



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • September 27, 2019

## THE NEWS & OBSERVER

### Canes reduce preseason training camp roster

By Chip Alexander

A week before the start of the regular season, the Carolina Hurricanes have trimmed their training camp roster to 29.

The Canes on Thursday announced they had assigned forwards Morgan Geekie, Janne Kuokkanen, Steven Lorentz, Eetu Luostarinen and Stelio Mattheos; defensemen Jake Bean and Kyle Wood, and goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic to the Charlotte Checkers of the American Hockey League.

Defenseman Jesper Sellgren has been assigned to Lulea HF of the Swedish Hockey League and forward Ryan Suzuki has been assigned to the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). Suzuki was the Canes' first-round pick this year in the NHL Draft. Forward Colin Markison will report to Charlotte's training camp.

"It's time," Canes coach Rod Brind'Amour said to the media Thursday. "We've been saying we've got to get closer to where our group looks like. Obviously we've got to get the chemistry kind of rolling with the whole group. It's inevitable we got to this point and now we've got to refine it even more, but that was the first step."

The Canes, who open the season Oct. 3 against the Montreal Canadiens, held one practice session Thursday at PNC Arena. Forward Ryan Dzingel, who suffered a lower-body injury Wednesday in the preseason road game against Nashville, did not practice. Defenseman Jake Gardiner also was off the ice.

Brind'Amour said Dzingel, injured on a faceoff, said he "felt better" Thursday but said his status could not be called "day to day" -- "I think it's probably longer than that," Brind'Amour said.

Brind'Amour said Gardiner "had something he didn't want to risk making it worse" physically, without being more specific.

Among those still in camp are former first-round picks Julien Gauthier and Martin Necas, both competing for forward spots on the Canes' opening-night roster. The Canes had three goalies at practice: Petr Mrazek, James Reimer and Anton Forsberg, who started against the Predators and played the full game in a 3-0 loss.

Nedeljkovic, the AHL goalie of the year in 2018-19, was the only one of the four with a two-way contract and is waivers exempt. Forsberg, who has NHL experience but played in the AHL last season, was awarded a one-year, one-way contract for 2019-20 after going through an arbitration hearing.

"You want to come in and say we've got competition and everybody's got a crack, but there are other factors that play into it," Brind'Amour said of sending Nedeljkovic down. "It's just the business of the game. He really didn't get a fair shake in my opinion, as far as that goes, but you only play six games and the numbers are what they are."

Necas took a hard fall Thursday in practice, as did defenseman Brett Pesce, who was in the bottom of a pileup along the boards with Gauthier and Warren Foegele. Neither Necas nor Pesce were injured.

"Every time something like that happens you just take a deep breath," Brind'Amour said. "We practice hard. I like it. There's a give and take on that, right? You want to make sure you're healthy but you've got to practice the way you're going to play."

The Canes have two preseason games remaining, both at PNC Arena -- Friday against the Predators (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday against the Washington Capitals (1:30 p.m.).



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## THE ATHLETIC

### Ten bold (and not so bold) predictions for the Hurricanes this season

By Sara Civian

It's the NHL preseason, y'all, and anything is possible.

Your favorite prospect is absolutely going to make the team. The 2019-20 Carolina Hurricanes will be the first team to go undefeated in the regular season then sweep the Stanley Cup playoffs.

They will finally adopt a team puppy and it will be the cutest one in the league.

All right, let's not get carried away.

The best thing about this time of year is that feeling, though. Technically any of this could happen. Folks around here have learned not to rule out anything after the events of last season. That magic will never be replicated, but it set an expectation.

I've learned never to promise anyone a puppy after childhood heartbreaks I'm still not fully recovered from, but the 10 predictions below fall everywhere on the scale of 1-5 fire emojis, and one is already wrong.

#### 1. The Hurricanes will make the playoffs again

In a vacuum, the Hurricanes' roster improved this offseason with major haul(a)s and minor tweaks.

Problem is, so did virtually the rest of the Metro, and most of the Eastern Conference. That's why a second consecutive playoff run (a feat the Canes have only accomplished once since relocation) isn't a given.

The Penguins and Capitals are just two teams you can never count out of playoff contention until Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin retire — full stop.

The Devils added Jack Hughes (who is already using new age lingo), P.K. Subban, Nikita Gusev and Wayne Simmonds.

The Rangers' rebuild will accelerate faster than planned with Artemi Panarin, Kaapo Kakko, Jacob Trouba and Adam Fox in the mix (I'm also a big fan of head coach David Quinn).

It's Carter Hart season in Philly (happy belated birthday, Gritty). The Flyers also picked up Kevin Hayes for a large-but-deliberate contract to show their core they want to win now.

The Islanders and Blue Jackets are the only teams that don't outright make me sweat, and even then you never know.

It'll take the same exact attitude the Canes had last year, a prospect like Julien Gauthier and/or Martin Necas panning out, "league average goaltending" and offseason acquisitions generally going as planned.

But led by Rod Brind'Amour, the talent assembled can do it.

Boldness: 🐶🐶🐶

#### 2. Andrei Svechnikov will score 30 goals\*

Does this look like a man who is messing around?

Book it.

\*Empty netters count

Boldness: 🐶🐶

#### 3. If there is a playoff run, Justin Williams will return

The Canes have largely backed off Justin Williams and seem to be letting him enjoy this stage of his life (save for a trip to the golf course with Tom Dundon a few days ago). There's nothing new on that front for now, but I can't imagine a playoff run without him.

I was chatting with someone who has known him forever, and despite how decorated his career already is ...

"He's still way too good."

He's earned the right to take a breather, enjoy his family, do his crossword puzzles and coach his son. I think he would've just called it a career if he thought it was going to be more than just a breather.

Boldness: 🐶🐶🐶🐶

#### 4. The Storm Surge hiatus will resume unless Williams comes back for a playoff run, then there will be a Surge to end all Surges

Boldness: 3.5 angry Don Cherrys

#### 5. There will be a goalie controversy between Petr Mrazek and Alex Nedeljkovic at some point

Curtis McElhinney's departure could become one of those sneaky tough Ls the team couldn't do much to prevent but still hurts.

McElhinney was a waiver wire pickup and ended up starting a career-high 35 regular-season games at 36 years old. His calm demeanor almost became a meme because we discussed it to death last season, but it was exactly what the Hurricanes needed



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following Scott Darling, who couldn't string together two consecutive wins in a Hurricanes uniform.

The Hurricanes wouldn't have even sniffed the second round without Petr Mrazek, but they wouldn't have made the playoffs to begin with without McElhinney. You have to wonder if Mrazek can handle the full-time starting role on a potential Cup contender, especially when the league is trending toward 1A-1B.

Craig Custance's annual panel of GMs and coaches rating goalies just came out, and Mrazek ranked 26/31.

This is always a fascinating read that reminds you these decision-makers aren't omniscient (You "just don't love" John Gibson? Come on!), but the panel raises fair points about Mrazek.

"You don't know if he's a backup," one executive said. "You don't know what he is. I'm not sure he's a starter but he's an above average backup."

You just don't know, you know?

There's absolutely no reason to rush Alex Nedeljkovic's NHL career, especially when Mrazek hasn't given the Canes a reason to.

But I've liked just about everything I've seen out of the reigning AHL goalie of the year, and as Rod Brind'Amour put it, "he knows how to win." I wouldn't be shocked if the Canes call him up for more than a handful of games in the dead of the season, and I wouldn't rule out a forced controversy.

I do think there's power in not knowing what to make of Mrazek, and I think he thrives in that mindset. Twenty-sixth on a list of 31 seems unfair.

It's just that there's someone enticing waiting for a chance if the Hurricanes find out what, exactly, Mrazek is and they don't like it — or if he unfortunately gets hurt.

Boldness: 🐼🐼🐼

### 6. Warren Foegele is the real deal

There's been so much to discuss this training camp between the goalie situation, the blue line roster battle and the new-look Top 6 that the depth situation hasn't been a huge talking point. Now that the roster's trimmed to 29, the left wing could look like this:

- Ryan Dzingel (potentially)
- Svechnikov (natural right-winger but has been playing the left)
- Brock McGinn
- Jordan Martinook
- Warren Foegele

Max McCormick  
Brian Gibbons

There's a real chance someone who was a roster regular last season could end up an odd man out. This might be a hot take, but I don't think it will be Foegele.

It was disappointing that his franchise-record four goals in his first five NHL games were followed by a two-month scoring drought, one so frustrating that he did a monkey-off-back goal celebration when it finally ended Dec. 16.

"You kind of question your abilities and things go in your head that shouldn't," he said at the time.

That's unfortunate because although the Hurricanes were dying for a finishing touch just as his drought hit, his talent that arguably impresses me more was being ignored.

Foegele can draw penalties at an elite level.

He ended the season with 29 penalties drawn at even strength. That's top 10 in the league, in company with No. 1 Nathan MacKinnon, No. 2 Johnny Gaudreau, No. 3 Jeff Skinner, No. 4 Elias Pettersson, No. 5 Connor McDavid, No. 6 Aleksander Barkov, to name a few, and he tied Mat Barzal.

That list is mostly star NHL centers who all get significantly more ice time than Foegele.

He turned on the scoring again in the postseason and it's obvious he thrives in the big moments. But even if he doesn't pan out as a Top 6 scorer, he has something special that won him an NHL job in the first place.

Boldness: 🐼🐼🐼🐼

### 7. A defenseman will get traded, but it won't be Justin Faulk

The season hasn't even started yet and I'm already wrong. Gotta stay humble.

Though I've been reporting for months since the draft that the Canes have been looking to trade Justin Faulk, it got to the point where it seemed it might never happen and he'd retire a Hurricane. I felt for him throughout the process and he was a really good sport. I hope they serve queso in St. Louis.

Boldness: 🐼🐼🐼🐼🐼

### 8. The lines will look unrecognizable from opening night to the end of the season

Between all the "new guys" and all the young players still figuring out their ceilings, basically the entire Top 6 could be jumbled around every single game. Brind'Amour has been reluctant (dare we say



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stubborn) at times to move certain players around, but he seemed more comfortable with it as his inaugural season progressed. I'd expect more jumbling this season, and not just the classic last five minutes of a clear loss Blend-O-Rama.

Boldness: 🐾

9. Jordan Staal will be named captain

Faulk's departure cemented this opinion of mine. Jordan Staal, who was once co-captains with Faulk under Bill Peters, is now the most tenured Hurricane. Players look to him on the ice as an example of consistency and off the ice for verbal guidance. Young captains are trending in the NHL these days, but I personally think it would be better for Sebastian Aho and Jaccob Slavin to focus on the career seasons they pretty much need to have for the Hurricanes to return to the playoffs.

Staal can take the heat, and he's one of those guys every single person you talk to in the league respects.

Boldness: 🐾🐾🐾

10. Celebrity shot

Why not ask the Hurricanes themselves which teammate is going to have a big year?

Sebastian Aho, without hesitation: "Svech."

Lucas Wallmark: \*slowly raises finger and points at Aho\*

Dougie Hamilton: "You're really springing this on me. Svech."

#SvechIsReady



## Canes Corner: Brind'Amour Building Expectations

Head coach talks team goals, young players at Canes Corner

by Connor Keith

"Third place loser, is that what we were?"

Although it was said tongue-in-cheek, there was no mistaking head coach Rod Brind'Amour Tuesday night during Canes Corner. His mission in his debut season was nothing short of amassing 16 postseason wins to claim the Stanley Cup, and that desire has remained unchanged throughout the summer.

Perhaps it is a bit presumptuous for a club that just snapped a nine-year playoff drought to be so focused on the most coveted trophy in sports before the season has even begun - even if that team did advance all the way to the Eastern Conference Final after knocking out the reigning champs in the first round and sweeping another division foe in the second - but Brind'Amour is not one to set easily-reached goals.

"I joked with the guys about how when I took over I tripped on the bar because it was on the floor," he

said. "I felt like we had to get it up where it needed to be which is expecting to win, expecting to be the best team in the National Hockey League. Why wouldn't we be thinking that? Why would we be talking about making the playoffs? That's average. We want to win the Stanley Cup. That's what we need to do."

Building that Stanley Cup champion is a process that has already begun during this month's training camp with two-thirds of the Canes' six preseason games already in the rearview mirror. Most of those contests, including Wednesday night's tilt in Nashville, have been about giving young players - including forward Julien Gauthier - an opportunity prove themselves worthy of a spot on the NHL roster come October.

"He's had a good camp," Brind'Amour said of the 21-year-old Gauthier, who has an assist, a plus-2 rating and nine shots on goal in the first four exhibition matchups. "Now he looks like he could belong. We asked him to get his conditioning better, and he was one of the best guys in our testing. But you can't just be a gym rat - you have to go out on the ice and do your thing, and he's done that fairly well so far."



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Success stories are certainly to be had under the second-year coach's watchful eye, as he was quick to mention forwards Martin Necas, Carolina's 2017 first-round pick who made the NHL roster out of camp last season and played seven games before being reassigned to Charlotte, and Warren Foegele, who played in 77 regular-season games and all 15 playoff games in his rookie campaign, as examples to follow.

"We had an opportunity there with the young guys early on to give it to them and he took it," Brind'Amour said of Foegele. "This guy looked ready and he also looked like he wanted to be here, so he made the team. It certainly wasn't given to him. That's what we want to see."

Dressing younger lineups this preseason is a twofold strategy, as it's also a way for the coaching staff to avoid playing many from the NHL roster, allowing them to conserve their energy after a long playoff push only four months ago. After all, with Brind'Amour at the helm, he's already thinking ahead to when those players' services will be in high demand.

"Everything we're doing now, come hopefully May or June, will take its toll so you have to manage all that," he said.

Brind'Amour raised the bar. Now it's time to build a team that can keep it there.



## Ranking all 31 NHL teams by their forwards

By Dimitri Filipovic

As part of our preseason preview series as we tune up for the start of the 2019-20 NHL season, we're going to rank all 31 teams based on their various position groups. We're going to start off with the forwards here and count them down from 31 to 1:

### 31. Ottawa Senators

Brady Tkachuk was excellent as a rookie, not only validating Ottawa's decision to draft him fourth overall but also making the fact that they had to surrender their first-round pick this past year as a result far more palatable. If there's one reservation about proclaiming him as their savior it's that his underlying numbers sank after the departure of Mark Stone at the deadline:

- With Mark Stone at five-on-five: 515 minutes, 52.4% shot attempt share, 52.2% shot on goal share, 56.9% goal share, 58.5% expected goal share
- Without Mark Stone at five-on-five: 105 minutes, 43.9% shot attempt share, 42.7% shot on goal share, 33.33% goal share, 50.4% expected goal share

It's certainly no surprise that he struggled as a teenager without the help of one of the league's premier five-on-five players. He'll be better prepared for life as "the guy" in his second season, and the Senators will need him to be. This is a group without

many players that can create for themselves offensively, let alone others.

### 30. Detroit Red Wings

Dylan Larkin desperately needs some help. Last season, only Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl logged more minutes among forwards at five-on-five, and only eight players at his position averaged more total minutes on a nightly basis. He was ninth in shots on goal (287), 35th in goals scored (32), and 42nd in points (73) despite missing six games. In terms of impact on underlying metrics relative to his teammates, no one had a greater positive impact on their team's shot share than he did, and only seven players had a bigger influence on their team's expected goals.

The combination of Larkin and Anthony Mantha is excellent, but beyond that, the Red Wings' only real chance of generating anything resembling consistent offense right now is Andreas Athanasiou breaking free on the rush and doing it himself.

### 29. Los Angeles Kings

There are plenty of reasons for concern about this incarnation of the Kings, but one I wasn't expecting prior to looking more closely at last year's numbers: Anze Kopitar's decline. It's not just that he's coming off of his second down season in the past three, it's the way in which it happened. Unlike in 2016-17 when most of his struggles could be hand-waved by a career low 8% shooting percentage -- which



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rebounded the following season when he scored 35 goals -- there's a lot of red flags in his underlying numbers.

