 59 points) goaltender Devan Dubynk 6:57 into play for his fifth NHL goal.

But around the 12-minute mark, Schneider lost his stick in traffic and 19 seconds later Marcus Foligno took advantage when he banked a shot off the crossbar and over Schneider off the wraparound.

"When you look at a couple of the goals they scored, they were in and around the net-front," coach John Hynes said. "That was something we had talked quite a bit about. It was one of our game keys."

Feb 9, 2019; Newark, NJ, USA; New Jersey Devils left wing Brett Seney (43) celebrates after scoring a goal during the first period against the Minnesota Wild at Prudential Center.

They failed to key in on Parise in the second period when he was positioned right in front of the net. Parise, the Devils first-round pick in the 2003 draft, was able to redirect Ryan Suter's shot on the power play to put the Wild up 2-1.

Later in the period, Schneider stopped a point shot from Jonas Brodin but Joel Eriksson Ek caught the rebound on his stick and batted it past a diving Schneider.

Jesper Bratt briefly gave the Devils hope in the third when he cut through the slot and slid the puck around Dubynk to cut the lead to 3-2 a few seconds before the four-minute mark of the period.

But a few minutes later, Luke Kunin caught an errant clearing attempt in the neutral zone when the puck took an odd bounce. He took it the other way, beat his defenseman to the left circle and snapped it past Schneider for Minnesota's fourth and final goal.

Feb 9, 2019; Newark, NJ, USA; Minnesota Wild left wing Marcus Foligno (17) and New Jersey Devils right wing Kurtis Gabriel (39) fight during the second period at Prudential Center.

"I felt good tonight aside from that last one," Schneider said. "That's on me. I have to get that one out of my game. But otherwise, they had some good looks, timing in the zone and scrambles and things like that. It was a little bit different from the game the other night."

Schneider, in his 11th start of the season, stopped 29 of 33 shots.

"When you look at his game overall, he made some good saves and gave us an opportunity to be able to win the game," Hynes said. "It's good to see him continuing to progress to look like the goalie we need him to be."

Feb 9, 2019; Newark, NJ, USA; Minnesota Wild center Luke Kunin (19) looks for the puck after a save by New Jersey Devils goaltender Cory Schneider (35) during the first period at Prudential Center.

The team has dropped its last three in Newark (0-2-1) with one more chance to salvage this homestand Sunday against the Carolina Hurricanes.

Notes

John Hynes coached in his 300th NHL game. He remains second all-time on the Devils' list behind Jacques Lemaire. ... Prior to the game, the

Devils placed forward Miles Wood on injured reserve and recalled forward Nick Lappin and defenseman Ryan Murphy from Binghamton of the American Hockey League. Both were healthy scratches, along with Steven Santini. ... Right wing Joey Anderson was activated from IR and slotted in on the second line with Travis Zajac and Blake Coleman. ... Keith Kinkaid is slated to start in net for New Jersey on Sunday.

Bergen Record LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130000 New Jersey Devils

Ariana Grande braved being struck by two hockey pucks as a kid and this is the 'cutie' pic to prove it

By MARK FISCHER

FEB 10, 2019 | 1:05 AM

The NHL first taught Ariana Grande love, patience and pain.

Hockey historian Mike Commito sent Twitter ablaze on Saturday when he uncovered a 21-year-old article from the Sun Sentinel featuring a beaming five-year-old Ariana Grande-Butera, clad in a Panthers red jersey, riding the 'ole Zamboni at a home game.

But that's barely breaking the ice.

The 1998 story, headlined "Boca kid gets a puck and ice," reads: "A real cutie in her red Panthers jersey, tiny Ariana Grande-Butera attracts plenty of attention when she sits in the first row behind the penalty box. Attention from the officials, from the players, from fellow Panther fans.

Ariana Grande. See the newspaper clipping below.

But the 5-year-old Boca Raton kid, who has gone to just about every home game since she turned 2, also attracts pucks. Yep. Hockey pucks. At last night's historic Panther home opener in the squeaky-new arena, her mom, Joan Grande-Butera, was telling Insider about a game last January when her daughter was hit in the right wrist by an errant Gord Murphy shot when — believe it or not — she was hit again. This time by a puck fired by an unidentified Tampa Bay player."

It turns out Grande revealed in packed arenas long before she turned into the mega-pop star you'll likely see take home a Grammy on Sunday.

And, in the hockey spirit, it only took a quick trip to the medics and an ice pack to get Grande back in action.

Ariana Grande, circa 1998.

Ariana Grande, circa 1998. (Sun Sentinel)

"What are the odds of this happening," her dad, Edward, told the newspaper at the time.

The celeb's mother, Joan, said they shelled out \$200 to hitch a ride in the ice-smoothing machine.

And Joan had the purest response to the photo being broadcast all over social media, tweeting, "how cute is she???" this was the second time she got hit actually, right before the zamboni ride... but she was amazingly brave even then and wouldn't miss the ride.... proud of her then and now.. and honestly I still have that article on my refrigerator at my office.."

Hopefully Grande doesn't suffer a hat trick.

New York Daily News LOADED: 02.10.2019



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

1130001 New Jersey Devils

Ex-Devil Parise scores go-ahead goal as Wild snap losing streak, beat New Jersey 4-2

Staff Report

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS |

FEB 09, 2019 | 5:25 PM

NEWARK, N.J. — Former Devil Zach Parise scored the go-ahead goal, and the Minnesota Wild snapped a four-game losing streak and gave coach Bruce Boudreau something to smile about in his 900th NHL game with a 4-2 victory over New Jersey on Saturday.

The third line of Marcus Foligno, Joel Eriksson Ek and Luke Kunin all scored for the Wild, who are clinging to a wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference. Devan Dubnyk made 16 saves in winning for the first time in four starts.

Brett Seney and Jesper Bratt scored for the Devils, who have lost the first three on a four-game homestand. Cory Schneider made 29 saves in his second straight start since an almost two-month stint on injured reserve with an abdominal issue.

Parise, who signed with Minnesota as a free agent in 2012 after spending his first seven seasons in New Jersey, gave the Wild a 2-1 lead at 4:34 of the second period, tipping a power-play shot by Ryan Suter past Schneider.

Eriksson Ek, who was recalled from Iowa (AHL) on Wednesday after Mikko Koivu suffered a season-ending knee injury, pushed the lead to 3-1 with 4:53 left in the second period with his second goal in as many games. Schneider made a save on a shot from the point by defenseman Jonas Brodin, but the rebound went right to Eriksson Ek for a shot into an open net.

Bratt got the Devils within a goal early in the third period with a backhander in close, but Kunin, a 2015 first-round pick who started the season in Iowa, beat Schneider from the left circle for his second goal of the season.

Seney gave New Jersey an early lead with a blast past Dubnyk, but Foligno tied the game at 12:19 of the first period with a backhander into an open net. Schneider was defenseless on the play after losing his stick in a goal-mouth scramble.

NOTES: Boudreau is now 530-266-104 in his career with Washington, Anaheim and the Wild. ... John Hynes of the Devils coached his 300th game. ... New Jersey placed F Miles Wood (upper body) on injured reserve, activated F Joey Anderson (broken ankle) off IR and recalled F Nick Lappin and D Ryan Murphy from Binghamton (AHL). Lappin and Murphy were scratched. ... Wild D Greg Pateryn got the primary assist on Foligno's goal. He has two assists in the last three games, and three overall in 54.

New York Daily News LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130002 New Jersey Devils

Familiar face helps send Devils to third straight defeat

Staff Report

By Associated Press

February 9, 2019 | 4:37PM

Former Devil Zach Parise scored the go-ahead goal, and the Wild snapped a four-game losing streak and gave coach Bruce Boudreau something to smile about in his 900th NHL game with a 4-2 victory over the Devils at Prudential Center on Saturday.

The third line of Marcus Foligno, Joel Eriksson Ek and Luke Kunin all scored for the Wild, who are clinging to a wild-card playoff spot in the Western Conference. Devan Dubnyk made 16 saves in winning for the first time in four starts.

"We were looking to snap out of the funk, it's good to get back in the win column for us with the standings and with losing Mikko we have to find something positive, and today will be the start of playing some better hockey," said Parise, who gave the Wild the lead for good early in the second period with his 22nd goal.

Brett Seney and Jesper Bratt scored for the Devils, who have lost the first three on a four-game homestand. Cory Schneider made 29 saves in his second straight start since an almost two-month stint on injured reserve with an abdominal issue.

Parise, who signed with Minnesota as a free agent in 2012 after spending his first seven seasons with the Devils, gave the Wild a 2-1 lead at 4:34 of the second period, tipping a power-play shot by Ryan Suter past Schneider.

Eriksson Ek, who was recalled from Iowa (AHL) on Wednesday after Mikko Koivu suffered a season-ending knee injury, pushed the lead to 3-1 with 4:53 left in the second period with his second goal in as many games. Schneider made a save on a shot from the point by defenseman Jonas Brodin, but the rebound went right to Eriksson Ek for a shot into an open net.

Bratt got the Devils within a goal early in the third period with a backhander in close, but Kunin beat Schneider from the left circle for his second goal of the season.

"I think Cory played well," Devils coach John Hynes said. "I think the fourth goal, we would all like to have that one back. I think when you look at his game overall, he made some good saves and gave us an opportunity to win."

Seney gave the Devils an early lead with a blast past Dubnyk, but Foligno tied the game at 12:19 of the first period with a backhander into an open net. Schneider was defenseless on the play after losing his stick in a goal-mouth scramble.

New York Post LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130013 Ottawa Senators

Nilsson and Borowiecki to march for LGBTQ cause Sunday

Ken Warren

Anders Nilsson will step out of the crease and onto the streets of Ottawa for a cause close to his family Sunday.

"Hopefully, it's going to be a really fun event," Nilsson said of taking part in Ottawa's Capital Pride March.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

Nilsson proudly wears a rainbow flag on the back of his mask in support of the LGBTQ community. He and his wife have friends who are homosexual.

Due to scheduling conflicts in his previous NHL homes, he has never been able to take part in a walk, but the Senators have an off day from the rink Sunday.

"It's great how the schedule has worked out," Nilsson said.

Defenceman Mark Borowiecki and his wife, Tara, will be joining Nilsson on the march.

"Tara and I have some fundamental beliefs and morals and values and ways we try to live," he said. "One of them is that everyone deserves to be in love and have a chance to love someone. It's important to show our support for the LGBTQ community. I was asked early in the year to maybe be a part of that and I was really proud and grateful for that opportunity. We're genuinely excited to be there (Sunday)."

