



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

## THE NEWS & OBSERVER

### Svechnikov, Mrazek spur Hurricanes to shutout against Blackhawks

By Chip Alexander

It was hard for Carolina Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour to pick and choose what he liked best about a 4-0 victory Saturday over the Chicago Blackhawks.

The Canes ended a three-game winless streak. Brind'Amour liked that. The Canes needed a win.

Andrei Svechnikov scored twice, getting his first career power-play goal. Nino Niederreiter scored his first goal of the season, and Jordan Staal added another power-play score. Brind'Amour liked all that, of course.

Petr Mrazek, winning his 13th consecutive game at PNC Arena, earned his second shutout of the season and the 20th of his career. Against with a team with a load of firepower, he was poised in net but was also his usual fiery, competitive self, finishing with 32 saves.

"Phenomenal, right?" Brind'Amour said of his goalie, who was named the game's first star. "He was sharp. You could tell, he was kind of ahead of it. He was solid all the way."

But the Canes (7-3-1), as a group, were sharp, ahead of it and solid. The forecheck was good for the most part. The penalty killers did their job, snuffing out three Chicago power plays. The defense was active and sound.

"We played hard," Svechnikov said. "We played hard all 60 minutes."

Before scoring, Niederreiter made a hustling backchecking play in the first period with the defenseman caught back up ice that might have prevented a Chicago goal. Coaches, and teammates, always appreciate that.

Niederreiter had seemed snake-bit offensively in the first 10 games, often playing with center Sebastian Aho and getting his scoring chances but being unable to finish. His goal came after extended pressure in the offensive zone that gassed the Blackhawks on the ice.

"You're paid to score goals and if they don't go in it's definitely frustrating," Niederreiter said. "It's something that I know I've got to do and have to do, and I'm happy one went in and got that off my chest."

Svechnikov had one empty-net goal in the first 10 games of the season and had to wonder when he would finally beat a goaltender. But the second-year pro was fully engaged from

the start Saturday, buzzing around the net, and twice beat the Blackhawks' Corey Crawford — the first on a quick wrister on the power play in the first period and the second on a shot in tight late in the game.

The power-play goal took five seconds. The puck dropped, the Canes' Erik Haula won the draw, Dougie Hamilton passed to Svechnikov and Svechnikov unloaded from the left side. Crawford was frozen in place.

Staal gave the Canes' second power-play unit a goal. Some nice passing between Niederreiter and Aho, who had two assists in the game, set up Staal for a shot from the low slot, pushing the Canes ahead 3-0 early in the third.

"Nice to win one on special teams," Brind'Amour said.

Mrazek took it from there. He was cool in net in the first, facing 13 shots, and made a key stop in the second, stoning Dylan Strome on a breakaway. The Blackhawks had 68 total attempts, having 20 shots blocked and missing the net 16 times.

"It was busy in the first period," Mrazek said. "You have a lot of stuff coming at you, and I saw the puck very well. The guys did a great job in front of me and made it easier."

The Canes lost a lead and then the game Thursday against the Columbus Blue Jackets, dropping a 4-3 overtime decision on the road. A poor second period hurt, and the Canes' second period on Saturday was their poorest of the game. But Mrazek had another 11 stops in the second to keep the Blackhawks stymied.

"I loved the way we played in the third, with the lead and still going after it but doing it right," Brind'Amour said.

In terms of strategy, having the last change at home helped. The Blackhawks (2-5-2) switched up their lines, loading up their top line with Jonathan Toews centering Patrick Kane and Alex DeBrincat. Brind'Amour planned to have Aho center Svechnikov and Teuvo Teravainen but moved Teravainen to Staal's line with Niederreiter to match up.

This day, all the Canes' moves worked. Had a few shots not banged off the post, the final score could have been 6-0.

"After losing the last three games, we knew we had to change something," Niederreiter said. "I think it starts with working hard and playing simple in our own zone and go from there."



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019



## Recap: Canes Blank Blackhawks

Mrazek makes 32 saves in second shutout of season

by Michael Smith

Led by Petr Mrazek's 32-save shutout and Andrei Svechnikov's two-goal performance, the Carolina Hurricanes blanked the Chicago Blackhawks, 4-0.

Nino Niederreiter (1g, 1a) and Sebastian Aho (2a) chipped in with two points each to help the Canes snap a three-game winless skid (0-2-1).

Here are five takeaways from Saturday afternoon in Raleigh.

### 1. Back in the Win Column

The Hurricanes had played just three games over the last 10 days, so it had been some time since they last ticked in the win column. It had been even longer since they had played a home game.

To return home and not only win but do so in fairly dominant fashion was indeed an ideal way for the Canes to begin a four-game homestand.

"Definitely in the last five games, this is one of the better games we've played," Niederreiter said. "We know what we have to do to be successful."

"Overall I thought it was a pretty solid game from start to finish," head coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "I loved the way we played in the third with the lead. Still going after it but doing it right."

The third period was arguably the Canes' best. They turned their 2-0 lead into a three-goal advantage and remained aggressive, not giving an inch to the Blackhawks. And when they did have their scoring chances, Mrazek was a brick wall between the pipes.

"We knew we could be better, and I think we showed it tonight when we had the lead in the third period. That's how we want to play," Mrazek said. "It's important for us to get going, especially now with four games at home. Every point matters, and we have to prepare for it like we did today."

### 2. Mrazek Dazzle

There's no place like home for Petr Mrazek, who has now won each of his last 13 starts at PNC Arena.

"I did not know that. Glad I started him tonight," Brind'Amour smiled.

Mrazek made 32 saves on 32 shots and earned first-star honors for his second shutout of the season.

"I saw the puck really well, and the guys did a great job in front of me," he said.

One of Mrazek's saves of the afternoon came late in the first period when the Blackhawks were buzzing, and Patrick Kane had a scoring chance on the doorstep. Mrazek extended his right pad across the crease to turn Kane aside, and chants of "Petr! Petr!" rang out through the arena.

"He's an emotional guy. Very competitive. I think it's a great relationship between him and our crowd," Brind'Amour said. "They kind of feed off each other, and I think they know he gets going when they're rooting him on. It's fun."

About midway through the second period, Mrazek came up big again on Dylan Strome, who skated in untouched and saw his shot bodied down by No. 34 in red.

"Phenomenal. He was sharp," Brind'Amour said. "The difference in coming out with a decent first period was because of him. It enabled us to just keep going, and he was solid all the way."

### 3. Winning the Special Teams Game

The Hurricanes batted one thousand in the special teams game, going 2-for-2 on the power play and 3-for-3 on the penalty kill.

To convert on the man advantage not just once but twice is two steps in the right direction for a power play that had scored on just one of its last 19 opportunities.

"It's nice to win a game on special teams," Brind'Amour said. "That's huge if you can pull away in that area, and we did."

It took Andrei Svechnikov just five seconds on the team's first power play of the game to open the scoring. Erik Haula won the initial faceoff, and Svechnikov kicked it back to Dougie Hamilton at the point. Hamilton walked to his right to attract a defender before sliding the puck back over to Svechnikov, who snapped a shot right by Corey Crawford.

"I think I got a little bit on that shot," Svechnikov smiled. "The goalie didn't see that shot."

"That good shot finally paid off for him," Brind'Amour said.

The Canes grinded out their second power-play goal of the game, a nice passing play ending up on the stick of Jordan Staal, who potted his second of the season. From behind the cage, Nino Niederreiter dished to Sebastian Aho, who spotted Staal cutting untouched through the slot. Aho put a pass on Staal's tape, and the big man one-timed it just under Crawford's blocker arm to stretch the score to 3-0 in the third period.

### 4. Nino Breaks Through

It was only a matter of time until Nino Niederreiter found the back of the net, and his first of the season capped a dominant shift against Chicago's top line in the second period.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

After hounding the puck and dogging retrievals, the Canes popped the puck out to the point where Jaccob Slavin walked the line and dealt off to Niederreiter at the top of the left circle. Niederreiter froze Brent Seabrook with a quick move before winding up a wrist shot that scorched past Crawford.

"At the end of the day, [Brind'Amour] wants us to just work hard and do the little things right. Everything else would come," Niederreiter said. "It has been a while since the puck went in, so I'm very happy to find one in."

"For him, I love it," Brind'Amour said. "He needed that."

## 5. Svechnikov Nets Two

Andrei Svechnikov ranked tied for third on the team in scoring with eight points coming into Saturday's game, but just one of those eight points was a goal - and it was an empty netter. Svechnikov tallied twice on Saturday, a blazing snap shot for the first power-play goal of his career in the first period and a fortuitous bounce to make it a 4-0 game in the third.

A centering feed from Aho came off the stick of Svechnikov before pinballing off the glove of Duncan Keith and popping over Crawford's shoulder.

## Up Next

The Hurricanes' four-game homestand rolls along on Tuesday when the Calgary Flames make their first and only appearance of the season.



## Mrazek, Hurricanes shut out Blackhawks to end losing streak

Makes 32 saves, Svechnikov scores twice for Carolina, which had lost three straight

by Kurt Dusterberg

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Petr Mrazek made 32 saves and Andrei Svechnikov scored twice to help the Carolina Hurricanes defeat the Chicago Blackhawks 4-0 at PNC Arena on Saturday.

Mrazek, who got his second shutout of the season and 20th in the NHL, improved to 5-1-1 this season.

"(It was) busy in the first period," Mrazek said. "It's good when you have a lot of stuff coming at you. I saw the puck very well and the guys did a great job in front of me."

Nino Niederreiter had a goal and an assist, and Sebastian Aho had two assists for the Hurricanes (7-3-1), who ended a three-game losing streak.

"We had our moments," Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "Not great, but overall I thought it was a pretty solid game. I love the way we played in the third with the lead, still going after it."

Corey Crawford made 27 saves for the Blackhawks (2-5-2), who are 0-3-1 in their past four games.

"I thought we played pretty hard, pretty well for two periods," Chicago coach Jeremy Colliton said. "I'm disappointed we didn't get better for that effort. We've just got to keep playing, stick to it."

Svechnikov gave the Hurricanes a 1-0 lead with his first NHL power-play goal at 4:17 of the first period on a wrist shot from the left face-off circle. Dougie Hamilton got an assist to extend his point streak to four games (two goals, two assists).

"I just have to keep going and shoot more on the power play," Svechnikov said. "You get more comfortable when you score on the power play."

Niederreiter scored his first goal of the season to put the Hurricanes up 2-0 with 46 seconds remaining in the second period with a wrist shot that went off Crawford's shoulder.

"When you don't score you try to change something, which you shouldn't do," Niederreiter said. "You should probably keep your game. I'm happy one finally went in and I got that off my chest."

Staal scored a power-play goal for a 3-0 lead at 3:19 of the third period. He took Aho's pass from behind the net and scored from between the circles.

"They got the third goal, we started pressing a little bit, getting loose defensively," Colliton said. "They got a lot of chances in the last 12 minutes, which I didn't love."

Svechnikov scored from the top of the crease with 1:11 remaining to make it 4-0.

They said it

"No question, if we score at any point in the first 45 minutes, it's a different game. We just couldn't finish. I thought, outside of the first shift when we turned the puck over four or five times, I thought we were really good. That's not how they play the games though. If we put a good 60 (minutes) together over and over, I'd be happy with that. We were a little short of that tonight." -- Blackhawks coach Jeremy Colliton

"[Mrazek] was sharp. You could tell he was ahead of it in a first period that easily could have went their way. I think that was the difference, coming out of the first period because of him. He's been good. We're going to need him." -- Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

## Need to know

Mrazek, whose other shutout this season came in a 2-0 win against the Los Angeles Kings on Oct. 15, has won 13 straight home starts (including the 2019 Stanley Cup Playoffs). ... Hurricanes defenseman Brett Pesce played in his 300th NHL game. ... The Hurricanes were 1-for-19 on the power play in their past six games prior to scoring twice Saturday. ... Aho had his first multi-point game of the season. He had 20 multipoint games last season. ... The Blackhawks have scored two goals in their past three games. ... Crawford is 1-4-0 with

a 3.67 goals-against average and .888 save percentage this season ... Chicago went 0-for-3 on the power play and is 0-for-16 in its past four games.

## What's next

Blackhawks: Host the Los Angeles Kings on Sunday (7 p.m. ET; NBCSCH, FS-W, NHL.TV)

Hurricanes: Host the Calgary Flames on Tuesday (7 p.m. ET; FS-CR, SNF, NHL.TV)



## Mrazek, Hurricanes post 4-0 shutout of Chicago

By Ken Tysiac

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — A hot goalie and a rejuvenated power play helped the Carolina Hurricanes break a three-game winless streak with a 4-0 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Saturday.

