



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 2, 2019

## THE NEWS & OBSERVER

### Aho leads goal rush as Canes top Wings 7-3

BY CHIP ALEXANDER

RALEIGH

It was the kind of game that fans love and coaches and goaltenders dread -- fast, up and down the ice, with goals galore.

Carolina Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour enjoyed it more than Jeff Blashill of the Detroit Red Wings. When the scoring ended Friday at PNC Arena, the Canes had won 7-3.

"It was an entertaining game for the fans, which is great for the game, but not so much for the coaching aspect of it," Brind'Amour said. "It was kind of loosely played. But it's also good we can win games like that. It goes up and down, a little bit of a track meet, but we were able to put enough in the net, obviously."

Sebastian Aho had two goals and an assist for the Canes (9-3-1). Andrei Svechnikov picked up his fifth goal in the past three games and added an assist, and Brock McGinn scored his first of the season -- shorthanded -- at just the right time for Carolina.

Nino Niederreiter, Martin Necas and Teuvo Teravainen also got in on the goal rush for the Canes, now 6-1-0 on home ice this season. Defensemen Dougie Hamilton, who has a six-game point streak, and Jaccob Slavin each had three assists, giving goalie Petr Mrazek another PNC Arena victory.

Mrazek did his part with 31 saves and several were high-quality against a young, quick Red Wings team. He has won 15 straight games at home, including last season's playoff games, and this one was against the team that gave up on him and traded him two seasons ago.

"He's our backbone of our team right now," McGinn said. "He holds us in there and he makes so many big saves that we can just feed off him. We've just got to use our skill and our speed to get out and put some goals up for him."

Of the seven goals the Canes put up, McGinn's was the biggest and the most timely. It came early in the third period with the Canes leading 5-3 and effectively snuffed out a potential Wings comeback.

McGinn gathered in a loose puck on the left wing, carried it into the left circle, then used a toe-drag to get his shot past defenseman Joe Hicketts and goalie Jonathan Bernier, who relieved starter Jimmy Howard in the second.

"That was a big moment of the game because it might have gone the other way and the momentum might have switched," Brind'Amour said. "That kind of put the game away."

Anthony Mantha had a pair of goals for the Red Wings, who ended an eight-game winless streak earlier in the week by beating the Edmonton Oilers. Tyler Bertuzzi also scored for the Wings (4-9-1).

The first period prove to be a warmup for a wild, unpredictable second that had pucks sailing at the nets and the referees doing extra work on reviews.

Svechnikov scored in a four-on-four situation in the first. It wasn't a SportsCenter Top 10 kind of play, Svechnikov scoring from the low slot, but the Russian forward -- who had both goals in a 2-1 victory Tuesday over Calgary -- became the first Canes player to score four consecutive team goals since Eric Staal in December 2010.

Mantha tied the score with a one-timer from the right circle and it was 1-1 after one. Then the fun began.

Just 27 seconds into the second period, Aho scored on a tap-in after Warren Foegele, fighting for position in front, made contact with Howard. Blashill challenged the goal, claiming goaltender interference, but the goal was upheld -- and the Wings penalized for delay of game for the unsuccessful challenge.

Niederreiter then scored on the power play for the Canes, only to have the goal waved off by the officials. With Canes fans booing as replays were being shown on the new scoreboard -- the puck clearly getting past Howard and over the goal line -- the refs again went to a review and the goal counted under the continuation rule.

The Canes almost made it 4-1 when Foegele finished off a two-on-one rush by burying a shot off an Aho pass. But Blashill again challenged, this time for offside, and after another review the goal was nullified. It was still 3-1.



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Then 3-2. But Mantha's power-play score was offset in 26 seconds by Necas' goal after a nice setup pass on the rush from Ryan Dzingel. And the second Aho goal made it 5-2.

Hamilton missed the net with a shot from the slot, but Aho was in the right position as a ricochet off the end boards landed near the post and he popped the puck in. That ended the night for Howard.

The Wings finished off a six-goal second period as Bertuzzi, in front of Mrazek, redirected a Dylan Larkin centering pass.

The Canes complete a back-to-back Saturday, hosting the New Jersey Devils.

"You hope we don't have a lull," Brind'Amour said. "That's what you guard against, for sure. We had an emotional game the game before and played really well and tonight was a tough game. The score certainly doesn't indicate, I think, the closeness of the game. You have to guard against letting up."

## THE ATHLETIC

### **Maybe it doesn't have to be so hard all the time for the Carolina Hurricanes. We'll find out by December**

By Sara Civian

It's simple, but for the Hurricanes, it hasn't always been easy. It'd been the difference between postseason or bust for many of this decade's throwaway seasons, and it was the reason they had to be the best team in the league for a month straight to clinch a playoff berth last season.

Great teams win those November games that don't feel like must-wins against lesser opponents.

The Hurricanes have entered a window of opportunity to stockpile points they'll need later, with 13 consecutive games against teams that didn't make the playoffs last season. This is generally where identities are formed.

For the most part, their 7-3 win over Detroit at PNC Arena Friday actually looked easy.

We'll have to check back in 12 games, but maybe Carolina can finally be that team.

The final score isn't a supremely accurate representation of a loose game that could've had about four more goals on either side, but Dougie Hamilton said it best postgame.

"We had a couple mistakes, but Petr (Mrazek) played great and we scored, so we were OK."

Maybe the best players can be the best players.

Andrei Svechnikov is doing things that have never been done before on this career-best three-game goal streak. That's after he started the season on an assist tear.

His strength is in his versatility, so he decided to clean up someone else's highlight-reel play for a chance to open up scoring Friday.

Dougie Hamilton, previously plagued by slow starts, is on a career-high six-game points streak. And by the way, it seems like every time those two are on the ice together, they somehow combine for a goal.

Why?

"I don't know," Hamilton laughed. "I just like him, and I hope he likes me. I don't know, just ... I don't know."

We've learned a lot about Hamilton through this 9-3-1 start, and maybe he's learning with us. Most intriguing is the way he blacks out during big moments and doesn't question the aforementioned bromance chemistry. For whatever reason, he's been able to shut off that part of the brain that wonders why — or how — and just play elite hockey.

Win or lose, hat trick or goal drought, Sebastian Aho is entirely too hard on himself at all times. That's just how truly great players are wired, especially when their dads played pro and are still heavily involved in the game.

After a "slow start" by his standards, he has eight points in seven games, including two ugly goals against Detroit.

"He's like that — at the start of the year, he gets on himself," said Brock McGinn, noted sieve. "But as you can see when he gets hot, he gets hot. I think this is just the start for him and he's going to continue to light it up."



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"I thought he had a good game, a lot more impactful," head coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "We're going to be hard on him because we expect so much, but I think it's good he's getting on the scoresheet, and he's around the net, right? That's where you gotta get to."

Exactly.

"That's how it sometimes goes," Aho said. "When you score one, you score a second one right away." (Side note: I love when elite players say things like this and we, the media, all nod in the scrum like we can relate.)

Maybe the goalie who has won 15 consecutive home games is the biggest relief.

Maybe things will pan out more or less how they were supposed to on paper.

Don't get me wrong: It feels ridiculous to talk about an identity forming around beating a bottom-barrel team. But the Hurricanes are so used to finishing the homework as the teacher's collecting it, out-Corsi-ing teams to death with nothing to show for it, then finally making the playoffs by the scar on Justin Williams' cheek.

Maybe it doesn't have to be so damn hard all the time.

Brind'Amour hates criticizing guys through the media, so a comment he made a few games ago clearly got to some of them. "We're certainly never going to be the team we want to be if we have 15 guys playing or even if we have 18. We need all 20 guys to be digging in, and there are a few guys that aren't quite there yet. We've got to get them up to speed."

Count Erik Haula as a "bought in."

There's Nino.

Come on. He didn't even fall down.

You merely adopted Brocktober. I was born in it, molded by it.

I'm pretty sure Evgeny Svechnikov would've scored in this game.

Shayna Goldman is the GOAT for providing these GIFs. Follow her on Twitter for things of that nature and general brilliance.



## Hurricanes win third straight with 7-3 victory over Red Wings

Defensemen Jaccob Slavin and Dougie Hamilton each had three assists

Cory Lavoie

RALEIGH — Sebastian Aho had two goals and an assist, and the Carolina Hurricanes doubled up the Detroit Red Wings in a wild six-goal second period en route to a 7-3 win in front of 15,383 Friday at PNC Arena.

After the teams came out of the opening period tied at 1, the Hurricanes scored just 27 seconds into the second period when Warren Foegele corralled a loose puck in front and backhanded a pass to Aho, who scored past Jimmy Howard to give Carolina the lead.

Detroit coach Jeff Blashill challenged for goaltender interference on Foegele, but the goal was upheld and the Red Wings were handed a penalty for losing the challenge.

The Hurricanes made Blashill and the Wings penalty kill pay, with Aho getting the puck down low to Nino Niederreiter for his second goal of the season — on a play that was reviewed by the officials when it was initially deemed a dead play — after the Carolina forward jammed the puck past Howard to make it 3-1.

"We've been winning, so it helps," Aho said getting three of his nine points on the season in the win. "But I'm not going to lie, it's always nice to score and get some points for myself too."



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The review iPads came out again when Foegele scored on a 2-on-1 feed from Aho, but the goal was overturned when Foegele was deemed offside.

“I think the refs got it right, really all of them,” Hurricanes coach Rod Brind’Amour said.

And that was just the first 6:03 of the second period.

Anthony Mantha, who scored for Detroit in the first, scored again at 8:28 on the power play, but Carolina’s Martin Necas got his third goal of the year 26 seconds later — off a great move and pass from Ryan Dzingel — to push the Hurricanes’ lead to 4-2.

Aho scored his second goal of the night, knocking the aftermath of defenseman Dougie Hamilton’s shot off the end boards through a maze of bodies and in at 11:03 to make it 5-2.

Tyler Bertuzzi redirected a Dylan Larkin pass to cut the lead to two at 16:12 of the second for the last of six goals scored in the period.

“I think Roddy was not too happy a lot of times, but it was a pretty open game,” said Hamilton, who had three assists. “Not every game is like that, so we gotta make sure we’re not playing like that all the time. It’s not the best way to win hockey games.”

Brind’Amour, however, was pleased his team was able to go back and forth with the Wings even if that’s not his preferred method for getting two points — though it helps when goalie Petr Mrazek (29 saves) is dialed in.

“We don’t want to be trading chance for chance, but our goalie was really solid,” Brind’Amour said. “Petr did a great job holding us in and allowing us to, at times, get to our game. ... He’s been holding us in and allowing to kind of stick with what we’re trying to do.”

But despite Mrazek’s efforts and five Carolina goals, the game was still in doubt when Detroit went on a power play early in the third.

But instead of being an opportunity for the Red Wings to get back in the game, their power play turned into an insurance goal for the Hurricanes.

With top penalty-killing forward Jordan Staal in the box, Brock McGinn rushed into the Detroit end with a hustling Teuvo Teravainen on a 2 on 1. The lone player back tried to take away the pass, so McGinn called his own number, whistling a shorthanded shot past Jonathan Bernier — who had replaced Howard after Carolina’s fifth goal — for his first goal of the season and a dagger in Detroit’s comeback effort.

“We had a little odd-man rush there and the D kind of slid,” McGinn said, “so I just kind of outwaited him and then got it to the net, and fortunately I was able to beat the goalie there.”

Teravainen added an empty-netter with 3:28 left to officially extinguish any chance of a Red Wings rally.

Notes: The win was Mrazek’s 15th straight at PNC Arena dating back to February and improved to 7-1-1, with a 2.33 goals-against average and .915 save percentage. ... Andrei Svechnikov opened the scoring in the first period, giving him goals in three straight games, five goals over that stretch, and two points in each of the last three. ... Carolina defenseman Jacob Slavin had three assists. ... Carolina defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk got his first point of the season, a secondary assist on Necas’ goal. ... Necas had a game-time seven shot attempts and finished with three hits. ... Hamilton’s three points give him 16 on the season, second only to Washington’s John Carlson (23 points) among NHL defensemen.



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## Preview: Devils vs. Hurricanes

Canes, 3-0-0 on this homestand, host New Jersey to close it out

by Michael Smith

The Carolina Hurricanes aim to win their fourth straight game when they host the New Jersey Devils to draw the curtain on their four-game homestand.

The Hurricanes won their third game of the homestand with a wild 7-3 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Friday night.

"We can go run-and-gun, too, but it's just not sustainable long-term," head coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "Good for the guys that we buckled down. At the end of the day, that's two points, and we won't even be talking about this tomorrow."

About Last Night

I know Brind'Amour said "we won't even be talking about this tomorrow," but from a storyline perspective, it bears analysis, if only for the fact that it showed the Hurricanes can win by playing a looser style than they're accustomed to.

"It was an entertaining game for the games, which is great, but not so much for the coaching aspect of it," Brind'Amour said. "It was pretty loosely played, but it's also good that we can win games like that. It goes up and down, a little bit of a track meet, but we were able to put enough in the net, obviously."

Enough, indeed. The Canes found the proverbial endzone and kicked the extra point, easily besting Detroit's field goal. Twelve different skaters recorded at least a point, and Sebastian Aho (2g, 1a), Dougie Hamilton (3a) and Jaccob Slavin each paced the team with three points.

Career Bests

Both Hamilton and Andrei Svechnikov extended career-best point streaks in Friday night's win over Detroit. Hamilton's three-point performance stretched his point streak to six games, the longest across his 500-plus career games. Svechnikov is riding a three-game goal streak, also the longest of his career.

Hamilton (6g, 10a) and Svechnikov (6g, 8a) rank one and two respectively on the team in scoring.