Tuesday's Senators game against the Carolina Hurricanes is also the organization's first "Love is Love Night". The NHL-wide initiative, in partnership with You Can Play, is aimed at fighting homophobia in sports.

Ottawa Sun LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130014 Ottawa Senators

WARREN: Jaros steps up to help shut down Winnipeg's stars

Ken Warren

As hard as it is to take your eyes off the Mark Stone, Matt Duchene and Ryan Dzingel trade or sign watch — the trio put on quite the show in Saturday's 5-2 win over the Winnipeg Jets — there is some other intrigue surrounding the Ottawa Senators.

For those who allow themselves to look beyond the short-term for down-the-road hope, the opportunities being granted a few of the kids in the lineup are astounding.

When the puck dropped Saturday afternoon against the legitimate Stanley Cup-contending Winnipeg Jets, defenceman Christian Jaros was on the ice, charged with helping shut down the line of Kyle Connor, Mark Scheifele and Blake Wheeler.

Now, a few big and little numbers to consider here.

The Jets trio entered the game with a combined 60 goals and 171 points. Wheeler alone had 54 assists in 54 games.

Meanwhile, the 22-year-old Jaros, paired with veteran Mark Borowiecki for most of the afternoon, had a grand total of 41 NHL games to his name, returning to the lineup after missing the previous two contests due to a banged up leg and foot.

The opening was just the start. Over and over again, Jaros and Borowiecki saw the same three faces.

"They are really good players, some of the top guys in the league," Jaros said after playing a hard and tidy 15:07, almost all of those seconds matched directly against Scheifele, Wheeler and Connor. "Getting that opportunity to play against them, it builds confidence for me."

He finished the afternoon with three hits and one blocked shot, but the most impressive number was the fact the Jets' big line left the building with no points.

They did have their fair share of chances — 12 shots between them — and without the red-hot Anders Nilsson to occasionally bail out Jaros and Borowiecki, they wouldn't have been shut out altogether.

After Wheeler shook off a Jaros check deep along the end boards midway through the first, the Senators goaltender stretched out his left leg to prevent a wraparound goal. Eight minutes into the third, Brendan Lemieux, stepping onto the ice during a line change, turned Jaros the wrong way on a 3-on-2 break, but was stopped by Nilsson.

Jaros and Borowiecki were also out for a two-minute shift in the third period, surviving the pressure after being hemmed in their own zone.

"They will make their scoring chances," said Jaros. "You just try to keep them outside and don't let them get too close to the net because they are big bodies."

Borowiecki recognizes that if the Senators were in a different spot, Jaros might not be receiving the same chances, but he gives the rookie credit for taking advantage.

"Yeah, that was a hard matchup, but we've been given that assignment (against top lines) a bunch of times now," said Borowiecki, who topped the 20-minute mark himself due to his additional ice time killing penalties. "(Jaros) has all those natural athletic attributes and he's such a strong skater. When he's poised and he believes in himself, he makes good plays, offensively, too. My message to him is just to believe in himself. Once he settles in, he's going to be a hell of a defenceman in this league for a long time."

Senators owner Eugene Melnyk has asked fans to practice patience amid the current struggles and the uncertainty surrounding the futures of Stone, Dzingel and Duchene.

That message is easier to stomach when the youngsters — Jaros, Colin White and Rudolfs Balcers provided some sparks of promise Saturday — step up and meet the challenges they've been given.

"That's a very big first line," Senators coach Guy Boucher said of the decision to put Jaros and Borowiecki against the Jets' top line. "They're tough and they've got skills and all that, and we've done that this year before, when we had Jaros and Borowiecki play against teams that have a big first line. It has paid off for us before and it paid off for us again (Saturday)."

Ottawa Sun LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130015 Ottawa Senators

GARRIOCH GAME REPORT: Stone, Duchene, Dzingel lead Senators to win over Jets

Bruce Garrioch

On Hockey Day in Canada, the potential unrestricted free agents upped their games for the Ottawa Senators ... and their value.

Mark Stone, Matt Duchene and Ryan Dzingel may face uncertain futures, but they all came through in the crunch by combining for five points Saturday, leading the Senators to a surprising 5-2 victory against the Winnipeg Jets in front of 16,263 at the Canadian Tire Centre.

Stone scored two goals, while Duchene, Dzingel and Zack Smith chipped in with one each in the Senators' second straight win. Goaltender Anders Nilsson was solid in net, making 44 stops.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

Only Bryan Little and Josh Morrissey were able to score for the Jets, who didn't get much from goalie Laurent Brossoit.

"Good team. They pressed pretty hard on us in the third period, Anders had to make some incredible saves, but you have to expect that from a team like that," said Stone. "Overall, I thought we did a pretty good job of containing them.

"We've been right in games in most of the year. Other than the mishap in Buffalo (a 9-2 loss on Nov. 3), we've played pretty hard most nights and given ourselves a chance to win. We haven't been able to get over that hump. The last couple of games we've done a good job of getting and playing with the lead."

The Senators were full value for this win.

The Jets had hoped to bounce back after a lousy performance in a 5-2 road loss to the Montreal Canadiens on Thursday, but Senators head coach Guy Boucher said he still considered them Stanley Cup contenders with lots of depth and believed the club would need a "perfect" game to win.

No game is perfect, but this was pretty close for the Senators, who stuck with Nilsson in net after he blanked the Anaheim Ducks 4-0 on Thursday.

They pulled out to a 4-1 lead through two periods, and from there the Jets didn't stand much of a chance.

"We came out strong and we were expecting them to come out strong," said Boucher. "They're a big, hard team, they're physical and they've got everything. We've been playing really well.

"Our goalie was there for us (with 12 stops) in the third."

Duchene's 25th goal of the season came in his 700th National Hockey League game. He tucked a loose puck past Brossoit at 12:39 of the second period, making it 4-1. Earlier, at 9:50, Stone's second of the game came on a power play, with the Ottawa winger firing the puck past Brossoit.

After a strong start to the period, the Jets pulled to within a goal, at 2-1. Nilsson stood no chance as Patrik Laine threw a perfect pass across the ice to Little, who one-timed the puck home on the stick side.

"Winnipeg is a really good team and they pushed back in the third, but I liked the way we managed it and how we played in our zone," said Nilsson. "We didn't panic, we protected the middle really good and the shots they had from the outside made it really easy for me.

"It's still only two points no matter who you get them against, but I think it's a confidence boost to beat a team like Winnipeg, a really good team. It just shows if we play the way we can, we can beat every team in this league."

There were no shortage of opportunities for either team in the first period, when the Senators pulled out a 2-0 lead despite being outshot 16-13.

Dzingel gave Ottawa a 2-0 lead with his 21st of the season at 12:21. He fired a blast from the left circle by Brossoit on the glove side.

Stone opened the scoring at 2:57 on a shot that Brossoit should have stopped. It was Stone's 24th of the season, and even he looked surprised the puck went in the net.

That didn't matter, though. That was still what the Senators needed to start this one.

You can be sure Winnipeg general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff was keeping a close eye on Stone and Duchene.

The Jets are expected to be a big player at the Feb. 25 NHL trade deadline and don't be surprised if they make a play for both of the Senators' unrestricted free agents if they turn down offers to remain in Ottawa.

While general manager Pierre Dorion is making an effort to sign both players, the situation is expected to come to a head early next week, with

pressure on Stone and Duchene to make decisions on whether they're going to sign with the Senators. If they decide not to, they'll be dealt at the deadline.

It's hard to assess, at the moment, what might happen and the opinion on what's going to happen changes daily. But if one or both comes available then the Jets are considered a team that will try to put together a package to get both Stone and Duchene from the Senators.

No, they don't need both players and Cheveldayoff's focus is on getting a second-line centre to have more depth in the middle, but teams in the West are trying to load up for the playoffs and there's belief the Jets don't want to see both players moved elsewhere if they're dealt.

Stone, who's from Winnipeg, said he knows there's always a little extra attention when he faces the Jets.

"More buddies will watch for sure, and they're probably not too happy with me right now, but (it's) not really (special), it's more fun going home than when they come here," Stone said.

A lot of teams are waiting to see what happens with Stone and Duchene before making decisions on the deadline. If they do decide to go to market, then there will be no shortage of interest. The Jets feel they have to react because Nashville Predators GM David Poile has already made moves.

Naturally, the priority for the Jets is to get a centre. They tried to get Derick Brassard from Ottawa at last year's deadline before he was dealt to the Pittsburgh Penguins instead. The belief is Cheveldayoff thinks Duchene would be a nice fit and give the club good depth in the middle.

The Senators would likely want a first-round pick, a player who can help right away and a high-end prospect in return for Duchene, plus a conditional pick if he re-signs. It would be the same asking price for Stone.

It was Hockey Day in Canada on CBC and it's become a nice tradition that's a highlight of the NHL schedule. All seven teams were in action Saturday.

The coaches and players involved in the Senators-Jets game appreciated being part of Hockey Day because it's a good celebration of the game. The stories told on the CBC broadcast, which was based in Swift Current on Saturday, are interesting and surround the game the country loves.

"Everything that has to do with hockey I like," Boucher said before facing the Jets. "We're all kids inside, really, and that's why we still do this job. We wake up every day and we enjoy it because, deep down, it's a game and anything we do as a country that revolves around hockey is usually something exciting."

Jets coach Paul Maurice appreciates the day as well and the players all wore Hockey Day in Canada tuques during the warmup in Ottawa.

"I love it and I really like being a part of it," Maurice said. "I like Hockey Day in Canada and all of the Sunday games as well with Hometown Hockey. We get to play a lot of those. I just really enjoy sitting and listening to those stories.

"A big chunk of us grew up exactly like that, with an outdoor rink, but maybe not so much today because even hearty Winnipeggers might find it a little fresh out there today. But that's just a big part of our culture and it was a wonderful part of our life growing up, so we do enjoy it."

THE LAST WORDS

Only seconds after Hockey Night played a feature on Zack Smith growing up in Swift Current, he scored his sixth of the season to end a 23-game drought that stretched back to Dec. 11 against Nashville. "Maybe that's what it takes, a good little feature every game," a relieved Smith said with a smile. "I'll do a feature every single game if that's even remotely related. It's cool. It's fun. I'm well-removed from Swift Current being across the country, but it's cool to know what's going on with Hockey Day



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

in Canada." Smith said he's received texts from friends and family at home who are taking part in the event and he knows what it means to the community. "They're sporting (Bryan) Trottier rings on their fingers and they're meeting Lanny McDonald and Darcy Tucker. It's a little extra meaning and it's always fun scoring on Hockey Night." ... With Jack Rodewald injured in the victory over the Ducks, the Senators recalled forward Daren Archibald from their AHL affiliate in Belleville. He was a healthy scratch as Boucher decided to dress 11 forwards and seven blueliners against the Jets. ... Dylan DeMelo had just 13:51 of ice time and was plus-2. That's pretty impressive.