Last season marked the first time his five-on-five shot and goal metrics have really cratered, and boy did they ever. Normally one of the league's most dominant territorial play drivers, the Kings controlled just 46.5% of the shot attempts, 45.1% of the goals and 45.6% of the expected goals with him on the ice. The most shocking part was that he was a net negative in all of those figures relative to his teammates for the first time ever, which is stunning considering how bad the rest of those teammates were. You never want to write off a player of his caliber with the type of track record that he has, but at age 32 with north of 1,000 NHL games under his belt, it's fair to start wondering how much he has left in the tank. With four more years at a cap hit of \$10 million annually left to be paid out, this conversation is happening far sooner than the Kings were surely hoping it would.

## 28. Arizona Coyotes

Last season the Coyotes were led offensively by Brad Richardson's 19 goals and Clayton Keller's 47 points, which will undoubtedly need to improve if they hope to match last season's surprising success, let alone build on it. They're banking on two things: better health and Phil Kessel providing them with a shot in the arm.

One area where Kessel could have the most profound impact is on the power play, which has been his bread and butter in recent years. The 108 points he has on the man advantage over the past three seasons are only exceeded league-wide by Nikita Kucherov, and account for 44% of his overall total. He'll find it tough to match that kind of production without Pittsburgh's array of weapons, but his dual-threat ability should still do wonders for Arizona's 26th-ranked power play.

## 27. Anaheim Ducks

It likely won't lead to any kind of notable immediate results, but I'm cautiously optimistic about the way the Ducks are going about this rebuild. They've drafted well over the years, and they're now trying to turn the roster over to that next wave of talent that's been percolating in their pipeline. The best part is that most of the young players that'll be thrust into the lineup and given sizeable roles already have a connection with head coach Dallas Eakins from their time with Anaheim's AHL affiliate last season (totals include the postseason):

Troy Terry: 41 points 41 games  
Sam Steel: 54 points in 69 games  
Max Jones: 33 points in 51 games  
Max Comtois: 10 points in 16 games

The encouraging thing is that Anaheim appears to have a solid grasp of where they currently sit in the league's pecking order. If they're willing to take the long view and allow all of these players to develop further under Eakins' tutelage, it could really pay dividends down the road.

## 26. Buffalo Sabres

While it's not groundbreaking material to say that a team was better with its best players on the ice than without them, the degree to which that was the case in Buffalo last season is notable.

- With Jeff Skinner and Jack Eichel: 845:17 minutes, +10 goal differential, 52.4% shot share, 56.6% high danger chance share, 54.7% expected goal share
- Without Skinner and Eichel: 2,504:15 minutes, -34 goal differential, 47.7% shot share, 44.3% high danger chance share, 45.4% expected goal share

With the two of them, the Sabres were not only keeping their heads above water but were actually quite excellent. Without them, they were dreadful, and drowning. The addition of Marcus Johansson to help drive play is big, as are the additions on the blue line. But unless Casey Mittelstadt can finally take that leap and live up to all the hype he's garnered as a prospect, this team will continue to be one-dimensional and struggle to score goals whenever Eichel and Skinner aren't out on the ice.

## 25. Minnesota Wild

If there's one silver lining about the Paul Fenton era in Minnesota, it's that he ultimately didn't get to pull off the brilliant idea of selling low on Jason Zucker despite all of his efforts. He may have fallen back down to 21 goals after scoring 33 the season before, but most of that appears to be shooting percentage-driven. As a player who typically converts on north of 12% of his shots, he did so on south of 10% last season.

As we know, that's never the time to try to trade a player, and considering the rumored returns for the Wild, they're incredibly fortunate that none of those deals ever fully materialized.

## 24. Columbus Blue Jackets

The loss of Artemi Panarin's ability to soak up the attention of opposing defenses and make plays for both himself and others at a high level will be sorely felt, and the Blue Jackets understandably don't have a natural replacement of his caliber ready to step in. What they do have is impressive scoring depth and balance throughout the lineup, plus some interesting



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young players with plenty of room to grow into bigger roles:

Cam Atkinson: 25 five-on-five goals, good for 8th best  
Pierre-Luc Dubois: 20 five-on-five goals, tied for 28th  
Josh Anderson: 20 five-on-five goals, tied for 28th  
Oliver Bjorkstrand: 19 five-on-five goals, tied for 35th  
Gustav Nyquist: 16 five-on-five goals, tied for 64th  
Nick Foligno: 15 five-on-five goals, tied for 79th

That list doesn't include youngsters Emil Bemstrom and Alexandre Texier. The former led the Swedish Hockey League in goal scoring as a teenager, while the latter had 41 points in 55 games as a 19-year-old in the Finnish pro league before a cameo in the playoffs last spring. The Blue Jackets will take a step back this season, but there's still plenty on the team about which to be excited.

## 23. Vancouver Canucks

Elias Pettersson either scored or directly set up 52 of the 199 goals the Canucks scored in the games he appeared in. That 26.1% offensive contribution would've been good for the 15th highest involved in the league, behind only the following players: Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl, Patrick Kane, Sidney Crosby, Tyler Seguin, Nikita Kucherov, Alex Ovechkin, Nathan MacKinnon, Artemi Panarin, Brad Marchand, Mitch Marner, Aleksander Barkov, Jack Eichel.

Not bad company to be keeping, especially as a 20-year-old rookie. The fact that he not only could but should get better is frightening. While names like J.T. Miller and Micheal Ferland aren't necessarily ones that move the needle in their own right, considering the team's options on the wing last year they do represent noticeable upgrades.

## 22. New York Islanders

Mathew Barzal's sophomore campaign was viewed as a bit of a disappointment individually despite the team's overall success, largely due to the sky-high expectations he'd generated following a prolific rookie season. A big part of the reason why his production dipped was the Islanders power play, which dipped from sixth in scoring efficiency to 29th, which is understandable given the loss of John Tavares.

The underlying numbers at five-on-five were relatively comparable from one season to the next, which is encouraging for his future outlook. The eye test also checked out -- he looked as dynamic as ever with the puck, gliding through the neutral zone and terrorizing opponents with his patience, vision and creativity. If there's one thing I'd like to see in the interest of fully unlocking his potential, it would be for the Islanders to find him a legitimate running mate who can routinely turn the opportunities he creates at a high clip. Here's

a full list of some of the wingers he spent at least 40 minutes with at even strength last season: Tom Kuhnhackl, Andrew Ladd, Leo Komarov and Cal Clutterbuck. That's just not going to cut it.

## 21. New York Rangers

Building your team through the unrestricted free agent market by throwing large sums of money at players in their late 20s is typically risky business, but Artemi Panarin isn't your typical player. Since entering the league he's been a top 10 offensive player by any metric:

- Fifth in five-on-five points
- Fourth in five-on-five goals created (goals plus primary assists)
- Seventh in total points
- Eighth in total goals created

Adding a player of his caliber allows them to move Chris Kreider off of Mika Zibanejad's wing, which in turn gives them a fighting chance at having a legitimate play-driving second line. And he's hardly the only exciting addition to the group of wingers. We need to temper expectations with young players, but Kaapo Kakko and Vitali Kravtsov each have tremendous upside. This will be an exciting group to watch.

## 20. New Jersey Devils

So much has happened since then, but it hasn't actually been that long in real time since Taylor Hall won the Hart Trophy as league MVP for his dominance in the 2017-18 season. It was hardly anything new for Hall, who has gotten used to having to do all the heavy lifting for his teams during his NHL career. While he certainly returns to a Devils team as its undisputed leader and most important player, it looks like he's going to finally be blessed with an intriguing supporting cast.

Few teams have been as busy as New Jersey this summer in trying to improve their team in an attempt to convince their impending free agent star to stay for the rest of his remaining productive seasons. The jury is still out on whether it'll work or if they've done enough, but adding Jack Hughes, Nikita Gusev, Wayne Simmonds and Jesper Boqvist to the team in one off-season (along with P.K. Subban on the back end) is one hell of a haul (pun intended).

## 19. Philadelphia Flyers

There's no question that Kevin Hayes was wildly overpaid this season by the Flyers. Not only did they trade a late draft pick for his negotiating rights, but then they proceeded to bid against themselves



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anyway before landing on a \$50 million payday. Despite that, there's also no denying that he immediately makes them a better team than they were previously. He seamlessly slides into the second-line center vacancy they had, serving as the bridge on the depth chart between Sean Couturier and Nolan Patrick.

The Flyers are a lot of things, but being boring is certainly not one of them, as they continue to prove.

## 18. Chicago Blackhawks

It's so difficult to properly evaluate the Blackhawks because they were such a catastrophic mess defensively last season that all of their numbers are blown out of proportion. The most encouraging sign -- beyond the continued development of Alex DeBrincat into an elite scorer and Dylan Strome's career revival -- is that Jonathan Toews had a much-needed bounce-back season after it looked like his most productive years were behind him. It helps that his shooting percentage rebounded to his career norm after two down seasons, but given the age and mileage it was fair to wonder whether it ever would. After scoring just 20 and 21 goals in the previous two seasons and failing to reach 60 points since 2014-15, he blasted those totals out of the water with 35 goals and 81 points. It's actually quite impressive that he set personal bests in goals, points, and shots on goal at this point after everything he's already accomplished.

## 17. Florida Panthers

Offense certainly wasn't an issue for the Panthers last season. They scored the ninth-most goals, and had the league's second-best power-play unit after the Lightning. Their five-man unit on the man advantage is particularly special, mostly because of how unpredictable it is with five equally dangerous shooters out on the ice at one time. The only real question is how much of it came at the expense of their work on the other end of the ice, and whether that'll continue under Joel Quenneville.

Despite the fact that Aleksander Barkov wound up finishing fifth in Selke Trophy voting, he wasn't without blame for all of those defensive struggles. It was a down season in that regard compared to his usual lofty standards, and a more well-rounded performance would go a long way toward righting the ship.

The thing to watch with this team is their third line, which features an interesting combination of players -- Frank Vatrano (who broke out with 24 goals last season), Henrik Borgstrom (who is insanely gifted and just waiting to explode), and Brett Connolly (who was productive in Washington but whom they also surely overpaid in free agency).

## 16. Montreal Canadiens

The Canadiens were surprisingly terrific at five-on-five last season. Only the Sharks, Hurricanes and Golden Knights were better shot share teams, and only the Lightning, Capitals, Leafs and Sharks scored goals more frequently than them. They don't necessarily have a big-name star in the ranks, but they have tremendous depth and a group of forwards that can really skate. For them to take the next step this season, they'll need to sort out their power play, which was the 30th-ranked unit, ahead of just the Predators.

## 15. Edmonton Oilers

The degree to which the Oilers relied upon Connor McDavid last season was quite literally unheard of. Dating to the start of the 2007-08 season -- which is as far back as we have this information -- here's the largest individual offensive contributions we've seen a player have (calculated by looking at the percentage of the team's goals a player either scored himself or set up directly):

Connor McDavid in 2018-19: 42.4%  
Alex Ovechkin in 2007-08: 42.4%  
Ilya Kovalchuk in 2007-08: 37.2%  
Patrick Kane in 2015-16: 36.8%  
Steven Stamkos in 2011-12: 36.6%  
Steven Stamkos in 2009-10: 36.2%  
Sidney Crosby in 2009-10: 35.2%  
Evgeni Malkin in 2011-12: 35.2%  
Jarome Iginla in 2007-08: 34.5%  
Connor McDavid in 2017-18: 34.5%

Based on their additions this summer, we shouldn't expect that figure to change all that much heading into this season. For the Oilers to get back to the postseason and stop wasting this generational player's most productive years, they'll either need their supporting cast to play better or Connor McDavid to hit an even higher level. As crazy as it sounds, the latter seems more plausible at this point.

## 14. Carolina Hurricanes

Andrei Svechnikov is one of the players I'm most excited about watching this season. His numbers last season weren't out of this world, but context is important here. He spent most of the year as an 18-year-old, and he didn't get the benefit of any cheap power-play production. Plus, his most common linemates were Jordan Martinook, Lucas Wallmark and Brock McGinn. The Hurricanes understandably eased him into the league, but I expect them to fully unleash him in Year 2.

With Justin Williams' cushy minutes up for grabs at the moment, I'd love to see Rod Brind'Amour take Svechnikov for a spin alongside Sebastian Aho. But even if he has to settle for a second-line gig, the



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quality of linemates should represent a significant upgrade from last season. He's going to be special, and it's only a matter of time before that happens.

## 13. Dallas Stars

Tyler Seguin was one of the Stars players who was most notably called out by the team's CEO in an expletive-filled public tirade. Seguin's counting stat production was certainly below his lofty norms at the time, and it skyrocketed afterward. But contrary to the belief that it was a genius move by the executive lighting a fire under his top player's rear, it was just another reminder that people still seem to struggle with the volatile nature of shooting percentages and regression:

- Before tirade: 38 games, 11 goals, 21 assists, 146 shots, 7.5% shooting percentage
- After tirade: 44 games, 22 goals, 26 assists, 188 shots, 11.7% shooting percentage
- Seguin's career shooting percentage prior to last season: 11.3%

It's funny how that works. Seguin was still a great player despite his perceived struggles early on, and not much changed after the fact. Except that the puck started to go in the net at a rate in line with his career mark.

## 12. Nashville Predators

The Predators have been openly searching for a second scoring option down the middle to slot in behind Ryan Johansen for years now. They've swung and missed pretty badly on Kyle Turris and Nick Bonino in recent seasons. The next entrant in this contest is Matt Duchene, who is a bit of a polarizing player because he can be overrated in certain circles due to how good he looks when he's scoring, and there's a certain empty-calorie nature to his offensive totals because of what he gives up on the other end of the ice.

That's why it's difficult to know just how much of a difference he'll make in Nashville, and whether he can live up to the vast expectations that have been heaped on his plate. That said, there's no denying that he at the very least brings a certain level of explosiveness to a Predators team that could desperately use a spark after going stale of late.

## 11. Colorado Avalanche

No single three-man combination spent more time together than the trio of Nathan MacKinnon, Gabriel Landeskog and Mikko Rantanen last season. Given the results, it's hard to blame coach Jared Bednar for riding them to the extent that he did. In those 825

minutes, the Avalanche had 54.4% of the total shot attempts and outscored opponents by a 44-28 margin. If you go all the way back to the season before, those three are now outscoring the opposition 91-55 in their 1,567 minutes together.

Assuming restricted free agent Rantanen eventually signs and is back in the mix, it's fair to suggest that we'll see more of the same from those three. Having only the one scoring line, even if it's as great as the three of them are, isn't enough when you're facing some of the best teams in the league that have the talent and the depth to slow them down enough to feast in all of the other minutes. Which is why it was paramount for them to go out and add Nazem Kadri, Joonas Donskoi and Andre Burakovsky this summer. Who knows how well they'll all ultimately perform in their new home, but it'll be hard for them not to represent a step up from the secondary scoring the Avalanche had last season.

## 10. Winnipeg Jets

The Jets have a lot of talent up front, but also have a lot of concerns right now. Their blue line is in shambles, and two of their best young players who combined for 64 goals last season -- Patrik Laine and Kyle Connor -- still don't have contracts. But that's unfortunately not all. Even when they were at full health last season, there were some serious warning signs.

From Jan. 1 onward, they were 25th in shot attempts and 29th in shot share, which doesn't really sync up with their status as a top contender. It starts at the top, where the combination of Blake Wheeler and Mark Scheifele wasn't nearly as dominant at five-on-five as they should be. The two of them are undoubtedly talented enough to convert a higher percentage of their looks into goals than most others, but I've got my eyebrow raised when it comes to Wheeler's underlying numbers in particular. He just turned 33, has been quietly declining in that regard for some time now, and is just starting his mega five-year extension. Add it to the steadily growing list of reasons to be concerned about this Jets team.