The Opposition

The New Jersey Devils were in action on Friday night, as well, and fell to Philadelphia in a shootout, 4-3. The Devils are 2-5-4 through 11 games this season and have yet to win on the road (0-3-0). Taylor Hall is the team's leading scorer with 11 points (2g, 9a) in as many games.

AT THE RINK

The temperatures outside are dropping, so we've got one more South Plaza Party on the schedule before they return later in the season with warmer evenings (and daylight). Swing by the south side of PNC Arena beginning at 5 p.m. for fun and games.

The Stock the Pantry Food Drive presented by Harris Teeter benefits the Inter-Fath Food Shuttle and Urban Ministries of Wake County. Bring two or more non-perishable food items to be entered to win an in-game experience or autographed prize.

WORTH A CLICK

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Breaking Down Andrei Svechnikov's Lacrosse-Style, Highlight-Reel Goal

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### Recap: Canes Fly Past Red Wings

Aho, Hamilton, Slavin each record three points

by Michael Smith

Twelve different skaters contributed at least a point for the Carolina Hurricanes in their 7-3 win over the Detroit Red Wings on Friday night.

Sebastian Aho (2g, 1a), Dougie Hamilton (3a) and Jaccob Slavin (3a) each recorded three points in the win, the Canes' third in a row on this four-game homestand.

Here are five takeaways from the first of November.

#### 1. Track Meet

Well, that was fun, right?

"It was an entertaining game for the fans, which is great, but not so much for the coaching aspect of it," head coach Rod Brind'Amour chuckled. "It was pretty loosely played. But it's also good that we can win games like that. It goes up and down, a little bit of a track meet, but we were able to put enough in the net, obviously."<sup>1</sup>, 2019

The 7-3 final was a score that more resembled a first-quarter football game than the style of hockey Brind'Amour likes to see his team play, but a win is a win, and two points are two points.

"We can go run-and-gun, too, but it's just not sustainable long-term," Brind'Amour said. "Good for the guys that we buckled down. At the end of the day, that's two points, and we won't even be talking about this tomorrow."

#### 2. Svech Still Doing Svech Things

After Andrei Svechnikov scored a ridiculous, lacrosse-style goal and followed it up with a more conventional game-winner on the power play against Calgary on Tuesday, Brian Gibbons laughed and shook his head in disbelief.

"Just Svech doing Svech thing," he said.

Three nights later, Svech is still doing Svech things - scoring. The sophomore Russian forward got the Canes on the board first with a backhander in the slot. The goal was the result of some nice work from the Canes' defensive pair of Hamilton and Slavin. Hamilton spun off a defender at the point and kept the zone to spot a pinching Slavin, who moved around a poking stick in attempt to get a shot off. The puck, though, seemed to magnetize to Svechnikov's stick,

and he backhanded home his sixth goal of the season to extend his goal scoring streak to a career-best three games.<sup>1</sup>, 2019

Hamilton's secondary assist extended his point streak to a career-long six games (2g, 6a).

#### 3. Bananas Second Period

With the scoreboard reading 1-1, the second period at 8:30 Eastern Daylight Time (remember to set those clocks back on Saturday night!). Forty-five minutes, six combined goals, two coach's challenges and one video review later, the horn sounded to end the period. The scoreboard read 5-3 in favor of the Canes.

I felt like I needed a nap.

"We don't want to be trading chance for chance, but our goalie was really solid," Brind'Amour said. "Petr did a great job holding us in and allowing us to, at times, get to our game."

The Canes' first two goals of the period were scrutinized through video review, the first by a Detroit coach's challenge for goaltender interference and the second by the officials taking a look at a call they made on the ice.

On Aho's period-opening goal, scored just 27 seconds deep, the Red Wings challenged for goaltender interference. Warren Foegele made contact with Jimmy Howard's left pad, but a somewhat lengthy review process determined that Red Wings defenseman Mike Green was the cause of this contact. Good goal.<sup>2019</sup>

On the ensuing power play following Detroit's failed challenge - a new wrinkle to challenges this season - Nino Niederreiter banged a puck in at the top of the crease. Referee Eric Furlatt blew his whistle and signaled no goal, but after a conversation with the war room in Toronto and consulting replays on the designated iPad, the power-play marker was awarded to Niederreiter, adding insult to injury after the coach's challenge.<sup>1</sup>

It then appeared the Canes stretched their lead to 4-1 when Aho dished to Foegele for his first of the season on a 2-on-1 rush. A very brief review process after another coach's challenge, though, determined Foegele was offside.

"He's so fast," Aho laughed. "I couldn't catch him."



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"I thought the refs got it right - all of them, so that was good," Brind'Amour said.

All of that within the first six minutes and three seconds of the period.1, 2019

Anthony Mantha's second of the game and sixth in eight career games against the Canes made it a one-goal game, but just 26 seconds later, Martin Necas restored his team's two-goal advantage. Aho and Tyler Bertuzzi traded goals in the back, quieter (in comparison) half of the period that refused to be sane.

#### 4. Aho Scores Two

Aho's two goals, his fourth and fifth of the season, bookended a chaotic second period, and both were the result of him hanging out around the net.

"I thought he had a good game. I thought he was a lot more impactful. We're going to be hard on him because we expect so much, but I think it's good that he's getting on the scoresheet," Brind'Amour said. "He's around the net, and that's where you've got to get to eventually if you want to put pucks in the net."

Aho was in the right place at the right time - the near side of the net - to score his first of the period just 27 seconds into the second frame. About 11 minutes later, he was the beneficiary of Hamilton's shot taking a lively bounce off the end boards. Svechnikov got a brief stick on it, but it was Aho that swiped the loose change into the net.

Aho now has eight points (4g, 4a) in his last eight games after recording just a point in the first six games of the season.

"We've been winning, so it helps. You don't put that much pressure on yourself," Aho said. "I'm not going to lie, it's always nice to score."

"When he gets hot, he gets hot," Brock McGinn said. "This is just the start for him, and he's going to continue to light it up."

#### 5. Brockvember

Brocktober might be over, but Brockvember is just getting started.

Brock McGinn tallied his first goal of the season at the 1:49 of the third period was big, both personally for him and also situationally for his team. The Canes, leading 5-3 at the time, were on the penalty kill; a power-play goal could have easily reenergized the Red Wings. Instead, McGinn delivered a shorthanded dagger that pushed the Canes' lead to 6-3.

"That was a good swing. I was really happy for him. He was really good this morning in warm-ups. I had a feeling, and he probably had a good feeling," Hamilton said. "It was nice for him to get rewarded."

"That was a big moment in the game because it could have gone the other way," Brind'Amour said. "The momentum might have switched, but that kind of put the game away. That was a huge play."

#### Up Next

The Hurricanes host the New Jersey Devils less than 24 hours from now to close out this four-game homestand.

"We've had a good homestand here," McGinn said. "We have to come out and play hard in the first period tomorrow to carry on the energy."



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## Hurricanes enlist NWSL champion McDonald to help with Storm Surge

MVP of title game and North Carolina Courage forward scores with celebration

by Dan O'Leary

Call it the Soccer Surge.

Jessica McDonald, of the National Women's Soccer League champion North Carolina Courage, helped the Carolina Hurricanes celebrate their victory at PNC Arena on Friday.

The star forward who was named MVP of the 2019 NWSL championship game after scoring two goals, walked out to center ice to join the Hurricanes in the Skol Clap.

After that was finished, Hurricanes forward Sebastian Aho grabbed a soccer ball and gave McDonald a penalty kick from the slot.

The goalie? Hurricanes forward Brock McGinn. He never stood a chance.

After all, as McDonald knows, a goal is a goal.

## Aho has two goals, assist, Hurricanes defeat Red Wings

Hamilton, Slavin each scores three points, Mrazek wins 15th straight at home for Carolina

by Kurt Dusterberg

RALEIGH, N.C. -- Sebastian Aho had two goals and an assist for the Carolina Hurricanes in a 7-3 win against the Detroit Red Wings at PNC Arena on Friday.

Andrei Svechnikov scored his fifth goal in the past three games, and Dougie Hamilton and Jaccob Slavin each had three assists for the Hurricanes (9-3-1), who have won three in a row. Petr Mrazek made 29 saves for his 15th straight home win, which includes the 2019 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

"From the coaching aspect, it was kind of loosely played, but it's also good to know we can win games like that," Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "It goes up and down, a little bit of a track meet but we were able to put enough in."

Anthony Mantha had two goals and Andreas Athanasiou had two assists for the Red Wings (4-9-1), who are 1-8-1 in their past 10 games. Jimmy Howard allowed five goals on 21 shots and was pulled in the second period. Jonathan Bernier made 11 saves in relief.

"They're very, very aggressive, so if you can get pucks behind them, you're going to get chances," Red Wings coach Jeff Blashill said. "But we weren't good enough defensively. We had too many individual errors and we weren't hard enough around our net."

The Hurricanes took a 4-2 lead at 8:28 of the second period when Martin Necas scored his third of the season, and Aho's second of the game made it 5-2 at 11:03.1, 2019

Tyler Bertuzzi redirected Dylan Larkin's elevated pass from the right boards to cut it to 5-3 at 16:12, but Brock McGinn scored shorthanded to extend the lead to 6-3 at 1:49 of the third period.

"That was a big moment in the game because it could have gone the other way and the momentum might have switched," Brind'Amour said. "But that kind of put the game away."

Teuvo Teravainen scored into an empty net at 16:38 for the 7-3 final.

The Hurricanes took a 1-0 lead at 7:15 of the first period when Slavin slipped a short pass to Svechnikov for a backhand from the low slot.1, 2019



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Mantha's team-leading eighth goal of the season tied the game 1-1 at 16:52. Athanasiou stickhandled around Hamilton in the left circle and passed across the slot to Mantha for a one-timer.

Aho gave the Hurricanes a 2-1 lead 27 seconds into the second period when he tapped in a loose rebound in the crease.

"When he gets hot, he gets hot, so I think this is just the start for him and he's going to continue to light it up," McGinn said.

The Red Wings lost a challenge for goaltender interference on Aho's goal, and the Hurricanes capitalized on the resulting power play. Nino Niederreiter followed his own shot to make it 3-1 at 1:48.

"It's a two-goal swing, so it certainly turned on that," Blashill said. "When you make those decisions, you've got to feel that the call on the ice is dead wrong in the sense that there was goalie interference. That's what we felt. It's a hard rule for the consequence of the penalty."

Mantha scored his second of the game five seconds into a power play on a one-timer to cut Carolina's lead to 3-2 at 8:02.

They said it

"The puck's gone in for [Mantha] a lot, and he's a guy who, when he gets opportunities, he believes he's going to score. I think he's been more consistent in

his skating and his approach, but I still think there's growth, and there's growth for a number of our players, so we're going to have to find a way to be better tomorrow." -- Red Wings coach Jeff Blashill

"You can't do it all by yourself out there. It's a team game, and if you play with good players, you're going to do well. You try to complement each other. Everyone does well that way. If you play with good players, you're going to have more opportunities and more points." -- defenseman Dougie Hamilton, who leads the Hurricanes with 16 points (six goals, 10 assists)

Need to know

Mantha has six goals in eight games against Carolina. ... Forward Brendan Perlini had three shots in 13:46 in his Red Wings debut. ... Athanasiou had a minus-4 rating ... Slavin had his 100th NHL assist. ... Hamilton's point streak reached a NHL career-best six games (two goals, six assists). ... Aho has eight points (four goals, four assists) in the past seven games after scoring one goal in the first six.

What's next

Red Wings: At the Florida Panthers on Saturday (7 p.m. ET; FS-F, FS-D+, NHL.TV)

Hurricanes: Host the New Jersey Devils on Saturday (7 p.m. ET; FS-CR, MSG, NHL.TV)



### Aho leads Hurricanes to 7-3 win over Red Wings

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The Carolina Hurricanes have been winning without the usual scoring production from Sebastian Aho. He came through Friday night.

The star center had two goals and an assist in the Hurricanes' 7-3 win over the Detroit Red Wings.

Aho, who signed a five-year, \$42.27 million deal after leading the team with 83 points last season, entered the game with three goals and six points through the first 12 games.

The Hurricanes have had other players step up in their 9-3-1 start, but they understand Aho's value.

"As you can see, when he gets hot, he gets hot," Carolina forward Brock McGinn said.

Aho broke a 1-1 tie 37 seconds into the second period with the first of four goals in the period by Carolina, which won its third straight home game.

Andrei Svechnikov, Nino Niederreiter, Martin Necas, Teuvo Teravainen and McGinn also scored for the Hurricanes. Defensemen Dougie Hamilton and Jaccob Slavin each had three assists and Petr Mrazek stopped 29 shots for his sixth win in six home starts.



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The group scoring effort is how Carolina has been able to overcome Aho's slow start — including just one goal in the first six games.

"We've been winning, so it helps," Aho said. "I'm not going to lie, it's always nice to score and put some points on the board for myself, too."

Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour has been looking for more from Aho, who led the team with 30 goals last season.

"We're going to be hard on him because we expect so much," Brind'Amour said. "I thought he was better and hopefully we'll see more of that."

Anthony Mantha scored twice and Tyler Bertuzzi also had a goal for the Red Wings, who have lost nine of 10 overall and five straight on the road. Jimmy Howard gave up five goals on 21 shots before being pulled midway through the second period. Jonathan Bernier stopped 11 of the 12 shots he faced.

The teams were tied 1-1 after 20 minutes before Aho's first goal. Detroit coach Jeff Blashill challenged for goalie interference but the call stood after a review and the Red Wings were given a delay of game penalty. On the subsequent power play, Neiderreiter beat Howard to make it 3-1 at 1:48.

"When you go to make those decisions you've got to feel like the call on the ice was dead wrong, in the sense that there was goalie interference," Blashill said. "That's what we felt, so we made the decision."