FIVE THINGS WE LEARNED

1. A goaltending controversy?

Not really, but it was interesting to see backup Anders Nilsson get his second straight start in the club's net. It made sense, he was coming off a shutout performance against the Ducks and starter Craig Anderson would understand why Boucher didn't want to make a change.

2. Keep on rolling

The best bet for the Senators is that Ryan Dzingel keeps putting the puck in the net. He had his first in five games when he gave the club a 2-0 lead in the first period Saturday. If he keeps scoring like that, the Senators will have a chance to get a first-round pick in return at the deadline.

3. Stone on a scoring roll

With a two-goal effort, Mark Stone now has 25 goals this season and his next one will tie the career-high 26 he scored in 80 games in 2014-15. It was Stone's fifth two-goal game of the season and the 14th of his career. He has never had a hat trick in his career.

4. Harpur won't back down

Unhappy with a hit on centre Chris Tierney in the first, Ben Harpur dropped the gloves with Winnipeg's Brendan Lemieux. Harpur won easily in his sixth fight of the season. According to Hockeyfights.com, Harpur also scored a victory in the first five fights this year.

5. Strong on the penalty kill

The Jets were 0-for-3 on the power play Saturday. The Senators haven't allowed a power-play goal in eight games and the opposition is 0-for-16 in that stretch. Coach Guy Boucher noted made a change to the penalty killing in mid-November and it's much-improved since then.

Ottawa Sun LOADED: 02.10.2019

1129967 Edmonton Oilers

Edmonton Oilers notes: Kyle Brodziak's healthy scratch lasts one game

Jim Matheson, Edmonton Journal

February 9, 2019 11:15 PM MST

Ken Hitchcock has a better read than most people on what Kyle Brodziak should bring to the table because he's coached him in St. Louis and here, and wants more decisiveness in his game.

"The reason he was brought here (free-agent signing) was to ramp up the competitive level in the bottom six and there was a period of time when we had 27 (Milan Lucic) and 44 (Zack Kassian) on the wings and that was very good, but Kyle's game has really dropped off," said Hitchcock, who scratched him Thursday in Minnesota, a blow considering

he spent six NHL years with the Wild, but put him back a centre against San Jose for game 899 of his NHL career.

"Kyle at times is his own worst enemy," said Hitchcock. "He over-thinks but when you over-think, you under-react. We've had some good chats about what's in his game and I think we'll see the player we saw before. Sometimes you get so far ahead of yourself and you forget to play in the moment."

Brodziak, who has the best face-off percentage on the team (52.6), doesn't get many breaks with where he plays, but that's been his lot in life for years. He's not a scoring threat.

"Because he starts pretty much every shift in the defensive zone, he's under a lot of pressure to start with and I think he's trying to play outside of what he's capable of. Hopefully we get him back to his gritty game," said Hitchcock.

Brodziak was in and Colby Cave, who only played 5:51 in Minnesota, was out against the Sharks. Cave has sat three of the last four games after playing five in a row after his waiver pickup.

Andrej Sekera wasn't broken in slowly Friday in Bakersfield in his first game since last spring's world championship when he played for Slovakia.

"He played 22 plus minutes, they didn't ease him in," said Hitchcock, who watched the tape of the AHL farm team game against San Jose Barricuda and liked what he saw from the defenceman who tore his Achilles before September camp.

"He looked awfully composed and smart. Very encouraging," said Hitchcock, who saw Sekera partnered with William Lagesson, who did lots of the heavy lifting while Sekera stayed back.

"Let's see how he (Sekera) looks after a couple of (AHL) games."

Indeed, there should be no rush to judgment on Sekera's stint on the farm. His skating tempo will certainly have to improve before he's ready for NHL work.

When Sekera returns from his conditioning stint — three games minimum but probably five when the Oilers petition the league for two additional ones because he's been out for so long — he'll be thrown into a deeper end in NHL games because he's missed almost 60 games.

The Oilers could call Sekera back from the AHL, but if not ready they could ask if he would waive his no-move clause to be sent back to the minors for a longer period, determined by the player. He would have to clear waivers but nobody would take him.

"You see his composure with the puck, the way he passes. He passed a few so hard (Oiler practices) they just bounced off sticks. He does things that not many players in this league can do, the way he transitions the puck."

It's getting to be crunch time for defenceman Alex Petrovic, scratched for a fifth straight game with Sharks in town. Hitchcock considered playing him with Matt Benning hurt, a righty for a righty switch, but instead opted to bring Kevin Gravel back to play with Brandon Manning in the third pair. Two lefties.

Gravel was involved in two early plays; he worked Melker Karlsson over behind the net and Karlsson went to the dressing room and later accidentally got his stick on the way of a Kevin Labanc shot and it deflected past Cam Talbot.

It hasn't been much fun for the Edmonton native Petrovic since they got him in that Florida trade just before the New Year — Petrovic and Swedish League D Robin Norell for a third-round 2019 pick and defenceman Chris Wideman. Petrovic thought this was a dream coming home, but it's been far from that. He played five in a row, then got a concussion, missing 10 days and six games. He's played once since Jan. 8 when Sharks Timo Meier drilled him into the boards.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

When Sekera returns, the cap-crunched Oilers have to add his big salary and move some other contracts out. There's eight D here now and Sekera would be nine. If Petrovic isn't playing that doesn't bode well for him.

"We're working hard with him (Petrovic) on his composure to slow things down and make better decisions. Passing pucks around people is the term I use rather than passing through people. He's getting better. We'll see (what happens). We're lucky we have eight and we'll have some heavy decisions to make if Sekera comes healthy," said Hitchcock.

This 'n that: Benning, whose game has really come on (plus-7 in the last 11 games), didn't play against Sharks after getting an upper-body injury late in the Minnesota win Thursday ... Goalie Al Montoya has been out for weeks with a concussion in Bakersfield but Shane Starrett has been terrific as the No. 1 guy on the farm. His stock has risen dramatically in his second pro season. He's won nine straight with a 1.37 goal average for the Condors, looking for their 12th straight win Saturday night against San Diego. "He's been the backbone of our success," said Bakersfield coach Jay Woodcroft ... Wideman played one game for Florida after the trade and has played the last 10 for their Springfield AHL farm team.

Edmonton Sun: LOADED: 02.10.2019

1129968 Edmonton Oilers

San Jose Sharks take another big bite out of Edmonton Oilers

Robert Tychkowski

February 9, 2019 10:11 PM MST

With the San Jose Sharks chewing up the league and the Edmonton Oilers struggling at home, fans in Rogers Place were hoping for the best and bracing for the worst Saturday.

They got the worst. Again.

On a bitterly cold night when the temperature (-29C) dipped below the Oilers goal differential (-25), things were just as frosty on the inside as San Jose handed the Oilers another lopsided beating — one the Oilers seemed to accept with virtually no push back.

The Sharks led 2-0 after the first period and 3-1 after 40 before pulling away in the third period of a 5-2 victory that could have been 8-2 if San Jose felt like making it 8-2.

"We didn't even give ourselves a fighting chance," said head coach Ken Hitchcock, who's feeling the frustration of the losing culture in Edmonton. "This, for players, has to be really unacceptable. To play that way, with so much at stake, to be able to move with two or three points of eighth place and play this way, it can't be acceptable."

This breakdown comes just two days after the Oilers turned in a solid road game to beat Minnesota 4-1. How can the same team be so awful 48 hours later? Yes, San Jose is better, but do the Oilers need to be that much worse?

"I don't have the answers," said one of the winningest coaches in NHL history. "But we can't play this way and actually expect to win hockey games, not at this time of year. Quite frankly, not ever. Maybe in an exhibition game."

San Jose winger Kevin Labanc, who had six goals in the first 55 games of the season, scored three in the win as Edmonton lost at home for the 11th time in the last 13 games. Edmonton is 0-5 and has been outscored 26-12 in its last five home games.

The Oilers have six wins in their last 22 starts overall and one win in their last eight.

"It sucks standing here sounding sorry for ourselves because we played so bad and the fans want to come here every night and see us win," said defenceman Oscar Klefbom. "We have to approach the game better and play a solid game. We have to be smarter."

Hitchcock says it comes down to commitment of fortitude, areas where the Oilers seem to be lacking on many nights.

"I think it's a symptom of something much bigger. It's priorities and what's important. It just can't be acceptable. At this time of year the coaches can't want it more than the players.

"In the end, the players just have to reach a point where they're just sick of it."

MORE BAD NEWS

It wasn't as bad as the last two games with San Jose, when the Sharks posted 7-2 and 7-4 wins, but this one hurts on a night when five other teams in the Western Conference wildcard race picked up points.

Arizona, St. Louis, and Minnesota all won while Los Angeles and Colorado picked up OTL points.

BRIGHT SIDE

Edmonton's power play has been their best feature lately, scoring six goals in the last four games, including second period marker from Ryan Nugent-Hopkins that made it six goals on the last 12 chances. It's climbed into the top 10 in the NHL at 22.4 per cent after finishing last season 31st in the NHL at 14.8 per cent.

THIS AND THAT

Zack Kassian scored his second goal in as many games in the loss. He has four goals in the last seven games ... Not much went Edmonton's way in the first period, but Adam Larsson got the biggest roar when he laid out Tomas Hertl with a hit that sent the Sharks forward flying. Hertl was trying to be a little too cute in the offensive zone and Larsson called him on it ... Jesse Puljujarvi continues to rot on the vine in Edmonton. He played 5:34 in the first two periods before getting rolled out late in garbage time ... Connor McDavid was held off the score sheet for just the eighth time this season.

RAT LUCK

Ty Rattie left the ice in pain after blocking a shot in the final seconds of the first period. He couldn't put any weight on his left leg. Could be another tough break for the winger, who scored in Minnesota Thursday, had two goals in his last four games, and was just starting to get a little traction again under Ken Hitchcock.

Edmonton Sun: LOADED: 02.10.2019

1129969 Edmonton Oilers

Edmonton Oilers Game Day: Oh no, the San Jose Sharks!