## 9. Pittsburgh Penguins

Sidney Crosby had a vintage throwback campaign last season. He was fifth in total points, third in primary points, and no single player had a greater impact on their team's underlying metrics than he did. With him on the ice at five-on-five, the Penguins had a 54% shot share and scored 66% of the goals. The issue is that there's only one of him, and he unfortunately can't be out on the ice at all times.

Without him they were a blundering mess, which was only exacerbated by Evgeni Malkin's uncharacteristically poor showing. With Malkin on the



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ice, those two figures dipped to 48.8% and 47.3%, which is simply unacceptable for a player of his caliber. It's quite possible that there was some merit to the reports about the rift between Malkin and Kessel, which has since been addressed by the team trading the latter. For the Penguins to reach their full potential, they need Malkin to turn back the clock and reach his.

## 8. Washington Capitals

You know what you're going to get from this team. Alex Ovechkin should once again miraculously flirt with 50 goals, Evgeny Kuznetsov and Nicklas Backstrom will thrill us with their playmaking, and they'll have one of the most potent power plays in the league. But there are a few questions that are worth exploring:

## 7. San Jose Sharks

Joe Pavelski may have led San Jose in goal scoring last season, but if there's one team that can afford to lose his contribution and not miss a beat it's likely this Sharks team. That's especially true if Timo Meier continues to stay on his current trajectory. Last season he was an absolute nightmare to deal with at five-on-five for opponents, finishing 17th in goals, 20th in points and ninth in shots. In the postseason, he was fourth in points, third in shot attempts, and first by a healthy margin in high-danger chances.

It's been a steady progression for him considering his age and the loaded nature of their depth chart, but he's now got a chance to realistically become the go-to guy on this team and make teams really kick themselves for allowing the Sharks to skirt around their cap troubles and retain him so easily this summer.

## 6. St. Louis Blues

Jaden Schwartz is one of the league's most obvious bounce-back candidates this season:

- Career prior to last season: 380 games, 827 shots, 113 goals, 13.7% shooting percentage
- Last season: 69 games, 183 shots, 11 goals, 6.0% shooting percentage

Conveniently enough for both Schwartz and the Blues, the bounce-back already started to take place in a big way during last year's postseason. He exploded for 12 goals and 20 points in 26 games, converting on 19% of his shots on goal as he found great chemistry with Vladimir Tarasenko and Brayden Schenn.

Health is and always will be a mitigating factor with him -- he's missed 86 combined games over the past

four seasons. But when he's on the ice, he should be far more effective than he was last season. That's a scary thought for the rest of the league considering all of the other weapons the Blues already have.

## 5. Boston Bruins

Because of how freakishly dominant their top line of Patrice Bergeron, Brad Marchand and David Pastrnak is, the only question in Boston is and always has been about their supporting cast. Losing Marcus Johansson in free agency this summer was a sneaky big loss, because even though he was only around for a short period of time, he was such a game-changer for the Bruins.

The other big deadline acquisition, Charlie Coyle, is still around, and he's looking to build off of his monster playoff run. It wasn't necessarily a surprise that Coyle was so effective given his raw tools and the flashes of brilliance we've seen from him in the past, but there's a big difference between doing it for 24 games and doing it for a full 82. We've never really seen him manage to hold up that level of play for a complete regular season, but if that inspired stretch really was a sign that he's turned the corner it'd be a massive boon for the Bruins.

## 4. Calgary Flames

This team's top six is sick. Johnny Gaudreau and Sean Monahan are money in the bank, and the Mikael Backlund-Sam Bennett-Michael Frolik line is the Western Conference's version of Boston's top line. The one question mark about that group is Elias Lindholm, who had some interesting splits in his first season with the Flames:

- Before the All-Star break: 51 games, 21 goals, 38 assists, 17.6% shooting percentage
- After the All-Star break: 30 games, 6 goals, 14 assists, 9.5% shooting percentage
- Career shooting percentage before last season: 8.9% shooting percentage

Playing alongside a playmaker like Gaudreau tends to lead to better scoring opportunities and a better conversion rate, but I had some serious questions about Lindholm's offensive ceiling during his time in Carolina, and 50 scorching-hot games aren't enough to convince me he's a new player just quite yet.

## 3. Vegas Golden Knights

Vegas has two top lines that it can throw out there against anyone and feel good about their chances to dominate play. There's a very select few teams that can say that and mean it, which puts them in the upper echelon. Mark Stone's line with Max Pacioretty



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and Paul Stastny controlled a whopping 59.9% of the shots, and 68.3% of the expected goals. The three of them are so good that they've bumped William Karlsson's unit down to the de facto No. 2 line, despite their own brilliance (54.2% of the shots and 55.4% of the expected goals).

The name to watch here is Cody Glass. If he can realize his potential sooner than expected and step up into a prominent secondary scoring role for this team, it really fills out their depth chart down the middle by allowing Cody Eakin to play a more defensive role. With a dominant power forward like Alex Tuch on his wing and at his disposal, that transition should be a lot easier.

## 2. Toronto Maple Leafs

As dynamic as Mitch Marner and John Tavares were as a pairing together last season, it's the other top line in Toronto that I'm more interested in this season. The combination of Auston Matthews, William Nylander and Andreas Johnsson played nearly 175 five-on-five minutes together last season, and their underlying numbers are worth investigating more closely. Despite controlling 56.8% of the shot attempts and sporting a stunning 65.7% expected goal rate, they actually got outscored 12-10 in that time because the Leafs goalies stopped just 86.5% of the shots they faced behind them.

Assuming the trio sticks together moving forward, once that rate normalizes and the goal differential more closely reflects their territorial dominance,

they're going to be a real problem. That's especially true for Nylander in general, who caught a lot of flack for his struggles after returning from his holdout, even though many of the problems were caused by statistical aberrations that were out of his control.

## 1. Tampa Bay Lightning

If there's an offensive category, chances are the Lightning were at the top of it last season. No one scored more goals than they did at five-on-five or the power play. They even scored the fifth-most goals while shorthanded. They had a player hit 128 points, they had two others light the lamp 40 times apiece (including Steven Stamkos turning back the clock and shooting and scoring with the best of them), and they had six other players slot in somewhere between 13 and 29 goals.

As if that wasn't enough, it appears they have another undersized forward on the way who has been overlooked because of his diminutive stature despite producing everywhere he's played. Alex Barre-Boulet clocks in at 5-foot-10, and is now coming off of seasons in which he scored 116 points in 65 major junior games (albeit as an overager), and 68 points in 74 AHL games. Whether it's Barre-Boulet or Alexander Volkov, the organization's ability to keep uncovering and churning out talent from unexpected locations never ceases to amaze.



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## NHL 2019-2020 season preview: Are the Hurricanes in a position to top last season?

Here's a breakdown of what might be the toughest division to project -- the Metropolitan

By Pete Blackburn

With another NHL season rapidly approaching, we're continuing our 2019-2020 preview week. We'll be taking a look around the league, division by division, and providing a snapshot of all 31 teams. In addition to top-to-bottom rankings, we'll give you reasons to believe in every team and, for the pessimists, reasons to doubt them as well.

Here's a breakdown of what might be the toughest division to project -- the Metropolitan.

### 1. Carolina Hurricanes

(Last season: 99 points, 4th in Metro)

Reason to believe: The Hurricanes turned a corner last year under the leadership of Rod Brind'Amour. They made the playoffs for the first time in a decade and advanced to the Eastern Conference Final. They have a talented group of forwards led by Sebastian Aho and Teuvo Teravainen. They'll get a full season out of Nino Niederreiter, who flourished after going to Carolina mid-season. Andrei Svechnikov is a great young player heading into his second season. They added Ryan Dzingel this offseason.

The front end of their forward group is very good, but the Hurricanes' biggest strength lies in their back end. They have a tremendous defensive corps and replaced Calvin de Haan with Jake Gardiner this offseason, and Gardiner should fit in very well with their style of play. Their mobile, swarm-style of defense excels at putting pressure on the opposition while pushing play the other way. The Hurricanes finished as the best possession team in the Eastern Conference last year.

Reason to doubt: There are some question marks surrounding their depth and power play, but the biggest concern comes in net. They got surprisingly strong goaltending from Petr Mrazek and Curtis McElhinney last year, but is it sustainable? They've replaced McElhinney with James Reimer but it wouldn't be all that surprising if their goaltending took a step back because a Mrazek-Reimer tandem isn't

exactly great. Then again, it may not have to be considering the quality of defense in front of them.

### 2. Washington Capitals

(Last season: 104 points, 1st in Metro)

Reason to believe: They've won the Metro in each of the last four seasons and there hasn't been enough turnover to think they can't make a run at doing it again. They've still got Alex Ovechkin and he's still basically a lock for 40 goals. They've still got very good secondary producers like Evgeny Kuznetsov, Nicklas Backstrom, T.J. Oshie, Jakub Vrana and Tom Wilson. They'll score goals and do well on the power play.

They did do some tinkering and added a bit more bite and physicality to their lineup on the back end with the acquisitions of Radko Gudas and Garnet Hathaway.

Reason to doubt: Their core, while still very good, isn't getting any younger. Their fourth line is a bit of a question mark and the defense isn't overly impressive. Their penalty kill (78.9 percent) ranked 24th in the league last year. Their xGF percentage (47.6) was seventh-worst in the league. On top of that, Braden Holtby's numbers have been rather pedestrian the past few years. He's going to need to prove that he's capable of returning to Vezina-caliber form.

### 3. Pittsburgh Penguins

(Last season: 100 points, 3rd in Central)

Reason to believe: They've still got Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin leading the charge, and those two guys are usually going to give you a chance. They added some depth on the right side with the additions of Dominik Kahun and Brandon Tanev. Kris Letang bounced back in a big way last season and was a legitimate Norris candidate. Matt Murray returned to impressive form last season after a down year in 2017-2018.

Reason to doubt: They seem to be trending in the wrong direction, especially because they've put so much emphasis on prioritizing big bodies and grit over the past year or so. They have a tendency to look rather porous defensively, which probably won't be



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helped by the fact that they seem intent on running a third defensive pair of Jack Johnson and Erik Gudbransson. They finished sixth in offense last year but it wouldn't be surprising to see them slide this year. They traded Phil Kessel for Alex Galchenyuk, who probably won't match Kessel's offensive productivity. Jake Guentzel went from 22 goals to 40 goals last year but did so while shooting 17.6 percent, so that output probably isn't sustainable.

#### 4. New Jersey Devils

(Last season: 72 points, 8th in Metro)

Reason to believe: They had an incredibly exciting offseason that saw them add first overall pick (and potential franchise-changing talent) Jack Hughes, as well as P.K. Subban, Nikita Gusev and Wayne Simmonds. Add in the fact that former MVP Taylor Hall will be returning to the lineup after missing more than half of last season...well, the Devils will, at the very least, be a lot more fun to watch. They also have plenty of wiggle room on the cap so don't rule out this team's potential of improving mid-season.

Reason to doubt: Hughes is an incredible talent who should get plenty of chance to shine in New Jersey next season, but he'll likely have to navigate some growing pains as an undersized first-year center. But how far the Devils go this season will most likely hinge on goaltending. Cory Schneider is 33 years old and he's looked like a shell of his former self for most of the past three seasons. The question is whether he can stay healthy and good enough to help the Devils be taken seriously. If not, the team will have to turn to MacKenzie Blackwood, who had a strong rookie campaign last year but is still largely unproven.

#### 5. Philadelphia Flyers

(Last season: 82 points, 6th in Metro)

Reason to believe: They may have overpaid for Kevin Hayes, but his addition makes them a better team both at five-on-five and on special teams. They have a strong front-six that can be trusted with 200 feet of ice, and the addition of Hayes pushes down Nolan Patrick. Carter Hart hit the scene last year and had a good rookie campaign, giving the Flyers some faith in the prospect of long-term goalie stability -- something they've sorely missed for quite some time.

Reason to doubt: They gave up the third-most goals in the league last year and though Matt Niskanen and Justin Braun were added to their defensive corps, neither of those guys should be considered major difference-makers on a back end that has struggled with consistency over the past few years. Their depth scoring options aren't fantastic and they'll probably have to rely on at least one rookie (Joel Farabee?) to help them improve in that area.

Their power play ranked 23rd in the league last season.

#### 6. New York Islanders

(Last season: 103 points, 2nd in Metro)

Reason to believe: They're coming off a tremendous first year under Barry Trotz in which they not only survived the loss of John Tavares, but advanced to the second round of the playoffs. Their defensive structure was very sound and they made a stunning turnaround, going from the league's worst defensive team to the league's best defensive team. They'll likely continue to be strong defensively this year as they retain a lot of the same personnel.

Reason to doubt: The defense will be there, but will the scoring and goaltending? The Isles ranked 22nd in offense and had the third-worst power play in the league last season, and they haven't done much of anything this offseason to provide confidence it will be better. Mat Barzal went from an 85-point rookie campaign behind Tavares to a 62-point sophomore season as the No. 1 center. Robin Lehner had a career year and was a Vezina candidate in net, splitting the Jennings Trophy with Thomas Greiss. But Lehner has since been replaced by Semyon Varlamov, who has struggled with consistency issues during his career. If the Isles don't continue to get top-notch goaltending, they may not be able to score enough to overcome.

#### 7. New York Rangers

(Last season: 78 points, 7th in Metro)

Reason to believe: Their rebuild has accelerated thanks to some major additions on both ends of the ice. The lottery balls bounced their way to allow them the right to draft Kaapo Kakko with the No. 2 overall pick in this year's draft, and Kakko has the potential to be an elite offensive force in the NHL. They also signed another elite offensive force in Artemi Panarin, who was the prize of this year's free agent class. Vitali Kravtsov -- the team's first-round pick in 2018 -- should also crack the lineup this year.

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On the back end, they scored a top-pairing defenseman at a bargain when they acquired Jacob Trouba from the Winnipeg Jets. They also traded for the rights to Adam Fox, who is a highly touted blue line prospect entering his first season.

Reason to doubt: While the future is taking shape, they're probably not ready to be legitimate competitors yet. They're depending on a lot of young players and new faces who will need time to develop



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and establish their footing. They also have Henrik Lundqvist approaching his age 38 season in net and Hank has become pretty unpredictable over the past few years.

### 8. Columbus Blue Jackets

(Last season: 98 points, 5th in Metro)

Reason to believe: John Tortorella seems very pissed off that a bunch of their best players left in free agency and wants to use that as a chip on the shoulder for this year's club. Their defense is still very solid.

Reason to doubt: They went all-in last year and are now paying the price. The top end of their roster was decimated by free agency departures (Artemi Panarin, Sergei Bobrovsky, Matt Duchene, Ryan Dzingel) and it's just too much to replace. They're also heading into the season with Joonas Korpisalo as their starting goaltender. He's never served in a starting role and has finished each of the last two seasons with a sub-.900 save percentage as a backup.



## SB NATION CANES COUNTRY

### Carolina Hurricanes 2019-20 Season Preview: Wingers

The Hurricanes get deeper on the wing with their off-season additions.

By Justin Lape

The Carolina Hurricanes head into the 2019-20 season without their captain Justin Williams on the wing as he announced he will not start with the team to begin the season and will continue to evaluate his NHL future. As is the case, next man up will be the motto as the Hurricanes move on and focus on the season ahead without their leader.

Ryan Dzingel

Age: 27

2018-19 Totals: 78 GP, 26G, 30A, 56PTS

Career Totals: 268 GP, 66G, 72A, 138 PTS

After a strong 2018-19 campaign, Ryan Dzingel seemed destined to be overpaid in the free agent market. The forward was coming off a strong campaign of almost 60 points and the best of his career. Then, the Hurricanes swooped in and gave him a team-friendly in a low risk, high reward move.