It's obviously a hard rule for the consequence of the penalty."

Mantha's power-play goal pulled Detroit to 3-2 at 8:02, but Necas restored Carolina's two-goal lead just 26 seconds later.

Aho made it 5-2 with his fifth with 8:57 left, and Bertuzzi pulled the Red Wings back within two a little more than five minutes later.

McGinn's short-handed goal made 6-3 early in the third period and Teravainen added an empty-net goal late to give the Hurricanes a season-best seven goals. Brind'Amour wasn't thrilled with the number of scoring chances Detroit had.

"It was an entertaining game for the fans," Brind'Amour said. "It was great for the game but no so much for the coaching aspect of it."

NOTES: The Hurricanes improved to 6-1 at home. ... Blashill's failed challenge cost Detroit one goal but he also saved one. Carolina's Warren Foegele scored at 6:03 of the second period but video review showed he was offsides and the goal was overturned. ... Howard was pulled after Aho's second goal in the second period. ... It was the 13th straight game for Carolina with at least two goals. ... Hamilton's six-game points streak is the longest of his career.

UP NEXT

Red Wings: At Florida on Saturday.

Hurricanes: Host New Jersey on Saturday.



## Hurricanes go penalty kick, not shootout, in latest Storm Surge

By [James O'Brien](#)

After dusting off the "Storm Surge" with fairly pedestrian post-win celebrations, the Carolina Hurricanes are starting to flex their muscles again.

Following Tuesday's 2-1 win against the Calgary Flames, the Hurricanes did a fun Halloween-themed bit where they handed out candy. Friday presented one of their best bits yet, though, as the Hurricanes

presented a delightful "penalty kick" by Jessica McDonald, star of the North Carolina Courage (who recently became National Women's Soccer League champions). It was a great moment after the Hurricanes beat the Detroit Red Wings 7-3.

As you can see from the video above, McDonald had to get her penalty kill in a much smaller net than usual, and also had to beat Hurricanes forward **Brock McGinn**. McDonald nailed it, and added to the



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Hurricanes run of great sports-themed “Storm Surge” celebrations, as this very much ranks up there with their great basketball-dunking celebration from 2018-19.

In case you want to see that Halloween “Storm Surge” from earlier this week, here it is:

What’s your favorite rendition so far?



### Seventh Heaven For Carolina Hurricanes

Dan Dobish

All of the nights in the National Hockey League cannot be winners, at least from a fantasy perspective. We didn't have any hat tricks, very few multi-goal scorers and no shutouts in between the pipes, either. The good news is we didn't have any major injuries, though, so there's that. And a handful of players who have been struggling are starting to show some signs of life, so that's some good to come out of Friday's games. Let's get started!

For NHL news and fantasy advice, find me on Twitter [here!](#)

Carolina Hurricanes 7, Detroit Red Wings 3

The Hurricanes have been a source of tremendous fantasy production this season, and their goal total was the highest of Friday's slate.

Sebastian Aho was able to post two goals with an assist and a plus-3. It was his first two-goal performance since March 5 in Boston. Jaccob Slavin also picked up three assists with a plus-3 rating, and his final helper was the 100th of his career. It was his first multi-point showing since Jan. 20 in Edmonton.

Andrei Svechnikov opened the scoring for Carolina, and he added an assist. That's at least one goal in three straight outings, giving him five goals and six points during the impressive span. He and Dougie Hamilton are red hot. The affable rearguard went for three assists and a plus-3 rating, and he now has points in six straight for a new career high. He has two goals and eight points during the impressive run.

It was more than enough support for Petr Mrazek, who made 29 shots to win his 12th consecutive regular-season start at PNC Arena. Jimmy Howard wasn't as fortunate, allowing five goals on 21 shots before head coach Jeff Blashill pulled the plug and inserted Jonathan Bernier to finish up.

Anthony Mantha was the scoring hero for the Red Wings, lighting the lamp twice, giving him his first

multi-goal game since exploding for four goals against the Dallas Stars on Oct. 6.

Philadelphia Flyers 4, New Jersey Devils 3 (SO)

Wayne Simmonds didn't waste any time getting on the board against his former team, scoring at 6:24 of the first period. It was also his first goal of season, with a little help from Jack Hughes and Kyle Palmieri.

Speaking of Palmieri, he rolled up the points for fantasy owners and those in DFS. He had a pair of assists, but also 17 penalty minutes thanks to an instigator, fighting major and game misconduct due to his tussle with Matt Niskanen in the first period.

Sean Couturier scored a goal with an assist and a plus-2 rating, and he also dished out three hits. In the shootout he was the difference maker, too, slipping one past Mackenzie Blackwood to send the fans in Newark home unhappy.

Carter Hart snapped a four-start skid by allowed three goals on 26 shots, squaring his record at 3-3-1 with a 3.23 goals-against average and .867 save percentage. He outdueled Mackenzie Blackwood, who allowed three goals on 31 shots. Taylor Hall was the offensive hero for the home side, posting a goal and assist to give him two goals and eight points over the past six.

New York Islanders 5, Tampa Bay Lightning 2

The Islanders continue to roll right along, as they picked up their eighth straight victory. Thomas Greiss turned aside 33 of the 35 shots he faced to top the Lightning, handing Andrei Vasilevskiy losses in back-to-back starts in regulation for the first time since dropping three in a row March 24-April 1, 2018.

Mathew Barzal and Josh Bailey each posted a goal and an assist, while Anders Lee was good for a goal and three points. The captain Lee opened the season with just two goals and three points in the first three games, but he now has multi-point performances in consecutive games, posting two goals and five points.



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Derick Brassard put a bow on the scoring with an empty-net goal while posting a game-best five shots on goal. He now has goals in four straight outings with a total of five points.

Washington Capitals 6, Buffalo Sabres 1

The Capitals registered plenty of multi-point performers led by Tom Wilson. He was good for a goal and three points with a plus-2, and he had five bone-jarring hits to lead the way. It was his first three-point game since Nov. 26, 2018.

Travis Boyd has spent plenty of time in the press box this season, but was in the lineup and he jelled nicely with Brendan Leipsic and Chandler Stephenson, as that trio posted two goals and five points. Boyd had two helpers and a plus-2.

Jakub Vrana posted two goals while taking a game-best eight shots on net. He has posted points in four consecutive outings, totaling three goals and three assists with a plus-2 rating. It's his first two-goal outing since March 12 in Pittsburgh.

Henri Jokiharju managed the lone goal for Buffalo, his first in the NHL. Linus Ullmark allowed six goals on 34 shots, but he was not replaced after a flurry of early goals with Carter Hutton saved for the second end of a back-to-back set.

St. Louis Blues 4, Columbus Blue Jackets 3 (OT)

Jordan Binnington picked up the victory in overtime, as the champs have fired out to an 8-3-3 record. It appears last season's championship run was not a fluke.

David Perron did the honors in overtime with a goal, giving him two goals and seven points during his three-game point streak. He has seven goals and 15 points in 13 outings overall, too. Perron has been clutch, too, as he now has two game-winning goals in the past three, and four winners overall.

Oliver Bjorkstrand posted a goal with an assist and a plus-2, snapping a seven-game point drought. Pierre-Luc Dubois posted a goal with a power-play assist, adding two blocked shots and a hit. He has three goals and six points during his five-game point streak. It wasn't enough for Elvis Merzlikins, who coughed up four goals on 27 shots in the OT loss.

Dallas Stars 2, Colorado Avalanche 1

The later games didn't provide many fantasy heroes, although Roope Hintz was good for two goals,

including a shorthanded marker which served as the winner. Mattias Janmark had a helper on the shorty, giving him a goal and assist while his team is on the kill.

That's all Anton Khudobin needed, as he stopped 38 of the 39 shots he faced, winning his third straight start to move to 3-3-0 with a sparkling 2.32 GAA and .925 save percentage.

Philipp Grubauer was on the short end of a tough loss, stopping 27 of the 29 shots he faced. Nathan MacKinnon was the only Avs player to step up and provide any offense, taking 12 of his team's 39 shots in a spirited effort.

Anaheim Ducks 2, Vancouver Canucks 1 (OT)

Jakob Silfverberg also had a shorthanded goal in Friday's victory, as Rickard Rakell and Korbinian Holzer offered assists. He has two shorties on seven goals this season. Ryan Getzlaf was the big hero, picking up the overtime winner with a plus-1 rating. He also added two blocked shots and two hits. After a slow start he has registered seven goals and 10 points with a plus-4, and he has scored in four consecutive games.

John Gibson stopped 39 of the 40 shots he faced, outdueling Jacob Markstrom, who allowed two goals on 29 shots to slip to 5-2-3 with a 2.51 GAA and .917 save percentage. Only Adam Gaudette was able to provide offensive support with his first goal.

Winnipeg Jets 3, San Jose Sharks 2

Kyle Connor posted two assists in Friday's win, giving him a goal with four points in the past four games. He notched his first multi-point showing since the regular-season finale in Arizona. Gabriel Bourque joined him on the scoresheet with his first marker of the year, snapping a 13-game scoreless skid to open the season.

Connor Hellebuyck turned back 51 of 53 shots to pick up the win and move to 6-5-0 with a 2.57 GAA and .927 save percentage. It was his first win in regulation dating back to Oct. 10, as most of his starts have been a roller coaster ride decided in overtime or a shootout. He beat out Martin Jones, who allowed three goals on just 19 shots to slip to 2-7-1 with a 3.52 GAA and .887 save percentage.

Barclay Goodrow and Tomas Hertl each scored their fourth goals of the season in a losing effort.



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## Hurricanes face Devils, look to sweep 4-game homestand

Field Level Media

Hurricanes face Devils, look to sweep 4-game homestand

The Carolina Hurricanes have found a groove again. Another big goal-scoring effort demonstrated that.

The New Jersey Devils are pushing for better results, going through a grind early in the season.

The teams meet for the first time this season Saturday night in Raleigh, N.C.

"We have to play our game, and that eliminates a lot of what other teams are going to do," Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour said.

The Hurricanes are coming off a 7-3 home victory against the Detroit Red Wings on Friday night, when they racked up a season-high goal total.

Carolina looks to complete a perfect four-game homestand when New Jersey arrives.

The Devils are fresh off a 4-3 shootout loss to the Philadelphia Flyers on Friday night.

"It's a huge game (Saturday)," New Jersey captain Andy Greene said, "so let's make sure we (have the focus). Let's keep grinding away here."

That's what it has been for Devils coach John Hynes' team -- a grind. The results haven't been satisfying even with some solid performances.

"The focus level of getting better and having your game better has to lead to results," Hynes said. "When you come out of tough situations or ruts ... you need to get the end results. You can't make up confidence. You know that. It's kicking our foot through the door to win the game. That's when you have confidence in your play. ... That's where your confidence really comes from."

With games on the schedule in quick order, it's time to back up the efforts, he said.

"We have a lot of games, we have back-to-backs," Hynes said. "The schedule is demanding. That serves the opportunity to get fresh legs in there and use different guys. ... Your practice time is a lot more limited, and you're just touching on things to get ready for the next game."

Carolina has been riding Andrei Svechnikov's scoring burst. The right winger has five goals across the past three games.

During one stretch of the homestand, he scored the team's four consecutive goals. That hadn't been done by a Carolina player in almost nine years.

The Hurricanes have won games in a variety of ways recently. The high-scoring effort was something to cherish.

"You have to guard against letting up," Brind'Amour said.

Plus, goalie Petr Mrazek has been clutch when needed. He has won 12 consecutive regular-season starts in his home arena.

"He has been holding us in and allowing us to stick with what we're trying to do," Brind'Amour said.

Carolina defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk, who made his season debut Oct. 18 after recovering from a shoulder injury, is fine to go on back-to-back nights, Brind'Amour said.

Meanwhile, right winger Wayne Simmonds, a newcomer with New Jersey, notched his first goal with the Devils on Friday night. Hynes said he likes Simmonds' impact on games.

"He's trending that way," Hynes said. "I still think there's more. I think he's going to continue to get better and better."

The game at Carolina is the start of a five-game road swing for New Jersey, with the other four games against Western Conference opponents.

--Field Level Media

## Huge second period carries Hurricanes past Red Wings

Reuters

Sebastian Aho scored two of Carolina's four goals that came during an 11-minute span of the second period as the Hurricanes beat the Detroit Red Wings 7-3 in Raleigh, N.C., on Friday night.

Aho broke a 1-1 tie just 27 seconds into the second period to ignite the rally.

Andrei Svechnikov, Nino Niederreiter, Martin Necas, Brock McGinn and Teuvo Teravainen also scored for the Hurricanes, who are 3-0-0 to open their four-game homestand. Dougie Hamilton and Jaccob Slavin each



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supplied three assists, while Aho made it a three-point night with one assist.

Anthony Mantha scored twice for the Red Wings, while Tyler Bertuzzi also scored. Andreas Athanasiou notched two assists for Detroit, which has won only once in its past 10 games.

Carolina goalie Petr Mrazek made 29 saves. Mrazek, going against his former team, pushed his regular-season winning streak in PNC Arena to 12 consecutive games.

Red Wings goalie Jimmy Howard allowed five goals on 21 shots before he was pulled late in the second period. Jonathan Bernier finished in net, picking up 11 saves on 12 shots.

It was another strong Carolina outing to begin a new month after the team matched a franchise record in October for victories and points with an 8-3-1 record (17 points).

Detroit lost its fifth straight road game after winning its first two.

Svechnikov opened the scoring 7:15 in, finishing in front of the net at the end of a nice sequence of puck

movements by the Hurricanes. It was his fifth goal across a three-game span.

Mantha scored more than nine minutes later to make it 1-1.

After Aho's first goal, Niederreiter scored on a power play to make it 3-1 Hurricanes 79 seconds later. Necas' goal came 26 seconds after Mantha's second goal, restoring Carolina's two-goal advantage. Mantha has a team-high nine goals.