Robert Tychkowski

Published:February 9, 2019

Updated:February 9, 2019 3:00 AM MST

FIVE THINGS



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

1. SHARK BAIT

San Jose hung a pair of lopsided beatings on Edmonton the last two times they met, crushing them 7-2 in early January and 7-4 (the Oilers scored a couple in garbage time) in late December. It hasn't been all bad — Edmonton won 4-3 in the first game under Ken Hitchcock, but the recent massacres were painful to watch.

2. HOME AT LAST

The Oilers will once again try and figure out how to be as effective at home as they are on the road. They have two wins in their last 12 starts at Rogers Place and will bring a four-game losing streak into Saturday's date with San Jose. The Sharks aren't exactly world beaters on the road 14-12-3, but they just pounded the Flames in Calgary 5-2 for their fourth straight win.

3. TALBOT AGAIN

Cam Talbot will start for the fourth time in five games since the bye week. He's coming off a 35-save performance in Minnesota Thursday. Even though the organization has already committed to Mikko Koskinen for next year, Hitchcock says he's going with whoever gives him the best chance to win. Talbot is 1-1-1 in his last three starts.

4. HOT STICK

Leon Draisaitl has been wielding a lethal stick lately. He has nine goals in his last nine games and five in his last three. His 32 goals tie him for third in the NHL with Patrick Kane. They are already a career high with 28 games left in the season. He has two goals and three assists in three games against the Sharks this season.

5. POWER SURGE

The Oilers caught fire with the man advantage after the bye week, scoring five times goals in the last three games (11 chances). Confidence is running high when they have a power play and the results speak for themselves. They will be put to the test by the Sharks, who have the seventh best PK in the NHL.

BIG MATCH UP

SAN JOSE POWER PLAY VS OILERS PENALTY KILL

Edmonton's penalty kill has been a soft spot for most of the season. It gave up four goals to the Philadelphia Flyers (ranked 29th on the power play at the time) in the first game after the bye week, one in Montreal (to the 30th ranked PP in the league), and two more in the 6-2 loss to Chicago. It pitched a shutout Thursday against Minnesota and will have to be sharp again against the Sharks, who are fifth in the NHL with the man advantage.

Edmonton Sun: LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130092 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Maple Leafs-Canadiens crawls out of hibernation with thrilling clash

Luke Fox

February 9, 2019, 10:09 PM

MONTREAL — It is on an occasion like this — the Montreal Canadiens hosting the Toronto Maple Leafs at their hockey cathedral on a Saturday night so frigid, the wind whips through the corridors the way it does

across frozen ponds — that we're supposed to be stirred by memories of a rivalry bitter and beautiful.

Problem is, the stories are too old to feel real. A generation has been skipped, deprived.

All the truly meaningful Habs-Buds showdowns, the win-or-die ones in springtime, predate the birth of anyone lacing up a pair for Saturday's tilt at the Bell Centre, second place in the Atlantic Division and a consequential four-point swing hanging in the air.

Fifteen years the Maple Leafs and Canadiens have clashed in the playoffs (8-7 Habs, for those scoring at home), but not once since 1979. If Patrick Marleau saw that series, it was only through his mother's womb.

So, the players who wore blue and white and red and scripted an action-packed, air-tight, seesaw 4-3 overtime victory for the Maple Leafs Saturday dutifully acknowledge the history, but they repeatedly turn empty pockets inside out when asked for a favourite memory of this storied rivalry. All the pages have yellowed.

"This is the first year both teams look like real hockey clubs," Mike Babcock said.

"They were good; we weren't good. They had an off year [in 2017-18]. This is the first time it's actually been two teams that look like they're pretty good teams, look like they're going in the right direction.

"The crowd was fired up. This is the most people I've seen here at warm-up. They were ready to go tonight."

When Jake Muzzin was a boyhood Leafs fan, his dad cheered for the Habs out of spite: "Not a big fan. I think he just wanted to root against me growing up."

— luke fox (@lukefoxjokebox) February 9, 2019

Sportsnet NOW gives you access to over 500 NHL games this season, blackout-free, including Hockey Night in Canada, Rogers Hometown Hockey, Scotiabank Wednesday Night Hockey, the entire 2019 Stanley Cup Playoffs and more.

Toronto embarked on its six-game road trip undefeated in regulation in the Jake Muzzin Era, climbing to fourth overall in points percentage (.651). Montreal, a wonderful surprise, is eighth (.618). Were it all to end in a blink, this, folks, would be your first-round playoff matchup. The exact type of draw Gary Bettman was gunning for when he rejiggered the playoff format has eluded us.

"This is a big game," Morgan Rielly said. "There's no other way to put it."

Andrew Shaw, returning from a neck injury that had sidelined him since New Year's Eve, started the party 51 seconds after puck drop, tipping a Jeff Petry point shot through Frederik Andersen.

Toronto's fourth line responded immediately and repeatedly, going two-for-two in its first two shifts. Fourth-liner Andreas Johnsson potted his fourth goal in three games, and defenceman Nikita Zaitsev found the net for just the second time all season thanks to a Frederik Gauthier screen.

"I heard it was going to be loud, and it was very loud," Johnsson said. "It felt like a playoff game."

But the home side, confidence soaring after its impressive victory over Winnipeg Thursday, refused to wilt. Tomas Tatar tied the game in the second period when he wristed "a pretty good knuckleball" (Andersen's phrase) over the goaltender's left arm, which had been banged up earlier in the game.

Brendan Gallagher restored Montreal's lead, beating Andersen's same glove side by driving to the net and finishing off a Max Domi-fuelled rush.

Then William Nylander, having rediscovered his old jump, lasered high on Carey Price to force a fourth period.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

Once the Leafs killed its second puck-over-glass penalty, John Tavares accepted a pretty saucer feed from Mitch Marner with time to consider his next move, then snapped a hard backhander over Price's shoulder to OT glory in his first trip to Montreal as a Leaf.

"I know he's going to challenge hard and it's a debate whether you want to wait and go around him. I just felt I could get it up quick enough," Tavares said of his winner. "Fun to be part of, especially on a Saturday."

All regular-season games may be measured equal, but that doesn't mean they have to feel that way. A November Monday in Raleigh this was not.

"Loud, loud, loud, loud. Every shift, you have so much energy. It's incredible," said blue-bleeding Zach Hyman, estimating that a playoff duel at Bell Centre would multiply that volume tenfold.

"I can't imagine what the atmosphere was like the last time Montreal and Toronto met in the postseason."

Really, only the coaches — each on his second Original Six franchise after going all the way with his first — can remember when Highway 401 linked two relevant powers.

"I was a Montreal fan," Claude Julien recalls. "At the time, my brother was a Leafs fan. We had the jerseys, and we played street hockey, and I remember playing street hockey back in the 60s where, the finals, and all of a sudden you hear this team won the last game they won the Stanley Cup and a lot of times it was Montreal-Toronto."

Babcock loves coming here for the pageantry and the smoked meat on the counter at Schwartz's and the reunions with his McGill buddies. The memories flood. But he also loves a hard match game with a shrewd hockey mind and the challenge of solving the game's hottest goalie.

"They're playing with speed. They've got different dimensions in each group. The 24 car [top centre Phillip Danault] is real responsible both ways, [Brendan] Gallagher is tenacious, [Jonathan] Drouin can really pass the puck and shoot it," Babcock said.

"When you go through [lines] 1 through 4, their groups are all playing well right now, and that's why they're feeling it."

Both sides prefer to transition at breakneck pace, spinning turnovers into scoring chances. At its best, Montreal's forecheck is fierce and its neutral-zone pressure resembles a goal-line stand, suffocating its enemy into mistakes.

Ryan Dixon and Rory Boylen go deep on pucks with a mix of facts and fun, leaning on a varied group of hockey voices to give their take on the country's most beloved game.

"They've been playing with Claude now for over a year, so their systems are down in their minds. They know how to play how he wants them to," Marner said.

"You saw him in Boston. He knows how to play the right way, how to coach a team, and I think when people bought in, that's when they started winning."

Keep winning, and we'll be treated to a series only 40 years in the making.

"Absolutely," said Tavares, enticed by the possibility. "Both such great hockey markets. Love the game, love their team dearly. It means a lot to the fabric of both communities. You can see the passion."

The bear that is Leafs-Habs has crawled out of hibernation, finally.

Hockey deserves seven more like this one.

"The buzz around both cities would be pretty wicked," Marner said.

"It'd be crazy."

Quand tu réalises que Toronto est en ville.

When you hear Toronto's in town. #GoHabsGo
pic.twitter.com/liDRZPKqie

— Canadiens Montréal (@CanadiensMTL) February 9, 2019

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130093 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Ken Hitchcock feeling sobering reality with Oilers' situation

Mark Spector

February 9, 2019, 11:38 PM

EDMONTON – It hits them all here in Edmonton, eventually.

We've watched it from our seat at the post-game press conferences, year after year and coach after coach. From Todd Nelson to Todd McLellan, from Ralph Krueger to Dallas Eakins.

For each and every one of them, there comes a point where that sobering realization regarding the culture of losing here in Edmonton clubs them over the head, and on Saturday it was Ken Hitchcock's turn.

It is bigger than he thought. It is bigger than all of them thought.

The culture is broken, and even the third winningest coach in NHL history can't seem to repair it.

Sportsnet NOW gives you access to over 500 NHL games this season, blackout-free, including Hockey Night in Canada, Rogers Hometown Hockey, Scotiabank Wednesday Night Hockey, the entire 2019 Stanley Cup Playoffs and more.

"I don't have the answers," said Hitchcock. "But we can't play this way and actually expect to win hockey games, not at this time of year. Quite frankly, not ever. Maybe in an exhibition game."

Hitchcock spoke after a 5-2 loss to San Jose in which the score flattered the Oilers. The Sharks cruised through half the game on reserve power, as they have on so many nights in this building.

Hitchcock has had some frustration this season, but this was different. There was far more gravity on Saturday.

"You look at us, we're walking down main street to score a goal — it's just us and the goalie — and nine seconds later it's in our net. We can't do the things we're doing to ourselves and expect to be a playoff team."

His forwards don't back check with nearly the required intensity, while his defencemen are simply not of the pedigree to be left alone that way. His goaltending is average.

Edmonton entered the game two points out of a wild-card spot and played like they couldn't care less.

Maybe this is what Peter Chiarelli built; maybe this is how good they are. But after a 4-1 win in Minnesota two days earlier, and some strong road play since the all-star break, this performance had Hitchcock reeling. He truly thought they were making progress, and then they sashayed out on a Saturday night and played like they were on the ODR, cold beers stacked in the snow.