Dzingel's status to begin the season is currently in question after he suffered a lower body injury in a collision in last night's game against the Nashville Predators. Until the extent of his injury is known, the assumption is that he will likely slot into the hole in the

top-six left behind by Williams' departure. He's got great vision on ice and a great shot in tight. Dzingel chose Raleigh as a destination despite likely receiving offers elsewhere. He's spoke highly of Rod Brind'Amour as a head coach and will likely be utilized often on the power play and when the Hurricanes are in a hole.

Teuvo Teravainen

Age: 25

2018-19 Totals: 82 GP, 21G, 55A, 76PTS

Career Totals: 360 GP, 76G, 150A, 226PTS

Teravainen had a brilliant season last year and formed a reliable one-two punch on the Hurricanes top line when paired with Sebastian Aho. It's likely the two will pair up with each other again and form a formidable first line that may warrant more attention from defenders than received last year.

Teravainen's goal scoring touch came alive in the Stanley Cup Playoffs with the Finnish forward potting seven goals in 15 games. Expect Tervainen to make even more strides in goal-scoring and a repeat of last year's performance looks to be in the cards for the 25-year-old forward.

Andrei Svechnikov

Age: 19



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2018-19 Totals: 82GP, 20G, 17A, 37PTS

The Russian rookie forward was weaned into the lineup by head coach Rod Brind'Amour as was expected. However, Svechnikov quickly impressed and was trusted with more and more minutes as the season rolled on. The young winger is poised for a breakout sophomore season that follows up a solid rookie campaign. Svechnikov has all of the tools to have a long and successful NHL career. His wrist shot is one of the best, if not the best, on the Hurricanes and that was apparent in his play last year. With an expanded role in his sophomore campaign, expect Svechnikov to almost double his point total.

Nino Niederreiter

Age: 27

2018-19 Totals: 82GP, 23G, 30A, 53PTS

Career Totals: 534GP, 126G, 135A, 261PTS

The steal of the century. Nino Niederreiter was acquired in a one-for-one deal for Victor Rask with the Minnesota Wild. While Rask underperformed and has unimpressed in training camp this year, Niederreiter was just the spark plug the Hurricanes needed for their playoff push. In 36 regular season games with the Hurricanes last season, Niederreiter pocketed 30 points (14 goals, 16 assists) and helped provide a jolt to the Hurricanes offense. Back in the top-six with the Hurricanes this season, Niederreiter will likely be as reliable as he was in his first half season with the Hurricanes. He'll likely provide a strong scoring touch to the Hurricanes second line.

Erik Haula

Age: 28

2018-19 Totals: 15 GP, 2G, 5A, 7PTS

Career Totals: 357 GP, 73G, 78A, 151PTS

Don Waddell went out and took a gamble on the addition of Erik Haula, utilizing excess assets and salary cap space that the Vegas Golden Knights didn't have. Haula played 15 games last season due to injury but the gamble could pay off for the Hurricanes middle-six. The speedy winger had 55 points in his last full season and could hit those point totals with the linemates he's projected to play with. Expect Haula to get his initial looks as a center, but he can certainly also slot in at wing as needed to round out the roster. Haula can be utilized on a revamped power play that the Hurricanes could use.

Jordan Martinook

Age: 27

2018-19 Totals: 82 GP, 15G, 10A, 25PTS

Career Totals: 329GP, 41G, 49A, 90PTS

The instant fan-favorite Martinook made a strong impression on his coach and fans in his first season with the Hurricanes. Martinook's bottom-six presence was felt throughout the whole season, providing a physical, high-energy presence will having a little bit of offense to his game as well. Martinook had four assists in ten games in the Stanley Cup Playoffs before being knocked out for the remainder with a serious lower-body injury. Healthy and ready to go for the 2019-20 campaign, Martinook will be a reliable bottom-six forward.

Brock McGinn

Age: 25

2018-19 Totals: 82GP, 10G, 16A, 26PTS

Career Totals: 240GP, 36G, 40A, 76PTS

McGinn became embedded in Hurricanes fans memories when he tipped in the game-winning-goal in 2OT against the Washington Capitals in the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs. His contract expired at the conclusion of the 2018-19 season and McGinn and the Hurricanes came to a two-year extension just before heading to arbitration. McGinn has been a staple of the Hurricanes bottom-six and is much like Martinook in terms of his reliability and filling the role the Hurricanes need him to. McGinn, however, is not cheap, factoring in the new contract. He may become a trade candidate if the Hurricanes need cap relief.

Warren Foegele

Age: 23

2018-19 Totals: 77GP, 10G, 5A, 15PTS

In his first full season in the NHL, Foegele was a streaky forward that started the season strong but then tapered off. Right when the Hurricanes needed him, Foegele sprang to life in the playoffs, having an impressive first round against the Washington Capitals. Foegele may not have the freedom to move up and down the lineup like he did last season, now with move forwards competing for playing time. He'll likely play on a strong third line.

Scoring Projections (Assuming 82 GP)

- Teuvo Teravainen - 29G, 53A, 82 PTS
- Andrei Svechnikov - 34G, 36A, 70 PTS
- Ryan Dzingel - 29G, 32A, 61 PTS
- Nino Niederreiter - 32 G, 27A, 59PTS
- Erik Haula - 22G, 26A, 48PTS



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- Jordan Martinook - 11G, 18A, 29PTS
- Warren Foegele - 13G, 14A, 27PTS
- Brock McGinn - 11 G, 13A, 24PT

## Hurricanes Announce Nine Training Camp Cuts; Roster Down to 29 Players

Seven players have been assigned to the AHL, one player to the SHL, and one player to the OHL.

By Brett Finger

The Carolina Hurricanes announced their most recent round of training camp cuts on Thursday. Nine players have been removed from the NHL team's roster and have been assigned to lower levels.

Janne Kuokkanen, Morgan Geekie, Steven Lorentz, Eetu Luostarinen, Stelio Mattheos, Colin Markison, Jake Bean, Kyle Wood, and Alex Nedeljkovic have been assigned to the Charlotte Checkers of the AHL. Jesper Sellgren has been assigned to Lulea of the Swedish Hockey League. 2019 first-round pick Ryan Suzuki has been assigned to his OHL team, the Barrie Colts.

With this round of cuts, the Hurricanes' training camp roster now sits at 29 players, including the likes of Martin Necas, Julien Gauthier, Chase Priskie (who is back from injury and participating fully with the team in Thursday's practice), and veterans Brian Gibbons and Max McCormick. The final three goalies are Petr Mrazek, James Reimer, and Anton Forsberg, who

had an excellent showing on Wednesday night in Nashville.

An updated list of Carolina's training camp roster can be found [here](#).

The official news release from the team is below:

Don Waddell, President and General Manager of the National Hockey League's Carolina Hurricanes, today announced that the team has assigned forwards Morgan Geekie, Janne Kuokkanen, Steven Lorentz, Eetu Luostarinen and Stelio Mattheos, defensemen Jake Bean and Kyle Wood, and goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic to the Charlotte Checkers of the American Hockey League (AHL). In addition, defenseman Jesper Sellgren has been assigned to Lulea HF of the Swedish Hockey League (SHL), forward Ryan Suzuki has been assigned to the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL), and forward Colin Markison will report to Charlotte's training camp.

The Hurricanes training camp roster now stands at 29 players.

## Get to Know Dominik Bokk

The lesser known player in the Justin Faulk trade holds plenty of future potential.

By kleblanchockey

Who is Dominik Bokk?

On Tuesday, the Hurricanes acquired Bokk, along with defenseman Joel Edmundson, in the trade that sent Justin Faulk to the St. Louis Blues.

Like with any trade involving prospects, it's best to temper expectations. Unfortunately, we all know that's easier said than done when you have a shiny new toy in your organizational toy chest. So what did the Canes get in 2018 first rounder Dominik Bokk? In short, loads of skill and upside.

The talented German winger was selected 25th overall by St. Louis after a stellar international junior career, and an over a point-per-game debut season for Växjö's U20 team in Sweden. In his draft plus-one year, Bokk made the jump to the Swedish first division, posting 23 points in 47 games and finishing

fifth on the club among forwards in points as a 19-year-old.

A bit of a polarizing prospect, there is no denying the offensive skill that Bokk possesses. However, he was among the more raw prospects in his draft year and still has some parts of his game to improve if he's to reach his ceiling. Bokk is an above average skater, with a bit of a choppy stride that works best in small spaces. With the puck, he's a threat to be a difference maker any time he's in possession. His vision and hands border on the elite level among his peer group, and his shot is NHL ready. From an effort and defensive perspective, there are still some things to be ironed out. However, those attributes should continue to evolve as he develops as a prospect and gets settled in as a professional.

All in all, Carolina adds another viable prospect to their pipeline that has legitimate top-six upside if Bokk reaches his ceiling. He'll play this season with Rogle in the Swedish top division, and Canes fans may see him in North America at the end of the Checkers



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season. Still years away from making an NHL impact, but a top-tier prospect to look forward to in the future.



## Carolina Assigns Nine Players To Charlotte

By Nicholas Niedzielski

The Hurricanes made another round of cuts on Thursday, sending a group of nine players to Charlotte.

Forwards Morgan Geekie, Janne Kuokkanen, Steven Lorentz, Eetu Luostarinen Colin Markison and Stelio Mattheos, defensemen Jake Bean and Kyle Wood and goalie Alex Nedeljkovic will all join Checkers training camp, which started earlier this week.

Geekie ranked fifth on the team in scoring last year with 46 points and tied for fourth with 19 goals, both totals that tied for seventh among all AHL rookies. The 21-year-old also put up 18 points (8g, 10a) in 19 playoff games to lead all AHL rookies and tied for second on the team.

Kuokkanen is heading into his third pro season in North America after ranking eighth on the Checkers in scoring last season with 38 points (12g, 26a) in 48 games, earning himself an AHL All-Star Game selection. In his career the 21-year-old Finn has recorded 78 points (23g, 55a) in 108 AHL games for Charlotte.

Lorentz spent the majority of his second pro campaign with the Checkers last season, logging nine points (3g, 6a) in 29 games. The 23-year-old also appeared in 12 playoff games and picked up five points (1g, 4a) along the way.

Luostarinen, a second-round pick in 2017, is making the jump to North America for the first time. The 21-year-old Finn broke out for KalPa in his native country's top league last season, posting 36 points

(15g, 21a) in 54 games – good for second on the team.

Markison was at Carolina's NHL camp on a tryout after signing an AHL deal with Charlotte over the summer. The 26-year-old is heading into his fifth full pro season with 72 points (21g, 51a) in 208 AHL games under his belt.

Mattheos is set to start his first full pro season after joining the Checkers for their championship run last season. The 20-year-old notched three points (2g, 1a) in 11 regular-season games for Charlotte at the end of the year following the conclusion of his WHL career with Brandon and added four more (3g, 1a) in 14 postseason games.

Bean is coming off a standout first pro season in which he ranked second among all rookie blue liners and tied for 12th among all defensemen with 44 points (13g, 31), earning a spot on the AHL's All-Rookie Team. The 13th overall pick in 2016, Bean also added five points (1g, 4a) in 15 postseason games during Charlotte's run to the Cup.

Wood joined the organization over the summer in the trade that sent Trevor Carrick to San Jose. The 23-year-old blue liner is coming off a 35-point season with the San Jose Barracuda in which he ranked second among team defensemen in scoring and matched his career high with 29 assists. The Ontario native has recorded 97 points (23g, 74a) in 187 AHL games over his three full pro seasons with Springfield, Tucson and San Jose, including a 14-goal, 43-point rookie campaign that netted him a spot in the 2016-17 AHL All-Star Game and on the All-Rookie Team.



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Nedeljkovic comes to Charlotte as the reigning AHL Most Outstanding Goaltender, having led the league

in wins and goals-against average last season en route to a spot on the league's First All-Star Team.



## Andrei Svechnikov should score 30: These five players are the next NHL stars

By Kevin Allen

Members of the Carolina Hurricanes' organization go out of their way to not heap the heavy burden of high expectations on 19-year-old winger Andrei Svechnikov.

No one uses numbers to predict what Svechnikov could do this season.

But if Svechnikov nets 30 or more goals, no one within the organization could honestly say, "We didn't see that coming." The general impression of Svechnikov is that he works too hard not to have a dominant 2019-20 season.

"Every NHL player is committed," Hurricanes general manager Don Waddell said. "But his commitment is off the charts."

Waddell said Svechnikov might be the "most dedicated young player I've ever seen."

The Hurricanes have a spot near their dressing room where players can work on their shot. Waddell estimates that Svechnikov spends an hour to two hours every day honing that aspect of his game. He might spend more time there than any other player.

"He lives in the rink," Waddell said.

Svechnikov scored 20 goals (on 189 shots) last season, and none came on the power play. During that rookie season, Svechnikov played under 15 minutes on most nights. This season, he likely will get top-line minutes and be a fixture on the power play. Given his speed, 6-2 frame, work ethic and the heaviness and accuracy of his shot, projecting him for 30 goals seems reasonable.

Here are others in our top-five breakthrough candidates for this season:

► Left wing Brady Tkachuk, Ottawa Senators: It wouldn't be shocking to see Tkachuk flirt with 30 goals. Many in the hockey world have opined that he is the most talented of the Tkachuk hockey family. That's saying something when you consider that his father scored 538 goals in the NHL and his brother, Matthew, is an established force.

► Defenseman Miro Heiskanen, Dallas Stars: Think of him as a Finnish version of a young Nicklas Lidstrom. Smooth. Poised. Skilled. At 20, Heiskanen is almost indispensable. He is central to the Stars' defensive coverage and offensive attack. His 33 points from last season could grow into 50 this season.

► Defenseman Samuel Girard, Colorado Avalanche: The Avalanche's decision to give Girard a seven-year deal speaks to the confidence they have in his potential. He has quietly used his skating and instincts to become one of the more dangerous young puck-moving defensemen. His offensive touch will continue to mature. He could go from 27 points last season to 45-plus points now.

► Goalie Carter Hart, Philadelphia Flyers: He's only 21, but has the talent to carry the Flyers. Because goalies need NHL game experience, it could be a couple seasons before Hart is at his best. But it's not unthinkable that the second-year goalie could play well enough this season to keep the Flyers in the playoff picture. Hart, who had a .917 save percentage in 31 games last year, is the team's most exciting goalie since Ron Hextall.



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# SportScan

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

1154265 Carolina Hurricanes

Canes reduce preseason training camp roster

BY CHIP ALEXANDER SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 12:32 PM

A week before the start of the regular season, the Carolina Hurricanes have trimmed their training camp roster to 29.

The Canes on Thursday announced they had assigned forwards Morgan Geekie, Janne Kuokkanen, Steven Lorentz, Eetu Luostarinen and Stelio Mattheos; defensemen Jake Bean and Kyle Wood, and goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic to the Charlotte Checkers of the American Hockey League.

Defenseman Jesper Sellgren has been assigned to Lulea HF of the Swedish Hockey League and forward Ryan Suzuki has been assigned to the Barrie Colts of the Ontario Hockey League (OHL). Suzuki was the Canes' first-round pick this year in the NHL Draft. Forward Colin Markison will report to Charlotte's training camp.

"It's time," Canes coach Rod Brind'Amour said to the media Thursday. "We've been saying we've got to get closer to where our group looks like. Obviously we've got to get the chemistry kind of rolling with the whole group. It's inevitable we got to this

point and now we've got to refine it even more, but that was the first step."

The Canes, who open the season Oct. 3 against the Montreal Canadiens, held one practice session Thursday at PNC Arena. Forward Ryan Dzingel, who suffered a lower-body injury Wednesday in the preseason road game against Nashville, did not practice. Defenseman Jake Gardiner also was off the ice.