The Hurricanes built a 5-2 lead on Aho's second goal, but the margin was trimmed on Bertuzzi's redirection late in the second period.

McGinn countered with a short-handed goal less than two minutes into the third period for his first goal of the season.

It was the second time this season that the Hurricanes have scored at least six goals. Teravainen's empty-net goal with 3:22 left gave them a season-high in goals.

Hamilton's points streak is at a career-best six games.

--Field Level Media



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

### Recap: Canes top Red Wings in wild offensive affair

The Hurricanes won their third straight game in PNC Arena Friday night, as a two-goal effort from Sebastian Aho led Carolina to a 7-3 win over Detroit.

By Alec\_Sawyer

Fans inside of PNC Arena Friday night were treated to a wildly entertaining 10-goal affair, as the Carolina Hurricanes topped the Detroit Red Wings 7-3 to win their third straight game.

The Canes have been nearly unbeatable at home so far this season, as Friday's win pushed Carolina to 6-1 on the season in PNC. After a somewhat quiet 1-1 first period, the Hurricanes and the Red Wings exploded for six goals during a carnival-like second period. Carolina added a goal at the beginning of the third period and then an empty netter at the end.

Carolina got two goals from forward Sebastian Aho, forward Andrei Svechnikov moved his goal streak to three games and forward Brock McGinn tallied his first of the season to push the Hurricanes past Detroit. The Red Wings main scoring threat was Anthony Mantha, who scored twice.

It wasn't the prettiest of wins for the Hurricanes, as the defense looked shaky at times, but Carolina found a way to get it done against a Detroit team that has struggled mightily this season. Petr Mrazek was the winning goaltender, stopping 28 of the 31 shots he faced.

In net for the Red Wings, Jimmy Howard was pulled from the game in the second period after allowing five goals on 21 shots. Replacement Jonathan Bernier gave up a goal in the third period and finished with 13 saves.



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The Hurricanes broke through seven minutes into the first period, as Svechnikov continued on his scoring tear. Playing 4-on-4 hockey following offsetting penalties to Patrik Nemeth and Nino Niederreiter, Svechnikov finished off a great sequence from defenseman Jaccob Slavin to put the Canes up 1-0.

Slavin made a great read on the puck to keep it in the offensive zone, firing a shot off Howard from a tight angle. Slavin collected the puck and fired a pass across the zone to Aho, who laid it off to defenseman Dougie Hamilton. Slavin attacked the net again and received a pass from Hamilton before beating Dylan Larkin with a burst of speed.

Slavin laid the puck off to Svechnikov in the slot, and the young Russian forward didn't miss the open net. Svechnikov backhanded the feed from Slavin past Howard, marking his fifth goal in the last three games.

The Red Wings answered back late in the first period, as Andreas Athanasiou and Mantha linked up for a great goal. Athanasiou made a slick move with the puck to beat Hamilton, and then fired a beautiful pass to Mantha over the sticks of Hamilton and Teuvo Teravainen. Mantha calmly finished off the one-timer, as the Red Wings brought things to 1-1.

Carolina made it 2-1 less than 30 seconds into the second period, as Aho netted his fourth of the season off a rebound. Slavin made another great play to help create the goal, keeping the puck in the offensive zone and firing it towards Warren Foegele in front of net. Foegele fought through contact to put a weak shot off Howard's blocker, which Aho collected a coolly slotted into the net.

Detroit challenged the call on the ice for goaltender interference, as Foegele did make some contact with Howard, but Aho's goal stood. The challenge ended up costing the Red Wings greatly though, as Carolina made it 3-1 on the ensuing power play that came from the failed challenge.

Niederreiter got the puck, spun towards net and started hacking at the puck to try and power it past Howard. The effort paid off, as Niederreiter pushed it through Howard's legs for his second goal of the year. The goal was originally waved off on the ice, but after a review it was awarded to Niederreiter.

Carolina almost made it 4-1 a couple minutes later, but a beautiful team goal was taken off the board for offside. Mrazek made a phenomenal save to start a 2-on-1 for Carolina, where Aho made the perfect pass to Foegele who fired a great shot past Howard. However, Detroit decided to challenge again, and this

time it paid off for the Wings as Foegele was ruled offside.

Detroit took advantage of some new life, making it 3-2 on a power-play goal from Mantha. Aho went to the box for high sticking, and Mantha fired a one-timer off the faceoff past Mrazek to bring the Red Wings within one. The power-play goal ended a streak of 12 straight successful penalty kills for the Canes, dating back to Oct. 16 against the San Jose Sharks.

The Canes bumped their lead back up to two goals just 26 seconds later, as Necas scored his third of the year to make it 4-2. Ryan Dzingel brought the puck into the offensive zone and skated past two Detroit defenders, before firing a pass right to the stick of Necas. Necas took a slightly awkward shot, but was still able to roof it past Howard.

Aho picked up his second goal of the night just past the midway point of the second period. Hamilton fired wide, and Aho collected it off the glass and put it past Howard. The goal chased Howard from the game, as Bernier came into relieve the starting netminder.

Detroit made it 5-3 to wrap up the absolute rollercoaster of a second period, as Tyler Bertuzzi redirected a pass from Larkin past Mrazek.

Carolina opened up the third period with its sixth goal of the night, as McGinn scored shorthanded following a penalty on Jordan Staal. A fortunate bounce gave McGinn the puck, and he held onto it long enough with a nice toe drag to clear a lane to beat Bernier.

Brock McGinn waits, drags, and scores. A shorthanded goal gives the Hurricanes a 6-3 lead. It's McGinn's first goal of the season.

Things calmed down as the third period went along, as Mrazek and the Canes held Detroit off the board for the remainder of the game. The Hurricanes added one more late in the game on an empty netter, as Teravainen made it 7-3. Slavin picked up his 100th NHL assist on the final goal.

Carolina will be right back in action Saturday, as the Canes host the New Jersey Devils to wrap up a four-game homestand.

### Postgame Quotes

#### Rod Brind'Amour

(On coaching in a "track meet" game) "It was rough. It was an entertaining game for the fans, which is great for the game but not so much for the coaching aspect of it. It was kind of loosely played. But, it's also good that we can win games like that. It goes up and down, it's a little bit of a track meet, but we were able to put enough in to win obviously."



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(On Brock McGinn's shorthanded goal) "Obviously it was a big moment in the game, because it could have gone the other way. The momentum could have switched. That kind of put the game away, so it was a huge play."

(On the pace of the game) "You know what's going on, and it's hard because you want to stay above your guys. When you pick something off or you go the other way, there is a chance there. But the problem is, when it doesn't go their guys are hanging back there. We don't want to be trading chance for chance. Our goalie was really good, Petr did a great job of holding us in and allowing us at times to get to our game. Right out of the second period I thought we had a couple of shifts that looked right, and we got a goal on one of them. He's been holding us in and allowing us to stick with what we can do."

(On Sebastian Aho) "I thought he had a great game. I thought he was a lot more impactful. We're going to be hard on him because we expect so much, but I think it's good for him to get on the scoresheet. And he's around the net, that's where you've got to get to eventually if you want to put pucks in the net. He was better."

Sebastian Aho

(On facing Detroit) "They're a fast team with high-end players up front, so we had to be all there. We did a pretty good job. We took that away from them. We forechecked pretty well."

(On getting a goal right away in the second period) "It was nice. I think it wasn't our best first period, but it was a big goal."

(On the opening goal of the second period setting the tone) "That's sometimes how it goes. When you score one you score a second right away. It was good."

Brock McGinn

(On his shorthanded goal) "We just had an odd-man rush there and the D kind of slid, so I just kind of outwaited him and put it on the net. Fortunately, I was able to beat the goalie there."

(On Petr Mrazek's performance) "He's the backbone of our team right now. He makes so many big saves that we can just feed off of. We just have to use our skill and our speed to put some goals up for him."

(On how the win sets the tone for the weekend) "I think we just have to continue going on here. I think we've had a good homestand here, and we've just got to come out and play hard in the first period tomorrow and carry on the energy."

(On scoring twice quickly in the second period) "I don't think the first period was our best period, but we came out in that second and kind of got a little bit of jump and got those couple of goals to kind of have a little bit of security. That definitely helps us out and we just have to stay and play our game and we'll continue to get our goals."

### Systems Analyst: The Svech Show

There have been no signs of a sophomore slump for the 2018 second overall pick.

By Ford Hatchett

After being selected with the second overall pick at the 2018 NHL Draft, expectations were high for Andrei Svechnikov in his rookie year. His 20 goals as a rookie silenced most doubters and proved he was a natural NHL goal scorer, but the start to his sophomore season has been nothing short of spectacular.

Svechnikov is playing at a point-per-game pace and is set to blow his 37-point rookie campaign out of the water. He's notched four goals in his last two contests, including his first two career power-play goals.

Svechnikov's power-play marker's were similar, but their differences showcase just how well the 19-year-old is processing the game right now.

Against Chicago, Svechnikov gets the puck from Dougie Hamilton and immediately picks his head up looking for a target.

Blackhawks goaltender Corey Crawford tilts his head ever so slightly to his left in order to peer around Olli Maatta, who is temporarily engaged with Erik Haula. The temptation to peek causes the rest of Crawford's body to lean to the left, opening up the short side for a sniper to find. With his head up, Svechnikov sees the opening and makes no mistake short side.

Against Calgary, Haula again provides a net front presence. This time it forces Calgary netminder David Rittich to lean to his right in order to find the puck. Off another pass from Hamilton, Svechnikov recognizes which way the goaltender is leaning and fires the puck to the other side. It wasn't as highlight-stealing as the other goal he scored on Tuesday - more on that shortly - but it was more important, as it won the game for the Hurricanes.

Also against Chicago, Svechnikov proved he isn't just a flashy sniper, but can earn gritty goals as well.



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Engaged in a net front battle with former Norris Trophy winner Duncan Keith, Svechnikov fights through a slash and earns a lucky bounce.

For a young player with a history of offensive zone penalties, the discipline not to retaliate and instead fight through is an encouraging sign.

The goal of the week, and likely the season, was a showcase of the talent and confidence Svechnikov possess. Many guys will practice a move like this. Some will even try to use it in four-goal games when there is little risk. But Svechnikov broke it out in the third period of a one-goal game.

Calgary's defense is tired and running around. The defensemen actually read this play pretty well. They, like most defensemen in a Bill Peters' system, are

content to sit back on a one-goal lead. They stay in front of the net, covering the other Hurricanes and preventing Svechnikov from walking out into a high danger area. There is no real reason to pressure Svechnikov behind the net. After all, it's nearly impossible to score from back there.

But not totally impossible.

Svechnikov is decisive, executing the lacrosse move as soon as he sees Rittich's head spin to the opposite post. Rittich sees it coming and shoots his shoulder to the crossbar, but just isn't quick enough to stop Svechnikov.

It was a sensational week for the 19-year-old and a showcase of what the Canes, and the rest of league, can expect for a long time to come.



### Wild game sees combined 10 goals in Hurricanes' win

Ryan Henkel, Staff Writer

The Carolina Hurricanes and Detroit Red Wings combined for 10 goals in the Canes 7-3 rout that saw six different Canes score.

The Hurricanes scored the most goals they have in a single game this season in a much different kind of shootout win. There were six different goal scorers who found their way onto the stat sheet and the Hurricanes scored a goal in nearly every situation: 5v5, 4v4, 5v6, power play and shorthanded.

"It was an entertaining game for fans, which is great," said head coach Rod Brind'Amour. "But not so much for coaching aspect. It was pretty loosely played, but it was also good that we can win games like that. It goes up and down, kind of like a track meet, but we were able to put enough in fortunately."

None other than Andrei Svechnikov scored the first goal for the Canes, extending his goal-scoring streak to three games, a career best. Svechnikov had scored the team's last four goals dating all the way back to his final minute goal against Chicago on Saturday, October 26.

Earlier in the play, Jaccob Slavin had pinched down the wall, intercepting an attempted breakout pass, took a shot and kicked the puck twice to keep

possession of it behind the net. The puck then worked its way back to Slavin in close and the puck went off his stick to Svechnikov who happened to be in the right place at the right time.

In the final minutes of the first, Detroit managed to put one on the board off of a broken play stemming from a steal in the Hurricanes' zone.

Carolina came out fast to start the second and scored just as quickly with Sebastian Aho cleaning up a rebound in the crease. The Red Wings challenged the play for goaltender interference as Warren Foegele moved Detroit goaltender Jimmy Howard as he was falling in front of the net, but the referees ruled it was inconsequential to the play.

"We've been winning, so it helps to not put that much pressure on yourself," Aho said. "But I'm not going to lie, it's nice to score and get some points for myself."

Detroit was assessed a minor penalty for delay of game due to the new rules introduced this year, and the Canes grabbed another on this very same power play. Nino Niederreiter picked up a pass next to the net, spun around and put it on net and got his own rebound forcing it in.

The play was reviewed as well because the referee had blown the whistle to kill play, but it was ruled a



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good goal as it was determined the puck crossed the line as part of a continuous play that was not affected by the whistle.

The Canes thought they had another goal only moments later as Petr Mrazek made a huge pad save, Aho and Foegele were sprung on a two-on-one rush which Foegele finished off with a great shot. However, it was determined upon a third consecutive review that Foegele was just offsides so the goal was waved off.

“He’s so fast, I can’t catch him,” Aho said on Foegele. “He was in front of me, it was a great shot too, and a good pass. It was just unfortunate that it was offsides.”

Detroit took advantage of the call and after drawing a penalty on Aho, they wasted no time, scoring just seconds into the power play as Anthony Mantha picked up his second one-timer goal of the night.