Petr Mrazek stopped 32 shots to record his second shutout in 12 days and the Hurricanes (7-3-1) went 2-for-2 on the power play as they returned home with a win following a four-game road swing. Andrei Svechnikov scored twice, Nino Niederreiter had a goal and one assist, Jordan Staal scored and Sebastian Aho had two assists for Carolina.

Chicago (2-5-2) has lost four straight, including one overtime loss, and now has totaled just two goals in its last three games. Corey Crawford made 27 saves on 31 shots for the Blackhawks.

Mrazek, who posted a 31-save shutout at Los Angeles on Oct. 15, was sharp throughout the game, particularly during a flurry of Chicago opportunities in the closing minutes of the first period that included a pad save on Patrick Kane at the goalmouth after a cross-ice feed.

"I saw the puck very well and the guys did a great job in front of me, so it made it easier," Mrazek said.

Svechnikov opened the scoring on the first power-play goal of his career with a wrist shot over Crawford's right shoulder from the top of the faceoff circle in the game's fifth minute. Staal also scored with the man advantage in the third period as the Hurricanes broke out of a power play drought.

Carolina had been just 1-for-19 on the power play over the previous six games. Coach Rod Brind'Amour said the team works on the power play in every practice, so the improvement wasn't necessarily due to any specific strategy the team put in place.

"When we go 0-for-5, we worked on it the day before, too," Brind'Amour. "And you are looking for stuff. Everybody looks. They've got the video. You know what you're trying to do. The

other team knows what you're trying to do. It just usually comes down to execution, and tonight we were able to capitalize."

Meanwhile, the Blackhawks were 0-for-3 with the man advantage. Chicago is 3-for-29 on the power play this season.

"The power play would be big," said Chicago coach Jeremy Colliton. "I don't think we've won the special teams battle much this year. It's difficult to get results. I think there's no secrets in there as far as what we need to do to get some wins."

Chicago had several chances to tie the game as Carolina led just 1-0 for more than 34 minutes following Svechnikov's first goal. But Mrazek was sharp as the Blackhawks challenged him with 24 shots on goal over the first two periods.

A second-period stop on Dylan Strome after he broke behind the defense preserved the one-goal lead. In the final minute before the second intermission, Niederreiter extended the lead to 2-0 when he fired a wrist shot over Crawford's right shoulder in a goal that was similar to Svechnikov's first score.

"I thought we played pretty hard, pretty well for two periods," Colliton said. "I'm disappointed we didn't get better (results) for that effort. We've just got to keep playing, stick to it."

## NOTES

Niederreiter scored his first goal in the 11th game of the season, ending the second-longest season-opening goal drought of his nine-year career. ... Carolina is 6-0-0 this season when scoring the first goal, and Chicago is 0-4-0 when allowing the first goal.

## UP NEXT

Blackhawks: Play host to Los Angeles on Sunday before beginning a streak of four straight games away from home.

Hurricanes: Meet Calgary on Tuesday in the second game of a four-game homestand.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019



**SB NATION**  
**CANES COUNTRY**

## Recap: Mrazek, Hurricanes blank Blackhawks in return to PNC

The Canes kick off a four-game home stand with a win over Chicago, and snap a three-game skid behind a shutout from Petr Mrazek

By Alec Sawyer

RALEIGH — After two full weeks away from home, the Carolina Hurricanes returned to PNC Arena Saturday afternoon in winning fashion, topping the Chicago Blackhawks 4-0 thanks to a great game in net from goaltender Petr Mrazek.

Mrazek collected his second shutout of the season, stopping all 32 of the shots he faced. For the Canes offensively, winger Andrei Svechnikov picked up the first power-play goal of his career in the first period, before adding another goal late in the third period. Winger Nino Niederreiter found the back of the net for the first time this season late in the second period, giving the Canes a 2-0 cushion as they headed into the second intermission.

Jordan Staal added a third for the Hurricanes early in the third period, as he tallied on a power play to make it 3-0. Svechnikov extended it to 4-0 late in the game. The Canes' special teams were great Saturday, as Carolina was 2 for 2 up a man and didn't allow a goal during three penalty kills.

On the other end of the ice from Mrazek, Blackhawks' goaltender Corey Crawford was decent but not great in a losing effort, stopping 27 of 31 shots faced. Crawford's performance obviously wasn't enough to best Mrazek, as the Hurricanes snapped a three-game losing streak to kick off the home stand.

Any fears of a slow start that might come with a 1:00 puck drop were quickly dispelled, as both teams came out of the gate absolutely flying. Svechnikov brought a lot of the first-period energy for Carolina, putting a couple dangerous shots towards the net on his first shift of the afternoon.

Following a high sticking penalty on Chicago's Duncan Keith, Svechnikov made the Blackhawks pay just five seconds into the power play. Defenseman Dougie Hamilton fed Svechnikov at the top of the circle, and the Carolina winger fired a bullet past Crawford in net to make it 1-0 Canes just over four minutes into the game.

The goal for Svechnikov was his second of the season, and also marked the first power-play tally of his young career. Hamilton picked up assist number six on the season, moving his point streak to four games and bringing his point total up to 12 on the season. Center Erik Haula was also credited with an assist on the opening goal, his second of the year.

The Canes and Blackhawks kept the energy up for the rest of the first period, as the action on the ice stayed fast-paced and crisp. Chicago's top line brought some danger late in the opening period, but Mrazek was as sharp as anyone on the

ice. The Canes' netminder made a couple of highlight-reel saves late in the period, including a full-split effort.

The second period was a bit calmer than the first, but both teams still got some pretty good looks. Seven minutes into the period, Brock McGinn was denied by the stick of Crawford, leading to a breakaway effort for Dylan Strome. However, Mrazek came up huge again, making a pad save on Strome's shot to keep it 1-0.

Mrazek continued to make great save after great save, as Chicago posted 24 shots on goal through the first two periods without getting a single one past the outstanding Mrazek.

In the waning seconds of the middle period, Niederreiter doubled the Hurricanes' lead with a great effort. Niederreiter undressed Chicago defenseman Brent Seabrook with a great fake, before beating Crawford high on the blocker side for his first goal of the season. Defenseman Jacob Slavin was credited with an assist, his fifth of the year.

Staal snuck one past Crawford from the slot to make it 3-0 on a power play early in the third period, as he netted his second of the year. Center Sebastian Aho threaded a great pass to Staal from behind the net, hitting his captain in stride to set up the score. Niederreiter also picked up an assist on the goal.

Svechnikov added his second goal of the night, firing into the back of the net following a goal-mouth scramble near the end of the third period.

Mrazek continued to make saves down the stretch, as Carolina saw the game out for a 4-0 win. The win put the Hurricanes back into the win column, as the Canes improved to 4-1 on the season inside of PNC Arena. The Hurricanes will be back on the ice Tuesday, as they host the Calgary Flames.

### Postgame Quotes

Rod Brind'Amour

"We had our moments that weren't great, but overall I thought it was a pretty solid game from start to finish. The second period was a little iffy, but not terrible. I loved the way that we played in the third with the lead, still going after it but doing it right."

"For [Niederreiter] I love it, because he needed that. He's been pressing a little bit. It's nice to win a game on the special teams, too. That's obviously huge if you can pull away in that area, and obviously we did tonight, so that's nice."

"[Mrazek] was phenomenal. He was sharp. You could tell he was kind of ahead of it. He made a couple in the first period that could have easily went their way, and I think that was the difference in coming out with a decent first period because of him. It enabled us to keep going. He was solid all the way."

Petr Mrazek



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

"Busy, I would say, in the first period. It's good to have a lot of stuff coming at you, and I saw the puck very well. The guys did a great job in front of me, so that made it easier."

"I've felt really good in all the games I've played so far. Sometimes it doesn't work out how you want it, but you just have to leave that behind you and look forward."

"We could be better, and I think that we showed that tonight when we had the lead in the third period. That's how we want to play. I thought the third period was exactly how we want to play."

Nino Niederreiter

"Obviously, when you don't score you are trying to change something. You probably shouldn't do that, you should probably just keep your game, but sometimes you do too

much and think about too many things. I'm happy I finally got one in and got that off my chest."

"We knew after losing the last three games that we had to change something, and I think it's starting to show. Working hard, playing in our own zone and we work from there."

Andrei Svechnikov

"It's good to see that happening. I just have to keep going, and I guess shoot more on the power play."

"We played hard. I played hard, too. I just tried to focus the whole game and we played the whole 60 minutes."

"Last game we didn't play the whole 60 minutes, like I said. Today, we played the whole 60 minutes. I think that's our goal for the next games. We played hard."



## Canes shutout Blackhawks to start homestand

By Ryan Henkel

In the backdrop of the festivities of the NC State Fair, the Carolina Hurricanes deep fried the Chicago Blackhawks by a final score of 4-0.

With a combination of perfect play from both starting goaltender Petr Mrazek, who stopped all 32 shots he faced, and special teams, which went 2 for 2 on the power play and 3 for 3 on the penalty kill, the Hurricanes cruised to an easy victory in the 1 p.m. matinee match.

The game was pretty evenly matched, but the Canes just kept pulling away more and more thanks to the efforts of Mrazek and the defense, which was credited with 20 blocked shots.

"We had our moments that weren't great, but overall, I thought it was a pretty solid game from start to finish," said head coach Rod Brind'Amour. "Second period was a little iffy, but not terrible. I loved the way we played in the third with the lead, but still going after it and doing it right."

The Hurricanes struck first and early again, less than five minutes into the first period as Andrei Svechnikov finally got his first non-empty-net goal with an absolute bullet. On the power play, Svechnikov skated it to the top of the left circle and let go a heavy wrister which cleanly beat Blackhawks netminder Corey Crawford top corner stick side.

The power-play goal is also Svechnikov's first of his career. Last season, Svechnikov scored all 20 of his goals at even-strength situations.

"It was kind of long [time]," Svechnikov said on finally scoring a power-play goal. "I didn't score [a power-play goal] last season. It's good that it's happening now and just have to keep going and shoot more on the power play."

Also always part of the play, defenseman Dougie Hamilton got the primary assist on the goal to extend his own point streak

to four games. It has been a calendar month for Hamilton who became the first NHL defenseman to score six-plus goals in October since 2006 and the first in Hurricanes franchise history since 1980.

After the first ended with shots tied 12-12 but Carolina up 1-0, the Blackhawks came out buzzing in the second period, but a combination of smart defensive play by the Hurricanes and outstanding goaltending by Mrazek kept Chicago off the board.

In the final minute of the second period, Carolina got its own offense going with an extended shift in the Blackhawk's zone. Finally getting on the board with his first goal of the season, previously snakebitten forward Nino Niederreiter froze Brent Seabrook with a shoulder fake and skated to the dot on the left circle where he sniped it past Crawford.

"It's very tough not getting frustrated," Niederreiter said. "You just try to stay with it. When you don't score you try to change something which you probably shouldn't do. You should try to just keep your game and sometimes you do too much or think about too many things but I'm happy to finally get one in and get that off my chest."

The captain joined in the fun in the third period as Jordan Staal was all alone in the slot on the power play. A quick heads-up pass from Sebastian Aho in the corner found its way right to Staal who wasted no time in sending it right past Crawford.

With time running down and the final minute call made, the Hurricanes found time for one more. Aho battled off of a Blackhawk defender, moving the puck out from behind the net to the crease where Svechnikov collected his second goal as the puck bounced off of another Chicago defender and across the goal line.

"The thing about coaching is you are kind of always looking for the stuff that is not right, but I loved the compete," Brind'Amour said. "Our group has been competing hard all



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

year, we've just had some lulls and things in the way we play, but the guys come to work every day and they give it what they can."

The Canes will continue its homestand Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. as they take on a few familiar faces with the Calgary Flames.



## Checkers lose late lead against Lehigh Valley

by Nicholas Niedzielski

Charlotte couldn't replicate their success against the Phantoms Saturday night, falling by a 3-2 score.

Janne Kuokkanen opened the scoring by popping in a rebound from out front for the first period's only tally, then the Phantoms pushed back hard in the middle frame. But despite ceding a franchise-record 24 shots from the visitors, the Checkers made it to the second intermission with a lead thanks to a last-minute wrister from Jake Bean that found its way into the back of the net.

The volume of Lehigh Valley's attack slowed in the third but the Phantoms found a way to convert early on. A quick strike evened the score just over five minutes in, then a too-many-men penalty on the Checkers led to Greg Carey's go-ahead tally just two minutes later.