Brind'Amour said Dzingel, injured on a faceoff, said he "felt better" Thursday but said his status could not be called "day to day" -- "I think it's probably longer than that," Brind'Amour said.

Brind'Amour said Gardiner "had something he didn't want to risk making it worse" physically, without being more specific.

Among those still in camp are former first-round picks Julien Gauthier and Martin Necas, both competing for forward spots on the Canes' opening-night roster. The Canes had three goalies at practice: Petr Mrazek, James Reimer and Anton Forsberg, who started against the Predators and played the full game in a 3-0 loss.

Nedeljkovic, the AHL goalie of the year in 2018-19, was the only one of the four with a two-way contract and is waivers exempt. Forsberg, who has NHL experience but played in the AHL last season, was awarded a one-year, one-way contract for 2019-20 after going through an arbitration hearing.

"You want to come in and say we've got competition and everybody's got a crack, but there are other factors that play into it," Brind'Amour said of sending Nedeljkovic down. "It's just the



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business of the game. He really didn't get a fair shake in my opinion, as far as that goes, but you only play six games and the numbers are what they are."

Necas took a hard fall Thursday in practice, as did defenseman Brett Pesce, who was in the bottom of a pileup along the boards with Gauthier and Warren Foegele. Neither Necas nor Pesce were injured.

"Every time something like that happens you just take a deep breath," Brind'Amour said. "We practice hard. I like it. There's a give and take on that, right? You want to make sure you're healthy but you've got to practice the way you're going to play."

The Canes have two preseason games remaining, both at PNC Arena -- Friday against the Predators (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday against the Washington Capitals (1:30 p.m.).

News Observer LOADED: 09.27.2019

1154266 Carolina Hurricanes

Ten bold (and not so bold) predictions for the Hurricanes this season

By Sara Civian Sep 26, 2019

It's the NHL preseason, y'all, and anything is possible.

Your favorite prospect is absolutely going to make the team. The 2019-20 Carolina Hurricanes will be the first team to go undefeated in the regular season then sweep the Stanley Cup playoffs.

They will finally adopt a team puppy and it will be the cutest one in the league.

All right, let's not get carried away.

The best thing about this time of year is that feeling, though. Technically any of this could happen. Folks around here have learned not to rule out anything after the events of last season. That magic will never be replicated, but it set an expectation.

I've learned never to promise anyone a puppy after childhood heartbreaks I'm still not fully recovered from, but the 10 predictions below fall everywhere on the scale of 1-5 fire emojis, and one is already wrong.

1. The Hurricanes will make the playoffs again

In a vacuum, the Hurricanes' roster improved this offseason with major haul(a)s and minor tweaks.

Problem is, so did virtually the rest of the Metro, and most of the Eastern Conference. That's why a second consecutive playoff run (a feat the Canes have only accomplished once since relocation) isn't a given.

The Penguins and Capitals are just two teams you can never count out of playoff contention until Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin retire — full stop.

The Devils added Jack Hughes (who is already using new age lingo), P.K. Subban, Nikita Gusev and Wayne Simmonds.

The Rangers' rebuild will accelerate faster than planned with Artemi Panarin, Kaapo Kakko, Jacob Trouba and Adam Fox in the mix (I'm also a big fan of head coach David Quinn).

It's Carter Hart season in Philly (happy belated birthday, Gritty). The Flyers also picked up Kevin Hayes for a large-but-deliberate contract to show their core they want to win now.

The Islanders and Blue Jackets are the only teams that don't outright make me sweat, and even then you never know.

It'll take the same exact attitude the Canes had last year, a prospect like Julien Gauthier and/or Martin Necas panning out, "league average goaltending" and offseason acquisitions generally going as planned.

But led by Rod Brind'Amour, the talent assembled can do it.

Boldness: 🐶🐶🐶

2. Andrei Svechnikov will score 30 goals\*

Does this look like a man who is messing around?

Book it.

\*Empty netters count

Boldness: 🐶🐶

3. If there is a playoff run, Justin Williams will return

The Canes have largely backed off Justin Williams and seem to be letting him enjoy this stage of his life (save for a trip to the golf course with Tom Dundon a few days ago). There's nothing new on that front for now, but I can't imagine a playoff run without him.

I was chatting with someone who has known him forever, and despite how decorated his career already is ...

"He's still way too good."

He's earned the right to take a breather, enjoy his family, do his crossword puzzles and coach his son. I think he would've just called it a career if he thought it was going to be more than just a breather.

Boldness: 🐶🐶🐶🐶

4. The Storm Surge hiatus will resume unless Williams comes back for a playoff run, then there will be a Surge to end all Surges

Boldness: 3.5 angry Don Cherrys

5. There will be a goalie controversy between Petr Mrazek and Alex Nedeljkovic at some point

Curtis McElhinney's departure could become one of those sneaky tough Ls the team couldn't do much to prevent but still hurts.

McElhinney was a waiver wire pickup and ended up starting a career-high 35 regular-season games at 36 years old. His calm demeanor almost became a meme because we discussed it to death last season, but it was exactly what the Hurricanes needed following Scott Darling, who couldn't string together two consecutive wins in a Hurricanes uniform.

The Hurricanes wouldn't have even sniffed the second round without Petr Mrazek, but they wouldn't have made the playoffs to



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begin with without McElhinney. You have to wonder if Mrazek can handle the full-time starting role on a potential Cup contender, especially when the league is trending toward 1A-1B.

Craig Custance's annual panel of GMs and coaches rating goalies just came out, and Mrazek ranked 26/31.

This is always a fascinating read that reminds you these decision-makers aren't omniscient (You "just don't love" John Gibson? Come on!), but the panel raises fair points about Mrazek.

"You don't know if he's a backup," one executive said. "You don't know what he is. I'm not sure he's a starter but he's an above average backup."

You just don't know, you know?

There's absolutely no reason to rush Alex Nedeljkovic's NHL career, especially when Mrazek hasn't given the Canes a reason to.

But I've liked just about everything I've seen out of the reigning AHL goalie of the year, and as Rod Brind'Amour put it, "he knows how to win." I wouldn't be shocked if the Canes call him up for more than a handful of games in the dead of the season, and I wouldn't rule out a forced controversy.

I do think there's power in not knowing what to make of Mrazek, and I think he thrives in that mindset. Twenty-sixth on a list of 31 seems unfair.

It's just that there's someone enticing waiting for a chance if the Hurricanes find out what, exactly, Mrazek is and they don't like it — or if he unfortunately gets hurt.

Boldness: 🐼🐼🐼

Warren Foegele (Stephen R. Sylvania / USA Today)

### 6. Warren Foegele is the real deal

There's been so much to discuss this training camp between the goalie situation, the blue line roster battle and the new-look Top 6 that the depth situation hasn't been a huge talking point. Now that the roster's trimmed to 29, the left wing could look like this:

Ryan Dzingel (potentially)

Svechnikov (natural right-winger but has been playing the left)

Brock McGinn

Jordan Martinook

Warren Foegele

Max McCormick

Brian Gibbons

There's a real chance someone who was a roster regular last season could end up an odd man out. This might be a hot take, but I don't think it will be Foegele.

It was disappointing that his franchise-record four goals in his first five NHL games were followed by a two-month scoring drought, one so frustrating that he did a monkey-off-back goal celebration when it finally ended Dec. 16.

"You kind of question your abilities and things go in your head that shouldn't," he said at the time.

That's unfortunate because although the Hurricanes were dying for a finishing touch just as his drought hit, his talent that arguably impresses me more was being ignored.

Foegele can draw penalties at an elite level.

He ended the season with 29 penalties drawn at even strength. That's top 10 in the league, in company with No. 1 Nathan MacKinnon, No. 2 Johnny Gaudreau, No. 3 Jeff Skinner, No. 4 Elias Pettersson, No. 5 Connor McDavid, No. 6 Aleksander Barkov, to name a few, and he tied Mat Barzal.

That list is mostly star NHL centers who all get significantly more ice time than Foegele.

He turned on the scoring again in the postseason and it's obvious he thrives in the big moments. But even if he doesn't pan out as a Top 6 scorer, he has something special that won him an NHL job in the first place.

Boldness: 🐼🐼🐼🐼

### 7. A defenseman will get traded, but it won't be Justin Faulk

The season hasn't even started yet and I'm already wrong. Gotta stay humble.

Though I've been reporting for months since the draft that the Canes have been looking to trade Justin Faulk, it got to the point where it seemed it might never happen and he'd retire a Hurricane. I felt for him throughout the process and he was a really good sport. I hope they serve queso in St. Louis.

Boldness: 🐼🐼🐼🐼🐼

### 8. The lines will look unrecognizable from opening night to the end of the season

Between all the "new guys" and all the young players still figuring out their ceilings, basically the entire Top 6 could be jumbled around every single game. Brind'Amour has been reluctant (dare we say stubborn) at times to move certain players around, but he seemed more comfortable with it as his inaugural season progressed. I'd expect more jumbling this season, and not just the classic last five minutes of a clear loss Blend-O-Rama.

Boldness: 🐼

### 9. Jordan Staal will be named captain

Faulk's departure cemented this opinion of mine. Jordan Staal, who was once co-captains with Faulk under Bill Peters, is now the most tenured Hurricane. Players look to him on the ice as an example of consistency and off the ice for verbal guidance. Young captains are trending in the NHL these days, but I personally think it would be better for Sebastian Aho and Jaccob Slavin to focus on the career seasons they pretty much need to have for the Hurricanes to return to the playoffs.

Staal can take the heat, and he's one of those guys every single person you talk to in the league respects.

Boldness: 🐼🐼🐼

### 10. Celebrity shot

Why not ask the Hurricanes themselves which teammate is going to have a big year?

Sebastian Aho, without hesitation: "Svech."



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Lucas Wallmark: \*slowly raises finger and points at Aho\*

Dougie Hamilton: "You're really springing this on me. Svech."

The Athletic LOADED: 09.27.2019

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The Athletic / 'There's a very inclusive energy': Hall of Famer Cammi Granato explains her scouting role with Seattle's NHL team

By Lisa Dillman

Sep 26, 2019

September was a month of barriers breaking in hockey.

Four women officiated at various NHL prospects tournaments. Newly listed on the Anaheim Ducks' organizational staff directory is Gabriella Switaj, an amateur scout and team services analyst.

Now the Ducks have had a female scouting coordinator – Angela Gorgone in the 1990s – and she participated in scouting meetings and offered assessments but didn't get out on the road to scout. Jack Ferreira, who was Anaheim's first GM, said there was also a female who scouted the Quebec junior league in the early days of the franchise.

But Switaj is the first female amateur scout for the Ducks in recent history, more precisely, in the salary cap era. She played at goal for the Boston College team that reached the NCAA Frozen Four in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and was the first female Brendan Burke Intern for USA Hockey.

On Wednesday, NHL Seattle announced it had hired five pro scouts, including Hockey Hall of Famer Cammi Granato. The league's next expansion team, which will begin play in 2021-22, said Granato is the NHL's lone female in that role.

Now Granato, 48, is used to blazing trails, having done so on the ice with Team USA, which won the first Olympic gold medal in women's hockey in Nagano, Japan, in 1998. Granato played in nine – yes, nine – World Championships and made more history in 2010 when, along with Angela James, she became the first women inducted to the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Additionally, Granato remains the first and only female broadcaster for the Los Angeles Kings, having worked in the booth as a radio color commentator in the 1998-99 season alongside another Hall of Famer, play-by-play man Nick Nickson.

Granato took time to chat with The Athletic, from her home in Vancouver, in between receiving congratulatory phone calls and managing the active schedules of her soccer-playing sons, Riley, 12, and Reese, 9.

"They both really love soccer, so we're absorbed in that world as well," she said. "It's interesting. The team game is very similar in some ways. You learn a whole new jargon."

Her husband, Ray Ferraro, a former NHLer, is a highly regarded broadcaster, working for TSN in Canada. Brothers Tony and Don are hockey lifers, with Tony coaching at the University of Wisconsin and Don an assistant with the Buffalo Sabres.

Note: This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

How long has this been in the works?

The Seattle opportunity was relatively recent, in the last couple of months. I had my eye on how I could be a part of the organization. But (Seattle GM) Ron Francis reached out to me and asked, and I was just thrilled to be involved.

I always knew I wanted to get back in the game, and I had opportunities in the past that just didn't work for me. I wanted to do it but it didn't work for me, family-wise. Ray is gone a lot. So it wasn't appropriate for me to do the same.

What made the difference this time?

The right fit hadn't come along and this one, honestly, felt so right, and was the perfect way to be at home and still be in the game at the same time. The organization is full of first-class people. You can see that already.

There's a very inclusive energy. Not just inclusive but positive. The city is excited. The arena is going to be incredible. There's just so many great things that are going to be happening.

I did turn down jobs that were really interesting to me and pained me to say no to. But it's OK. It's all about the timing. This one, to me, is a really great fit.

You've had so many firsts in your career. What do you think your hire will mean for the future?

In thinking about it, our generation of players has had to be the trailblazers because we were the first, the pioneers. We never really got that when we were playing. We really didn't understand the magnitude of it until we got a little older. We did make history being the first women in the Olympics. It just seems like it keeps going. There's a lot of firsts. I'm honored.

I'm hoping it brings discussion about opportunities for women to be in this role. I think women are qualified but they weren't necessarily interviewed or people thought of hiring them in the past. Now you're just seeing it everywhere in sports.

And in other walks of life but sports especially. It's not because they're trying to reach a quota. It's because women that are qualified are being hired now, or being considered now. Which is refreshing.

What will be your areas of responsibility?

I'll be scouting NHL games in the West. There will be three of us looking at the West and there's another three or four in the East. Right now, it's preparation for the (2021) expansion draft. Just projecting what their performance will be then or analyzing players right now to see who is a fit and who will potentially be available, just coming up with a plan. I'll be going to the games in Vancouver and scouting from there.

We had a conference call today as a group. It just seems as though there is a really positive energy. I think we'll be able to lean on each other and respect each other's decisions and work together on getting the right formula for the expansion drafts.

Did you always keep watching games with the certain analytical mindset even after your playing days were over?

As a player, you automatically do that. Your eye might go to a specific player. The way I played, I always gravitated to those kind of players that played a similar style I did. Around the dinner



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table with my brothers, or the dinner table with Ray, analyzing players or talking about their potential or just their skill, is really fun

I've done that for years and years. It's just been fun to talk hockey. It's normal talk in our house. It was like that growing up, and with Ray now.

Ray and I will often banter back and forth about specific players and sometimes make bets and see how it's going to work out.

It's natural for me because I do love watching the game from that perspective. There will be challenges in learning ... filing reports at the beginning and just figuring out how you get all that information in one game.

Now I'm curious: Who wins more of the bets, you or Ray?

We actually agree on a lot of players. But when we don't agree, we usually make a bet. There's nothing more satisfying than when I beat him. When I'm right. I'm sure it's the same way when he's right.

I often remind him of players that I've gotten right. We just have a lot of fun with it. We'll have even more debates now because we have another level.

Did you overlap with Tim Leiweke (then the Kings' president) when you were with the Kings?

Tim hired me. He gave me the opportunity when only one other woman (Sherry Ross of the New Jersey Devils) had done it. I always am thankful for the opportunity he gave me.

Tim said when I interviewed him in April that Seattle could be the greatest story – ever.

(Note: Tim Leiweke is the co-founder of Oak View Group, and his younger brother Tod is the president and CEO of NHL Seattle, and Oak View is the developer of the KeyArena renovation project.)

He will be determined to do that. That's the 'Leiweke Way.' I can't imagine Tod is any different. With the hires he has made and how he's conducting everything so far, it's very impressive.

I'm really proud to be a part of this organization already. We haven't even really started to get into the thick of things.