The Canes were storming though, and Ryan Dzingel was a man on a mission skating the puck through three Detroit players before feeding Martin Necas who managed to snipe the puck top corner despite the pass being slightly behind him.

It wasn’t over there though, as Aho picked up his second of the night a bit later. On a poor decision-making play, a Detroit player fled the zone anticipating a breakaway opportunity, but the next player closest to the puck, Valteri Filppula, was without a stick and so the puck just hung there. Dougie Hamilton shot it, it went high hitting the boards, and Aho collected the rebound behind the net and bounced it in off of Howard.

That finished off the night for Howard who exited the game with a 0.75 save percentage for the night having stopped only 15 out of the 20 shots he faced.

Jonathan Bernier came in to replace him and managed to get the Wings out of the second.

The Red Wings got one back before the period ended, as Tyler Bertuzzi managed to somehow skate in past the Hurricanes defenders and set up shop alone in front of Mrazek where he redirected a shot on goal into the back of the net.

The wild second period saw a combined six goals, two challenges and one that was simply reviewed.

McGinn joined in on the festivities for his first of the season. While killing off a high-sticking penalty, McGinn found himself on a two-on-one breakaway rush with Teuvo Teravainen. Instead of passing, McGinn pulled off a beautiful toe-drag around the sprawling Detroit defenseman and sniped it past Bernier.

“I had an odd-man rush there and the D slid so I just kind of outwaited him and put it to the net and fortunately I beat the goalie,” McGinn said.

Carolina coasted the rest of the way to victory, killing off a few more penalties for good measure as they extended their winning streak to three.

The Hurricanes will play the fourth and final game of their homestand in the second half of the back-to-back against the New Jersey Devils tomorrow Saturday, Nov. 2 at 7 p.m.

“You hope we don’t have a lull,” Brind’Amour said. “That’s what you guard against for sure. Especially because we had an emotional game the game before and played really well and tonight it was a tough game, the score I don’t think indicates the closeness of the game, and obviously we’ve won a couple. So we got to guard against letting up because I know the other team won’t.”

## TriangleSportsNetwork

### **Aho leads Hurricanes past Red Wings in 7-3 sprint finish**

Carolina spreads its offense out with six different scorers finding Detroit’s net

Peter Koutroumpis

RALEIGH, N.C. – If you wanted to see goals scored, PNC Arena was the place to be on Friday night.

Led by Sebastian Aho’s two goals and an assist, the Carolina Hurricanes won their third game in a row, a 7-3 containment of the Detroit Red Wings.

Led by a 29-save performance from goaltender Petr Mrazek, five other Hurricanes (Andrei Svechnikov, Nino Niederreiter, Martin Necas, Brock McGinn, Teuvo Teravainen) contributed to an offensive onslaught that coach Rod Brind’Amour was reservedly happy to see.

“It was an entertaining game for the fans,” Brind’Amour said.



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"Not too much from the coaching aspect – it was kinda pretty loosely played. But, it's also good that we can win games like that. It goes up and down, a little bit of a track meet, but we were able to put enough in the net obviously."

Picking up momentum

While the opening period showed an even 1-1 effort from both teams on goals from Svechnikov and Detroit's Anthony Mantha, who led the losing side with two total, the scoring flood gates opened early in the second.

Aho started it all by tucking away his fourth goal of the season just 27 seconds into the period.

After Niederreiter extended the lead to 3-1, the teams eventually combined for six goals in total with Carolina leading 5-3.

McGinn's first of the season on the penalty kill and Teravainen's third of the year rounded out the game's scoring while Mrazek and the Canes defense shut out the Wings during the final 20 minutes of play.

"We got chances for sure," Detroit coach Jeff Bashill said.

"Both teams competed really hard. It became a bit of a track meet back and forth. They play that way a little bit – they're very, very aggressive. So, if you can get pucks behind them, you're gonna get chances. We would have too many, say, individual errors and we weren't hard enough around our net."

Getting to the dirty areas

Seeing Aho get on the sheet pleased fans and Brind'Amour alike.

Last season's leading scorer needed a boost to help lead the team to a win like this.

"I thought he had a good game," Brind'Amour said.

"I thought he was a lot more impactful. We're gonna be hard on him because we expect so much, but I think it's good that he's gettin' on the score sheet and he's around the net, right? That's where you gotta get to eventually if you wanna put pucks in the net. I thought he was better, and hopefully we see more of that."

Aho didn't deny that scoring "was big" for him.

"Not going to lie, it's always nice to score."

Can't give up so many chances

While netting seven, Carolina relied on Mrazek to ensure that Detroit couldn't match the output.

Denying any goals against to finish the game was a positive takeaway, and one that came with some caution.

"We gave up too many chances late in the second period," Aho said.

"Petr made a few good saves for us. The good thing was that when they scored, we came right back. We didn't stop working at any time."

Notables: Carolina finished 1-2 on the power play, 10-41 (24.4%) overall...On the PK, the Hurricanes went 4-5, 41-50 (82.%) overall...Defenseman Jaccob Slavin posted three assists and reached 100 career NHL/Hurricanes assists...Svechnikov extended his goal and point streak to three games which marks the longest goal streak of his NHL career...Mrazek made his sixth home start of the season tonight and won his 12th straight regular season home start at PNC Arena. This season, Mrazek has posted a 6-0-0 record, 1.97 goals-against average, .925 save percentage and one shutout on home ice. Including regular season and postseason, Mrazek owns a 26-5-1 career record at PNC Arena.



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## Checkers secure point but fall in overtime to Monsters

Written by Nicholas Niedzielski

The Checkers battled through a tight, low-scoring affair in Cleveland and came away with a point, but the 2-1 overtime victory went to the Monsters.

After a 60-minute deadlock, both sides created chances early in the overtime, but a chase for a loose puck led to a penalty shot for former Hurricane Nathan Gerbe. Cleveland's captain swooped in and converted his chance, ending the contest 42 seconds into the extra frame.

All of the scoring in regulation came within the first half of the opening period. After the Monsters broke through early, Kyle Wood answered the call by launching a point shot that redirected off an opponent's stick and in for a power-play tally.

The netminders took center stage for the rest of the game, especially Alex Nedeljkovic. While his counterpart in Matiss Kivlenieks only saw 21 shots thrown his way by Charlotte, Nedeljkovic faced 32 shots through the first 60 minutes of play and denied 31 of them, though he was ultimately saddled with the loss.

### NOTES

Stelio Mattheos made his season debut after undergoing cancer treatment over the summer ... Nathan Gerbe's penalty shot goal was the fifth successful attempt against the Checkers in franchise history and the first overtime winner ever ... It was also the first ever penalty shot goal allowed by Alex Nedeljkovic, who was perfect on three attempts prior ... Kyle Wood scored his second goal in the last three games ... Nedeljkovic has made 70 saves in his last two games ... Janne Kuokkanen and Jake Bean both extended their point streaks to three games ... Tonight was Charlotte's first game to end in overtime this season and the second to go beyond regulation ... Tonight was the first time the Checkers haven't collected two points from a game in Cleveland since Mar. 28, 2017 ... Spencer Smallman and Fredrik Claesson missed the game due to injury ... Hunter Shinkaruk, Derek Sheppard and Cavan Fitzgerald were healthy scratches

### UP NEXT

The Checkers and Monsters will enjoy a day of practice tomorrow before facing off once again Sunday in Cleveland at 1 p.m.



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## TODAY'S LINKS

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<http://trianglesportsnet.com/carolina-hockey-network/aho-leads-hurricanes-past-red-wings-in-7-3-sprint-finish/>  
<http://gocheckers.com/game-recaps/checkers-secure-point-but-fall-in-overtime-to-monsters>

# SportScan

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

1159541 Carolina Hurricanes

Aho leads goal rush as Canes top Wings 7-3

BY CHIP ALEXANDER NOVEMBER 01, 2019 10:08 PM

RALEIGH-It was the kind of game that fans love and coaches and goaltenders dread -- fast, up and down the ice, with goals galore.

Carolina Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour enjoyed it more than Jeff Blashill of the Detroit Red Wings. When the scoring ended Friday at PNC Arena, the Canes had won 7-3.

"It was an entertaining game for the fans, which is great for the game, but not so much for the coaching aspect of it," Brind'Amour said. "It was kind of loosely played. But it's also good we can win games like that. It goes up and down, a little bit of a track meet, but we were able to put enough in the net, obviously."

Sebastian Aho had two goals and an assist for the Canes (9-3-1). Andrei Svechnikov picked up his fifth goal in the past

three games and added an assist, and Brock McGinn scored his first of the season -- shorthanded -- at just the right time for Carolina.

Nino Niederreiter, Martin Necas and Teuvo Teravainen also got in on the goal rush for the Canes, now 6-1-0 on home ice this season. Defensemen Dougie Hamilton, who has a six-game point streak, and Jaccob Slavin each had three assists, giving goalie Petr Mrazek another PNC Arena victory.

Mrazek did his part with 31 saves and several were high-quality against a young, quick Red Wings team. He has won 15 straight games at home, including last season's playoff games, and this one was against the team that gave up on him and traded him two seasons ago.

"He's our backbone of our team right now," McGinn said. "He holds us in there and he makes so many big saves that we can just feed off him. We've just got to use our skill and our speed to get out and put some goals up for him."

Of the seven goals the Canes put up, McGinn's was the biggest and the most timely. It came early in the third period with the Canes leading 5-3 and effectively snuffed out a potential Wings comeback.



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McGinn gathered in a loose puck on the left wing, carried it into the left circle, then used a toe-drag to get his shot past defenseman Joe Hicketts and goalie Jonathan Bernier, who relieved starter Jimmy Howard in the second.

"That was a big moment of the game because it might have gone the other way and the momentum might have switched," Brind'Amour said. "That kind of put the game away."

Anthony Mantha had a pair of goals for the Red Wings, who ended an eight-game winless streak earlier in the week by beating the Edmonton Oilers. Tyler Bertuzzi also scored for the Wings (4-9-1).

The first period prove to be a warmup for a wild, unpredictable second that had pucks sailing at the nets and the referees doing extra work on reviews.

Svechnikov scored in a four-on-four situation in the first. It wasn't a SportsCenter Top 10 kind of play, Svechnikov scoring from the low slot, but the Russian forward -- who had both goals in a 2-1 victory Tuesday over Calgary -- became the first Canes player to score four consecutive team goals since Eric Staal in December 2010.

Mantha tied the score with a one-timer from the right circle and it was 1-1 after one. Then the fun began.

Just 27 seconds into the second period, Aho scored on a tap-in after Warren Foegele, fighting for position in front, made contact with Howard. Blashill challenged the goal, claiming goaltender interference, but the goal was upheld -- and the Wings penalized for delay of game for the unsuccessful challenge.

Niederreiter then scored on the power play for the Canes, only to have the goal waved off by the officials. With Canes fans booing as replays were being shown on the new scoreboard -- the puck clearly getting past Howard and over the goal line -- the refs again went to a review and the goal counted under the continuation rule.

The Canes almost made it 4-1 when Foegele finished off a two-on-one rush by burying a shot off an Aho pass. But Blashill again challenged, this time for offside, and after another review the goal was nullified. It was still 3-1.

Then 3-2. But Mantha's power-play score was offset in 26 seconds by Necas' goal after a nice setup pass on the rush from Ryan Dzingel. And the second Aho goal made it 5-2.

Hamilton missed the net with a shot from the slot, but Aho was in the right position as a ricochet off the end boards landed near the post and he popped the puck in. That ended the night for Howard.

The Wings finished off a six-goal second period as Bertuzzi, in front of Mrazek, redirected a Dylan Larkin centering pass.

The Canes complete a back-to-back Saturday, hosting the New Jersey Devils.

"You hope we don't have a lull," Brind'Amour said. "That's what you guard against, for sure. We had an emotional game the game before and played really well and tonight was a tough game. The score certainly doesn't indicate, I think, the closeness of the game. You have to guard against letting up."

News Observer LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159542 Carolina Hurricanes

Carolina Hurricanes' October: More Tricks or Treats?

BY MATT COSMAN NOVEMBER 1ST, 2019

Historically, October has not been a kind month to the Carolina Hurricanes. Since the 2009-10 season, only once have the Hurricanes posted an October record above .500. That happened last season, and not so coincidentally, it was also the only season in that span in which the Hurricanes made the playoffs.

Carolina's 8-3-1 record through 12 games has positioned them in second place in the Metropolitan Division, four points back of the Washington Capitals, and with two games in hand. If you're a believer in history, you might want to take notes -- the last time the Hurricanes had eight wins in October was the 2005-06 season -- the year they won the Stanley Cup.

This season, the Hurricanes stormed out of the gate, securing five straight victories. The wheels started to fall off in the midst of the California road trip mid-October where they went 1-3-1, but pulled it back together with two solid wins on home ice Saturday against the Chicago Blackhawks and Tuesday against the Calgary Flames.

Following Tuesday's Halloween-inspired storm surge, the Hurricanes can be happy they've collected plenty more treats than tricks this Halloween, as all aspects of their game are on the rise.

Treat: Confidence

Team confidence is soaring, especially for sophomore forward Andrei Svechnikov. The 19-year-old Russian is still seeking consistency, but he's becoming more leaned-upon this season for his big presence and offensive acumen. He started the season with eight points in Carolina's first five games, but was silenced as the Hurricanes dropped four of the next five.

Since returning home, however, he's scored four goals in two games to help Carolina secure two important wins. If you need any more proof that Svechnikov's confidence is at an all-time high, just feast your eyes on this ghastly goal from Tuesday that left fans, and his teammates, in awe.

The lacrosse-style goal has never been scored in the NHL before, despite several unsuccessful attempts. But that's exactly the kind of move you can expect from Svechnikov when he's brimming with confidence, and that confidence has become infectious.