"At the end of the day we have to decide if we want to play the right way because it's successful, or we just want to do our thing. Today was a game where we just wanted to do our thing," he said. "To me, it's priorities and what's important. On the fifth goal: We just turned it over in



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

the neutral zone and went dribbling to the bench. Just walked to the bench and changed. It can't be acceptable."

It has been going on here for years, however, a sure sign that the culture is rotten.

It goes right back to the days of Hall and Ebs and Gagner and Gilbert. No one knows how to win, because no one has been taught what it takes. There is no institutional knowledge on things like compete and character. It does not exist, missing the playoffs for 11 of the past 12 years.

Hitchcock thought he had a bead on the issues when he arrived, after all of his visits as an opposing coach. Now he is seeing it firsthand, and it's like a visit to the sausage factory.

"When you put skill ahead of work you get burned, and there's just too much of that going on," he said. "We address it all the time, we think we're moving in the right direction and we just stumble badly. It isn't even what the other team is doing to us, we just shoot ourselves in the foot."

Not only has Hitchcock found himself in charge of a team that does not compete on a regular basis, they play at home — where the Oilers have lost 11 of their past 13 — as if structure is beneath them. Or, to be fair, so far beyond their means it's pointless to try.

Yes, it's not a strong roster. But it's the good players who lack structure just as much as the rest. An example:

With the score 1-0 for San Jose in the first period, Edmonton's second best player, Leon Draisaitl, blindly turned a puck over in the offensive zone. Most times, the guy who turns the puck over checks the hardest. But Draisaitl cruised back through the neutral zone, stopped skating at about centre ice, and watched as his guy (Evander Kane) blazed past, went in on net, took a pass and scored from the doorstep while completely unchecked.

It was flagrant nonchalance at a key point in the game by one of your best players. We asked Hitchcock afterwards: Is it worse when a leader makes a play like that?

"That's a good question," he mused, buying time to chose his words on a question that clearly struck home. "I think it's a symptom of something much bigger. It's priorities and what's important. It just can't be acceptable.

"At this time of year the coaches can't want it more than the players."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130094 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Sensational Markstrom masks Canucks' awful second period

Iain MacIntyre

February 10, 2019, 2:24 AM

VANCOUVER — In hockey — or anything — you don't always get what you deserve. But if you're lucky, over time, you'll get what you're owed.

The Vancouver Canucks, just back from a four-game road trip in which their one win was probably at least two fewer than they deserved, were awful in the second period Saturday, and outplayed in the game. Still, they beat the Calgary Flames 4-3 in a shootout on the strength of Jacob Markstrom's brilliant goaltending and rookie Elias Pettersson's ability to get his team out of jail.

Pettersson set up Brock Boeser's tying goal, at a point in the middle period when Vancouver was being outshot 18-1, then beat Flames' goalie David Rittich in the shootout as the Canucks scrambled to cling to a share of the final playoff spot in the National Hockey League's Western Conference.

"It's funny how it evens out," Canucks leader Bo Horvat said. "When you're not at your best, you pull out a win. And when you're playing some of your best hockey of the year, you lose. Huge credit to Marky tonight. He was phenomenal."

Sportsnet NOW gives you access to over 500 NHL games this season, blackout-free, including Hockey Night in Canada, Rogers Hometown Hockey, Scotiabank Wednesday Night Hockey, the entire 2019 Stanley Cup Playoffs and more.

The second period might have been Markstrom's best this season, which was good timing because it might have been his teammates' worst.

Turnover after turnover — which Canuck skater didn't give away the puck in the middle period? — extended shifts in the Vancouver zone and led to numerous Calgary scoring chances.

Canucks coach Travis Green said: "We talked to our group and said: 'Let's just hem them in our own zone for the second period and tire them out.' And that's exactly what we did."

Markstrom made 19 saves in the middle period and, equally astonishing, the Canucks left it tied 3-3 when Boeser's far-post laser at 15:11, after Pettersson weaved through the Flames' lineup before passing cross ice, offset Flame Andrew Mangiapane's goal at 13:19 that followed Alex Biega's giveaway.

"There was a lot of good things," Calgary coach Bill Peters said. "I really liked our second period but we needed to come out of that with a lead. We didn't. That's the period, for me, where we needed to come out with a lead. Definitely had some good looks. We'll take some of the positives out of it and move on to Florida."

At least the Flames, 11-3-2 since Christmas, aren't worried about making the playoffs but merely determining where and how they'll start the Stanley Cup tournament. The Canucks are part of the Western Conference wildcard peloton getting ready for a mass sprint to the finish.

All around them, the Minnesota Wild, St. Louis Blues, Arizona Coyotes and Colorado Avalanche were picking up points on Saturday.

"I don't think you have to worry about it," Boeser said of scoreboard watching. "If we're not getting points, we're not there with the other teams."

The Canucks were barely with the Flames on Saturday but got two points.

With one goal in 62 shots in his previous 17 games, Horvat finished beautifully from Chris Tanev's diagonal cross-ice pass to open scoring for Vancouver 44 seconds into the game.

Unchecked by three Canucks, the nearest one Loui Eriksson, the Flames' Elias Lindholm shot under Markstrom from the low slot to tie it at 6:39. But Vancouver retook the lead at 12:58 when Rittich allowed Josh Leivo's shot from distance to clatter through his pads.

But another Biega turnover led to the tying goal only 37 seconds later, as Markstrom had to contend by himself with a bouncing puck and Flames' forward Sam Bennett, whose chip shot appeared to be tumbling in when the Canucks' Derrick Pouliot got the final touch before it crossed the line.

Sportsnet NOW gives you access to over 500 NHL games this season, blackout-free, including Hockey Night in Canada, Rogers Hometown Hockey, Scotiabank Wednesday Night Hockey, the entire 2019 Stanley Cup Playoffs and more.

It was all Markstrom all the time after that.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

He finished with 44 saves, plus three more in the shootout against Matthew Tkachuk, Sean Monahan and James Neal. Flame sniper Johnny Gaudreau, a Hart Trophy candidate, did not get a shootout chance from Peters. Perhaps Gaudreau was tired after firing seven times in regulation on Markstrom, including on a first-period breakaway and twice in the final minutes when he had the game on his stick.

The Canucks poured off their bench after the shootout to mob Markstrom.

"You're beating a divisional rival, you're fighting for a playoff spot," Horvat said. "Those are huge two points for us. And to beat a team like that that's been hot all year and getting the two points against them makes it even better."

The Canucks played poorly enough in the second period to lose badly to the Flames, but won. Last week, they played well enough to win in Philadelphia, Washington and Chicago but collected only one point.

"That's hockey, though," Canuck defenceman Troy Stecher said. "It's a weird game."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130095 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Canadiens' maturity in loss to Maple Leafs step in right direction

Eric Engels

February 10, 2019, 12:31 AM

MONTREAL — The Montreal Canadiens went toe-to-toe with the Toronto Maple Leafs on Saturday, and they got knocked out in the dying seconds of the final round.

That they played a strong, passionate, hard-checking, in-your-face type of game, a game they took down to the wire — against one of the National Hockey League's best and most talented teams — was something to be proud of.

But the Canadiens were anything but satisfied afterwards, and that is the biggest sign of maturation we've seen from a group that came into the season as the second-youngest one in the league.

Bottom line: Moral victories are for losers, and this 30-18-7 team isn't treating this like one of those.

"It's very okay to be pissed off about that loss," said Andrew Shaw, who returned from a neck injury to play his first game since New Year's Eve and registered a goal and an assist in the process. "The game was ours and we let it go."

Stream over 500 NHL games blackout-free, including the Flames, Oilers, Leafs and Canucks. Plus Hockey Night in Canada, Rogers Hometown Hockey, Scotiabank Wednesday Night Hockey and more.

Absolutely, they did. The Canadiens took the lead in the eighth minute of the third period when Brendan Gallagher scored on the power play, but they let their guard down 1:11 later — allowing William Nylander the time to take a shot that beat Carey Price from the slot. Tied at 3-3 with 31 seconds left in the frame, Nikita Zaitsev, who gave the Leafs a 2-1 lead in the fifth minute of the first, dumped a puck over the glass and sent the Canadiens to a power play that in the end produced nothing but momentum for their opposition.

Montreal went from 5-on-4 to 4-on-3 in overtime and failed to manage a shot on net over that minute and 29-second advantage. They were in position to pull the trigger — both figuratively and literally — and just couldn't do it.

A little more than 45 seconds after Zaitsev's penalty expired, John Tavares found a seam to skate through while Mitch Marner drew two Canadiens defenders towards him on a clean zone entry. Big No. 91 then buried the game, delivering a gut-punch to the Canadiens via a wrist shot to the top shelf of Price's net.

"We found a way to just hang on, hang on, and then we won the game," said Leafs coach Mike Babcock.

His team counter-punched all night, with Andreas Johnsson tying the game 1:29 after Shaw opened the scoring in the first minute, with Nylander's goal, with Tavares's, and on the shot clock nearly all the way through (16-15 Leafs in the first, 9-9 in the second, 14-6 Canadiens in the third, one and only in overtime).

Price blamed himself for Nylander's shot, and Canadiens captain Shea Weber, forward Max Domi and Shaw felt the power play let the team down — first on a four-minute advantage in the first period and then certainly in overtime. Phillip Danault left the dressing room cursing and shaking his head before reporters had a chance to catch up with him.

"We're frustrated about this game for sure," said Weber.

A chance to pass their Atlantic-Division rival in the standings — the two games in hand Toronto owns — slipped from their grasp.

"I think it's great that the guys are mad," said Canadiens coach Claude Julien. "They're disappointed because they wanted to win, and I like that because we believe in ourselves, we believe that we can go out there and give ourselves a chance to win. They wanted to win this game. I like our approach; we're not on our high horses, but we're a confident team that thinks that if they play well enough they can win any game. So that's how they're approaching every one of them so far, so when you lose, for them it's a loss."

One mixed into a segment of five consecutive games at home that's seen the Canadiens take eight of a possible 10 points — and from some pretty good teams too. But that didn't make it any more digestible.

That considered, Saturday's game may have been a bitter pill to swallow, but it was still valuable experience gained for a team on course to participate in this year's playoffs.

"I think those are the types of games we like to play in," said the 23-year-old Domi. "We like the pressure, we like the circumstances, and that's a big stage. I think we did a pretty good job, but we can definitely learn from this and get even better."

That's a fact, and it's something to be encouraged about for the Canadiens, even if they derived no satisfaction from their effort on the night.