The Phantoms would lock down that lead, despite a significant push from the Checkers down the stretch. J-F Berube's 29 saves ended up being enough to clinch two points for the visitors, even against a strong 39-save performance from his counterpart in Alex Nedeljkovic.

### QUOTES

Coach Ryan Warsofsky on the difference between this game and last night's win

Urgency, determination, speed and losing 50/50 (battles). A little bit of everything really. Just our focus. We didn't have our jump.

Warsofsky on killing eight penalties

It's tough to get into a rhythm. On the PK, it gets to the point where if you're killing seven or eight, you're asking for one. Not good on our part with taking too many penalties. We just didn't have it tonight.

Warsofsky on the quality of his team's scoring chances

Average. I didn't think we had enough jump in our game. If we're going to be a successful team, there's no nights off and

## Canes return Brian Gibbons to Charlotte

by Nicholas Niedzielski

Following today's win over Chicago, the Hurricanes have assigned forward Brian Gibbons to Charlotte.

The veteran forward has now logged three games with Carolina this season.

there's no shifts off. That's how we have to play. We just got taught a lesson that if you show up and go 75 percent, you know what's going to happen. We've got to learn from it, turn the page and get back on Monday.

Defenseman Roland McKeown on the difference between this game and last night's win

Just energy level. I thought tonight after the first we just kind of sat back and let the game come to us. We just looked slow, and you take penalties when you're slow and that just kind of wears you out in your own end. We were playing uphill from there.

McKeown on killing penalties in the third period

When you're killing that many minutes it's taxing and the majority of your shifts are in the d-zone. I thought that hurt our momentum tonight.

McKeown on what do work on moving forward

We've got to find it within ourselves to play our game, which is a fast game and it's demanding. When one of us is off or we're lacking speed, it really shows up.

### NOTES

Charlotte fell to 4-4-0 on the season ... Kuokkanen's goal was his first since 1:18 of the season's first game on Oct. 5 ... Luostarinen extended his point streak to six games (4g, 2a), which is the longest by a Checker this season. He is tied for fourth among league rookies in scoring ... Alex Nedeljkovic fell to 0-4-0 on the season ... The Checkers lost when leading after two periods. They were 49-0-0 in that situation last season ... The Checkers killed 11 consecutive penalties against the Phantoms before allowing the winning goal on the power play ... Lehigh Valley's 24 shots on goal in the second period was the most allowed by the Checkers in a single period in franchise history ... Forwards Stelio Mattheos and Spencer Smallman and defenseman Fredrik Claesson missed the game due to injury ... Forward Anthony Louis and defensemen Alex Lintuniemi and Derek Sheppard were healthy extras.

Gibbons is currently tied for the Checkers scoring lead with eight points in six games this season with Charlotte. The Checkers finish up a two-game home set against Lehigh Valley later this evening.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

## TODAY'S LINKS

<https://www.newsobserver.com/sports/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/canes-now/article236684278.html>  
<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/recap-canes-blank-blackhawks/c-310527368>  
<https://www.nhl.com/news/chicago-blackhawks-carolina-hurricanes-game-recap/c-310524676>  
<https://www.apnews.com/d7172341793643f6b44fa3d9e9da152c>  
<https://www.canescountry.com/2019/10/26/20933691/carolina-hurricanes-game-recap-chicago-blackhawks-petr-mrazek-shutout-andrei-svechnikov>  
[http://www.technicianonline.com/sports/article\\_eaf08b96-f83c-11e9-b5e6-17f13b661cdf.html](http://www.technicianonline.com/sports/article_eaf08b96-f83c-11e9-b5e6-17f13b661cdf.html)  
<http://gocheckers.com/game-recaps/checkers-lose-late-lead-against-lehigh-valley>  
<http://gocheckers.com/articles/transactions/canes-return-brian-gibbons-to-charlotte>

## SportScan

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

1158593 Carolina Hurricanes

Svechnikov, Mrazek spur Hurricanes to shutout against Blackhawks

BY CHIP ALEXANDER

OCTOBER 26, 2019 03:24 PM

RALEIGH

It was hard for Carolina Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour to pick and choose what he liked best about a 4-0 victory Saturday over the Chicago Blackhawks.

The Canes ended a three-game winless streak. Brind'Amour liked that. The Canes needed a win.

Andrei Svechnikov scored twice, getting his first career power-play goal. Nino Niederreiter scored his first goal of the season, and Jordan Staal added another power-play score. Brind'Amour liked all that, of course.

Petr Mrazek, winning his 13th consecutive game at PNC Arena, earned his second shutout of the season and the 20th of his career. Against with a team with a load of firepower, he was poised in net but was also his usual fiery, competitive self, finishing with 32 saves.

"Phenomenal, right?" Brind'Amour said of his goalie, who was named the game's first star. "He was sharp. You could tell, he was kind of ahead of it. He was solid all the way."

But the Canes (7-3-1), as a group, were sharp, ahead of it and solid. The forecheck was good for the most part. The penalty killers did their job, snuffing out three Chicago power plays. The defense was active and sound.

"We played hard," Svechnikov said. "We played hard all 60 minutes."

Before scoring, Niederreiter made a hustling backchecking play in the first period with the defenseman caught back up ice that might have prevented a Chicago goal. Coaches, and teammates, always appreciate that.

Niederreiter had seemed snake-bit offensively in the first 10 games, often playing with center Sebastian Aho and getting his scoring chances but being unable to finish. His goal came after extended pressure in the offensive zone that gassed the Blackhawks on the ice.

"You're paid to score goals and if they don't go in it's definitely frustrating," Niederreiter said. "It's something that I know I've got to do and have to do, and I'm happy one went in and got that off my chest."

Svechnikov had one empty-net goal in the first 10 games of the season and had to wonder when he would finally beat a goaltender. But the second-year pro was fully engaged from the start Saturday, buzzing around the net, and twice beat the Blackhawks' Corey Crawford — the first on a quick wrister on the power play in the first period and the second on a shot in tight late in the game.

The power-play goal took five seconds. The puck dropped, the Canes' Erik Haula won the draw, Dougie Hamilton passed to Svechnikov and Svechnikov unloaded from the left side. Crawford was frozen in place.

Staal gave the Canes' second power-play unit a goal. Some nice passing between Niederreiter and Aho, who had two assists in the game, set up Staal for a shot from the low slot, pushing the Canes ahead 3-0 early in the third.

"Nice to win one on special teams," Brind'Amour said.

Mrazek took it from there. He was cool in net in the first, facing 13 shots, and made a key stop in the second, stoning Dylan Strome on a breakaway. The Blackhawks had 68 total attempts, having 20 shots blocked and missing the net 16 times.

"It was busy in the first period," Mrazek said. "You have a lot of stuff coming at you, and I saw the puck very well. The guys did a great job in front of me and made it easier."

The Canes lost a lead and then the game Thursday against the Columbus Blue Jackets, dropping a 4-3 overtime decision on the road. A poor second period hurt, and the Canes' second period on Saturday was their poorest of the game. But Mrazek had another 11 stops in the second to keep the Blackhawks stymied.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

"I loved the way we played in the third, with the lead and still going after it but doing it right," Brind'Amour said.

In terms of strategy, having the last change at home helped. The Blackhawks (2-5-2) switched up their lines, loading up their top line with Jonathan Toews centering Patrick Kane and Alex DeBrincat. Brind'Amour planned to have Aho center Svechnikov and Teuvo Teravainen but moved Teravainen to Staal's line with Niederreiter to match up.

This day, all the Canes' moves worked. Had a few shots not banged off the post, the final score could have been 6-0.

"After losing the last three games, we knew we had to change something," Niederreiter said. "I think it starts with working hard and playing simple in our own zone and go from there."

News Observer LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158589 Calgary Flames

Jets snuff out Flames at Mosaic Stadium

Kristen Anderson, Postmedia

October 27, 2019 12:21 AM MDT

REGINA — It wasn't quite the high-scoring game of shinny that forces a sticks-in-the-middle trade before the frostbite sets in or Mom and Dad ring the dinner bell.

But despite its lack of goals, the 2019 Tim Hortons Heritage Classic delivered.

And so did Bryan Little, scoring on a two-on-one with Kyle Connor, beating TJ Brodie and netminder David Rittich 1:56 into overtime to seal a 2-1 victory for the 'home team' over the Calgary Flames.

It wasn't the result the "visiting team" wanted, but it was an experience they'll never forget.

"I never grew up playing in atmospheres like that, in St. Louis and a little bit in Arizona," said Flames forward Matthew Tkachuk. "But it feels right. You know? It feels that's how hockey should be, and how legends in the past grew up playing. That's how it used to be way back when they were practising. You hear all the greats growing up and talking about playing on the outdoor rink.

"It's cool to play in that environment where it's snowing, where it's causing the ice to be slower. You're falling. You're losing the puck. It bounces all over the place. You knew it was going to be a low-scoring game. It was fun."

That's exactly what Saturday's game at Mosaic Stadium was.

The fun only ramped up when Sean Monahan took a tripping penalty against Mark Scheifele thirty-nine seconds into overtime, putting the pressure on Flames netminder David Rittich. Jets head coach Paul Maurice called a timeout and, right after, Blake Wheeler hit the post (which Rittich, of course, kissed).

Fitting that Calgary native — and proud, loyal card-carrying member of the Saskatchewan Roughrider fan club — Josh Morrissey forced overtime when he tied the game 1-1 with 4:11 remaining in the third

period on a powerplay marker. He beat Rittich with a rocket which was somewhat screened as Mark Giordano sat helplessly in the penalty box for hooking.

Rittich made 43-saves, the most-ever in a regular season outdoor game in NHL history while the Flames peppered Jets' netminder Connor Hellebuyck with 30 shots.

"It's cold out there for them, right?" said Flames goaltender Mark Giordano. "They don't get to come to the warm bench and sit. But I thought both goalies played well.

"I thought there were some good chances in the game and really good looks."

Elias Lindholm made history, too, in the first-ever regular season NHL game in Regina, scored the game's first goal on the power play with 5:13 remaining in the second period. Hellebuyck slid across his crease, thinking Johnny Gaudreau was going to shoot but instead he passed over to Lindholm.

The biggest play on that goal, however, came when Tkachuk showed superb hand-eye coordination when he batted down a clearing attempt and kept the puck in play.

The Jets, in fact, felt that it was high sticking and challenged the play. However, the referees ruled that Tkachuk's stick "was at or below the normal height of his shoulders when he contacted the puck prior to Lindholm's goal."

That resulted in a Jets penalty, part of a new rule this season that penalizes a team for an unsuccessful challenge.

"They don't give you two points for playing well for most of the game," Tkachuk said. "You've got finish 'er off. But, just to talk about the experience, what a great time it was. What a great host in Regina, what a great job they did. The ice was perfect. Fans were into it. All in all, it was an awesome, awesome experience."

## QUICK START

The Flames were flying out of the gates. Gaudreau led the charge.

Playing on a new-look trio with Lindholm at centre and Tkachuk on the right side, the snake-bitten star had the first shot on net on a breakaway.

Flames head coach Bill Peters had put his lines in a blender prior to the game, placing Monahan with Sam Bennett and Andrew Mangiapane.

Meanwhile, the team's makeshift third line was Milan Lucic, Mikael Backlund and Michael Frolik. American Hockey League call-up Alan Quine was with Derek Ryan and Tobias Rieder.

"They were fine, we'll leave them like that ... I liked them," Peters said. "I thought we were deep. We gave everybody a chance to play. One of the things you have to do, if you can, in this situation is to keep guys going. The more roll your lines, the better it is. Otherwise, guys get iced if they're sitting for long periods of time ... I thought we had good momentum."

Mangiapane hit a rut in the ice and fell in the first period.

St. Malo's own Travis Hamonic, playing in his 600th NHL game, hit the same rut later.

Monahan took a delay-of-game penalty after backhanding the puck off its edge and sending it over the glass as a result. Bennett and Brodie also took penalties in the middle frame but Flames' penalty kill, operating at 88.9 per cent heading into Saturday's game, didn't bend.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

The NHL's ice crew broke out the shovels at the first TV time-out.

The Flames, at one point, led 8-1 on the shot-clock but after two periods, were being out-shot 14-11.

In the last minute of the first, Oliver Kylington skimmed the crease and Backlund nearly had a wide-open chance for a tap-in on Hellebuyck but missed.

There were no goals after 20 minutes.

The second was stingy, too.

Nostalgia rippled through the crowd when Adam Lowry crushed Kylington into the end boards at the end of the middle frame, sparking an old fashioned brawl and dog pile. At the bottom of it was Rittich, protecting his teammate.