The Athletic LOADED: 09.27.2019

1154392 Websites

The Athletic / The Most Interesting Men on the Waiver Wire:  
Sept. 26, 2019

By Jonathan Willis

Sep 26, 2019

Two kinds of players tend to attract a lot of attention when they land on waivers: prospects on the cusp of regular duty and full-time NHLers who for whatever reason haven't made the cut this time around. As a rule, the prospects are a better bet, but

occasionally a useful veteran underperforms in a camp environment despite having plenty of mileage left.

In a salary cap world, contract is often the obstacle, as it will be for Karl Alzner and Dale Weise, both placed on waivers this morning by Montreal. Given their prohibitive cap hits, neither stands much chance of being picked up. For two others, though, the money is reasonable enough that it becomes a possibility.

RD Alexander Petrovic, Bruins

It has been a rapid descent for Petrovic, currently on a one-year, two-way contract which pays the league minimum when he's in the majors. He was on Florida's protected list for the 2017 expansion draft, part of an infamous gamble which allowed the Golden Knights to come away with both Jonathan Marchessault and Reilly Smith. As recently as last December, the Panthers were able to extract a third-round pick from Edmonton for his services.

It's fair to ask if at this point the market hasn't overcorrected. Petrovic is only 27, and although his time with the Oilers did him no favours he was also caught in a bad situation and struggling with injury. Over three prior seasons, he was perfectly average by his on-ice shot metrics and perfectly average in the NHL is a pretty good player by waiver wire standards.

Even as the league moves increasingly to skill on the blueline, there is a place for defence-first rearguards like Petrovic. His difficulty finding a home this summer and his subsequent appearance on the wire seems an overreaction to a minus-15 season, just as his appearance on Florida's protected list was an overreaction to his plus-17 performance in 2016-17.

In a league where teams always seem to need right-shot defencemen, Petrovic should have some appeal.

C Matthew Peca, Canadiens

One summer ago, Peca was a hot commodity in free agency, with teams hoping that he might be for them what Marchessault had been for Florida: a dirt-cheap scorer who had been kept out of the NHL by Tampa Bay's remarkable depth. Peca opted for a two-year, \$1.3-million AAV deal with the Canadiens, a deal which will expire this summer.

It didn't play out the way either party hoped. Peca struggled mightily at 5-on-5 as part of a largely ineffective fourth line. Of his 39 games, 21 were played in the season's first two months, before he fell out of favour with the coaches. Outside of the penalty kill, where he excelled, it was a highly disappointing campaign and one that may suffice to get him through waivers unclaimed.

Nevertheless, there was all that interest just last summer, and he is a fast centre who can kill penalties, a skill set which every team seems to love in its end-of-roster players. It's conceivable that some club weak down the middle might remember the ardour it had for him last summer and put a claim in.

There's also the matter of that contract. A \$1.3-million hit is reasonably small, and Peca's actual salary (\$1.2-million) is lower now that his signing bonus is paid. Teams though have increasingly pushed for depth players to be paid the league minimum or close to it, and at nearly double that amount Peca might be a hard fit for teams sitting near the cap's upper limit.

In Brief



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • September 27, 2019

LD Karl Alzner and RW Dale Weise both cost far too much to be legitimate waiver claim options.

C Patrick Brown is 27 but got an odd contract from Vegas this summer: a two-year deal that turns into a one-way contract only in its second year. That should scare teams away, despite a serviceable eight-game run with Carolina in the playoffs last spring.

C Brendan Gaunce was a Canucks first-rounder in 2012, picked on the strength of his well-rounded game and despite concerns he wouldn't generate offence at the highest levels due to skating issues. He's now 25 and on a two-way deal with the Bruins after Vancouver failed to qualify him. He has a shot at a career in a depth role but would be helped in that aim if he could score more in the AHL.

RD Jani Hakanpaa is on a one-way deal and was expected to crack the Ducks' blueline this season but has struggled in exhibition play. The 27-year-old had a couple of years earlier in his career as a St. Louis farmhand, but was hoping to use an 11-goal season in Finland as a springboard to full-time NHL work.

LW Andreas Martinsen was a regular for the rebuilding Avs for a couple of years but never generated enough offensively to make himself secure in the majors. He had just three goals in 38 minor-league games last year and should clear waivers handily.

These guys hit waivers regularly, but LD Xavier Ouellet, 26, is cheap and a perfectly competent No. 7/8 defenceman. Of note is the fact that he had the most productive AHL season of his career after being demoted last year. In 160 career NHL games, mostly with unremarkable teams, he's basically break-even by on-ice goal differential and a little better than that by the shot metrics.

Any idea who the best scorer on last year's AHL champions was? None other than C Andrew Poturalski, now on a two-way deal which guarantees him \$425,000 with the Ducks even if he never leaves the minors. He led Charlotte in regular and postseason scoring, and as Corey Pronman notes has exceptional offensive gifts which might be enough to overcome his average speed and defensive play.

LW John Quenneville is another one of those players on a two-year deal that becomes a one-way contract only in its second season. It makes a lot more sense for him than it does for Brown given that he's just 23. Quenneville scored rather well in the minors last year and although he hasn't shown any offensive game in the majors he was a first-round pick in 2014. A centre in junior, he has mostly played on the wing as a pro.

LW Philip Varone played a career high 47 games in the NHL last season but the 28-year-old did little to suggest he's more than a reasonable recall option.

The Athletic LOADED: 09.27.2019

1154393 Websites

The Athletic / NHL Hot Seat: Who has to prove the critics wrong — or pay a big price?

By Scott Burnside

Sep 26, 2019

Who doesn't love a hot seat? Even those players, coaches, managers, owners and executives whose seats are literally set to roast as the 2019-20 NHL season begins must, on some level, enjoy the often uncomfortable warmth that comes with such scrutiny. Why? Because it gives them a chance to prove doubters wrong, to prove they are special and can do the job.

One of my favorite conversations of the Stanley Cup final was with Ryan O'Reilly of the soon to be Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues. When the Blues were rocked early in the season and had to fire head coach Mike Yeo, and then still stunk, O'Reilly admitted he wondered if he was the problem, if he was somehow a cancer in the room. He ended up with a playoff MVP nod, a championship ring and a parade in southwestern Ontario.

So, hot seat? Yeah. Bring it on.

Here are a baker's dozen feeling the heat.

Jon Cooper, coach, Tampa Bay Lightning

This isn't really about one single person but an entire organization under the glare. That's life when you go from heavy Cup favorite with 62 regular season wins to getting swept in the first round by eighth-seeded Columbus. The thing is that, from GM Julien BriseBois to head coach Cooper to captain Steven Stamkos to Hart Trophy-winner Nikita Kucherov to Vezina Trophy-winner Andrei Vasilevskiy to Norris Trophy finalist Victor Hedman, the true test of this team's mettle won't come until next April. That's a long time to wait for redemption, but it's going to reveal the true character of this team. That's why this might turn out to be the most difficult coaching challenge of Cooper's career, after he signed a multi-year extension a few weeks before his team got bounced from the postseason. How do you keep a star-studded team engaged until they can start to prove naysayers wrong? "I'm not envious of his situation," one longtime coach and talent evaluator said. "It won't matter if Cooper's team wins 70 games (which they might). "The jury's still going to be out with him," he said.

Phil Kessel, forward, Arizona Coyotes

So much drama preceded Kessel's trade to Arizona from Pittsburgh that it's hard to know where to begin — his lack of production at 5-on-5 (he had 15 even strength goals last season, fourth on the team), his defensive play, his battles with coach Mike Sullivan, did he ask for a trade or not. Suffice it to say there was a lot of stuff going on around Kessel and the Penguins last season. Now reunited with Rick Tocchet, who was instrumental to Kessel's success in Pittsburgh when Tocchet was an assistant, Kessel is once again squarely in the limelight where he's historically been least comfortable. The fact that Tocchet is now a head coach and not an assistant is also a different dynamic the two will have to sort through, and Kessel acknowledged that when he arrived in the desert. Still, a team that hasn't been to the playoffs since 2012 and now has new, hopefully stable, ownership for the first time in forever, is going to need Kessel to deliver the goods on and off the ice. If he does — and that would mean replicating his point-a-game production of a year ago, although not his minus-19 plus/minus — the Coyotes could be a surprise playoff squad. If not, it will go a long way to proving naysayers right about Kessel.

Mike Sullivan, coach Pittsburgh Penguins



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Speaking of the Penguins and another coach who recently signed a contract extension, this coming season looms large for Sullivan. The Penguins were humiliated in the first round of the playoffs by the New York Islanders, who swept a disinterested, discombobulated Penguins team. Now Kessel is gone, replaced ostensibly by Alex Galchenyuk, so if there was indeed a power struggle, Sullivan emerged victorious. Still, Evgeni Malkin needs to be rehabilitated after a disappointing season, and there are oodles of questions about the blue line and the goaltending depth. The popular theory is the Stanley Cup window is open about a millimeter for the Penguins' marvelous core. Still, it's worth noting that when Sullivan arrived early in the 2015-16 season, the Pens were a bit broken, too, and he fixed them. Can he do it again four years later? In a Metropolitan Division that is as wide open as at any time since the 2004-05 lockout, it's a bit too soon to close the window entirely.

Johnny Gaudreau, forward, Calgary Flames

This is a key season for all of the Flames after they went from being the top team in the Western Conference in the regular season to punching bags for the eighth-seeded Avalanche, who bounced the Flames in five games. Lots of folks weren't very good for the Flames but watching Gaudreau's frustration level soar as the series went along suggested a young talent that needs to take another step or two forward in terms of his maturation. My pal Eric Duhatschek just wrote a nice piece on Gaudreau's long-term future in Calgary, but at this stage of Gaudreau's career – he just turned 26 – this campaign can't just be about points, even though he had a career-best 99 last season and was a legitimate Hart Trophy option. No, this has to be about becoming a leader on a team that has the goods to be in the Stanley Cup hunt. In his past nine playoff games in Calgary (2017 and 2019), Gaudreau has zero goals and three assists. This is a really good team and Gaudreau needs to do more to make sure they make good on that promise, especially in a weak Pacific Division.

Sergei Bobrovsky, goaltender, Florida Panthers

I wish I'd had the guts to make the Panthers my Eastern Conference Stanley Cup finalist pick. I didn't. But they could be that good. Coach Joel Quenneville is going to get the most out of an underachieving defensive group, which will be helped by Anton Stralman's arrival. And the forward corps, already dynamite, was bolstered with grit and experience in the form of Brett Connolly and Noel Acciari. But it won't matter a hill of plastic rats if new franchise netminder Bobrovsky can't hold the fort in goal. A year ago the Panthers ranked 29th in goals allowed per game even though they were top 10 in shots allowed per game. Bobrovsky was OK in Columbus but not great during the regular season with a .913 save percentage after turning in .921 and .931 the previous two seasons. But he was outstanding in a first-round upset of Tampa and solid against Boston in a tough second-round loss. The playoff performance was in stark contrast to his previous tepid playoff outings in Columbus, and the Panthers will follow the lead of Bobrovsky, who signed a monster seven-year, \$70-million pact that makes him the second-highest paid netminder in the game behind Carey Price (based on average annual cap hit). If Bobrovsky is as good as his Vezina Trophy pedigree suggests, the Panthers are going to push Tampa as the best team in Florida and indeed the Atlantic Division, and usher in a new era of hockey in South Florida. Now all the 31-year-old has to do is follow the script.

Evgeny Kuznetsov, forward, Washington Capitals

A year ago I penciled the skilled Washington center in as a Hart Trophy hopeful. I knew coach Todd Reirden was hoping to integrate Kuznetsov into more and more of the team's prominent roles. Expectations were high. Maybe too high as it turns out as Kuznetsov slumped in production, was investigated by the team and the league after a questionable video surfaced in the spring, and then tested positive for cocaine at the World Championships. NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman suspended Kuznetsov for three games to start the season not so much for using cocaine but presumably because Kuznetsov embarrassed himself, his team and the league in being less than forthright about his actions and his issues. Voluntarily entering the NHL/NHLPA's Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health program, Kuznetsov will face a lot of scrutiny this season. As Reirden put it, this is a career-defining moment. In spending time with Kuznetsov over the years, I'm of the mind that he not only stays on the straight and narrow off the ice, but his production will reflect that and he'll be north of 80 points for a team that needs to rebound after being iced in the first round by Carolina one season after winning the Stanley Cup.

Jim Benning, GM, Vancouver Canucks

Remember the angst of Ottawa fans who spent all last season wondering which prime draft asset they sent to Colorado for Matt Duchene was going to escape them as part of that ill-advised trade? Jack Hughes? Kaapo Kakko? Turned out to be Bowen Byram, the top defenseman in a very good draft class. Ouch. Vancouver fans hope that next season they aren't wondering the same as GM Jim Benning went all-in at the June draft by acquiring J.T. Miller from Tampa for, among other things, a first-round draft pick. If the Canucks miss the playoffs this season, the first-round pick moves to 2021. If the Canucks miss the playoffs this year, and let's be honest there's a pretty good chance that happens, what are the chances Benning is around to sweat out the potentially lost lottery pick the following year? Benning is banking it doesn't come to that after adding Tyler Myers and Jordie Benn to bolster the back end, and Micheal Ferland to help out upfront. Still, the pressure is squarely on the Canucks to very quickly become a playoff team after falling nine points short last season. Our guess is it'll take 93 or 94 to get there this season, which means being at least 12 or 13 points better. Has Benning overplayed his hand? Will the pieces work? Maybe sophomore star Elias Pettersson, bigger and stronger than he was in his debut season that saw him win the Calder Trophy, will simply drag everyone along into the postseason in a pretty mediocre Pacific Division. The reality is that the Canucks haven't won a playoff round since losing in the 2011 Cup final and have missed entirely in four straight seasons, so it seems like an awfully big jump back to the playoff tournament, which sets up some serious nail biting next season.

Samuel Girard, defense, Colorado Avalanche

The Avs are one of the sexy picks to take that next giant step forward and advance to a Stanley Cup final, and they have the goods, on paper, to take a run at their first championship since 2001. Maybe. Love this team assembled by Hall of Famer Joe Sakic. But the big move of the offseason was in moving Tyson Barrie to Toronto for Nazem Kadri. That move makes sense in theory given the Avs' incredible young pool of talent on the blue line and need to balance out the scoring depth upfront. But it pays off in real-time only if Samuel Girard is ready to take that next step forward in his development. He is the leader now of three young, dynamic, smooth-skating defenders that also includes Cale Makar and Byram. But the developmental model



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all flows from Girard. He's had the luxury of playing behind Barrie, as witnessed by his 27 points in 82 games last year – a full 32 points fewer than Barrie notched in four fewer games. Now, having inked a nice seven-year, \$35-million deal, Girard is the frontman and needs to produce to keep the pressure off Makar and Byram, and keep the Avs in the loop as potential Cup contenders.

Mike Babcock, head coach, Toronto Maple Leafs

You're familiar with the phrase "perception is reality." Nowhere in the NHL is this more true than in Toronto. So the perception that Babcock, a world-class coach, is now in the soup has become the reality. The facts suggest there is good reason as the Leafs have been bounced in the first round three straight years, twice in a row in Game 7s where they imploded against Boston. Young GM Kyle Dubas navigated a salary cap minefield in signing William Nylander, Auston Matthews and Mitch Marner. He added John Tavares and Barrie. It's not a perfect lineup and the cap issues won't go away anytime soon. But it's a team that has to be better than one-and-done. And that starts with Babcock, whose curious coaching decisions in last spring's loss to Boston, including overuse of Patrick Marleau and underuse of Matthews, raised eyebrows. With Tampa, Boston, Toronto, Florida, Montreal and maybe Buffalo in the mix (sorry Detroit and Ottawa), even making the playoffs is no gimme, but the stakes are a lot higher for one of the NHL's highest-profile coaches, especially given the number of new faces he has to integrate into his lineup. One longtime executive and player said he wonders where the Leafs are headed in this pivotal year. "It's really, really important," he said of the coming season. "I don't think they're better. I don't think they're a better team."