Goaltending has been an issue in Carolina the past several seasons, but Petr Mrazek has been given the keys to the crease this season, and he's been looking more and more comfortable with every game. Head coach Rod Brind'Amour alternated between Mrazek and backup James Reimer for



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the first eight games, but has since bestowed faith in Mrazek with four consecutive starts.

Even after Mrazek was hung out to dry and got pulled in the 4-2 loss against the Anaheim Ducks on Oct. 18, Brind'Amour went right back with the Czech netminder the next three games. Mrazek has noticeably calmed some of his more erratic tendencies in net, and his commitment to win every night has allowed him to string together an incredible 14-game winning streak on home ice.

In front of Mrazek, defenseman Dougie Hamilton has caught the confidence fever as well. Hamilton leads the Hurricanes with 13 points in 12 games, and is second among all NHL defensemen in goals with six. His play has elevated in his second season with Carolina, and he's been able to not only fit in seamlessly, but become one of the Hurricanes' most dynamic players.

Trick: Erik Haula

The third line of Erik Haula, Ryan Dzingel and Martin Necas was carrying the Hurricanes for quite some time in the early stages of the season. The center on that line, Haula, was leading the way while Carolina's stars struggled to find their game. It seemed like he was scoring every night – and he almost was. He tallied seven goals in his first nine games as a Hurricane after coming over in a trade with the Vegas Golden Knights over the summer.

Haula's hot streak was doused Oct. 18 in Anaheim when he left the game due to an upper-body injury, but with six days off between games, he was able to recover and dress for Carolina's next game. Haula's ice time has fluctuated drastically since his return, logging 20:22, 12:46, and 14:11 in the past three games, in which he only recorded one assist.

Carolina Hurricanes Erik Haula Tampa Bay Lightning Curtis McElhinney

If he's still not fully recovered, that may be why his ice time and offense has dried up, but beyond that, there are some other contributing factors. Haula is converting at a 23.3 percent shooting percentage this season, which is well above his career average of 13.1 percent. His power play unit has also seen more ice time, but with Sebastian Aho and Nino Niederreiter slowly starting to find their games, that could soon change. His linemates have also struggled recently – Necas has just one assist in his last five games, and Dzingel has one assist in his last four.

Nevertheless, Haula is an important player for the Hurricanes, and his presence gives them three solid scoring lines. His inevitable regression isn't going to kill the 'Canes – he's still capable of 50 to 60 points, even in a third-line role. The real trick is thinking Haula can carry Carolina's offense all season. Aho and Niederreiter need to contribute more to the pot.

Treat: Special Teams

The power play has finally risen from the dead. It's haunted the Hurricanes for the past several years, especially in last season's playoffs, but with all the talent they've compiled up front, things are finally coming together. Right off the bat, the Hurricanes were dismantling the opposition, scoring five power-play goals in their first four games.

Unfortunately, the power play poltergeist returned mid-October. Their lack of discipline halted any momentum they were able to build, and when they did get opportunities with the man-advantage, they weren't able to convert. Overly complicated zone entries were easily broken up and ticked precious seconds off the clock. And when they did get set up, they were getting too cute with their passing plays.

When the Hurricanes got back to their more hardened shooting style, they had more success. And in the past four games, they've disembodied goaltenders with four power-play goals on only 11 opportunities – two by the red-hot Svechnikov.

Andrei Svechnikov, Carolina Hurricanes

It's a similar story for the penalty kill, which has been perfect the past four games as well. The Hurricanes were the most penalized team in the NHL two weeks ago, but they've drastically reduced the number of minor penalties taken during games, and with that, their penalty kill has looked more structured.

Trick: The Haydn Fleury Predicament

Through no fault of his own, Haydn Fleury has once again found himself nailed to the press box. Now that Brian Gibbons has been recalled and the Hurricanes don't need to dress seven defensemen, Fleury is back to his familiar spot of watching from the stands.

He's played well for the Hurricanes this season, in which was supposed to be a "show me" year. He even finally scored his first goal in his 96th NHL game. The fringe defenseman looked like he was going to be a mainstay in the lineup, but then the club signed Jake Gardiner, and Trevor van Riemsdyk came back from injury. Now, with Jordan Martinook ready to return in the coming weeks and Fleury's contract set to expire at the end of the season, his future with the Hurricanes is up in the air.

Haydn Fleury Hurricanes

Haydn Fleury, Carolina Hurricanes, Mar. 1, 2018 (Amy Irvin / The Hockey Writers)

It doesn't do the 23-year-old any good to sit for the season, and it doesn't benefit the Hurricanes either. Even when Brind'Amour was dressing seven defensemen, Fleury was spending majority of the game glued to the bench. Fleury is a capable bottom-pairing defenseman with upside, and unless he's able to crack the lineup because of an injury, his talent and potential are just being wasted.

Treat: November Schedule

The Hurricanes will be busy with 15 games in the month of November, but the good news is they have an opportunity to rocket up the standings, with a slew of beatable teams coming down the chute. Of the 15 games to be played in November, only three are against teams currently in a playoff position – the Buffalo Sabres, Florida Panthers, and Nashville Predators.

The Hurricanes will have two meetings each with the Ottawa Senators, Detroit Red Wings, Philadelphia Flyers and New York Rangers. They also only have three games against Western Conference opponents. They'll play the Minnesota



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Wild, Blackhawks and Predators – three cities with short travel distance, as far as Western Conference opponents go.

These juicy games against lowly Eastern Conference teams will be a huge opportunity to stockpile points and climb the ladder in their division. Their only two back-to-backs next month are at the beginning (Nov. 1, Nov. 2) and end of the month (Nov. 29, Nov. 30). The Hurricanes are also one of the healthiest teams in the league. Their only injured player, Jordan Martinook, is expected to return in a couple of weeks. If there's ever a time for the Hurricanes to brew up some points and take advantage of a favorable schedule, it's now.

There are always going to be rough patches during a season, and luckily for the Hurricanes, they were able to climb out of the grave quick enough and return to their style of play. That's not to say there won't be more difficult times ahead, but for the foreseeable future, almost all aspects of their game are trending upward. It's been a rarity in Raleigh, but this October was a basket of treats for Hurricanes fans.

The Hockey Writers LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159543 Carolina Hurricanes

Maybe it doesn't have to be so hard all the time for the Carolina Hurricanes. We'll find out by December

By Sara Civian Nov 1, 2019

It's simple, but for the Hurricanes, it hasn't always been easy. It'd been the difference between postseason or bust for many of this decade's throwaway seasons, and it was the reason they had to be the best team in the league for a month straight to clinch a playoff berth last season.

Great teams win those November games that don't feel like must-wins against lesser opponents.

The Hurricanes have entered a window of opportunity to stockpile points they'll need later, with 13 consecutive games against teams that didn't make the playoffs last season. This is generally where identities are formed.

For the most part, their 7-3 win over Detroit at PNC Arena Friday actually looked easy.

We'll have to check back in 12 games, but maybe Carolina can finally be that team.

The final score isn't a supremely accurate representation of a loose game that could've had about four more goals on either side, but Dougie Hamilton said it best postgame.

"We had a couple mistakes, but Petr (Mrazek) played great and we scored, so we were OK."

Maybe the best players can be the best players.

Andrei Svechnikov is doing things that have never been done before on this career-best three-game goal streak. That's after he started the season on an assist tear.

His strength is in his versatility, so he decided to clean up someone else's highlight-reel play for a chance to open up scoring Friday.

Dougie Hamilton, previously plagued by slow starts, is on a career-high six-game points streak. And by the way, it seems like every time those two are on the ice together, they somehow combine for a goal.

Why?

"I don't know," Hamilton laughed. "I just like him, and I hope he likes me. I don't know, just ... I don't know."

We've learned a lot about Hamilton through this 9-3-1 start, and maybe he's learning with us. Most intriguing is the way he blacks out during big moments and doesn't question the aforementioned bromance chemistry. For whatever reason, he's been able to shut off that part of the brain that wonders why — or how — and just play elite hockey.

Win or lose, hat trick or goal drought, Sebastian Aho is entirely too hard on himself at all times. That's just how truly great players are wired, especially when their dads played pro and are still heavily involved in the game.

After a "slow start" by his standards, he has eight points in seven games, including two ugly goals against Detroit.

"He's like that — at the start of the year, he gets on himself," said Brock McGinn, noted sieve. "But as you can see when he gets hot, he gets hot. I think this is just the start for him and he's going to continue to light it up."

"I thought he had a good game, a lot more impactful," head coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "We're going to be hard on him because we expect so much, but I think it's good he's getting on the scoresheet, and he's around the net, right? That's where you gotta get to."

Exactly.

"That's how it sometimes goes," Aho said. "When you score one, you score a second one right away." (Side note: I love when elite players say things like this and we, the media, all nod in the scrum like we can relate.)

Maybe the goalie who has won 15 consecutive home games is the biggest relief.

Maybe things will pan out more or less how they were supposed to on paper.

Don't get me wrong: It feels ridiculous to talk about an identity forming around beating a bottom-barrel team. But the Hurricanes are so used to finishing the homework as the teacher's collecting it, out-Corsi-ing teams to death with nothing to show for it, then finally making the playoffs by the scar on Justin Williams' cheek.

Maybe it doesn't have to be so damn hard all the time.

• Brind'Amour hates criticizing guys through the media, so a comment he made a few games ago clearly got to some of them. "We're certainly never going to be the team we want to be if we have 15 guys playing or even if we have 18. We need all 20 guys to be digging in, and there are a few guys that aren't quite there yet. We've got to get them up to speed."

• Count Erik Haula as a "bought in."



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- There's Nino.

Come on. He didn't even fall down.

- You merely adopted Brocktober. I was born in it, molded by it.

TIME IS A SOCIAL CONSTRUCT. BROCKTOBER IS FOREVER. [HTTPS://T.CO/8TM2BmI0KZ](https://t.co/8TM2BmI0KZ)

— SARA CIV (@SARACIVIAN) NOVEMBER 2, 2019

- I'm pretty sure Evgeny Svechnikov would've scored in this game.

- Shayna Goldman is the GOAT for providing these GIFs. Follow her on Twitter for things of that nature and general brilliance.

The Athletic LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159591 New Jersey Devils

Devils lose to Flyers in shootout after another 3rd-period lead vanishes

By Chris Ryan

Sean Couturier scored the lone goal in a shootout to lift the Flyers to a 4-3 victory over the Devils on Friday at Prudential Center in Newark.

Mackenzie Blackwood opened the shootout with a glove save on Jakub Voracek before Kyle Palmieri and Claude Giroux both drew iron with misses on their shots. Carter Hart made a save on Jack Hughes.

Couturier made pulled the puck back and tucked it inside the right post to beat Blackwood before Taylor Hall was stopped on the final attempt.

The third-period began as a 2-2 tie before the teams traded goals to send it to overtime.

Hall gave the Devils the lead when he scored at 9:58. Driving to the net on a 2-on-1, Hall was shoved to the ice, drawing a penalty, but he still managed to sneak a shot under Flyers goalie Carter Hart for his second of the season.

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But it wouldn't be a Devils game without a blown lead in the third period, and the Flyers answered. Flyers rookie Joel Farabee scored his first NHL goal by snapping home a shot from the slot at 11:29. In eight home games this season, the Devils have had third-period leads in seven of them. They have surrendered the tying goal in five of those instances.

The Devils collected their first two goals by converting on a pair of power plays in the opening 40 minutes, giving them their first game this season where they converted on multiple

man advantages. And after not scoring a power-play goal in the first six games of the season, the Devils have scored at least one in five straight.

Wayne Simmonds opened the scoring for both teams when he notched his first goal as a Devil, coming against his former team.

A pass from Kyle Palmieri on the left wall found Jack Hughes in the middle of the ice, and Hughes quickly dropped a soft pass down to Simmonds in front of the net. Simmonds patiently drifted toward the right circle before tucking a shot past a diving Hart at 6:24 of the first period.

Plan your Devils road trip: Lodging at Airbnb, Last Minute Travel, Choice Hotels, Intercontinental Hotels, Hotels.com

Oscar Lindholm scored off a rush at 10:39 of the first period, beating Mackenzie Blackwood high from the left side to tie the game, and a Sean Couturier shot rebounded off Devils defenseman Matt Tennyson and into net at 7:26 of the second period for a 2-1 Flyers advantage.

Sami Vatanen scored a goal for the third straight game to tie it at 2-2 at 14:28 of the second period, again on the power play. Nico Hischier made a slick move along the left wall to get free in the circle, and he hit Vatanen in the high slot. Vatanen's shot went bar down for his fourth goal of the season.

Hughes injury scare

Hughes went to the locker room at 11:59 of the first period after taking a hard hit into the boards from Flyers defenseman Matt Niskanen. Hughes' helmet flew off, and his exposed head then hit the ledge between the glass and the boards.

Hughes missed the rest of the first period, likely getting checked for a concussion, before returning to start the second period.

Following the hit, Palmieri went after Niskanen, and both got five-minute fighting majors. Palmieri also received a two-minute instigator minor and a 10-minute misconduct. He sat out until the middle of the second period while serving his 17 penalty minutes.

Next up

The Devils are, finally, hitting the road. Following their six-game home stand, the team will play its next five games on the road, starting on Saturday when they visit the Carolina Hurricanes at 7 p.m. at PNC Arena in Raleigh.

The road trip will then take them through Western Canada, with stops to play the Winnipeg Jets, Calgary Flames, Edmonton Oilers and Vancouver Canucks.

Star Ledger LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159592 New Jersey Devils

NHL trade rumors: Devils acquire goalie Louis Domingue from Lightning | What it means



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 2, 2019

By Chris Ryan

The Devils made a move to add another piece to their goalie depth chart.