The Flames started the third period on a power play as Lowry was tagged for boarding, and could face supplemental discipline from the NHL.

## BRAVING THE ELEMENTS

The snow swirled nearly the entire game and only stopped at the 5:24 mark of the third period.

The wind howled.

"Experience Regina," a local catch-phrase that mocks a poorly made 90s-era video promoting tourism to the Queen City, was the theme of the night.

And it doesn't get much more Saskatchewan than braving the elements, no matter what they are, just to play a little ice hockey.

"The wind is not very nice," Rittich had said prior to the start of the clash.

The 27-year-old Czech native, sporting old-timey brown vintage leather pads, also let out an exhale when asked about the ice conditions.

"It's really hard to say something," he said with a grin. "It's outside. It's not really good."

Not that it mattered. The players played on, the spectators gripped their beer, sipped their whiskey in flasks, and huddled together to stay warm.

All that was missing was mom and dad calling them in for dinner.

"The atmosphere, coming in here, it was cool," Giordano said.

"Playing outside, it's funny, it feels like you have a lot of energy and it feels good in the lungs. It was a great atmosphere, we were obviously happy to play in it. But right now, it stings."

## MOVING ON

The team continues its longest road trip of the season, flying to Carolina after Saturday's game.

They'll square off with the host Hurricanes on Tuesday, the Nashville Predators on Halloween, the Columbus Blue Jackets on Saturday and the Washington Capitals on Sunday.

It was tough luck for a group that has been inconsistent for the entire month, beating the Florida Panthers 6-5 in a sloppy shootout victory on Thursday and dropping to 6-5-2 after Saturday's result.

After the Flames' loss and the team's 4-0 win against the Montreal Canadiens at the 2011 Heritage Classic at McMahon Stadium, they are 1-0-1 in outdoor games.

Calgary Sun: LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158590 Calgary Flames

Heritage Classic provides frigid conditions for Flames and Jets

Kristen Anderson, Postmedia

October 26, 2019 11:19 PM MDT

REGINA — The snow started falling two hours before puck drop. It didn't stop.

The wind? Well, it was biting and howling all day.

And by the time the Calgary Flames squared off with the Winnipeg Jets under the stars in Saturday's 2019 Tim Hortons Heritage Classic, temperatures had plummeted. When the Canadian Forces Snowbirds flew over Regina's Mosaic Stadium and the fireworks were set off at 8:14 p.m., it was -2.5 C. Allegedly.

Anyone in the stands could protest that it felt much colder than that.

But, in the house that the Saskatchewan Roughriders built — the first neutral site in the history of the National Hockey League's outdoor games — the spectacle was picturesque, idyllic and worth the price of admission before an over-capacity crowd of 33,518.

"This is awesome," Flames winger Matthew Tkachuk told CBC's Scott Oake after a wild second period. "This is exactly what you think about when you think about an outdoor hockey game. This is such a blast."

The Flames wore their ultra-popular bright white retro jerseys while the Jets wore a sharp-looking navy blue retro set-up and their original logos. Both teams broke out the tinted visors to cut down on the shadows and glare from the falling snow. Sam Bennett's Lanny McDonald-inspired-moustache was covered in snow and frost. (Lanny's actual moustache was also covered in snow and frost as the legendary Flame was on hand to be part of the ceremonial face-off along with long-time Winnipeg Jets forward Thomas Steen).

Every single player wore tuques during warm-ups. The Flames' coaching staff ditched their custom-made fedoras in favour of protective headgear, too (except assistant coach Martin Gelinas), but busted the retro-looking fedoras out at game time. The players eventually ditched the tuques, too.

Prior to the game, the NHL had released a lengthy list of contingency procedures should the element become, uh, unbearable.

All were at the discretion of NHL commissioner Gary Bettman who, gleefully, had declared a few days prior that outdoor games provide the "ultimate reality" and the weather is, simply, "part of the intrigue of the game."

Or so said the guy who doesn't have to skate directly into 47-kilometre wind gusts.

Or stand in line for \$8 Pilsners (although that price seemed like a bargain compared to prices at other professional sporting events).

Then, stand in line for the washroom.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

But fans from 756-kilometres due west and from 573-kilometres due east travelled the distance to meet in the middle for the 28th outdoor game in NHL history.

And the players, battling snow and gale-force winds, put on a show.

Peters, wearing snappy NHL official letterman's jackets, brought the team over to the Stadium early so that players could take pictures and videos — really soak it all in.

"Beautiful," Peters had said. "Prairies, at this time of the year — wonderful. It's good hockey weather. It's a great hockey province and great to bring the NHL to Saskatchewan."

Calgary Sun: LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158591 Calgary Flames

Flames notebook: Usual line combinations shaken up

Kristen Anderson, Postmedia

October 26, 2019 3:40 PM MDT

The Calgary Flames were sporting their brand new white retro jerseys at Regina's Mosaic Stadium while the coaching staff was cruising around in new red tracksuits.

That wasn't the only new look spotted as the team practised ahead of Saturday's 2019 Tim Hortons Heritage Classic.

In attempt to generate more offence from his two top forwards — Johnny Gaudreau and Sean Monahan, specifically — head coach Bill Peters put his lines in a blender, splitting up Gaudreau and Monahan. On the first line, he moved Elias Lindholm to centre and Matthew Tkachuk to right wing.

He bumped up left-winger Andrew Mangiapane and put him with centre Sean Monahan and Sam Bennett on the right side.

Then, he stuck Milan Lucic with Mikael Backlund and Michael Frolik, a makeshift third line. Meanwhile, AHL call-up Alan Quine was with Derek Ryan and Tobias Rieder.

No biggie, according to Tkachuk.

Even after the Flames generated five goals in a 6-5 shootout win against the Florida Panthers on Thursday night at Scotiabank Saddledome.

"It's just a little shake-up," Tkachuk said. "It seems like whenever we do this, it could go back to how it was with a shift or at the end of the first period or a game. You don't know. It's good that we get a little shake-up here.

"We scored a few more goals than normal last game but we've been snake bitten in the past however many games. It's just a different look against a team that's playing pretty good and pretty good defensively."

Calgary Flames head coach Bill Peters looks on during practice for the NHL Heritage Classic outdoor hockey game in Regina on Friday, October 25, 2019. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Liam Richards

The "visiting" Flames are 6-5-1 while the "home" Jets are 5-6-0 but Calgary's lack of consistency in their big names — Gaudreau and Monahan — have been the story of the 2019-20 season so far.

Gaudreau is scoreless in seven and has three goals and six assists in 12 games.

Monahan has two goals and five assists in 12 games and hasn't scored in 10.

"Obviously things aren't going well right now," Monahan said. "We have to score five-on-five. (Thursday) was a start but we still didn't play great. Whenever you go on stretches like that, there are always changes. That's part of the game . . . a bit of a wakeup call for guys, obviously.

"This is a team that has to make a mark this year. This early in the year, you shake things up and get back going."

## TAKE IT OUTSIDE

Saturday is the 28th outdoor game since 2003, and the first of three set for the 2019-20 NHL campaign.

Following the clash between the Flames and Jets, the Nashville Predators will take on the Dallas Stars at the Cotton Bowl Stadium in Dallas on Jan. 1 while the Los Angeles Kings and Colorado Avalanche square off on Feb. 15 at Falcon Stadium at Colorado Springs.

Only four Flames have played in outdoor NHL games — Milan Lucic and Cam Talbot were with the Oilers when they played the Jets at Winnipeg's IG Field; Mark Giordano and Mikael Backlund are the two leftovers from the 2011 Heritage Classic team that played at McMahon Stadium.

The Jets have 11 players with outdoor experience.

Peters was a coach on the Detroit Red Wings when they played the Toronto Maple Leafs on Jan. 1 at Ann Arbor, Mi., before 105, 491 fans at Michigan Stadium.

"I do know that during the first T.V. timeout in the Big House, we talked to the players and it was attentive," Peters recalled. "In the second and third, they were looking around — 104,000 people, there's snow coming down. And then they gotta play.

"I think it's important in these games to get everybody going and you keep everybody engaged."

## CZARNIK OUT WITH INJURY

A tough break for Austin Czarnik, who had been on a roll to start the 2019-20 season. The 26-year-old right-winger was placed on long-term injured reserve Friday after suffering what looked like a knee injury in the Flames' 6-5 shootout win against the Florida Panthers on Thursday.

Peters said Czarnik would be out until Christmas.

"I just know it's bad," he said. "He was starting to play well. He had a good opportunity and was playing on the powerplay . . . it is frustrating. He's had some time in the top-six, took advantage of that and was providing some secondary scoring with us.

"Frustrating for us because he's a guy, we think he can help us."

Czarnik, who had two goals and an assist in the last three games, including a powerplay marker in the first period Thursday, played one shift early in the third period and disappeared down the tunnel.

As a result, Alan Quine was recalled from the American Hockey League's Stockton Heat. Quine, 26, was called up a week ago when



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

the Flames needed another forward in the wake of Sam Bennett's injury at L.A.

But, following Sunday's 2-1 win at Anaheim, was dispatched back to Stockton.

Calgary Sun: LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158592 Calgary Flames

Duhatschek: The Flames are shaking things up as they get set for the Heritage Classic

By Eric Duhatschek

Oct 26, 2019

REGINA – Who knew that the biggest issue with staging an outdoor hockey game in Regina would be that the temperature, in the last week of October, might actually be too warm?

But that's what happened Friday, when the mercury soared to 17C in the Saskatchewan capital, which pushed back practice times for the Winnipeg Jets and Calgary Flames on the one and only day they had to prepare for Saturday's Heritage Classic outdoor game.

Organizers wanted to wait until the sun was lower in the sky, before the Jets went out on the ice for their practice. Glare was an issue for them. Wind too. Further complicating matters was the ever-changing weather forecast, which now suggests there could be snow falling by game time.

Team captain Mark Giordano, one of two Flames players to have played in the team's previous outdoor game, gave both the ice conditions and the lighting a positive report.

"It seems like you'll be able to make plays out there, especially at the start," he said. "As it went on and on, it got slower and softer, but I'm sure with the weather getting cooler, it'll be good tomorrow night."

And if it snows?

"You've really got to simplify your game if there's snow out there," answered Giordano. "Whatever conditions there are, you just deal with it. I think the message is going to be keep it simple, especially early, and go from there."

The other variable in their preparation, which is almost as unpredictable as the weather, involved the massive line changes that coach Bill Peters threw at his team. Peters is a notorious line juggler, but this was significant, even by his own standards. Still looking for greater consistency from his top players, Peters split up his No. 1 trio of Sean Monahan, Johnny Gaudreau and Elias Lindholm, putting Lindholm at centre between Gaudreau and Matthew Tkachuk, while shifting Monahan to a line with Sam Bennett and Andrew Mangiapane. That left Milan Lucic patrolling the right side with Mikael Backlund and Michal Frolik, while the fourth line featured Derek Ryan between Tobias Rieder and Alan Quine. Quine was called up from the team's AHL affiliate in Stockton to replace the injured Austin Czarnik. If Peters sticks with that configuration for Saturday, it'll mean Mark Jankowski will be the odd man out against the Jets.

So, there was a lot to digest in the early evening Friday — and it's hard to know which was more perplexing: The challenge playing the game outdoors? Or dealing with the new-look lineup?

"Changing the lines up sometimes helps," said Gaudreau. "Who knows how long it lasts? Maybe one period. Maybe the rest of the season. You never know. So, you just hope to create some chemistry with your new line mates and be productive and win games and go from there."

Peters has talked about deploying Lindholm as a centre for a while now, but this is an entirely new configuration, according to Tkachuk, who suggested: "I've played with both of them before, but I don't think I've played with both of them together as a line. Hopefully it doesn't take too long to get used to each other. They know how I play. I know how they play. Hopefully, it'll click early."

Like Gaudreau, Tkachuk knows that Peters can shift things quickly, if the team looks out of sync.

"It's good that we get a little shake-up here," said Tkachuk. "We're not near where we want to be, but we're trending a little in the right direction. We've got to get there soon. It's not early in the season anymore. We're picking up speed. We're almost into November now."

"I think for us to be where we want to be, we have to play smart. We have to play really hard at both blue lines; play in the offensive zone as much as possible; be strong on the puck; and make some more plays."

The Flames are coming off a wild 6-5 win over the Florida Panthers Thursday, which raised their record to a modest 6-5-1 after 12 games. Monahan understood the messaging from the coaching staff — that the changes were a "bit of a wake-up call for guys. This is a team that's got to make a mark this year and do something. This early in the year, you shake things up and you get back going."