Blake Wheeler, forward, Winnipeg Jets

Now, I don't have to cover Wheeler, the intense sometimes acidic captain of the Jets, every day, so it's easy for me to say, but I love Wheeler's intensity and bluntness. He was candid in talking about his relationship with the media and reports of internal strife with the Jets after they were bounced by St. Louis in the first round. And there are, or were, lots of big personalities in that room. Now with the blue line decimated and uncertainty continuing to surround the future of key defender Dustin Byfuglien, not to mention the ongoing absence of restricted free agents Kyle Connor and Patrik Laine, not to mention Laine's blunt discussions of his place in Winnipeg from back home in Finland, well, let's just say the captain will have a lot on his plate this year. Guess what? I think the Jets aren't in as dire straits as many believe and that they may be the surprise team in the Central in spite of the distractions. I'm not alone. A longtime, much-decorated NHLer and team executive believes the Jets will get through this just fine. "Winnipeg's going to be OK," he said, "they've got enough good players." What they'll need in spades is leadership, and Wheeler can deliver that. He'd better.

Jim Playfair, assistant coach, Edmonton Oilers

OK, really this is on Dave Tippett, of course, as the new head coach of an Edmonton team that is determined to stop squandering the talent of the most gifted player in the game, Connor McDavid, and emerging superstar Leon Draisaitl. But that squandering is bound to continue if the Oilers can't figure out their blue line. There are lots of interesting pieces coming through the Oiler pipeline, including Evan Bouchard, Ethan Bear, Joel Persson, William Lagesson and Caleb Jones (younger brother of Norris caliber Columbus defender Seth Jones). The problem – or is that challenge – for Playfair, who coaches the

Edmonton defense, is that not all of these players are ready to play in the NHL and the team has to ice six on any given night. Jones was sent to the AHL earlier than hoped during training camp. The top three of Darnell Nurse, Oscar Klefbom and Adam Larsson are givens. But it is critical for Playfair to figure out how to round out the rest of the top six in a manner that gives the Oilers a fighting shot at getting to the playoffs for just the second time since 2006 without irreparably damaging the natural learning process for a good collection of future defensemen.

Miro Heiskanen, defense, Dallas Stars

The Stars came within one goal of a berth in the Western Conference final, falling in Game 7 in double overtime to eventual Cup champion St. Louis. And they're better this season with Joe Pavelski coming over and John Klingberg, who missed time with a hand injury last season, at full strength from the get-go. I had Heiskanen third on my Calder Trophy ballot ahead of Rasmus Dahlen of Buffalo. Still, I was surprised to see Heiskanen make a list of NHL Network's top 20 defensemen. Let's tamp the brakes a bit here. The third-overall pick in the 2017 draft was a minus-14, which leads us to his inclusion on this list. Folks are already talking potential Norris Trophies down the road and the Stars are good enough to win a Cup if Vezina Trophy finalist Ben Bishop stays healthy. Heiskanen is a huge part of that but he'll need to navigate the difficult sophomore season waters to make it happen. If he can continue his early upward career arc, the good times will roll in Big D, but it does seem like a lot to ask of a young man who just turned 20, even if he does seem to be utterly unfazed by all of this.

Mark Stone, forward, Vegas Golden Knights

I'll be completely transparent. In picking our Stanley Cup winner as part of our preseason predictions at The Athletic, I have Vegas winning it all. And since this is all about me, Stone, my preseason pick to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as playoff MVP, better be good. Ha. Ha. Just kidding. But this season looms large for Stone whose arrival in Vegas was marked by a musical troupe, showgirls, a knight in gold armor and the team's mascot. He was good enough in the regular season with 11 points in 18 games and then rolled up 12 points in seven games in the playoffs, as the Golden Knights bowed out to San Jose in controversial fashion in a seven-game affair. But having settled in with a talented group, Stone has the chance to take a step up to join the big boy ranks with McDavid, Sidney Crosby, Alex Ovechkin, Patrice Bergeron, et al. It's not just the points but the potential to take over games at both ends of the ice and establish himself as the alpha dog on a team that at least one writer thinks has the tools to go the distance. Oh, and at least one longtime scout and executive. "Vegas is the one that would scare me," he said of Western Conference Cup contenders. "That's a team I think is built to win," he added. "They've got some bullets there."

The Athletic LOADED: 09.27.2019

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Sportsnet.ca / Babcock challenging Trevor Moore to move up in Maple Leafs lineup



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • September 27, 2019

Luke Fox | @lukefoxjukebox

September 26, 2019, 8:19 AM

TORONTO – Maybe it was the fact he was coming off the heaviest, most intense season of his life: 88 games, 56 points, four playoff rounds, two leagues, one dream come true.

Maybe it was the glut of job-seeking wingers in the same boat as him: cheap (\$775,000), versatile, and playing like nothing has been guaranteed.

Whatever the reason, Trevor Moore, 2018-19's first man up, didn't impress his head coach, Mike Babcock, "at all" through the first week of the Toronto Maple Leafs' training camp.

That is, until Saturday night in Buffalo, when Moore scored an all-effort shorthanded goal, buzzed around like Sonic the Hedgehog on the Spezza-Gauthier line, and looked once again like the fearless kid who knocked Zdeno Chara on his keister during his NHL playoff debut in April.

"I welcomed him back after last game," Babcock said with a grin.

"He's kinda what I'm hoping [Leafs hopeful Dmytro] Timashov can be. They haven't scored a lot at this level – I don't know if they ever will – but they can penalty-kill, they can transport the puck, they can be heavy down low, they can get it back for the good players, they can play against really good players, they play with pace, and they seem to always be ready to go.

"So, if he can do that, he just improves himself and can move up the lineup."

Earning a temporary promotion to Alexander Kerfoot's third line, Moore potted his second goal of the pre-season Wednesday night in Toronto's dominant 3-0 blanking of Montreal when he drove to the net and banged home a Rasmus Sandin rebound for the early winner.

The 24-year-old added an assist on a John Tavares strike and earned 14:31 in ice time, a notable bump from his 9:06 average during his 25-game big-league preview last winter.

"Anytime a guy like him comes off of finishing strong and being with us a lot in the second half last year only builds confidence," Tavares said.

"Now getting rewarded and kinda finding his role, finding his rhythm and feeling more confident, you just see the effect he has in our lineup."

Since Babcock's arrival in Toronto, the coach could always count on two dependable worker bees to kill penalties and hound the puck. But now Connor Brown is playing a top-six role for Ontario's other franchise and Zach Hyman's ACL isn't scheduled to be fully healed until November.

Moore, who was never drafted, doesn't need to be told to jump through that window.

"It might be your best opportunity right out of the gate here," Moore says. "The second you think your job is secure is the second it's taken."

So he'll happily chase icings, throw his stocky body in front of point shots and kill penalties.

Timashov, whose two-way capabilities have quietly impressed the organization, openly looks up to Moore — a fellow 5-foot-10 left winger — as a guy who can help blaze his own trail to the bigs.

The 22-year-old Russian was given a tryout on the fourth line Wednesday, but Babcock remains noncommittal if that spot, ultimately, will belong to Moore.

A natural lefty who lit up the American League for 23 goals in 46 games, it's not a stretch to see Moore filling in as high as the top six, should injury necessitate.

"Moore's a good player for us. I don't know whether we're going to use him on the fourth or on the third, or where we're going to use him, but I thought he was strong for us tonight," Babcock said.

"Everyone wants extra."

Hmm... extra is synonymous with Moore.

"My confidence is higher that I can perform at this level and compete," Moore says.

"Last year was about making a name for myself and enjoying it. This year is about taking that next step and becoming an important part of this team."

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Sportsnet.ca / Five Oilers roster questions that will be answered in coming days

Mark Spector | @sportsnetspec

September 26, 2019, 10:52 AM

EDMONTON — Dave Tippett glided up next to the hopeful young prospect on the practice ice, delivering a message that Ethan Bear was likely well aware of. Two pre-season games remained, some cuts had been made and a key injury had left a job wide open for Bear.

"Knock, knock," Dave Tippett told Bear. "Opportunity awaits."

Welcome to Phase 2 of a National Hockey League training camp, where nine defencemen remain for seven spots, and two chief competitors for the right-shooting Bear have been either farmed out (Evan Bouchard) or injured (Joel Persson).

Tonight, Bear finds himself on a pairing with veteran Oscar Klefbom in Winnipeg, and perhaps again Saturday night in Calgary, as Tippett tries to put a defence together for Wednesday night's season opener against Vancouver. Play well with Klefbom and you make the team — it's plain and simple.

Persson injured his shoulder Tuesday against Arizona and will miss a week to 10 days. Then, immediately after the game, the Oilers sent Bouchard to Bakersfield, opening a top-four spot on the right side of the Oilers blue line.



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In steps the third-year pro Bear, who is doing his best to keep the blinders on. This is the biggest opportunity of his NHL career, and although the dominoes are falling for him, he'd rather not talk about it right now.

"That's happening," Bear allows, "but it's not in my control. I focus on (tonight's) game, and making sure I'm eating right tonight. I'm just making sure I give myself the best opportunity to play well."

It's that time in camp when the battles gain some clarity as the numbers wane.

Joakim Nygard

Nygaard, Persson and Gaetan Haas are three Europeans brought into camp by Ken Holland, none of whom have ever played an NHL game. Odds are, if one was to pan out that would be a victory. So far, however, Persson looks like he can play, and so does the speedy Nygaard, who now has to transition his quick European game into a style that works over here.

"You're here to fight for a job. I want to make the team," said the 26-year-old. A season ago the Oilers had a speedy winger in Tobias Rieder, who never figured out how to bring his speed off the perimeter and into the areas where goals are scored.

It is something Nygaard will have to figure out as well, and he'll do so on a line with Leon Draisaitl and right winger Anton Burdasov tonight.

"Yes, I do. You have to choose the times though," the Stockholm native said. "You have to keep your head up if you're going to the middle. In Sweden, I am used to going to the middle. If you do it here, you can get hit pretty bad."

Riley Sheahan

Sheahan was one of the five one-year contracts that Holland signed for \$1 million or less, trying to get through his first season as the Oilers' new GM before getting some post-season relief from the cap hell that his predecessor Peter Chiarelli left behind.

He's a fourth-line NHL centre, for sure. But can Sheahan regain enough of his game to serve as an effective 3C in Edmonton, the way he was two years ago behind Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin in Pittsburgh?

"It's a role I'm comfortable in," said Sheahan, who gives Holland the steady faceoff man in his bottom six that Edmonton has lacked for some time, and a player who can do some of the heavy lifting for Connor McDavid and Draisaitl.

Sheahan's job?

"To provide those guys with some relief," he said. "They're going to have games where they're not on, or the other team is doing a good job of shutting them down. For us guys playing in the bottom six, you take pride in the role of helping them out. Providing the team with a good shift that creates an icing call, so Dave (Tippett) can put out Connor and Leon for an offensive zone draw against a tired line."

Jurco, a Slovak, has played just 58 NHL games over the past three seasons. He is nearly 27 and on a one-year, \$750,000 deal, meaning he either figures out how to help an NHL team pretty soon or makes a choice between an American Hockey League career and a return to Europe.

Burdasov, 26, is uber-intriguing: he's big (six-foot-two), skates well and possesses a five-star wrist shot. But he's never played a game in North America and is not even under contract to the Oilers, but skates here on a PTO.

Burdasov is a project. Jurco is known commodity. Coaches like experienced players like Jurco, but they also love a guy with the possibilities of Burdasov.

Tippett will play Draisaitl at centre tonight in Winnipeg, and he'll have a look at how Burdasov interacts with a legit NHL star, with the speedy Nygaard on the other side.

"I want to see Nygaard, I want to see Jurco, the big Russian (Burdasov)..." Tippett said. "Some guys that will play with good players. It's a big opportunity for some of those players."

Tippett isn't shy about an opening night lineup that includes some inexperience. As long as those players show him some promise.

"I have no problem playing young players," Tippett said. "We're just looking for players who are good enough to make us a better team."

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Sportsnet.ca / Flames name Chris Snow to assistant general manager

Sportsnet Staff | @Sportsnet

September 26, 2019, 4:47 PM

The Calgary Flames have named Chris Snow assistant general manager, the team announced on Thursday.

The 38-year-old native of Melrose, Mass., has been with the Flames since 2011, starting his career as the team's director of hockey analysis. According to the Flames, Snow "works closely with general manager Brad Treliving on all hockey-related matters with an emphasis on utilizing data to inform decision making across hockey operations."

Prior to a career in the NHL, Snow worked as a sports reporter during which he covered the Minnesota Wild and Boston Red Sox. He joined the Wild as director of hockey operations in 2006, working with the team until 2010.

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Sportsnet.ca / Hope not lost for Senators to move downtown, but it won't happen soon

Wayne Scanlan



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • September 27, 2019

September 26, 2019, 11:07 AM

There was a time when the concept of a downtown arena for the Ottawa Senators seemed as real as the two LRT stations recently built near LeBreton Flats.

Ah, the good old days.

At the moment, depending on one's personal level of optimism, the idea of the Senators moving downtown from Kanata lies somewhere between the foreseeable future and the Impossible Dream.

Best case scenario: The National Capital Commission, masters of this precious parcel of land west of Parliament Hill, keeps a portion of the site set aside for a time when the Senators, perhaps under new ownership/partnerships, are willing and able to build a downtown arena.

Worst case: The Senators fatally missed their opportunity when the RendezVous LeBreton project fell apart last December and former partners Eugene Melnyk of the Senators and Trinity Development's John Ruddy filed a massive lawsuit and counter-suit against each other. A new arena had been the centrepiece for the proposed multi-billion project.

For now, while forging ahead with a different, less clear vision, the NCC is keeping the door ajar for a potential hockey arena at some point down the road.

"We're very much open to the idea of a major events centre, should there be interest in the future," NCC CEO Tobi Nussbaum said at last week's meeting, an update on the LeBreton file. "But it's not a decision that needs to be made in the short term. Fifty-five acres can't be developed overnight and that allows us to have some flexibility."

When the NCC went back to the drawing board with the LeBreton project, it also went back to the public, through online and in-person consultations. More than 2,000 people participated via digital submissions and another 400 or so attended an event last June at the Canadian War Museum on LeBreton soil.

According to the NCC's assessment of these consultations — along with the suggestions of grand ideas and grassroots connections a majority of participants said that "a major event space, museum or public attraction (eg. arena, theatre or concert hall) would enhance LeBreton Flats."

There was also mention of outdoor skating rinks, local shops, cafes, parks, affordable housing, attractive waterfront development and a child-friendly entertainment space. Respecting the wishes and input of Canada's Indigenous Peoples is a large part of the project as the site is on what was historically Algonquin land.

How this all shakes out will come into clearer view in the upcoming plan being developed by the NCC with the help of Calgary-based company O2 Planning + Design.

What's next?

In late October, the draft master plan will be presented to a review panel, ahead of further public consultation in November.

The status of the plan will be updated at the NCC's meeting in late November and the completed Master Concept Plan for

LeBreton is expected to be delivered to the NCC board in time for approval at its January meeting.

By the summer of 2020, the LeBreton concept will be presented to the city of Ottawa so it can amend the Official Plan.

Until such time as they are capable of being partners in a new arena venture, the Senators will continue to operate in Kanata, in a Canadian Tire Centre building that is coming up on its 24th birthday (January, 2020). Originally called The Palladium, the arena opened in January, 1996.

'Give up and go away, or die'

The saddest aspect, if the Senators never get downtown, is that it all came down to bad timing. Earlier in his ownership, Melnyk might have been able to pull this off. He certainly talked a good game about the need to move to a central location.