The team acquired goaltender Louis Domingue in a trade with the Tampa Bay Lightning on Friday, sending a conditional seventh-round pick in the 2021 NHL Draft to the Lightning in the deal. Domingue will report to Binghamton in the AHL.

The pick will go to the Lightning if one of the following three conditions is met:

- 1) Domingue plays in seven NHL regular-season games for the Devils during the 2019-2020 NHL regular season.
- 2) Domingue plays in one NHL playoff game for the Devils during the 2020 NHL playoffs.
- 3) Domingue is traded by the Devils prior to the start of the 2020 NHL Entry Draft.

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Domingue is in the final season of a two-year, \$2.3 million contract he signed with the Lightning prior to the 2018-19 season. He will be an unrestricted free agent following the 2019-20 season, where he carries a \$1.15 million salary.

The 27-year-old goalie has spent the start of the season with the Syracuse Crunch, Tampa's AHL affiliate.

Given the Devils' struggles in goal at the NHL level to start the 2019-20 season, it's not surprising to see them make a move to bolster the depth chart. Domingue isn't an immediate threat to steal a job from Cory Schneider or Mackenzie Blackwood, but if he continues to struggle or if there's an injury, Domingue gives the team some insurance.

The Devils' two AHL goalies, Gilles Senn and Evan Cormier, are both playing in their first full pro seasons in North America, so calling upon either to fill an NHL role would be a steep ask. Domingue is much more equipped to handle that ask if needed.

He's played in 122 career NHL games, including 26 last season with the Lightning, where he posted a 2.88 GAA and .908 save percentage.

Star Ledger LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159593 New Jersey Devils

Devils' lines, pairings vs. Flyers (11/1/19) | Mackenzie Blackwood in goal, Nikita Gusev out again

By Chris Ryan

UPDATE (11:33 a.m.): Despite Cory Schneider taking the starter's net at morning skate, Mackenzie Blackwood will be

the goalie for Friday's game against the Flyers. Schneider stayed on the ice and did extra work with the scratches following morning skate.

Welcome to November hockey, where the Devils will close out of a six-game home stand when they host the Flyers at 7 p.m. on Friday at Prudential Center in Newark.

Blackwood will start in goal after Cory Schneider lost on Wednesday in a 7-6 overtime defeat against the Tampa Bay Lightning.

In front of the Blackwood, the lineup will stay the same, with Nikita Gusev, Jesper Boqvist and Mirco Mueller scratched again.

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Here's how the Devils will line up against the Lightning:

### FORWARDS

Taylor Hall - Jack Hughes - Kyle Palmieri  
 Blake Coleman - Travis Zajac - Wayne Simmonds  
 Pavel Zacha - Nico Hischier - Jesper Bratt  
 Miles Wood - Kevin Rooney - John Hayden

### DEFENSEMEN

Damon Severson - P.K. Subban  
 Andy Greene - Sami Vatanen  
 Will Butcher - Matt Tennyson

### GOALIES

Starter: Mackenzie Blackwood  
 Backup: Cory Schneider

### SCRATCHES

F: Jesper Boqvist, Nikita Gusev  
 D: Mirco Mueller  
 On IR: D Connor Carrick (broken pinky, out 4-6 weeks)

Buy Devils-Flyers tickets: StubHub, SeatGeek

Here are game notes via the Devils:

Tonight is the second of four regular-season contests between New Jersey and Philadelphia. On October 9th the Flyers shutout the Devils, 4-0. The club concludes their six-game home stand tonight. The Devils are 2-2-1 through five games. New Jersey is 1-1-0 against Metropolitan Division rivals this season.

Tonight marks New Jersey's third of 16 sets of back-to-back play. The Devils look to improve their 0-1-1 record in first games, and are 0-1-1 in second games. The club will matchup with Carolina tomorrow night @ PNC Arena.

Taylor Hall and Kyle Palmieri led the club in shots with five a piece. Ivan Provorov, Travis Konecny, Kevin Hayes and Sean Couturier all tallied one goal in the October contest. Mackenzie Blackwood started his second game of the



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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season, allowing four goals on 34 shots in 60 minutes of action.

The Devils are 5-3-1 at Prudential Center and 10-7-1 overall against the Flyers since the 2015-16 season.

New Jersey and Philadelphia will meet for the third time February 6 at Wells Fargo Center.

Star Ledger LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159594 New Jersey Devils

Why do Devils keep struggling to protect 3rd-period leads?

By Chris Ryan

The Devils have held a third-period lead in six of their ten games this season, with all six of those games coming on home ice.

They have just two wins to show for it.

The team's struggle to hold a late lead reared its ugly head again on Wednesday when they saw a 5-3 third-period lead morph into a 6-5 deficit against the Tampa Bay Lightning at Prudential Center in Newark. They got a late goal from Kyle Palmieri to complete a hat trick to force overtime, but the night still ended in just one point in a 7-6 loss.

Overall in third periods this season, the Devils have been outscored 18-6, a drastically different ratio from their 9-10 first-period score and 13-12 second-period score.

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When the Devils lost a 4-3 third-period lead against the Florida Panthers on Oct. 14, the Panthers mounted their comeback by simply blitzing the Devils. They had nine scoring chances to just one for the Devils over the final 20 minutes, getting three goals while simply taking the game over in every aspect.

But in the past two games against the Arizona Coyotes and the Lightning, the Devils didn't take their foot off the gas. In the two third periods, they had a 12-3 scoring-chance advantage against the Coyotes and an 11-7 edge over the Lightning. The Coyotes outscored them 2-0 in the third, and the Lightning won the final period 3-2.

Buy Devils-Flyers tickets: StubHub, SeatGeek

The Devils didn't have a third-period lead against the Coyotes, but it still followed the same theme of the Devils struggling to close a game, at least from a score standpoint.

And those numbers in the offensive zone point to problems on the defensive end, specifically with the goalies, because they're generating shots and possessing the puck like they need to on the offensive end.

"There were less (mistakes Wednesday) night than there were (in other games). When you look at different situations,

even coming out of that second period, not giving a goal back in that area was better and then a couple of decisions later in the game," Devils coach John Hynes said. "But we did take a step in the right direction on that. And the other part that we really worked on is our breakouts coming up. Our offensive attack has gotten better and better both games, so we've got to continue to build on that part of it and continue to work at some of those decisions at time and score."

So the Devils believe they're cleaned up some of their play in third periods in terms of decision making, with some mistakes still happening, as they do for most teams in most games.

Now it's a matter of getting goalies Cory Schneider and Mackenzie Blackwood back to a point where those mistakes don't always burn the team.

"There's a couple goals that, some deflect in off us that the goalie can't do anything about. And there's other ones where you know you need (a save)," Hynes said. "So we know that, goalies know that. We're going to continue to work with them. They're working on it again today, and we'll get back at it (Friday)."

Star Ledger LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159595 New Jersey Devils

Devils get Louis Domingue in trade with Lightning for conditional draft pick

Abbey Mastracco, NHL writer Published 7:16 p.m. ET Nov. 1, 2019 | Updated 7:53 p.m. ET Nov. 1, 2019

The New Jersey Devils have acquired goaltender Louis Domingue from the Tampa Bay Lightning in exchange for a conditional seventh-round pick in the 2021 NHL Draft. Domingue will report to Binghamton of the American Hockey League.

The 27-year-old will serve as insurance for a goaltending tandem that has been underwhelming to begin the season. Cory Schneider and Mackenzie Blackwood have combined for the lowest save percentage in the lead (.856 prior to their game Friday night against the Philadelphia Flyers). Evan Cormier has been the No. 1 goalie in Binghamton but is still considered a prospect in development and not ready to compete in the NHL.

NJ Devils lineup vs. Flyers: Why Nikita Gusev is sitting once again

In Domingue, the Devils are getting a quality backup who can play at either level. Domingue has played 122 NHL games for the Arizona Coyotes and the Lightning posting a career .907 save percentage. The 6-foot-3, 208-pound Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec, native made 26 starts for the Lightning last season winning a career-high 21 games (21-5-0) and finished with a .907 save percentage, seeing significant action when Andre Vasilevskiy was injured.



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Domingue is currently 2-1-1 in four games with Syracuse of the AHL.

One of the following conditions needs to be met in order for Tampa Bay to receive the pick: Domingue plays in seven regular season NHL games for the Devils this season, he plays in one Stanley Cup Playoff game for the Devils this season or he is traded by New Jersey prior to the 2020 Draft.

Bergen Record LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159596 New Jersey Devils

Devils fall to Flyers in shootout after Jack Hughes scare

By Associated Press November 1, 2019 | 11:09pm | Updated

Flyers goalie Carter Hart looks on as Jack Hughes skates slowly off the ice after taking a hard hit in the first period of the Devils' 4-3 shootout loss on Friday night.

Wayne Simmonds, Sami Vatanen and Taylor Hall each scored, but the Devils fell to the Flyers 4-3 in a shootout on Friday at Prudential Center. But more importantly, they survived a potential injury scare to face-of-the-franchise Jack Hughes.

The Flyers' Sean Couturier scored in regulation and had the only goal in the shootout. Oskar Lindblom and Joel Farabee also scored for Philadelphia. Carter Hart had 23 saves.

Hughes, the No. 1 overall pick in the NHL draft, played just four minutes in the first period before going to the locker room after he was hit hard into the end-boards by Flyers defenseman Matt Niskanen. Kyle Palmieri came to the defense of his teammate, picking up 17 minutes in penalties (two for instigating, five for fighting and 10 for misconduct), while Niskanen picked up a five-minute penalty for fighting.

Hughes returned at the start of the second period.

Farabee's first career NHL goal at 8:31 of the third period tied the game and forced the extra period. The goal came after Michael Raffl's wrap-around shot bounced off Mackenzie Blackwood and out to Farabee on the point.

Farabee nearly won the game in overtime, but his rebound off his own shot was kicked in. Blackwood also had a glove save on Claude Giroux to end overtime.

Hall scored a goal midway through the third period to give the Devils a 3-2 lead. Hall managed to slide a shot past Hart as Shayne Gostibehe moved past and shielded a shot as he was pushed from behind and into the goal post by Justin Braun.

"I know it happened very, very quickly and my head was in the ice but anytime there's the puck is there you just get your stick going north and see what happens," Hall said. "But it was nice to see that go in. It hasn't been a great year for me goal-scoring wise and any time you can get a goal, especially a goal that was harder, those kind of mean a lot."

The Flyers took a 2-1 advantage at the 8:26 into the second after the Devils failed to clear the zone and Couturier fired in a shot that bounced off of Devils defenseman Matt Tennyson and into the goal.

The Devils answered with 5:32 left in the second. Nico Hischier passed to Sami Vatanen at the center point and he scored past Hart on the power play as Giroux served a tripping penalty.

Simmonds opened the scoring with a power-play goal against his former team 6:24 into the first off a pass from Jack Hughes.

Midway through the period, the Devils turned the puck over at center ice and Lindblom scored for the Flyers, with the assists going to Travis Konecny and Sean Couturier.

The Devils appeared to take a 2-1 lead later in the period when Nico Hischier put a loose puck into the net on a rebound, but the goal was waved off.

"They said because we shot it that went under him and that was the difference as opposed if their guy shot it into them," Devils coach John Hynes said, adding that the referees told him the play couldn't be reviewed.

Simmonds opened the scoring with a power-play goal against his former team 6:24 into the first off a pass from Jack Hughes.

New York Post LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159610 Philadelphia Flyers

Sean Couturier, Carter Hart shine in shootout as Flyers edge Devils, 4-3

by Sam Carchidi,

NEWARK, N.J. -- Three nights after their most embarrassing loss of the young season, the Flyers faced a reeling New Jersey team that had just two wins in its first 10 games.

New Jersey didn't make things easy, but the Flyers rebounded, using a late rally to beat the Devils in a shootout, 4-3 at the Prudential Center.

Sean Couturier's one-handed goal in the shootout and Carter Hart's flawless goaltending in the glorified breakaway contest lifted the Flyers to the win.

Couturier was hindered by an injured left hand that limited him to just three faceoffs. The injury probably caused him to make a sweet maneuver -- like the one Peter Forsberg used to give Sweden a shootout win over Canada to win gold at the 1994 Olympics -- and one-hand the puck past goalie Mackenzie Blackwood for what proved to be the winner.

"Obviously, everyone has seen those moves," Couturier said of Forsberg. It was the first time Couturier tried it in a game or shootout, though he has played around with it at practices.



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"I kind of caught him off guard," Couturier said.

"It was a sick move Coots made there," Hart said. "He's been doing that on me the last couple of practices, so I was kind of expecting it. He burnt me a couple times on it."

Taylor Hall went around Justin Braun, came in ahead of the pack, and scored midway through the third period to give the Devils a 3-2 lead. Hall had been booed during the game because he had criticized Devils fans for booing the home team in a 7-6 overtime loss Wednesday to visiting Tampa Bay.

They cheered him when he scored Friday.

Joel Farabee's first NHL goal knotted the score, 3-3, with 8 minutes, 27 seconds left in regulation, and the 19-year-old Flyers winger jumped into the sideboards to celebrate. Farabee crashed the net and scored on a long rebound of Michael Raffl's shot.

"It definitely felt good," Farabee said. "I've been pressing kind of hard lately, so to kind of get the monkey off my back felt pretty good."

Farabee scored on his own rebound with 3 minutes, 1 second left in overtime, but he kicked it into the net, and it was erased after a review. Blackwood robbed Claude Giroux just before the OT buzzer sounded, so the team's went to a shootout.

Hart, the 21-year-old goaltender who struggled in his previous three starts, stopped 23 of 26 shots for the Flyers, who were trounced Tuesday in Pittsburgh, 7-1. Hart notched his first win since Oct. 9, a 4-0 shutout over the same Devils

"The boys did a good job of collapsing in front of the net and getting bodies out of the way so I could see pucks," Hart said, "and we generated a lot of chances down the other end."