"This league's tough to win in. Any night, any team can win, it's so tight. But we've got a group here, a deep team, we want to win, and need to put our best foot forward every night."

Tkachuk, for his part, said he was looking forward to playing his first-ever NHL outdoor game — though pretty much every player on both sides has some childhood memory of playing the game in the open air.

"I remember when I was younger, always watching the Winter Classic and thinking that was the coolest thing ever," said Tkachuk. "To get to play outdoors is awesome. The biggest thing is going to be the wind. The way the wind was going, you're completely downwind at one end of the ice and you're going right against it the other end. So, it's a factor for sure."

The Flames made the trip to Regina from Calgary Friday, many with their families in tow. Once the formal practice was over, wives and children were permitted to go on the ice at Mosaic Stadium for a pleasure skate.

"Even today, the whole day's been awesome," said Tkachuk. "Normally, by now, we're having dinner, or close to being in bed. Now, we're getting double practised. No skate tomorrow. Eight o'clock game. It's a different vibe, a different feel, but one I'm really looking forward to. At the beginning of the year, this is one you're looking forward to. This is one you've got circled. You don't get many opportunities like this."

For Giordano, it will be the second outdoor game of his NHL career. He suggested Friday, he can hardly believe eight years have passed since the first — and thus, he will be drinking in the atmosphere right up until game time.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

"We had some fun out there today at practice, but tomorrow, it'll be all business," said Giordano. "It'll be a good game and a fun atmosphere, but at the end of the day, we've got to realize this is a regular-season game that's important. Both teams are going to be pretty desperate for a win. I don't think either team is where they want to be."

One of the most popular players in Flames history, Lanny McDonald, is here for the Heritage Classic and took part in a hot-stove session along with fellow teammate Jamie Macoun, and a quartet of former Winnipeg Jets: Dave Ellett, Shane Doan, Thomas Steen and Kris King.

Calgary-Winnipeg doesn't have the same historical cachet as Calgary-Edmonton, but Ellett and Steen both pointed out how hard a swing through Alberta used to be in the 1980s, when both were powerhouses.

Naturally, all of them had an outdoor hockey story or two to spin, but McDonald's was maybe the best.

"My mother was a school teacher at the country school I went to for eight years," said McDonald. "My dad flooded the rink. We had the boards that were about 14 inches high. So, you'd pile the snow up and hope the snow got hard enough on the ends that you didn't lose the puck.

"One day, I forgot my skates. My mother had figure skates, so at noon time, I tried her skates because I'd forgotten mine at home. They didn't work very well, because I kept catching a (toe) pick. I was smart enough to know how to sharpen skates, so I went in and ground the picks off — of mom's skates. I got grounded for the longest time. My mom was absolutely livid. After my dad chuckled a couple of times, he said, 'you know, that's not the smartest move.'

"And we weren't that rich so it took a long time for mom to replace the skates — and I'm not sure she ever forgave me for that."

The Athletic LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158621 Detroit Red Wings

Detroit Red Wings' Dylan Larkin acting like a captain as losses mount: Blame me

Helene St. James

8:03 p.m. ET Oct. 26, 2019

Jeff Blashill pushed back against the Detroit Red Wings needing to show desperation because he doesn't like what the word implies.

"When you're desperate in life," he said, "you do stupid things. When you have no money, you go rob a bank because you're desperate. I always try to be real careful with that."

Blashill prefers the word urgency. Whatever verbiage is applied, the Wings want to redefine their season, want to prove they are better than the team that is on a seven-game losing skid heading into Sunday's contest at Little Caesars Arena against the defending Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues.

"We need to get our confidence back as a team," Dylan Larkin said after Friday's 2-0 loss to the Buffalo Sabres. "We've played good. We haven't played good consistently. We just need to get two points and grind out a win and pick up from there. We need it in the worst way. Luckily in November there is a game every other day, so we are going to have chances. We are going to have to figure this out pretty quick or else it's going to get ugly."

One might argue the 29-9 goal differential during the losing streak already is ugly. The Wings played well against the Sabres, created chances start to finish. Same result, though, as their poor outing at Ottawa on Wednesday: another loss.

The Wings are 3-8, their 3-1 start fading into memory. Larkin, who sounds like a captain every time he speaks, isn't happy to be at two goals and seven points.

"I haven't been good enough offensively or defensively," he said. "You want to point fingers, point them right at me. I have to be way better for this team and carry the load up front and put the puck in the net."

Larkin admitted that "you start thinking about it, you take it home with you." He sounded very much like former teammate Thomas Vanek, who, when he wasn't scoring last season, said he was losing sleep over it.

Larkin wants to lead by example, wants to be a scorer. He knows there's attention on himself and Andreas Athanasiou because they're coming off 30-goal seasons.

"We need to score big goals for our club and we need to find a way to contribute more offensively and be a better impact for our team," Larkin said.

Larkin directed eight shots on net Friday and went 19-for-24 on faceoffs. He has, as he was last season, been one of the team's best players most games, if not the best. That's his inner drive coming through.

"He has to do it at 23 years old as the perceived guy who is kind of leading the franchise and he has to stand in front of everybody every night and that's a hard thing," Blashill said. "But I think he is growing. What makes Dylan special is he has great self-recognition."

Larkin, Anthony Mantha and Tyler Bertuzzi had a fabulous opening weekend, combining for 16 points. But there aren't enough other forwards contributing — Athanasiou has two assists and is a team-worst minus-11 in nine games; Valtteri Filppula has two points in 11 games, and Frans Nielsen, no points in eight games.

Blashill has tried various combinations in hopes of finding at least two lines that can score. Against the Sabres, he moved Mantha to play with Athanasiou and Filppula.

"Mantha is one guy whose production hasn't dropped off when he hasn't

played with Larkin," Blashill said. "Everybody else's production drops off when they don't play with Larkin. Mantha and AA had some good history together in the AHL — let's see if we can get another line going. The one thing we have to look at with that Filppula, Athanasiou, Mantha line — they have to skate for themselves and go get the puck. If they want to be a line together, someone has to forecheck. They have to forecheck harder."

Athanasiou has the skill set to be a game changer because of his explosive speed and ability to finish around the net. Blashill described him as "kind of a home-run hitter — he gets big chances. He doesn't necessarily produce tons of those dirty-type chances. He looks for those big chances because of his speed.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

"Last year, a lot of the home runs went out of the ballpark. Right now they are staying in the ballpark," he said. "He has to find a way to start finishing on the chances he has and he has to find a way (to) bring that second element to your game, which is scoring dirty when you're not scoring pretty."

The Wings don't need to rob a bank, but as this losing streak has ballooned, there's a growing urgency to bank points to restore their confidence.

Detroit Free Press LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158622 Detroit Red Wings

Red Wings are ice cold and Dylan Larkin says he has to be 'way better'

Ted Kulfan

1:40 p.m. ET Oct. 26, 2019

Detroit – There are many reasons for the Detroit Red Wings' seven-game losing streak.

Forward Dylan Larkin thinks he's one of the biggest reasons.

Larkin has seven points (two goals) in 11 games, good for third on the team. But he hasn't earned a point in the last five games, and the Wings' losing streak has pushed them to 3-8 and to near the bottom of the Eastern Conference.

Though Larkin was shut out on the scoresheet Friday night in the Red Wings' 2-0 loss to Buffalo, coach Jeff Blashill thought Larkin was Detroit's best player on the ice.

"Larks was excellent – I mean excellent," Blashill said. "He was the best player on the ice in my opinion. He had a ton of chances, he was damn near 100 percent on faceoffs. They (pucks) didn't go in, I get it, but if he keeps playing like that – and he has, actually.

"He's produced a lot of points. He hasn't scored as much as he's wanted to, but he's produced."

The way Larkin responded Friday was, for Blashill, a sign of Larkin's growth as player on and off the ice, and so impressive for such a young player.

"I don't want to use the word proud – it sounds like he's my kid – but I was really proud of the way he came out and played," Blashill said. "He caught some flack (Friday) morning in the meeting, and his line keeps getting switched around a little bit, and we changed the power plays up – there's a lot of things.

"And he came out and played excellent. It's hard, he's competitive and it's hard grinding away and you're not getting results. But as we've talked about a ton, all you can do is learn and move on, and he has to do it at 23 years old, perceived as leading the franchise, and he has to stand up in front of everybody (media) every night and that's a hard thing.

"But he's grown and what makes Dylan special is he has great self-recognition, so he knows when he has to make an adjustment, his perception, the way he looks at things. He knows it."

The Wings' offense has gone cold during this seven-game losing streak. They've only scored nine goals during this losing streak, and numerous players are in fighting monstrous slumps.

"We have to score; this stretch we haven't scored enough," Larkin said. "Myself, I haven't been good enough offensively or defensively. If you want to point fingers, point them right at me. I have to be way better for this team and carry the load up front and put the puck in the net.

"We need a win bad. We need to get our confidence back as a team. We've played good but we haven't played good consistently. We need to get two points and grind out a win.

"We need to figure it out pretty quick, or it's going to get ugly."

Blues at Red Wings

Faceoff: 5 p.m. Sunday, Little Caesars Arena, Detroit

TV/radio: FSD/97.1 FM

Outlook: The defending Stanley Cup champion Blues (5-2-3) haven't encountered too much of a championship hangover. They are 5-2-3 and tied for second in the Central Division with 13 points. ... The Blues have the sixth-best power play (25.8 percent) and 11th-ranked penalty kill (83.3 percent) in the NHL. ... C Brayden Schenn (eight goals, 11 points) is off to a good start.

Detroit News LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158623 Detroit Red Wings

Red Wings' Taro Hirose dealing with rough patch he avoided last season

Oct 26, 2019

Ansar Khan

DETROIT – The Detroit Red Wings were winning, and Taro Hirose was producing during his smooth transition from Michigan State to the NHL at the end of last season.

Now he is experiencing a rough patch. The Red Wings are reeling, and Hirose is struggling.

He's not alone. Other than the top line of Dylan Larkin, Anthony Mantha and Tyler Bertuzzi, the Red Wings haven't generated much offense. They have been outscored 29-7 during a seven-game losing streak – their longest stretch without a point since November 1989.

The defending Stanley Cup champion St. Louis Blues visit Little Caesars Arena on Sunday (5 p.m., Fox Sports Detroit), and the Red Wings, while poor in all facets of the game (offense, defense, special teams), must find ways to put the puck in the net.

Andreas Athanasiou has the most room for improvement, with no goals, two assists and a team-worst minus-11 rating in nine games. But Athanasiou has generated chances (21 shots) and has a track record (30 goals in 2018-19), so the Red Wings believe it's just a matter of time before he delivers.

Hirose doesn't have a large sample size, so there is more uncertainty. He produced a goal and six assists in 10 games after



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

signing as a free agent. This year, he has no goals and three assists – all on the power play – in 11 games.

"The fact he got off to such a good start, everybody's expectations got real high, but the reality is sometimes it takes a little while, especially a guy like that, who is giving up size and speed," coach Jeff Blashill said. "He's got to use his smarts."

Blashill said it is not a case of opponents being more aware of Hirose and focusing on him.

"It just hasn't gone in the net much for our team, so it's hard to accumulate a whole bunch of points," Blashill said. "And he's an assist guy more than he's a pure scorer, so when we're not scoring it's going to be hard for him to accumulate points. He certainly has made enough plays where he could have more points. He's just going to have to keep grinding."

Hirose, at 5-10 and 160 pounds, has been more active in the corners the past couple of games, but that's not what Blashill necessarily wants to see.

"It would be really hard for him to match physicality for physicality," Blashill said. "I think he's just got to keep learning ways (to be effective).

"He's a really smart player, but it takes time to learn some tricks of the trade, so he's got to learn ways to free himself up, whether it's on board battles, ways to buy a little space and use his smarts all over the ice. As a result, hopefully he'll have the puck a little bit more."

Said Hirose: "Puck battles, being a smaller guy, are things I have to work on. When the goals aren't coming, you have to make sure you're good defensively. I think that's an area of my game that I can continue to work on."

Hirose has only eight shots on goal.

"That's an area I can improve on," he said. "Not throwing pucks on net when I don't have to, but definitely looking to shoot when I have the opportunity."

Blashill frequently implores players to shoot more but doesn't feel Hirose is passing up too many opportunities.

"I can't say I've had a bunch of times where I said, 'You got to shoot that puck,'" Blashill said. "I think he's improved his shot, so he's got more confidence. I think it's volume of opportunity. He's got to create more."

Hirose played on a line with Athanasiou last season and in the early going this year. He's been with Frans Nielsen and Evgeny Svechnikov the past couple of games.