"Tonight there was a lot of emotion in the game," said Julien. "It's the Toronto Maple Leafs against the Montreal Canadiens and you could see at times our bench — whether the linesman missed a call or the referees—guys were really into it to the point where we kind of had to take a step back. So this was great for us to be able to play in those types of situations and be able to handle it better. We've got a lot of guys who haven't been there and we hope that they're going to get a chance to be there, so this was a pretty good sample of what you would get in the playoffs."

Their reaction to it was too.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130096 Websites



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

Sportsnet.ca / Ron and Don: Jets' Patrik Laine needs to 'get going'

Emily Sadler

February 9, 2019, 8:43 PM

As we prepare for the home stretch of the regular season, it's time to dust off those pre-season Stanley Cup predictions and see how they're looking.

Don Cherry picked the Winnipeg Jets to hoist Lord Stanley's Cup. And while he stands by his pick, he's got a few concerns.

"Listen, I'm still picking them," Cherry said during Saturday's Hockey Night in Canada segment, live from Swift Current, Sask. "I'm still picking the Jets."

Sportsnet on Twitter

Puck drop! @CoachsCornerDC is in the building for @SCBroncos vs. @BladesHockey! #HockeyDay

Considering their current position in the standings — first in the Central, second in the West, and third in the entire league — that's looking like a pretty strong pick. This week, however, wasn't their strongest showing: the club lost to the surging San Jose Sharks Tuesday, fell to the Montreal Canadiens two nights later which led to a few post-game expletives from coach Paul Maurice, and didn't look like Cup contenders Saturday afternoon against the Ottawa Senators in their third straight loss.

"They're having a tough time," Cherry said.

Goaltender Connor Hellebuyck stood on his head Thursday against the Habs, stopping 48 of 53 shots fired his way, but didn't get much support from those playing in front of him. He got the day off Saturday, with backup Laurent Brossoit (27 saves on 32 shots) getting the start.

But it was one of the club's other bright young stars that Cherry is most concerned about.

"Somebody better give [Patrik] Laine a smack," Cherry said. "This is his contract year. Get going, kid."

Laine, who will be a restricted free agent on July 1, had an assist Saturday but has generally struggled to put points on the board in the second half of this season. The 20-year-old Finn hasn't scored a goal since Jan. 13, and that remains his lone marker of the calendar year.

"I know he's got 25 goals [this season], but he's done nothing," Cherry said. "Give him a smack, they've got to get going."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130097 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Maple Leafs not willing to trade prospects Sandin, Liljegren for rental

Emily Sadler

February 9, 2019, 11:48 PM

The Toronto Maple Leafs made a splash on the trade market late last month when they landed defenceman Jake Muzzin in a trade with the

Los Angeles Kings in exchange for Carl Grundstrom, Sean Durzi and a 2019 first-round pick.

The club got the veteran rearguard they've been looking for — for the remainder of this season and all of next year, too — but they might not be done dealing just yet.

"The Maple Leafs have been linked to Micheal Ferland, who Carolina might keep. But they are looking for that kind of player," Sportsnet's Elliotte Friedman reported Saturday on the Headlines segment of Hockey Night in Canada.

But fear not, Leafs fans. According to Friedman, the Maple Leafs don't plan on selling the future for a win right now.

"They have indicated that, for a rental, they are not interested in dealing either of their top two defence prospects, [Rasmus] Sandin or [Timothy] Liljegren or another first-round pick," Friedman said. "They've already dealt one for Jake Muzzin, who they have for another year."

Sandin was selected by the Maple Leafs 29th overall in 2018, and has five goals and 10 points in 18 AHL games with the Marlies since. Liljegren is a product of the 2017 draft (17th overall) and is known for his offensive skill set and elite skating. He has also spent the majority of this season with the Marlies, tallying two goals and eight points in 19 games.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130098 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Dismal losing skid could force Ducks to rush coaching change

Emily Sadler

February 10, 2019, 12:07 AM

There are losing streaks, and then there's the Anaheim Ducks' recent stretch of struggles.

The club fell to the Philadelphia Flyers earlier on Saturday, marking their seventh straight loss. They have just two regulation wins in their last 25 appearances as they continue to fall down the standings.

Currently sitting last in the Western Conference and 28th in the league, this season is lost — and, presumably, so is head coach Randy Carlyle's job.

"A big decision looming on Randy Carlyle," Sportsnet's Chris Johnston said during the Headlines segment on Hockey Night in Canada. "It's clearly been management's preference to try to ride this out, to keep the veteran coach behind the bench throughout the season, but they've hit a new low now losing seven games in a row, outscored 37-8 in those games."

Ducks coach Randy Carlyle after 7th straight loss. Ducks are 2-15-4 in past 21 games: "You don't expect to have to live through this stuff for this extended period of time."

— Adam Kimelman (@NHLAdamK) February 9, 2019

Ducks GM Bob Murray hasn't wanted to fire coach Randy Carlyle, and at this point it probably won't make a difference. They're done. But Murray has to say something to fans and show he feels this is unacceptable. Fans would be happy with some kind of hope expressed for the future.

— Helene Elliott (@helenenothelen) February 9, 2019



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

The next man up, according to Johnston, is likely Dallas Eakins — but he's got the AHL's San Diego Gulls doing well, currently sitting third in the Pacific. So, what's a general manager to do?

"There is some thought that they might now have to finally make that change," Johnston explained. "They've wanted to keep Dallas Eakins down in the American Hockey League with the San Diego Gulls. He's thought of as the eventual successor to Carlyle, but with the way this road trip went, they might be forced into a decision a little quicker than they wanted."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130099 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Jets could put top prospect Sami Niku on trade market

Emily Sadler

February 10, 2019, 12:10 AM

The Winnipeg Jets and Nashville Predators have plenty in common. The Western heavyweights — No. 1 and No. 2 in the Central right now — are looking like legitimate Stanley Cup contenders, appear to be built for long playoff runs and, should they enter the trade market ahead of the deadline, both clubs have an enticing piece they could put into play.

"As far as teams in the West, when we think about teams looking for Grade-A talent to trade for, we believe that Winnipeg and Nashville may be at the forefront here," Sportsnet's Nick Kypreos said during Saturday's Headlines segment on Hockey Night in Canada. "We mentioned last week that the first-rounder would be in play, but when we talk about players like [Blue Jackets forward Artemi] Panarin being linked to Nashville or certainly [Senators pending UFA Mark] Stone to Winnipeg, it would be an additional top prospect involved."

"Eeli Tolvanen is a first-rounder from 2017 from Nashville. This time last year, he was deemed an untouchable," Kypreos continued. "And now, all of a sudden, his name constantly gets played as being one of those players involved in that type of deal."

Tolvanen, selected 30th overall in 2017, has NHL GMs drooling over his elusiveness and elite release. The 19-year-old has a goal and an assist in a brief four-game tryout with Nashville in December, and has tallied eight goals and 17 points through 33 games at the AHL level with the Milwaukee Admirals.

"And as far as Winnipeg is concerned, it's Sami Niku — AHL defenceman of the year — also mentioned a lot," said Kypreos. "So if you're talking about any teams wanting to deal with Winnipeg, it's possible that that top prospect would be involved, too."

Niku, 22, has a dozen games' worth of NHL experience — he scored in his NHL debut last season, and has appeared in 11 contests in 2018-19 — and has tallied three points with the Jets. The Finnish defenceman, known for his strong vision and puckhandling, was selected by the Jets in the seventh round in 2015 and rose quickly through the Jets' deep prospect pool on his way to being voted the AHL's top defenceman in 2017-18.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130100 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Senators nearing decision time on Duchene, Stone, Dzingel

Emily Sadler

February 9, 2019, 10:19 PM

The NHL Trade Deadline is just over two weeks away — do you know where your pending UFAs are?

If you're an Ottawa Senators fan, it sounds like you'll know soon.

"Ottawa is letting teams know if any of their players are going to be available, including the three key ones: Duchene, Dzingel, and Stone," Sportsnet's Elliott Friedman said during Saturday's Headlines segment on Hockey Night in Canada. "Teams will know about 10 days out before the deadline hits, so that looks like it's the middle of next week, when Ottawa will begin to let other teams know, are any of those UFAs going to be on the market ... or are they going to be staying Senators."

The trade deadline is Monday, Feb. 25, so that means Feb. 15 could be a date Senators fans might be circling.

A quick refresher: All three players — Duchene, Stone, and Dzingel, are due to hit unrestricted free agency for the first time in their respective careers on July 1. Duchene's current cap hit of \$6 million would make him an affordable option for a contender looking to add some star power up front. The Senators could have locked up Stone, 26, last summer when he was a restricted free agent but the two sides instead agreed on a one-year deal worth \$7.35 million — essentially buying both sides an extra year and delaying any decisions. Dzingel, 26, wouldn't garner as big a return on the trade market — or as high a cap hit on a new deal — but his play has been a bright spot for this rebuilding club, and he's endeared himself to fans during his time in the nation's capital. The trio makes up the Senators' top three goal-scorers this season, with 71 goals among them.

"I think the big one that has to make a decision here is Matt Duchene," Sportsnet's Chris Johnston said. "There have been extensive talks this week with his agent, Pat Brisson, and Senators general manager Pierre Dorion. A lot of those discussions, actually, have been about the future of the franchise, what they're expecting in terms of their window to get back to respectability, and things going on with the arena. And what it really comes down to now is what Matt Duchene wants and he hasn't been given a firm deadline from the Senators, when he has to make his choice, but with the sides set to talk again on Monday, he knows this is coming to a head."

Johnston also noted that Duchene "really does love it in Ottawa," and added another potential option for the two sides:

"Even if he weren't to sign now and was traded at the deadline, I don't think he'd rule out a potential return on July 1 as a free agent," Johnston said.

A few weeks ago, Sportsnet's Nick Kypreos reported that the Senators had issued an offer to Duchene, and suggested Saturday that the long-term offer could be his best shot at his biggest paycheck.

"In past weeks, we've talked about the offer on the table from the Ottawa Senators being \$64 million over eight years. Many believe that will be the best cash offer he will get," Kypreos said. "Remember: if he goes and signs with another team July 1, he can only max out seven years. To match that offer from Ottawa, he'd have to have an [annual average value] over \$9 million. A lot of people think that may not happen."

Now, we wait. The countdown is on, Senators fans.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130101 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Dale Weise thrilled to return to Canadiens

Eric Engels

February 9, 2019, 1:11 PM

MONTREAL — Dale Weise is going back to the team he enjoyed his best NHL seasons with.