Decades earlier, before the Senators were even conceived as a franchise, co-founder Bruce Firestone had his eyes on LeBreton as the perfect site for an NHL team. He once shared with me an interesting conversation he had with then-NCC chair Jean Pigott in 1987. Pigott died in 2012.

Bruce Firestone: "Jean, what would you think about us building an NHL rink on NCC land at LeBreton?"

Jean Pigott: "Bruce, do you want the public or private answer?"

BF: "Are they different?"

JP: "Yes."

BF: "What's the private answer?"

JP: "No."

BF: "So, what's the public answer?"

JP: "We'll agree to study it."

And then Pigott added, "Bruce, we'll study it until you give up and go away, or you die, whichever comes first."

OK, then.

That's how it was with the old NCC, a stodgy old bureaucracy that left much of the LeBreton land vacant from the 1960s onward. It was the Non-Committal-Commission.

How frustrating it must be for many hockey fans then, that the day the NCC finally invited an NHL team to develop an arena on its land the team declined the invitation. Some residents in the far west end and Ottawa Valley are quite OK with the hockey club remaining in its Kanata location, though eventually the arena will have to be replaced. Driving to and from the arena, plus parking, are still problematic. There won't be LRT to this rink for many years, if ever.

One certain prediction: more twists and turns are on the way before the concept of a downtown NHL arena can be ruled out.

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Sportsnet.ca / Matthews incident a reminder of responsibility of being a Maple Leaf



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • September 27, 2019

Chris Johnston

TORONTO — Kyle Dubas found out on Twitter.

Let that sink in a moment as you contemplate the ramifications of Auston Matthews's error in judgement this summer. No boss likes a surprise. That fact is multiplied roughly a million times over when your boss manages a very front-facing entity like the Toronto Maple Leafs and the star of the operation has a run-in with the law.

That's why Dubas didn't hide his disappointment when speaking with reporters about the complaint for disorderly conduct Matthews received in Scottsdale, Ariz., four months ago and only disclosed to the organization on Tuesday afternoon.

The general manager phoned his star centre as soon as that piece of news passed through his Twitter timeline.

"(He was) very honest about it," Dubas said Wednesday night after watching Matthews score in a 3-0 exhibition win over the Montreal Canadiens.

"There was no ducking, there was no denying anything. He was very honest with me about what had happened, which was ... I would have liked to have known before, but I'm happy that in the moment when he could have ducked away or deferred, that he was honest with me."

The Leafs are still in fact-finding mode about what happened in the early hours of May 26. At the end of a drunken night with friends, Matthews is alleged to have dropped his pants • — but not his underwear • — in the direction of a female security guard after his group first tried to gain access to the security guard's car.

Matthews was not arrested and said Wednesday that his legal team mapped out a plan for handling the case, acknowledging that he should have made the Leafs aware of what was going on as part of that process.

"You know what, I think that was just an error in judgement to be honest with you," he said.

It's not a good look for the team's highest-paid player and presumed next captain. That is likely off the table now.

While Dubas doesn't believe this will negatively affect his relationship with Matthews over the long term, he said they'll need to have an honest conversation at some point. The incident will also be used internally as a reminder about the responsibility that comes with being associated with the Leafs.

"We have to find out what's happened, what's going on and then subsequently we have to use it as an opportunity to continue to educate our whole organization • — every player, every staff member • — about the way that we expect our organization to conduct its business," said Dubas.

"Here at the rink every day, in the weight room, in the community and how they interact with every citizen that they come into contact with because when they are doing so they're representing the Toronto Maple Leafs."

It should be a learning opportunity for Matthews.

As special as his athletic gifts are, he's not exempt from being 22. Everyone makes mistakes and the consequences tend to be even more punitive when you're in a privileged position like his.

"I know he takes it seriously, what's gone on," said teammate John Tavares.

"It's been hard," Matthews acknowledged. "I feel I still got to go out there and do my job and try to block that out. As easy it is to say, it's not (to do)."

At least two mistakes were ultimately made in this situation.

The incident itself is serious enough in nature that Matthews is still facing legal action. Failing to share it with Dubas and president Brendan Shanahan was another error.

"I don't think I have them in a power rankings," said Dubas, when asked which bothered him more. "They're equally (bad), probably. No. 1 that there was a situation and No. 2 the way in which we found out. I think both are disappointing and will be addressed and will roll from there.

"Obviously, you don't ever like for there to be any situations and then when you do, I think you want to know about them as soon as possible."

Jeff Marek and Elliotte Friedman talk to a lot of people around the hockey world, and then they tell listeners all about what they've heard and what they think about it.

It's all out in the open now.

Matthews expressed regret about causing a distraction for the team as it prepares for the start of the regular season. He also let down members of the front office, but the GM plans to rally around his player.

"I think with everything that happens, where someone doesn't meet the level of expectation that you have for them or (they have) for themselves, it's an opportunity for them to learn and to grow and that's how we'll approach it," said Dubas.

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USA TODAY / Opinion: Auston Matthews' bad behavior shows he might not be ready for captaincy

Kevin Allen, USA TODAY

Published 11:27 a.m. ET Sept. 26, 2019 | Updated 11:28 a.m. ET Sept. 26, 2019

Auston Matthews is facing disorderly conduct charges in Arizona, and the incident should be rattling the Toronto Maple Leafs' training camp.

Once the Maple Leafs got Mitch Marner's signature on a new contract this summer, they probably believed their turbulence was over. The focus could finally be on trying to win Toronto's first Stanley Cup since 1967.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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It's never that easy.

Now, the talk in Toronto has to focus on whether the Maple Leafs should be reluctant to name superstar Matthews, 22, their next captain. That was the expected course of action until news broke that Matthews faces disorderly conduct charges from a May 26 incident.

According to the police report obtained by USA TODAY Sports, a security guard was doing paperwork in her locked car outside the condo building where Matthews lives, when she heard someone trying to open her door at 2 a.m.

The guard, who said the Matthews' group appeared intoxicated, told them she was a military veteran with severe post-traumatic stress disorder and that what they did wasn't funny, and they should leave.

One member of Matthews' group asked the guard not to report the incident. During that conversation, Matthews walked away.

"After he walked away some distance, Auston pulled his pants down, bent over and grabbed his butt cheeks," the report said.

The incident leaves us all shaking our head. This is a young man who played full-time in the Swiss League when he was 17.

But his alleged behavior in Scottsdale reads like a testimony to his immaturity.

Matthews has been a feel-good story. He was raised in Arizona. His mother is Mexican-American. His grandparents still live in Mexico. I've interviewed his father multiple times. I've interviewed Matthews multiple times.

My experiences with him leave me more perplexed to how this young man could behave this inappropriately.

You can't simply pass it off as a bad mix of youthfulness and alcohol. Drinking doesn't relieve you of common decency. Matthews and his friends did not need to try to get in that car because he thought it would be funny. Then he did not need to pull his pants down.

Matthews is a smart young man. He understands what's at stake. He knows this is a world where nothing goes unseen or unreported. Claiming it was a prank or a joke doesn't exonerate you. We are all responsible for our behavior regardless of environment, circumstances or how much alcohol we consume.

Compounding this situation is the fact that the Maple Leafs didn't know about this until it came up on social media this week. This happened almost four months ago.

His decision not to notify the Maple Leafs was also conduct unbecoming for a leader. This is not what you would expect from someone in line to be the Maple Leafs' captain.

According to Toronto general manager Kyle Dubas, Matthews was honest with him once he was asked about the incident. But Dubas and the Leafs also are as disappointed that Matthews wasn't forthcoming immediately.

It's impossible to know how much damage Matthews has done to his reputation.

The Maple Leafs don't have to decide today or tomorrow about what this means to Matthews' candidacy for captain. Maybe this will be an isolated incident. Maybe Matthews will be a model citizen from this day forward.

But I'm guessing that within the organization, it now has been discussed to instead name highly respected veteran John Tavares captain.

USA TODAY LOADED: 09.27.2019

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USA TODAY / NHL point projections: How we see the 2019-20 season unfolding

Kevin Allen, USA TODAY

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Last season, the Carolina Hurricanes qualified for the NHL playoffs for the first time in a decade. They advanced to the Eastern Conference before exiting the postseason.

We think the Arizona Coyotes or Florida Panthers could be this season's Hurricanes.

Our projections have the Coyotes making the playoffs for the first time since 2012 and the Panthers qualifying for the third time in the past 19 seasons.

With the addition of Phil Kessel and Carl Soderberg, and a healthy Nick Schmaltz back in the lineup, the Coyotes finally have enough offense to take the steps needed to qualify for the postseason.

Goalie Sergei Bobrovsky will be the difference for the Panthers, who should see improvement in all aspects of their game. Don't forget that Aaron Ekblad is only 23 and Aleksander Barkov is 24. They are entering the primes of their career.

The other surprises we see: The Colorado Avalanche winning the anything-could-happen Central Division and the Hurricanes finishing second in the Metropolitan Division.

Atlantic Division

Forget about them being swept in the first round. The Lightning are still the league's most talented team. Defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk will be a better fit for the Lightning than he was with the Rangers. The Lightning have the depth to overcome his defensive shortcomings. Patrick Maroon gives the team more bite. ... The Bruins and Maple Leafs are the next tier. Despite their offseason angst, the Maple Leafs might be a better team than they were last season. The addition of Cody Ceci and Tyson Barrie give the defense a new look. The Bruins didn't need to do anything in the offseason. They are a deep, hard-working team and Bruce Cassidy is an underrated coach. ... Bobrovsky's arrival has given the Panthers overflowing confidence. ... Don't overlook the Canadiens. They could finish anywhere from fifth to third. ... Bullish on the Sabres talent, but they still need a move or two to move into the second tier in this division. Are they going to trade Rasmus Ristolainen? ... The Red Wings have a solid collection of young talent, but it's not quite ready yet. The top line of Anthony Mantha, Dylan Larkin and Tyler Bertuzzi will be entertaining and productive. .... If the



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Senators finish anywhere but 31st, they will have performed better than expected.

### Metropolitan Division

Every team in this division could make the playoffs and every team could miss it. That's how evenly matched this division is. Two seasons removed from winning the Stanley Cup, the Capitals are still the best. Defenseman Radko Gudas makes them harder to play against, but they might miss Matt Niskanen's all-around game. ... Some Penguins are worried the team has gone stale. But with Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin leading the way, this is still a formidable group. ... Give Hurricanes GM Don Waddell credit for being aggressive, shaking up his defense with the addition of Jake Gardner and Joel Edmundson. The defense will still be strong, and the offense will be improved. ... The Rangers could be better than we think. They are emerging from their short-term rebuild mode with some hope of trying to make the playoffs this season. Jacob Trouba will solidify their defense and Artemi Panarin puts a charge into the offense. Kaapo Kakko might score 25-plus goals as a rookie. ... Don't overlook the Blue Jackets. They suffered offseason losses (Panarin, Bobrovsky and Matt Duchene), but still have a competitive team. ... The Flyers have some impressive young players. An exceptional season from young goalie Carter Hart is all that it would take to get them into the playoff hunt. ... The Islanders are the division's wild card. If goalie Robin Lehner hadn't left for the Blackhawks, we might have them projected second or third. Semyon Varlamov will have to prove his value. But with Barry Trotz behind the bench, the Islanders will always have a shot at having a playoff season. ... The Devils had one of the most impressive offseasons. They will be exciting and their offense could be dangerous. They traded for P.K. Subban, drafted No. 1 overall pick Jack Hughes and signed KHL star Nikita Gusev and veteran Wayne Simmonds.

### Central Division

The Avalanche are a team on the rise. They are entertaining, exciting, dynamic and dangerous. Nathan MacKinnon is as dominant as Connor McDavid. Puck-moving defenseman Cale Makar will be a Calder Trophy contender. ... Matt Duchene will upgrade the Predators' offense. This team has the depth to overcome the loss of P.K. Subban. One key question: Why haven't the Predators resigned Roman Josi? He will be an unrestricted free agent next summer. ... The Stars went all-in with the signing of Joe Pavelski and Corey Perry. ... The Blues are the same team we watched win the Stanley Cup last June. Two key questions: Will Jordan Binnington have the same level of consistency as he had last season? Do the Blues have the same hunger? They may be a better playoff team than they are a regular-season team. ... The Jets are the hardest read. They were supposed to take a major step last season but it didn't happen. Why should we believe it will happen this season? If Dustin Byfuglien retires, the Jets will feel it mightily. ... The Blackhawks could be a significant sleeper. With an upgraded defense (Olli Maatta and Calvin De Haan) and healthy goaltending, they can compete for a playoff spot. .... No one seems quite sure what's wrong with the Wild. Now it's Bill Guerin's job to figure it out. The Stars still have some talented players.

### Pacific Division

Even after losing Joe Pavelski to free agency, the Sharks have enough talent and fire to win the division. ... The Flames are still as formidable as they were a season ago when they were the

only Western Conference team to win 50 games. The Golden Knights have the depth up front to score plenty of goals and Marc-Andre Fleury gives the team consistency in the net. The defense could use one more veteran. ... A bounce-back season from Clayton Keller will also help the Coyotes return to the playoffs. ... The Oilers' best offseason acquisition was GM Ken Holland. He will get this team pointed in the right direction. You will start to see his impact immediately. ... The Canucks are starting to look like a team that is only a couple of moves away from being back in playoff mode. Rookie Quinn Hughes will be fun to watch. ... The two Southern California teams could both use a makeover. ... Is it time for the Kings to move Jonathan Quick? It feels like the Ducks will take another step backward this season, even though John Gibson is a quality goalie.

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YAHOO SPORTS / OHL goaltender earns match penalty with vicious slash to opponent

Arun Srinivasan Yahoo Sports Canada

September 27, 2019

The 2019-20 Ontario Hockey League season is barely underway and it's already getting somewhat barbaric.

During the second period of Thursday's game between the Niagara IceDogs and Oshawa Generals, IceDogs goaltender Christian Sbaraglia lost his composure entirely, delivering a vicious slash to the head of Generals forward Daniel Michaud.

Sbaraglia was given a match penalty and game misconduct for his actions.

Here is the play in question, and you're uneasy around violence, you may want to avoid watching it:

First goalie penalty of the year goes to Sbaraglia for... whatever this is.

Tucker Tynan replaced Sbaraglia, while the Generals scored on the ensuing man advantage to take a 2-1 lead.

No supplementary discipline has been announced yet, but it's a certainty that the Canadian Hockey League will take a look at Sbaraglia's violent act and weigh their decision accordingly.

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YAHOO SPORTS / Flyers' Nolan Patrick week-to-week with migraine disorder

Arun Srinivasan Yahoo Sports Canada



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • September 27, 2019

September 27, 2019

Philadelphia Flyers forward Nolan Patrick is week-to-week with a migraine disorder, the team's general manager Chuck Fletcher revealed Thursday.

"After consultation with the Flyers' medical staff and with specialist Dr. Jeffrey Kutcher from the University of Michigan, forward Nolan Patrick has been diagnosed with migraine disorder. Patrick will not be going to Europe and we will provide additional information once the team returns. He will not be ready to start the season and is listed as week-to-week."

Patrick posted 13 goals and 31 points in 72 games during the 2018-19 season. The 21-year-old is expected to be a key component of the Flyers' long-term vision after being selected second overall in 2017.

The Flyers have yet to determine whether Patrick will be placed on injured reserve or long-term injured reserve.

"He's taking the medication now and we're hoping that settles down the migraines and gets him to feeling 100 percent from a health perspective," Fletcher said via NHL.com.

"After that, he's skated a bit but he's essentially missed all of training camp. He hasn't played games. He hasn't been in any battle drills. We're going to have to make sure we get him the conditioning work he needs."

Patrick was projected to start the year on the third line with ample opportunity to work his way into the Flyers' top-six rotation.

As it stands, the promising forward will be out for the foreseeable future while the team prepares for its season opener against the Chicago Blackhawks on Oct. 4.

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