"I think I'm feeling better the last couple of games with the chances I'm getting and we're getting more as a line," Hirose said. "Just throwing pucks at the net and maybe getting a greasy one to start off with, that's what we need to do."

## Injury updates

Defenseman Patrik Nemeth missed the first part of practice due to an injury/ailment but Blashill said he'll play Sunday. Adam Erne (upper-body injury) practiced again but won't be ready until Tuesday at the earliest. Justin Abdelkader (lower-body injury) didn't practice and remains out.

Michigan Live LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158624 Detroit Red Wings

Prospect Joe Veleno ends frustration with first goal for Griffins

Oct 26, 2019

Peter J. Wallner

Joe Veleno got his first professional goal Friday in the Grand Rapids Griffins' 4-1 home victory over the Manitoba Moose.

The Red Wings' first-round pick (30th overall) in 2018 cleaned up a rebound off Chase Pearson's shot on the power play with 1:25 remaining in the third period.

It was the first point in seven games for the 6-foot-2, 200-pound center.

"It was a little frustrating," Veleno said of his goal drought. "There was really nothing happening offensively. It's a tough league to put up good numbers so I was lucky enough to capitalize on that one and it's a big relief for sure."

The 19-year-old Veleno had 104 points in 59 games for Drummondville in juniors last season. He was an MVP finalist in the QMJHL.

The Griffins' win was highlighted by a hat trick from Matt Puempel.

The Griffins are home again Saturday against the Texas Stars.

Michigan Live LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158625 Detroit Red Wings

Dylan Larkin shoulders blame, but plenty to go around for Red Wings

Oct 26, 2019

Ansar Khan

DETROIT – Dylan Larkin took one for the team Friday, but he is among the least of this club's seemingly countless concerns.

The Detroit Red Wings dropped their seventh in a row, 2-0 to the league-leading Buffalo Sabres at Little Caesars Arena, and their best player placed the blame squarely on his own shoulders.

"I haven't been good enough offensively or defensively," Larkin said. "You want to point fingers, point it right at me. I have to be way better for this team and carry the load up front and put the puck in the net."

Larkin can produce more. He has two goals and seven points in 11 games. But the same goes for almost everybody else on a team that has been outscored 29-9 during this slide to drop to 3-8-0.

Larkin, in fact, was their best player on this night, registering a game-high eight shots on goal and generating some quality chances in the third period. He also won 19-of-24 faceoffs while going head-to-head much of the night against Sabres' star Jack Eichel.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

"He was the best player on the ice, had tons of chances," coach Jeff Blashill said of Larkin. "They didn't go in, but if he keeps playing like that ... he has, actually. He's produced lots of points. He hasn't scored as much as he's wanted, but he's produced."

Linus Ullmark's 41-save performance marked the first time Detroit has been shut out since Dec. 2, 2018 (2-0 vs. Colorado). The Sabres are 9-2-1.

This is the Red Wings' longest winless streak since their eight-game slide (0-6-2) from Feb. 16 to March 5, 2019. It's their longest pure losing streak since they dropped seven in a row from Nov. 3-16, 1989.

Andreas Athanasiou, more than any other Red Wing, must step up. He has no goals and two assists, along with a team-worst minus-11 rating, in nine games.

"I know he's getting similar chances to what he got last year," Blashill said. "Double-A is kind of a home-run hitter. He gets big chances; he doesn't necessarily produce tons of those dirty-type chances. He looks for those big chances because of his speed. He's got to find a way to start finishing on the chances and he's got to find a way to bring that second element, which is scoring dirty when you're not scoring pretty."

Blashill said his team out-chanced the Sabres 21-7.

"You play that game 10 times, you're winning nine," Blashill said. "If we hadn't lost all these in a row, it would be easy to move on, but when you've lost a bunch in a row you got to have great mental toughness. I told our guys you keep playing these kind of games, you're going to win a lot of games. Do we have to score? A hundred percent."

Blashill doesn't like to label any situation as desperate; he prefers to say it's urgent.

Players are feeling urgency.

"We need a win bad," Larkin said. "We need to get our confidence back as a team. We've played good, we haven't played good consistently. We just need to get two points and grind out a win and pick up from there. We need it in the worst way. ... We're going to have to figure this out pretty quick or else it's going to get ugly."

Jimmy Howard, whose record dropped to 1-5-0, said, "We have to steal one. Whoever's in net has to do the best of their capabilities of stealing a game for the guys, because we desperately need two points."

Howard said everything is to blame for the slide.

"We need better goaltending. We need to play better in the defensive zone. When we have our opportunities, we need to score," he said. "We can't just rely on certain guys up front to put the puck in the net. We need to do it by committee."

Michigan Live LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158654 New Jersey Devils

Making sense of Devils' loss to Coyotes: 4 takeaways from disappointing defeat

Oct 26, 2019

Chris Ryan

The Devils saw their nearly week-long layoff between games end with a disappointing 5-3 loss to the Arizona Coyotes on Friday at Prudential Center in Newark, where a strong effort and a 2-0 lead still weren't enough to string together a third straight win.

So what happened? Here's a look at some of the key moments and decisions that swung the game against the Devils.

Mistakes burned the Devils

From start to finish, this was arguably the Devils' most complete game of the season. They controlled chances at 5-on-5 and limited the Coyotes to eight scoring chances, a season-low allowed by the Devils. The penalty kill went 3-for-3 and the power play cashed in for one goal.

And yet, the mistakes they did make haunted them, even at a manageable number. Another late-period goal gave the Coyotes life before the first intermission, pulling them within 2-1 with 16.7 seconds left. Three turnovers at the blue line or in the neutral zone led to two rushes and one breakaway for the other three goals before an empty netter. And once the Devils went down, they couldn't find the goal to answer.

Introducing Devils Insider: Sign up for exclusive news, behind-the-scenes observations and the ability to text message directly with beat writers

"Even though we gave up that (first goal) in the last 30 seconds, we should come in here feeling really good about our game," Devils defenseman Andy Greene said. "Yeah that was a mistake, and always first minute, last minute of a period always gets magnified, but at the same time, we did pretty much everything right. We had a breakdown, and it's how we respond early in the second."

The Devils responded by getting a quick power play to start the second period, but it ended with a puck hopping over P.K. Subban's stick at the offensive blue line, allowing former Devil Michael Grabner to burst into the neutral zone for a breakaway, where he beat Mackenzie Blackwood to tie the game two minutes into the second frame.

The even-strength scoring chances favored the Devils, 8-5, over the final 40 minutes of play, but the Coyotes still walked away with two of the final three goals.

"There's going to be mistakes. That's hockey. But I thought we played well enough to win," forward Taylor Hall said. "There's going to be parts of your game you want to have back. But the effort was there for a lot of the night. We'll take that effort."

Breaking down the ice time

This is getting addressed here because social media was up in arms about the ice time distribution over the course of the night, primarily about the amount of time the fourth line saw.

Early in the game, when the Devils were either tied or leading, Miles Wood, Kevin Rooney and John Hayden had more 5-on-5 ice time than the third line of Nico Hischier, Pavel Zacha and Nikita Gusev. That shifted in the third period, when, with the Devils trailing, Hischier (4:27), Zacha (4:13) and Gusev (3:57) got more ice time at even strength than Wood (3:35), Hayden (3:40) and Rooney (2:34).

At the end of the night, Rooney and Hayden had the least overall ice time of any forward, and Wood edged only Gusev.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

Also, here's the breakdown of the amount of time lines spent together at 5-on-5:

Devils-Coyotes stats

The way to look at this: The top two lines received the most even-strength ice time, which isn't a shock. The fourth line of Rooney, Wood and Hayden got more time than the third line of Hischier, Gusev and Zacha. But Hischier also spent time with Hall and Palmieri, essentially giving extra shifts to the top two wingers as a part of the third line. Add that time into the third line's total, and it's more than the fourth.

The fourth line also received zero offensive-zone face-offs. They started in the neutral zone six times (most of any line) and in the defensive zone four times (one behind the first line for most). Despite that, the trio accounted for 63.64 percent of the shot attempts while on the ice.

Wood has one goal this season, and Rooney and Hayden are scoreless. So the logic of wanting to take away ice time from them for goal-scoring players is understandable. But the fourth line was not a liability on Friday. And in the final 10 minutes of the game, the line played two shifts. One came after the empty netter sealed the Coyotes' victory.

They allowed just one scoring chance as a group, and while Wood and Hayden were part of a neutral-zone turnover that led to the fourth goal, the 2-on-1 rush would have been avoided if Damon Severson didn't go for a line change with the puck not cleared. Each Devils line was effective on Friday, and there wasn't a reason to go down to three lines — even while trailing by a goal — in the third period.

Raanta came up big

The Devils had a power play in the second half of the third period where they did nearly everything well, except score a goal. The top unit sustained a long possession and wore down the Coyotes' killers. They generated chances from different angles, inside and out. The puck just didn't go in.

Wayne Simmonds got a pair of chances at the crease late in the sequence. One looked like a sure goal, with the puck finding his stick with the right side of the net open. He put it on goal, but Coyotes goalie Antti Raanta reached his pad across to turn it away. On the second chance, Simmonds' shot went wide of the right post.

"I don't know if we play that any differently. We had some shots from the outside, we had some shots right in tight there," Hall said. "Over the course 82 games, those are going to go in. Palms had his hands up on one of them, so it's just the way it goes. We'll keep building, we'll keep working on the power play, but I thought there were a lot of good things there."

The goaltending needs to be better

Of the four goals Mackenzie Blackwood allowed, it's hard to pin any directly on him. The first came from the slot after a defensive-zone turnover. The second was a shorthanded breakaway. The final two were 2-on-1 rushes. Goals are going to happen in those situations.

But in a game where Blackwood faced just 16 shots, the Devils needed one or two more big saves. Regardless of how a team plays, there are going to be breakdowns. Opponents are going to generate grade-A chances, and they're sometimes going to score. The Devils dictated play for most of the night, but the Coyotes still got capitalized when given opportunities. That's when the goalie making the key save comes into play.

"Could have been better, for sure," Blackwood said. "It's was a weird kind of game. There wasn't much action and then there was a scoring chance. But if I make two more saves, we win the game. I definitely could have been better, but we'll get back to that in practice."

Star Ledger LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158655 New Jersey Devils

Jack Hughes' 3-point night in Devils' loss shows confidence Taylor Hall knew was in rookie

Abbey Mastracco

11:29 a.m. ET Oct. 26, 2019

NEWARK — The New Jersey Devils were the better team on the Prudential Center ice on Friday night, but the best player on the ice was Arizona Coyotes goalie Antti Raana. New Jersey outshot Arizona 35-16 but still lost 5-3 to move to 2-5-2 on the season.

Jack Hughes scored a power play goal and assisted on two other goals for the first three-point night of his young NHL career, Sami Vatanen and Pavel Zacha scored. Mackenzie Blackwood made 12 saves.

"I thought overall we played well enough to win," forward Taylor Hall said. "That just wasn't how it went."

Stealing the show

The final score was disappointing but the play of Hughes was anything but.

Hughes scored his second NHL goal in much the same fashion as his first. With the Devils on the power play, Hall hit him with a cross-ice feed in the right circle, he drew the goalie to the corner and sniped one over his shoulder.

"Hallsy made a pass to me, a really good pass," Hughes said. "I saw a glove so I ripped it."

While he may not have made the scoresheet in some of the earlier games of the month, Hughes was playing well and improving in each game. But getting that first point against the Rangers did help him relax a little bit. The rookie has looked comfortable and confident and it's showing in his three-game point streak.

"He's been playing quicker, faster, he checks better, he's a better 200-foot player," coach John Hynes said. "For a guy like him, when the puck finds him, it's finding him more because he's working harder without it. And it's nice to see him continue to progress. He's a good player and a good young guy. He's very coachable and you see him learning and getting better every game here."

Hall saw this coming all along. A former first overall pick himself, he remembered what it was like to have all eyes on him as he worked to make the scoresheet for the first time as an 18-year-old.

The line with Hall, Hughes and Kyle Palmieri has been a successful one throughout the last three games. Although Nico Hischier was moved back up there briefly on Friday night and reunited with his old linemates during certain situations, the Devils know they can always go back to their tried-and-true formula of Hall, Hischier and Palmieri.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

But for now, it's worth seeing what can happen with Hall and Hughes playing together.

"You can sense he wants the puck and he's confident in it," Hall said. "This is the first time he's played against people older than him. There is going to be an adjustment there and there is going to be a little bit of time for him to figure out how to play against older guys but you're seeing he has a point streak now and he's involved in a lot, he wants the puck on his stick."