It was on Saturday morning that the Montreal Canadiens traded defenceman David Schlemko and forward Byron Froese to the Philadelphia Flyers for Weise and 28-year-old defenceman Christian Folin.

Stream over 500 NHL games blackout-free, including the Flames, Oilers, Leafs and Canucks. Plus Hockey Night in Canada, Rogers Hometown Hockey, Scotiabank Wednesday Night Hockey and more.

Froese, who served as Laval's captain, didn't appear in a game for the Canadiens this season, while Weise and Schlemko, who are the key pieces in the deal, were being paid near-identical salaries to play for minor-league affiliates, with both owning contracts set to expire in the summer of 2020.

Both players were hoping for a change of scenery, both represented by agent Allain Roy, and the Flyers and Canadiens proved to be ideal trade partners to make that happen.

"It feels absolutely surreal," Weise said when contacted by Sportsnet. "It's just crazy. I don't even know what to feel right now. The first time I got traded to Montreal it was a dream come true, and ever since I left I just haven't felt like the same player. My emotion—it just hasn't felt the same since I left. To come back now, it just feels so surreal. I'm so excited. This is where I've always wanted to be; the team, the fans, the ownership, the coaches, just everything, it's everything I want to be a part of."

Weise, who cleared waivers on Jan. 16, will report to the AHL's Laval Rocket for the time being, but expect him to join the Canadiens in short order. They've been exploring different depth options on the trade market at forward, and despite three mostly down years with the Flyers, he qualifies as an upgrade to their fourth line.

From 2014-16, after the 30-year-old Winnipeg native was traded to Montreal from the Vancouver Canucks, Weise scored 27 goals and 59 points with the Canadiens. More pertinently, he scored five goals and five assists in 28 playoff games.

With the Canadiens firmly in a position with 27 games remaining in the regular season — they're currently in third place in the Atlantic Division and eight points up on the Carolina Hurricanes, who are sitting just outside the Eastern Conference playoff picture — Weise's low-cost acquisition fits with their plan. Getting some defensive depth in Folin, who will report to the NHL squad, only helps.

A weekly deep dive into the biggest hockey news in the world with hosts Elliotte Friedman and Jeff Marek. New episodes every Thursday.

The Flyers retained close to 19 per cent of Folin's \$800,000 salary, and the Canadiens made room for him on their roster by placing defenceman Karl Alzner on waivers.

The 28-year-old registered two helpers in 26 games this season with Philadelphia.

A corresponding move to make room for Weise could be in the offing. Canadiens coach Claude Julien has been tinkering with his fourth line since the season began and is looking for a combination of players he can put on the ice more regularly.

"We want to play a fast game, we want to be on teams," Julien said after Thursday's 5-1 win over the Winnipeg Jets at the Bell Centre. "If you shorten your bench, you can never keep that momentum and that pace going."

Weise's experience gives him an edge on players like Kenny Agostino and Matthew Peca, who will both be scratched from Saturday's game against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"I'm going to go down to Laval and do what I do," said Weise. "I'm going to be a good teammate, be a good leader down there, and I'm going to earn my way up. I'll be ready when I get the opportunity."

He scored just 17 goals and 34 points in 152 games with the Flyers, but Weise feels this opportunity with the Canadiens will rejuvenate him.

"I think it's amazing — from where they were last year (28th place) to where they are this year," he said. "I haven't watched a lot of hockey myself this year, but the times I have watched them (I see) they're a quick team. Any time you have Carey Price in the net you have a chance to win every night, and I really like their team. It's a fast team, they get contributions from everybody, and I'm just happy to get the opportunity to be a part of it."

Schlemko leaves the Canadiens after having appeared in just 55 games following his trade to the team from the Golden Knights in the summer of 2017. Over that time, he missed several games due to injury and was made a healthy scratch on several occasions. The defenceman split time between Montreal and Laval this season, tallying two assists in 18 games with the Canadiens, along with four points in eight games with the Rocket.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130102 Websites

TSN.CA / Five Takeaways: Canucks vs Flames

Jeff Paterson

1) If Jacob Markstrom is getting worn down by a heavier than usual -- and ideal -- workload in the absence of back-up Thatcher Demko, he certainly didn't show it on Saturday night. Markstrom made a season-high 44 saves including 19 in a one-sided second period which saw Calgary hold a 17-2 edge at one point and a 20-5 advantage over the full 20 minutes. Markstrom made a potential game-saver off Flames scoring leader Johnny Gaudreau with just under five minutes to play in the third period and the game tied 3-3. Gaudreau moved in from the slot and let a wrist shot go that was headed to the top corner, but Markstrom calmly flashed his glove out and made one of his better stops of the night. He also successfully stared down Johnny Hockey on a breakaway with time winding down in the first period and the game tied 2-2. On top of the 44 saves he made over three periods and overtime, Markstrom stopped all three Flames shootout attempts, too. Interestingly enough, he didn't have to face Gaudreau -- the league's fifth leading scorer -- in the skills competition as Calgary coach Bill Peters opened himself to some second guessing going with Matthew Tkachuk, Sean Monahan and five-goal scorer James Neal who has just one goal since the start of January.

2) It seemed the Hockey Gods smiled on the Canucks on Saturday night. After outplaying Philadelphia, Washington and Chicago for long stretches



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

of recent one-goal losses, the Canucks were not the better team on the night, but they had the better goaltending and ended up with the result they wanted regardless how it looked. The Canucks struggled for much of the first two periods to cleanly exit their own zone and finished the night with 16 giveaways. They were fortunate Markstrom was there playing the role of a giant eraser to nullify so many of the team's mistakes. With San Jose in on Monday and the Canucks in the Bay Area next Saturday, they will see another top tier team twice in the next week and they have to know they likely won't get away with the sloppy miscues they did against the Flames.

3) It looks like the All-Star break did Brock Boeser some good. In five games since having a week off, Boeser has scored three times and his goal on Saturday against Calgary -- just like his goal last Saturday in Denver -- looked like Boeser from his rookie season. He's finding himself with the puck on his stick and with time and space to pick his target. That's when he's at his best. Late in the second period Saturday with the teams at four skaters aside, Elias Pettersson entered the Calgary zone on left wing, circled the net, drew a couple of Calgary defenders to him and then slid the puck across the slot to Boeser in the left circle. With his head up, he patiently picked out his spot and ripped a wrist shot past Flames netminder David Rittich. Boeser is now up to 19 goals on the season and seems to be energized for the home stretch with 26 games to go. He didn't get a chance to play in meaningful games in his rookie season, but he looks to be fully embracing the opportunity now. Starting with a hat trick in St. Louis on December 9th, Boeser has 13 goals in his last 25 games. He had a season-high 15 shot attempts on Saturday with seven hitting the target.

4) It seems it has taken Troy Stecher more than a season and a half to earn the trust of the coaching staff. But with Alex Edler out indefinitely with a concussion, the Canucks are looking for somebody to step up and fill the lead role on the blueline. On Thursday, it was Ben Hutton logging 31:18. On Saturday, it was Stecher's turn to step into the spotlight. He played a season-high 26:16, quarterbacked the first power play unit and saw shifts in overtime -- including a 4-on-3 power play for the final 1:23. Stecher was pleased with the result on the night, but didn't like much about the first two periods. Following the game, Travis Green wasn't prepared to heap too much praise on his team's overall defense after giving up 47 shots, but he did concede that Stecher and Hutton have elevated their games recently. Coming into the night, Stecher's season average for ice time was 17:34, however in his past three games he has logged 25:45 (his previous season high) in Washington on Tuesday, 22:49 in Chicago on Thursday and now more than 26 minutes against the Flames. That's a lot of hockey in a condensed period of time with travel and Stecher has certainly held his own over the past week.

5) It seems awfully premature to think about playoff match-ups for the Vancouver Canucks, but *IF* they get in and *IF* they draw the Calgary Flames in the opening round, the Canucks have given the Flames something to think about winning three of the first four meetings between the teams. After splitting a home and home series in the opening week, the Canucks have eked out wins in overtime (3-2 in Calgary on December 29th) and a shootout (on Saturday). Now, if the Canucks and Flames played Saturday's game seven times, I'd most definitely put my money on the Flames winning four of them. They were the better team for much of the night and the vast amount of time the home team spent in its own zone would certainly be a concern to the Canucks. While they're separated by 17 points in the standings, the Canucks have found a way to keep the Flames top scorers in check for the most part while Elias Pettersson has torn the Flames to shreds with eight points in four meetings. If any team in the league should be starting to get a read on the Canucks rookie, it would seemingly be a Calgary team that has faced him four times now. But Pettersson had two assists Saturday and now has 4+4=8 of his 25+25=50 on the season against the Flames. Elias Lindholm had one of the Calgary goals on Saturday set up by Johnny Gaudreau and Sean Monahan. That trio has 6+7=13 in the four games against the Canucks. The teams will meet -- at least -- one more time this season on March 23rd at Rogers Arena.

TSN.CA LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130103 Websites

TSN.CA / Babcock taking wait and see approach to defence chemistry

Mark Masters

What does Mike Babcock think of the chemistry between Jake Muzzin and Morgan Rielly so far?

"Well, that's a good question," the Maple Leafs coach said. "We'll just keep watching, how's that? There's lots of parts to that. Is Mo's game as good as it can be? So, that's a big part, for me, as well. So, we'll just see over time. I said right from the get-go there will probably be some difference in pairs."

Babcock was up front about his reservations as soon as Muzzin joined the Leafs via a trade with Los Angeles. In an ideal world, the coach would like to keep the guy who's making more plays with the puck on his strong side, but Rielly, a lefty like Muzzin, has shifted to the right to ease the transition period for the ex-King.

Toronto's top six currently features five lefties. So, is the plan to eventually play Muzzin on the right?

"I don't know what I'll do," Babcock said. "Maybe a different pair. We'll just see what happens, you know what I mean? We've got some options now. Obviously, we feel our defence is way better than it was (with) more depth. We can play more players with more players. We'll see over time."

Rielly, who has already set a career high with 53 points in 53 games, has a goal and two assists in the four games since joining forces with Muzzin.

"We're working on it," Rielly said of the new partnership. "There's always room to get better and things we can improve on and we're aware of that and we're doing what we can to improve."

Rielly and Muzzin were on the ice for Ottawa's two goals in the third period on Wednesday, marking the first time they've been on for even-strength goals against since being united. The pair is driving possession with 56.6% CorsiFor in nearly 53 minutes together, per NaturalStatTrick.com.

"I think it starts with D-zone, playing against the rush," Rielly said when asked where improvements can be made, "and then we'll go from there. We got our hands full and we're going to work hard to get better."

Muzzin offered the most positive review of the new-look pairing.

"It's been good," said the 29-year-old, who has made it clear he's more comfortable on his natural side where he's played his entire career. "Still early. Only a handful of games so far, but so far, so good. I mean, we've done some good things. We've talked about some things as we've gone along and we'll continue to build."

Leafs Ice Chips: Despite arrival of Muzzin, D remains unsettled

Many believed Jake Muzzin's arrival was the piece the Maple Leafs were missing on their blue line but after a few games the defence remains unsettled while everyone adjusts to their new spots. Mark Masters has more from Montreal.

The Rielly-Muzzin duo will face a tough task should Babcock match them against Montreal's surging top line featuring Jonathan Drouin, Phillip Danault, and Brendan Gallagher.

"The 24 car is real responsible both ways," Babcock said referring to Danault. "Gallagher's tenacious. Drouin can really pass the puck, shoot it; a good player."



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

Drouin has four goals and nine assists in 10 games since joining Danault and Gallagher. What stands out to Rielly about the left winger?

"I mean, lots," he said. "His hands. His speed. I've played with him before (at the 2016 World Cup) and he's a smart player and he's playing well right now. That whole line is."

Habs Ice Chips: Drouin on track to set multiple career-highs

After witnessing Jonathan Drouin achieve the most productive 10-game stretch of his career, John Lu explains how this hot-streak and being placed beside Phillip Danault and Brendan Gallagher isn't just a coincidence.

If the playoffs started today, the Leafs and Canadiens would be facing off in the opening round. The pair of Original Six franchises haven't met in the postseason since 1979.

"It'd be crazy, that's for sure," said Toronto boy Mitch Marner, allowing himself to consider the possibility for just a moment. "I think the buzz around both cities would be pretty wicked, but it's a long ways away."

Toronto leads Montreal by just one point in the Atlantic Division race although the Canadiens have played two more games than their historic rivals.

"This is a big game," said Rielly. "There's really no other way to put it. Points are close in the standings. In their building. We should be excited. We should be ready. I wouldn't expect anything less."

The Leafs have gone 3-0-1 since the bye week while the Canadiens have also won three straight, including a dominant performance against the Jets on Thursday.

"I was very impressed with the way they played against Winnipeg," said Babcock. "I thought their structure, their detail, their work ethic, all their good players played well. They're 8-1-1 in their last 10, they're feeling really good right now. We haven't come in since I've been coach of the Leafs where both teams were good teams. They were good, we weren't good. They had an off-year. This is the first time it's actually been two teams that look like they're pretty good teams, look like they're going in the right direction, that are playing and so I think it makes it exciting for us and exciting for them."

Starting tonight the Leafs will play the Habs three times down the stretch, including the final game of the regular season. While Montreal's run this season wasn't expected by most pundits, Marner had a sense the team could turn things around considering who's behind the bench.

"They've played under Claude (Julien) for a year now so the systems are all down in their minds," Toronto's leading scorer observed. "They know how to play how he wants them to. You saw in Boston, (his teams) play the right way. He knows how to coach a team and when they bought in that's when they started winning."

The Leafs have won five straight against the Canadiens, including a four-game season sweep in 2017-18 and a 3-2 triumph in overtime on opening night this season.

Marner on potential Habs playoff series: 'It'd be crazy ... buzz would be pretty wicked'

The Maple Leafs rivalry with the Canadiens is one of the most historic in the league and if the two were to meet in the playoffs, Mitch Marner knows how wild the buzz would be in both cities.

Carey Price will be playing the 600th game of his NHL career and looking to extend a personal seven-game win streak (.955 save percentage in that stretch) dating back to Jan. 12. The Canadiens goalie will also be looking to turn the tide in his personal rivalry against Auston Matthews, who has seven goals in seven career games against the Olympic gold medalist.

Matthews is heating up of late with four goals and one assist in the last five games and tonight will be facing an opponent he has absolutely owned during his young career (11 points in eight games). After being

held without a goal in his first three games against Montreal, Matthews has scored in each of his last five games against the Canadiens (nine goals, one assist in that blistering stretch).

And tonight Matthews will be looking to get back on track after what he admitted was a less-than-stellar performance.

"Our line wasn't as good as we'd like it to be," Matthews said on Wednesday night despite scoring a goal against the last-place Senators. "I think we can be a lot better."

Leafs lines at morning skate:

Hyman-Tavares-Marner

Marleau-Matthews-Kapanen

Brown-Kadri-Nylander

Lindholm-Gauthier-Johnsson

Ennis

Muzzin-Rielly

Gardiner-Zaitsev

Dermott-Hainsey

Holl-Ozhiganov

Andersen stars

Sparks

Leafs power play units at morning skate:

Rielly

Matthews-Kadri-Marner

Tavares

Muzzin

Gardiner-Johnsson-Nylander

Marleau

TSN.CA LOADED: 02.10.2019

1130104 Websites

TSN.CA / Canucks vs Flames gameday preview

Jeff Paterson

VANCOUVER – The Vancouver Canucks (24-24-7) are out to snap a three-game winless skid when they host the Pacific Division leading Calgary Flames (34-15-5) tonight at Rogers Arena.

The Canucks are back in action after a 4-3 overtime setback in Chicago on Thursday. That dropped them to 0-2-1 in their past three games and 1-3-1 in their last five. In the process, the Canucks have fallen below the playoff bar in the Western Conference wildcard chase. Josh Leivo had a goal and two assists against the Blackhawks, while Elias Pettersson and Alex Biega scored the other Vancouver goals. Jacob Markstrom made 31 saves in his sixth straight start. He has been in goal for 12 of the past 13 Canucks games and will get the nod again tonight.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • February 10, 2019

Pettersson has scored in back to back games and now has 25 goals in his rookie season. Four of those goals have come in three games against the Flames, including his first NHL goal in his Canucks debut on Oct. 3.

The Canucks will use the same 18 skaters they have for the past two games. They will move Antoine Roussel and Nikolay Goldobin to the wings on Bo Horvat's line, while Josh Leivo plays the left side with Elias Pettersson and Brock Boeser. Markus Granlund drops to left wing with Brandon Sutter and Jake Virtanen.

The Canucks need Horvat and Jake Virtanen to find their scoring touches. Two of the team's top four goal scorers on the season each have just one goal in their past 17 games. Horvat has gone five without a goal since a January 20th home game against Detroit, while Virtanen last scored last Saturday in Denver. They're not alone in their offensive struggles -- Brandon Sutter and Nikolay Goldobin each have one goal in their last 17 games played, as well.

Travis Green revealed this morning that Sven Baertschi is out indefinitely with post-concussion symptoms suffered a week ago tonight in Colorado. The winger missed 30 games earlier in the season with a head injury. Baertschi has appeared in just 22 games this season.

Ben Hutton logged a career-high 31:18 on Thursday in Chicago. That was a season-high for any Canuck and was the ninth-highest ice time for a Vancouver skater in the past decade. Hutton played 11:13 of the third period with the Canucks trailing by a goal and looking for the equalizer.

The Canucks registered 43 shots in Chicago on Thursday. That was two off the team's season-high for shots in a game. They have hit the 40-shot mark in two of their last three outings and four of their last 17. On the season, they've recorded 40 or more shots on goal five times, however, they have just one win in those games (1-2-2). Their season-high is 45 shots in a 4-3 OT win in Ottawa on Jan. 2.

The Canucks will play their next two games on home ice and have 16 of their final 27 at Rogers Arena. Tonight marks the start of six straight against divisional rivals and 15 of the final 27 are within the Pacific Division.

Calgary jets into Vancouver on the heels of a 5-2 loss at home to San Jose on Thursday night. Mark Jankowski and TJ Brodie had the Flames goals and David Rittich got the start and allowed two early goals before being replaced by Mike Smith.

While the Flames have dropped two of their last three, those are their only regulation losses during a 9-2-1 stretch.

Johnny Gaudreau leads Calgary in goals, assists and points with 29+45=74 on the season. He started the day sitting fifth in NHL scoring. With Sean Monahan (62), Elias Lindholm (60), Matthew Tkachuk (57) and Mark Giordano (54), the Flames have five players in the top 30 of NHL scoring. Giordano trails only Brent Burns in scoring by defensemen this season.

With 199 goals on the season, the Flames are the second-highest scoring team in the league averaging 3.69 goals per game.

Calgary is starting its longest road trip of the season tonight. After a stop in Vancouver, the Flames will visit Tampa, Florida and Pittsburgh. They will also make a separate trip to Ottawa, New York Islanders and New Jersey before the month is through.

The Canucks are 2-1 against the Flames so far this season with one more meeting still to come. Their last meeting resulted in a 3-2 Canucks overtime victory at the Saddledome on Dec. 29. Calgary will be back in Vancouver on Mar. 23. Pettersson leads all scorers in the season series with 4+2=6 in the first three meetings while Tkachuk has 1+4=5.

TSN.CA LOADED: 02.10.2019

USA TODAY / Calgary Flames' James Neal has teeth fly out of mouth after he's high-sticked

Mike Brehm,

Published 1:17 a.m. ET Feb. 10, 2019

Updated 2:59 a.m. ET Feb. 10, 2019

Hockey players are a dentist's dream.

Between flying pucks and wayward sticks, there are plenty of opportunities to keep a dentist busy.

But what happened to Calgary Flames forward James Neal on Saturday night against the Vancouver Canucks seemed bizarre, even by NHL standards.

Canucks defenseman Alex Biega was trying to swat at an airborne puck during the third period in Vancouver, missed and caught Neal in the mouth by mistake.

And thanks to good camera work from CBC, it was possible to watch Neal's teeth fly out of his mouth in slow motion.

One immediately fell to the ice and a couple more flew up after hitting his shoulder as he turned and grabbed his mouth.

An on-ice official had to collect the teeth off the ice while Neal went to the dressing room to get repairs on a cut mouth.

CBC was quick to point that the wayward upper teeth likely were fake, but still ... they went flying out of his mouth. And another trip to the dentist will need to be scheduled.

"That's why there are dentists, right," coach Bill Peters told reporters. "I think for every tooth he lost, they got a minor."

Biega received a four-minute penalty for high-sticking.

And because hockey players are tough, in addition to prone to losing teeth, Neal was back on the ice before the penalty was over.

USA TODAY LOADED: 02.10.2019