How they lost

The Devils were twice caught off guard after goal celebrations, were burned by a few turnovers and Raanta was exceptional.

Less than a minute after Hughes put New Jersey up 2-0 with a power play goal in the first period, the Coyotes cut the lead. They tied it early in the second when onetime Devil Michael Grabner blew past defenseman P.K. Subban for a loose puck in the neutral zone and beat Blackwood for a shorthanded goal.

At 13:07 in the second, Hughes sent out an outlet pass up to Zacha who ripped one past Raanta to give the Devils back a lead. The lead lasted all of 31 seconds, as they let Oliver Ekman-Larsson get free on the other end and he made them pay.

A neutral zone turnover resulted in a goal by Barrett Hayton 1:45 into the third. The Devils had chances in the third period but Raanta stonewalled them all and Clayton Keller pushed the game out of reach with an empty-net goal.

"A couple turnovers and obviously, you want to eliminate those, but they happen sometimes," Hall said. "If you're looking at the game, it was a pretty solid effort for us."

Abbey Mastracco is the Devils beat writer for NorthJersey.com. For unlimited access to all Devils analysis, news, trades and more, please subscribe today and download our app.

Bergen Record LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158718 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Leafs' costly trend of falling behind early continues in loss to Canadiens

Luke Fox | @lukefoxjukebox

October 26, 2019, 9:57 PM

MONTREAL – Every new suit that Mike Babcock purchases comes complete with a second pair of pants and a vest. Backups. Options.

When he first secured the gig as head coach of the Toronto Maple Leafs, he'd slip on a vest for Original Six matchups, spiffing up for the occasion, lending a touch of ceremony to the evening.

"And we lost every single one of them," Babcock says. "They've been on the shelf now for four years."

With his Maple Leafs — and, by extension, backup goaltender Michael Hutchinson — going 0-fer through the second half of their first three back-to-backs this season and chartering late Friday night for a fourth Saturday at the Bell Centre, Babcock reached into the unused recesses of his wardrobe and pulled out a sleeveless Hail Mary.

He turned his suit into a three-piece.

"Our back-to-backs, I don't know if you've noticed, we haven't exactly been sailing, so we're changing it up tonight," a rather formal-looking Babcock announced pre-game.

To be sure, the coach does have a vested interest in the club's success this season.

Unfortunately, not even the coach's sartorial superstition could reverse the Leafs' most disturbing October trends, as the Montreal Canadiens soundly defeated their forever rival 5-2, seizing the first two games of the season series and handing Toronto its third back-to-back loss to a divisional foe.

The Leafs' head-scratching habit of letting their opponent draw first blood continued when Brendan Gallagher outworked Cody Ceci in the slot and banged the first puck past Hutchinson.

Toronto has now surrendered the first goal in 10 of its 13 games, digging more early deficits than any other team in the NHL.

"There's really no reason for it. I don't really have an answer for you," said Auston Matthews. "It's something we haven't really done well in, especially in these back-to-backs, and we've had plenty of them, so we got to find a way to start better and start on time."

A silky Jonathan Drouin five-hole deke off a breakaway orchestrated by Joel Armia doubled the lead, and Hutchinson spent the opening frame under siege to a near-comical extent.

Through a ridiculously lopsided opening 20 minutes, the Canadiens outshot their visitors 19-5, out-attempted them 34-10 and generated seven high-danger chances to Toronto's zero.

"The fans feel like they're on top of you," said Hutchinson, whose father might've second-guessed his recent switch of allegiances from his beloved Habs to his son's Leafs.

"They just seemed to have a lot of zone time, and they threw the puck in from everywhere, and they had good sticks. They tipped some things that were going wide onto the net.

"As a goalie, it's not always the worst thing in the world to kind of get engaged in the game early on."

So when Jake Muzzin beat Carey Price on a nifty setup by Mitch Marner in the final minute of the period, the defenceman's late goal served as a critical momentum-shifter, a testament to Hutchinson's battering of the hatches, and a reminder how quickly and how often Toronto's talent can cannon the Leafs back into causes that appear lost.

The Leafs came out buzzing in the middle period, Andreas Johnsson tying the contest by winning a puck battle in the slot, but it all unravelled in the final 20 minutes.

Mentally or physically, Toronto was the weaker side.

"For sure it's an advantage you have to take," Montreal coach Claude Julien would say post-game.

"I still prepared my team and said to them, 'Listen, even if it's two-in-two and Toronto played last night, it's not a big trip to Montreal, and there's no customs to clear, and I'm not sure they went to bed too late.'

"I said that it could still be a pretty tight game and that we could find ourselves in our room after two periods in a 2-2 tie. I wanted that back, obviously, but I also did mention that if we play the right way in the third period, if we have a good forecheck and finish our checks, eventually we'll have a chance to finish the game the right way.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

"That's what happened tonight—the fatigue at a certain point, after we put a lot of pressure on their defencemen, bore fruit."

Muzzin got burned immediately off the third-period puck drop by Armia, who scooted in alone and burned Hutchinson seven seconds in.

Drouin was gifted a second breakaway, this time beating Hutchinson clean blocker-side, setting the barn alight, and restoring a two-goal lead. Nick Suzuki added a final blow for kicks.

"You can't give them two breakaways in the third period if you want to win," said Johnsson, making a valid point.

It would be cruel to pin this loss on a goaltender flipped to the wolves; the Leafs' besieged backup still made 33 stops, including a number of beauties.

"That's on us; it's not on him," Matthews said.

Yet the facts remain.

Hutchinson is still searching for his first win, Toronto has yet to polish off a back-to-back, and it's costing the club valuable standings points against the very teams they'll be jostling for playoff positioning down the road.

"It's the NHL. You gotta show up every game, no matter what the schedule is. Even if you're not feeling your legs, you gotta find a way to be productive or find a way to help the team in other areas," Matthews said.

"So there's really no excuse."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158719 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Canadiens' Armia, Drouin show maturity in win over Maple Leafs

Eric Engels

October 27, 2019, 12:19 AM

MONTREAL — It took a little more than six seconds for Joel Armia to make the deciding play in a game his Montreal Canadiens absolutely had to win.

It took the 26-year-old Pori, Finland native a little over five years of playing at the NHL level to become the kind of player you'd expect to score the type of goal he scored in Montreal's 5-2 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Saturday.

It was Armia's sixth goal in his ninth game—a play he started off by stripping the puck off Jake Muzzin and one he finished by sweeping from left to right and deking Michael Hutchinson from backhand-to-forehand before shooting to the top corner of the net. It was a beauty registered on the power play to give the Canadiens a 3-2 lead after they blew an early 2-0 advantage.

A little over seven minutes later, Jonathan Drouin took off on a breakaway from his own side of centre and scored his second goal of the game to give the Canadiens a 4-2 lead. It was the 24-year-old's fifth of the season and his 10th point in his 11th game.

It was Armia who set up Drouin's first goal, and without both players the Canadiens would have likely lost a third straight game—and this one to a tired Leafs team that was playing its fourth game in six nights and its second in less than 24 hours.

It's fair to wonder where the 5-4-2 Canadiens would be in the standings without the consistent production both Armia (eight points in nine games) and Drouin have provided. The consistency of their efforts have given Canadiens coach Claude Julien a reason to elevate their roles, and they are leading a pack of young players on this team who are transitioning towards becoming veterans.

"I'm kind of in the middle," said Armia.

The hike to this point has been a difficult one.

He's a player who was drafted 16th overall by the Buffalo Sabres in 2011. He barely had his feet underneath him as an NHLer when he was thrown into a massive trade with the Winnipeg Jets, with Evander Kane and Zach Bogosian going to Buffalo in exchange for the young Finn and defenceman Tyler Myers in February of 2015. By that point, Armia had played two strong years with the AHL's Rochester Americans before appearing in just one game with the Sabres.

When he got there, he was staring at a depth chart that would be near impossible to climb.

"They had pretty good right wingers," Armia said after Saturday's game. "Look how many goals (Patrik) Laine's scored, look how many assists (Blake) Wheeler has had. It was tough."

Armia's first real opportunity in something more than a fourth-line role came after he was traded to the Canadiens on July 1, 2018 in a cap-clearing move for the Jets, who unloaded the remaining two years of goaltender Steve Mason's contract and took back a C-level prospect in Simon Bourque.

In 57 games with the Canadiens, the six-foot-four, 215-pounder found the back of the net 13 times last season. He showed some real promise—despite missing 25 games mid-stream to a knee injury—and there was a sense he could elevate his game.

Julien certainly had it.

"He's got a lot of talent and I know there's more in his toolbox than what we've seen," the coach said in an exclusive interview with Sportsnet prior to the regular season.

That it's coming out now is the product of years of hard work and a maturity that's developed. It's a maturity that's seen him take advantage of being put on both the power play and the penalty kill—and placed on a line with Drouin and Max Domi.

When you look at the plays Armia's making on a nightly basis this season, you see the evolution.

When teammate Jesperi Kotkaniemi looks at the goal Armia scored on Saturday, he sees the player he had a poster of on his bedroom wall from back when he was 12-year-old boy growing up in Pori.

"It warms my heart to see," said Kotkaniemi. "He had a long road to come to this level and he's finally there."

Think about how long it took for Drouin to get to where he's at right now. The former third-overall pick in 2013 had major steps to take after he was traded away by the Tampa Bay Lightning for defenceman Mikhail Sergachev in the summer of 2017.

He came to Montreal as a 22-year-old kid who rarely had to apply himself to the max to generate results. And after two seasons of



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

largely disappointing and inconsistent play, Drouin came into the 2019-20 campaign with much to prove.

When you look at how he has applied himself and how involved he is in all parts of the game, he looks like a completely different player from the one who finished off last season by failing to score points in more than two of his last 18 games.

Does Drouin still see himself as a young player?

"I have grown up," Drouin said. "I have matured as a person. I think everyone matures at some point in their career. For me it's just bringing it every night and it's something a lot of veterans do every night. You watch Shea Weber and every night he's battling, and I want to be one of those guys that every night you look up to."

There is no more important development for the Canadiens this season than that. They are a young team trying to get to the next level, a team that remains largely unchanged from the one that barely missed the playoffs despite earning 96 points in the standings a season ago. The difference has to be that some of their players – Drouin, Armia, Domi, Kotkaniemi and Victor Mete amongst others – are coming of age.

"There's a lot of guys with a year or two (of experience) under their belt, they're maturing," said Julien. "We're trying to take that next step and it's not an easy one because we all know how tough this league is right now and how anybody can beat anybody any night. So we're trying to build a team here that can have that consistency and take that next step because the next step is us participating in the playoffs. So it's going to be a big grind, it's not going to be an easy one, and you need your players—those young players that we talked about—to mature, and you need your leaders to lead by example."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158720 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / IIHF to meet with NHL, NHLPA over future of international hockey

Sportsnet Staff | @Sportsnet

October 26, 2019, 11:38 PM

As the process of hammering out a new NHL collective bargaining agreement slowly unfolds, the future of international hockey appears to be the "big hurdle," according to Sportsnet's Chris Johnston.

In a couple weeks, that hurdle will be addressed head on.

On Hockey Night in Canada, Johnston noted that NHL commissioner Gary Bettman, IIHF president René Fasel and NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr will all be in Stockholm, Sweden for the NHL's Global Series games between the Buffalo Sabres and the Tampa Bay Lightning.

That will provide a chance to further the conversation of the NHL's involvement in the Olympics, as well as other international play.

"I believe as the CBA talks have gone along, the big hurdle remains what happens with the Olympics, where does that leave the World

Cup (of Hockey) and how does this international calendar unfold?" Johnston said. "Even though there hasn't been a lot going on of late, there's a chance here in the next two weeks for things to pick up."

NHL players were allowed to participate in the Olympics from 1998-2014, but kept out of the 2018 games (the next opportunity is in Beijing in 2022). The World Cup of Hockey has had a choppy existence, with iterations in 1996, 2004 and 2016.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158721 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / NHL making plans for potential women's league when time is right

Sportsnet Staff | @Sportsnet

October 26, 2019, 11:34 PM

As hundreds of women's hockey players continue their boycott, the NHL is preparing for every scenario in case the matter needs resolving.

That includes the potential of starting a women's league, but only if the time is right.

"[NHL] commissioner Gary Bettman has been very consistent about this," said Sportsnet's Elliotte Friedman during the Headlines segment of Hockey Night in Canada. "He says he will not get involved as long as the NWHL is still playing and in operation. But it is believed that he also knows that if something changes, he has to have a plan.

"He won't comment on this," Friedman continued, "he just wants to stay out of it, but there is word that the NHL is working on a women's league if the time ever becomes necessary."

The NWHL is still in operation, but with players pushing for a unified North American league, the NHL does have a tentative plan for its operation.

"I think six teams, maybe two in Canada," said Friedman. "But it sure sounds like there is a plan being worked on and put in place in case the NHL needs to step in."

The undefeated Boston Pride currently lead the NWHL through six games with a perfect 6-0-0 record.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158722 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Jets struggling to rediscover contender identity with gutted blue line

Mark Spector | @sportsnetspec



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

October 25, 2019, 8:33 AM

WINNIPEG — As they arrive in Regina for the Heritage Classic on Saturday, the Winnipeg Jets would be very interested in finding some of their own recent heritage. Maybe not all the way back to the Dave Ellett, Randy Carlyle or Freddy Olausson days, but they'd take a trip back 12 months ago when they had Dustin Byfuglien, Tyler Myers, Jacob Trouba and Ben Chiarot on one of hockey's best blue lines.

The Jets forwards are still one of the better groups in the National Hockey League, but their blue line has been gutted. Today, a team many were picking to win the Stanley Cup just a year ago is 5-6 and struggling to put together an identity — a task that was supposed to be long in the rearview mirror here in Winnipeg.

"I am standing here as the head coach and saying I am still trying to figure out some of these young players. Where everyone fits in all of this," Jets coach Paul Maurice said before a game against Edmonton last week.

"I know the style of play we want to play. That part we've got. Getting them to that style of game is what we're working on."

It sounds a tad harsh, but the salary cap and Byfuglien's absence have at best pushed back the Jets' chances at NHL dominance, and at worst crippled them for good.

Facing cap issues after the 2018-19 season, general manager Kevin Cheveldayoff traded defenceman Trouba to the New York Rangers, allowed Myers to enter free agency (where the Canucks signed him) and watched Chiarot go as a UFA to Montreal. But he still had Byfuglien, Josh Morrissey, Neal Pionk (who came for Trouba from New York) and some up-and-coming kids.

Then, just before the opening of training camp, Byfuglien told the Jets that he wasn't sure if he wanted to play out the final two years of his contract anymore. Had Cheveldayoff known that in June, he might have re-signed Myers and likely would have kept Chiarot.

But with Byfuglien suspended, the Jets can't sign a top-pairing defenceman even if they could get their hands on one, because they have to save the cap space in case Byfuglien deigns to resume his career. And we're approaching the date after which Byfuglien, if he were to decide to return, might not be able to catch up the rest of the league this season anyhow.

The uncertainty leaves Maurice playing kids on defence, and even the under-rated Morrissey — who was an excellent second pairing D-man on a good Jets team — is leading the defence in ice time, and often playing next to Dmitri Kulikov, a third-pairing defenceman when the 2019 playoffs opened in Winnipeg.

The minutes and the steady diet of high-octane opposition are taking their toll on Morrissey, who was victimized by the Los Angeles Kings' Anze Kopitar on the game-winner in the Jets' 3-2 loss Tuesday.

"It's funny," Morrissey told the Winnipeg Free Press this week, "when things aren't going your way, I know for me, you're trying harder to make the simplest plays and it just seems like you're working harder to do something smaller. And then you end up being in the wrong position or something like that, almost in no man's land sometimes."

Jeff Marek and Elliott 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.

That run to the Western Conference final in the spring of 2018 seems like a generation ago for a Jets team whose blue line has

been decimated to the point where journeyman Luca Sbisa was plucked off the waiver wire this week, a player who likely couldn't have made their top six only 12 months ago.

One of the National Hockey League's premier draft-and-develop teams is grabbing NHL talent where it can, trying to hold open a Stanley Cup window that feels like it lasted about as long as a Manitoba autumn.

"We're awfully young," Maurice said before a game last Sunday. "I think we're at 25.5 (average years of age) today. I don't know if that leaves anybody younger in the league." (According to RosterResource.com the Jets' average age is 27.1 years, tied for the third-youngest roster in the NHL.)

"When you have a young team there isn't as much team intellectual capital to pass on," Maurice said. "There's not enough there. These guys haven't been here long enough to know what to pass on."

"We're doing an awful lot of video with the young guys right now. Sure, sometimes it's, 'OK, we just showed that to you this morning. And you've done it again...'"

Goalie Connor Hellebuyck brings fabulous numbers into the outdoor game against Calgary, sporting a .929 saves percentage and a 2.38 goals-against average. His win-loss record stands at 4-4, which tells how well the Jets starter has to play simply to break even.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158723 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Amid hot start, Canucks' collapse vs. Capitals even more stunning

Iain MacIntyre | @imacSportsnet

October 26, 2019, 2:13 AM

VANCOUVER — It was more a market correction than a collapse, but it had the same embarrassing effect on the Vancouver Canucks.

The team had a four-goal lead with 20 minutes and one second remaining Friday, and lost 6-5 in a shootout against the Washington Capitals, whose comeback consisted of four goals on six shots over eight minutes.

The Canucks know a collapse when they see it. Vancouver played the entire third period in its own zone last Sunday against the New York Rangers, who riddled the Canucks with 17 shots in the final 20 minutes, but still lost 3-2.

On Tuesday, the Canucks ventilated the Detroit Red Wings with five third-period goals to win 5-2.

Friday's shocking loss wasn't like either of those games. The Canucks outshot the Capitals 7-6 in the third period while getting outscored 3-0.

"Right now it's a terrible feeling, being up 5-1 and getting one point," Canucks winger J.T. Miller said.

"We didn't play a bad third period. It's easy for people to just look at the scoresheet and think we played a bad period (because) we gave



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019

up a four-goal lead. We're holding ourselves accountable. We have to be able to finish off those games. We played too well not to come out with two points. They definitely got momentum and got a little push in the third. But they got seven shots."

Actually, just six, plus another seven in overtime for the Capitals, who eventually won it on Nicklas Backstrom's shootout winner.

Canucks goalie Jacob Markstrom, brilliant this month and especially since returning a week ago from a leave of absence due to a family emergency in Sweden, allowed Lars Eller's semi-whiff to trickle through his pads for a shorthanded goal that turbo-charged the Capitals' comeback at 1:57 of the third period.

Then Washington defenceman Michal Kempny, who had 12 goals in 178 NHL games, blew two slapshots cleanly through traffic and past Markstrom at 4:57 and 7:41 to tie it 5-5.

To be clear, the Canucks made defensive mistakes on all these goals. But until the third period Friday, none of those shots would have beaten Markstrom, who started the game with a .933 save percentage, then stopped 14 of the first 15 Washington shots.

On the 16th shot, Evgeny Kuznetsov launched the comeback by scoring with 0.3 seconds remaining in the second period when the Canucks became confused on a backcheck and defenceman Troy Stecher gave the Capitals centre too much room in the slot.

"For the most part, we played a pretty good hockey game," said Canucks defenceman Tyler Myers, who lost the puck behind his net on the tying goal.

"You look at the third period, we gave up, I think, seven shots. It wasn't as bad as it looked. I thought we did a lot of good things and we carry it into the next one. There's no point on dwelling on anything, but certainly, when the situation comes up again, we want to handle it a little bit better."

"Honestly, it's not like we played that bad," rookie blue liner Quinn Hughes said. "We definitely should have gotten two points, but it is what it is. They had a couple of seeing-eye shots. That's just hockey. We've just got to move on and learn from this."

We'll see how the Canucks move on.

They've had an excellent month, going 6-3-1 in their first 10 games with a lot of positive statistics that support their strong start. Losing a four-goal lead is always stunning. Having it occur amid the team's most encouraging spell in five years was difficult to process.

Tim Schaller's best night with the Canucks was ruined by the result.

The fourth-line checker and penalty killer who scored only three goals all of last season and none until March, scored twice against Washington goalie Ilya Samsonov. On the second, at 13:59 of the second period in the middle of Vancouver's three-goal surge, it looked like Schaller borrowed Elias Pettersson's hands, bunting the puck from his blocked shot past John Carlson and batting it into the net on the other side of the Washington defenceman.

For what it's worth, Carlson, the National Hockey League's surprise leading scorer before Friday, did not collect a point anywhere among the Capitals' five goals. Neither did Alex Ovechkin nor Backstrom. Yes, the win was as strange for the Capitals as the loss was for the Canucks.

Vancouver's players have two days to make sense of it before facing Joel Quenneville's Florida Panthers on Monday, and they leave for California and another three road games in four days.

"That's the frustrating part: we didn't play that bad in the third period," Canucks captain Bo Horvat said. "Just a couple of breakdowns and unfortunately everything was going in for them. The hockey gods work in mysterious ways. They seemed to even things out tonight."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 10.27.2019

1158724 Websites

TSN.CA / With John Tavares out, Mike Babcock alters plan for Jason Spezza

Mark Masters

Other than Michael Hutchinson starting, there will be no line-up changes for Toronto. That means 36-year-old Jason Spezza, who picked up an assist while logging a season-high 12:26 of ice time on Friday against the Sharks, will suit up in consecutive games for the first time this season.

"I told Spezz at the start of the year he's never playing back-to-back," coach Mike Babcock revealed. "I texted him last night and said, 'You want to play tomorrow?' And he said, 'Yes,' obviously. So, that's not our plan for Spezz to play back-to-back, it's just with our situation right now down the middle, we're trying to have the best depth we can and we thought Spezz and his line was alright last night."

Spezza got back in the lineup after John Tavares broke his finger in Washington, but was a healthy scratch Tuesday night in Boston where Nic Petan played.

Auston Matthews took a high hit from Brenden Dillon in the second period last night. There was no penalty on the play and no one confronted the big Sharks defenceman on the ice. Was Babcock happy with the composure or would he have preferred someone to get in Dillon's face?

"Who's going to do that?"

Point made.

The Leafs are built for speed and skill, not physicality.

Is William Nylander worried that the lack of a deterrent may lead to him and other top players being targeted?

"I don't know, to be honest," Nylander said. "I don't know how to answer that question. It's just part of the game, it happens. I don't think that he intentionally tried to take his head off, but they just kind of stepped into each other in the zone. Obviously, it's a dangerous play and coming forward you'd like to see something happen especially a penalty, for sure."

At 6-foot-five, 239 pounds, Frederik Gauthier is one of the bigger players on the Leafs. Does he ever feel pressure to up his physicality?

"I think everybody has to finish their check," said Gauthier, who has 39 penalty minutes in 139 games. "I use my body as much as I can and that's it."



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

**NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 27, 2019**

Poulin on Matthews: 'I do not believe the head was the main point of contact'

Auston Matthews took a big hit to the head in the second period from Brenden Dillon. TSN Hockey analyst Dave Poulin weighs in on why he thinks more discipline isn't going to come from this hit and how he doesn't think the head was the main target.

Last season, Babcock noted that Toronto's toughness was its power play. But even without Dillon getting called, Toronto got five power plays last night and failed to cash in.

"Our power play, in zone, last night was on fire," Babcock said. "We should have had three right at the start, but then our face-offs and our entries weren't good enough, and give San Jose credit, they got good face-off people, they do a good job staying on the line, but there's no sense going up and down the ice getting exercise, it's way more fun to stand in the offensive zone and shoot the puck."

The Leafs are 1-for-12 on the man advantage over the last five games. The Canadiens allowed two power-play goals in each of their last two games and rank 30th overall in penalty killing this season.

Is Hutchinson (0-2-1, .890 save percentage) feeling any pressure to get his first win of the season tonight?

"There's always pressure every game, you want to win every game you play," the 29-year-old said. "Unfortunately, I haven't been able to get a win yet this year, but I feel that my game's trending in the right direction and I'm giving the team a chance so if you put yourself in this position enough the wins are going to come and once the wins start coming then your numbers come and everything ends up evening out at the end of the year."

Hutchinson stopped 35 of 39 shots on Tuesday night and felt like the performance was a step forward.

"I felt good in Boston. I felt I was making good reads, I was seeing the puck well, had good depth in the net and was giving myself a chance to make saves. So, it was definitely something I can build off of."

Winless Leafs goalie Hutchinson insists 'my game's trending in the right direction'

Michael Hutchinson has failed to pick up a win in three starts this season posting an .890 save percentage. But Toronto's back-up goalie isn't feeling additional pressure ahead of a big test in Montreal. "I haven't been able to get a win yet this year, but I feel that my game's trending in the right direction and I'm giving the team a chance," the Barrie, Ont. native said. Hutchinson is looking for payback after losing 6-5 to the Habs in a shootout on Oct. 5.