Flyers goaltender Carter Hart makes a save during the second period Friday night against New Jersey.

Couturier's third goal of the season gave the Flyers a 2-1 lead with 12:34 remaining in the second. From near the top of the right circle, Couturier's drive went off Blackwood and caromed off defenseman Matt Tennyson and into the net.

New Jersey responded, however, and tied the score at 2-2 on Sami Vatanen's power-play goal with 5:32 to go in the second.

The Flyers entered the night with 16 straight successful penalty kills over their last four-plus games, but New Jersey's power play went 2-for-4.

Hart has been on a roller-coaster ride in the season's first month.

Up: he had a 2-0-1 record and a 1.62 goals-against in his first three starts.

Down: He went 0-3 with a 5.85 in his next three starts.

Hart made just his second start in the last six games Friday.

"I'm kind of getting back to the basics and the foundation of my game and what makes me who I am," Hart said.

But the Devils struck first. Former Flyer Wayne Simmonds made a nice move out front and deposited a power-play goal

— his first score in 11 games with New Jersey — to give the Devils a 1-0 lead with 13:36 left in the first.

The Flyers then began winning puck battles and gradually started taking control of the opening period.

The Flyers' Oskar Lindblom and Travis Konecny celebrate Lindblom's first-period goal against New Jersey Friday night.

A little over four minutes after Simmonds' goal, Oskar Lindblom scored the equalizer from in close. Taking a pass from Couturier, he beat Blackwood to the short side to knot the score at 1-all. It was Lindblom's seventh goal, tops on the team and his 11th tally in the last 17 games dating back to last season.

With Couturier unable to take many faceoffs, Travis Konecny picked up the slack and won 7 of 9 draws.

"It wasn't a real pretty game on both sides," coach Alain Vigneault said. "A lot of plays that could have been made that weren't. But at the end of the day, I like the way we stuck with the game plan and we found a way to tie the game and found a way to win it."

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159611 Philadelphia Flyers

German Rubtsov becomes fourth Flyers player to make his NHL debut this season

by Sam Carchidi,

NEWARK, N.J. — German Rubtsov didn't feel comfortable enough with his English to talk about making his NHL debut Friday in New Jersey, and fellow Russian Ivan Provorov didn't want to interrupt his pregame ritual to translate the Flyers center's words to reporters.

So it was up to Rubtsov's teammates to put the memorable game in perspective.

Two hours before the game, captain Claude Giroux said that Rubtsov understands English better than he speaks the language and that he would have a simple message for him: "Just go out and enjoy the game," Giroux said.

Rubtsov, who centered the fourth line and had Carsen Twarynski and Chris Stewart as his wingers, became the fourth Flyer to make his NHL debut in the first 12 games this season. He joined Twarynski, Connor Bunnaman, and Joel Farabee.

"Any time a guy plays his first NHL game it kind of reminds us when we did," Giroux said before the game. "It's a special moment and you want to play well. There's a lot of emotions going on in your head."

Coach Alain Vigneault said he doesn't say much to rookies playing their first game.



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"They have a lot on their mind and usually I want them to be calm and enjoy it," Vigneault said. "I know Provy has been spending a lot of time with Ruby and he's going to be fine."

Giroux responds

Giroux responded to verbal jabs Vigneault gave him, Jake Voracek, and some of the veterans Thursday. The coach said he needed more from them.

"I know I can give more," Giroux said, "and I know I have to give more. I mean, the coach can say what he thinks is good for the team, but I think you guys know I'll be the first guy to criticize my play. I'm not worried about that kind of stuff. I'm just worried about bringing my game where I know I can bring [it]."

Giroux was recently moved from left wing to his old spot, center. He was asked if it was like riding a bike and if the transition was difficult.

"A rusty bike, maybe," he said. "It's definitely a different game. But I have played center for a lot of years. It's not like something brand new for me. I know I've made a few mistakes as a centerman and I'll probably make more, but it's about minimizing my mistakes and being able to play my game."

Breakaways

Former Flyers head coach Dave Hakstol, now a Toronto assistant, will return to the Wells Fargo Center on Saturday when the Maple Leafs face the Flyers. ... Toronto star John Tavares, sidelined since breaking his right index finger on Oct. 16, could return to the lineup Saturday. ... Voracek had 199 career goals entering Friday.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159612 Philadelphia Flyers

For Flyers, another up-and-down start to a season

by Sam Carchidi,

The coach is new, but the results are old. The Flyers failed to have more October wins than losses for the eighth straight season.

Here is a review of the Flyers' performance in October, a month in which they showed mixed signals under coach Alain Vigneault.

Record: 5-5-1.

Reason for hope: For the most part, the Flyers' starts were much better than last season's, as they scored first in seven of the 11 games. As the season progresses, this team should continue to get better in most areas as the players get more acclimated to Vigneault's systems.

Reason for concern: In their last two games of the month, losses to the Islanders and Pittsburgh, the Flyers were outscored by a combined 12-4 and their compete level

dropped considerably. In their 11 October games, the Flyers were very streaky: won two straight, lost four straight, won three straight, lost two straight. That should not happen with so many veterans on the team.

MVP for the month: Travis Konecny, 22, who led the Flyers in points (13) and was tied for the team lead with six goals. The right winger missed four days of training camp as contract negotiations dragged out, but he hasn't skipped a beat.

Biggest surprise: Oskar Lindblom, a second-year left winger, had six goals in 11 games, a 45-goal pace. Lindblom, 23, finished with 17 goals in his rookie season.

Oskar Lindblom puts Flyers up 2-1

Actually Blackhawks thanks for 📺

pic.twitter.com/FbJseDxEHm

— John Clark (@JClarkNBCS) October 4, 2019

Biggest disappointment: Goalie Carter Hart, another second-year player, was extremely inconsistent during the month (see below). But, hey, he's 21, and growing pains are expected. That said, no player is more important to the Flyers' success this season.

Special teams' grade: B-plus.

The Flyers' power play clicked at 23.8% in the month, tied for 10th in the NHL; their penalty kill was fifth at 85.3%. New assistants Michel Therrien, who directs the power play, and Mike Yeo (penalty kill) have done a commendable job, improving what was a weakness last season.

Offense: C-plus.

They have averaged 3.27 goals, 13th in the league, but have been inconsistent. They averaged five goals in their five wins, 1.6 goals in their six losses.

The Flyers got a high quantity of shots (34.9 per game, third in the league), but they need to improve the quality of them.

Defense: C-minus.

In the offseason, general manager Chuck Fletcher focused on upgrading the defense and added veterans Matt Niskanen and Justin Braun to the back end and center Kevin Hayes, a strong 200-foot player.

The Flyers started out solidly on defense but dipped dramatically late in the month. For October, they allowed 3.36 goals per game, 20th in the NHL.

A year ago, they surrendered 3.41 goals per game, 29th in the league.

Niskanen has probably been their top defenseman, and Ivan Provorov has shown some improvement from last year's dismal season. Travis Sanheim has been up and down, while Shayne Gostisbehere, Robert Hagg, and Justin Braun (team-worst minus-8 rating in October) have struggled.

Goaltending: C-minus.

Brian Elliott was playing very well before allowing six goals in two periods against Pittsburgh, a game in which his defense deserted him. Elliott's GAA climbed to 3.10 and his save



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percentage dropped to .904. He's been better than the numbers suggest.

Three wins in one week?

Well done, Brian Elliott (@KidElls1)! 🙌  
pic.twitter.com/lwz8R9SeB3

— NHL (@NHL) October 28, 2019

Hart was excellent in his first three starts and he struggled mightily in his next three. For October, he had a 3.32 GAA and .864 save percentage. The Flyers obviously need him to be much better if they are going to reach the playoffs.

Coaching: B.

Vigneault made some puzzling decisions with his goaltenders — Elliott, for instance, was allowed to remain in the game way too long in the blowout loss in Pittsburgh — but he had his players playing with more urgency for most of the month. Vigneault's assistants, the aforementioned Yeo and Therrien, also made big contributions.

Vigneault was not bashful about demoting players to lower lines or calling them out in public if they didn't perform to their capabilities. Holding players accountable will help in the long run.

AV says he needs more from G and Voracek. #Flyers

— Sam Carchidi (@BroadStBull) October 31, 2019

Management: B.

Give Fletcher credit for not being afraid to frequently use the Lehigh Valley Phantoms if the players on the big team weren't performing — and for being bold enough to give Joel Farabee a chance to see if he belongs in the NHL at 19. Here's hoping he gives the young players, such as Farabee, Carsen Twarynski, German Rubtsov, and Phil Myers, a relatively long look to see if they can get their footing.

Most underrated player: Left winger Michel Raffl. No one is going to call him "Mr. October," but Raffl quietly had a very good month. He played solidly on the penalty kill and chipped in with three goals and a pair of assists over 11 games.

Most grueling part of the schedule: The Flyers traveled nearly 14,000 miles to play their first five games, including a 4-3 win over Chicago in Prague in the season opener. The good news: The travel gets only easier the rest of the way.

Best finish: The Flyers scored five goals in the final 9 minutes, 8 seconds to overcome a two-goal deficit and rally past Columbus, 7-4. Shayne Gostisbehere called it a "character win."

Worst start: The Flyers allowed four first-period goals — three in a 2:49 span — and were torched by arch-rival Pittsburgh, 7-1. "It's embarrassing the way we played," said captain Claude Giroux, who didn't get an argument.

Reason for optimism: Giroux and Sean Couturier each had only two goals in October and are due to break out. They combined for 55 goals last season. Because of injuries to Nolan Patrick and Scott Laughton, Giroux was forced to move to center, but he is more effective at left wing.

Reason for concern: Patrick still hasn't played because of a migraine disorder, and no timetable has been set for his return. On Thursday, Fletcher said Patrick was still week-to-week, but his tone suggested it would be a while. Getting a healthy Patrick back would give the Flyers lineup much more balance.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159613 Philadelphia Flyers

Flyers coach Alain Vigneault: More needed from Claude Giroux and Jake Voracek

by Sam Carchidi,

Flyers coach Alain Vigneault: More needed from Claude Giroux and Jake Voracek

New Flyers coach Alain Vigneault said he needs more from the team's two highest-paid players, veteran forwards Claude Giroux and Jake Voracek.

He also referred to the inconsistent goaltending the Flyers received in the first 11 games.

"What is true about our team is no different than any other team," Vigneault said after practice Thursday in Voorhees. "We need goaltending. We need our top players to lead the way for us. Lead the way by how they're supposed to play and how they have to play on the ice.

We need G [Giroux] to be a top-end performer like he's been for the past few years. I need Jake to be a top-end performer like he's been for the past few years.

"And I'm very confident that's going to be the case."

Giroux, who has two goals and seven points in 11 games, was critical of himself and the other veterans after the Flyers' embarrassing 7-1 loss in Pittsburgh Tuesday.

"It starts with the older guys. I've got to be better; the veterans need to be better. We need to be ready for these games," he said.

The Flyers (5-5-1), outscored by a combined 12-4 in losses to the Islanders and Penguins in the last two games, play Friday in New Jersey (2-5-3).

Said Vigneault: "Playing the right way starts with your top players. It starts with their leadership, their involvement in making sure everyone is dialed in and tuned in. That goes from Kevin Hayes to Jake to G to Coots [Sean Couturier]. Those are the guys we look to for guidance. ...

"If I'm a teammate in this room, I want those guys to step up and show us the way. Before those last two games, were were on the right track. We had that little blip in the road, and hopefully [Friday] we're back to how we were playing before."



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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On Thursday, the Flyers recalled three young players from the Phantoms: center German Rubtsov, winger Carsen Twarynski, and defenseman Phil Myers.

Vigneault and general manager Chuck Fletcher said recalling players wasn't a message they were sending to the veterans, claiming it was unrelated.

But Hayes said it "sends a message that there are guys in Lehigh that want to play in the NHL. It's just a reminder to the so-called regulars up here that we have to stay focused and you have to bring the energy every day, because if you don't, something like what happened in Pittsburgh is bound to happen."

The blowout loss to the Penguins "was a slap in the face, but I think we're going to handle it the right way," Hayes added. "Some leaders who have been here for a while, they know how to handle it and to make sure it never happens again."

Hayes said he didn't think the coaches were directly sending a message to the team by putting the three recalled players into the lineup Friday in New Jersey. "But it's just a friendly reminder that there are guys down there that are good enough to play in this league, and if you don't do your job, you're not going to be here for a while."

Fletcher likes the way Vigneault holds the players accountable.

"That's one of his strengths," Fletcher said. "I think it's an experienced, veteran coaching staff that has seen most situations in the league. I think they've done a very good job of holding guys accountable and sending a message, and I think for the most part this year, we've done the right things more games than not. The last two obviously have been disappointing. I'm sure Alain has spoken to that."

### Breakaways

Carter Hart will start in New Jersey, the team he shut out, 4-0, in the home opener for his first NHL shutout. ... After New Jersey lost a 7-6 overtime decision Wednesday to visiting Tampa Bay, the Devils' Taylor Hall said, "We're kind of battling our own fans at this point. We're 1-for-3 on the power play and getting booed. It's a tie game and we're getting booed. That's a tough environment to play in, especially when you are home. I know when we are playing somewhere and their fans start booing, it's a fun environment for the away team to pay in." .. Former Flyer Wayne Simmonds had three assists in the Devils' loss to the Lightning. He has no goals and four assists over 10 games.

Philadelphia Inquirer / Daily News LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159614 Philadelphia Flyers

Flyers Notebook: Couturier's game-winning trick no surprise to Carter Hart

By Jack McCaffery

NEWARK, N.J. — For as many times as he hadn't seen the play coming, Carter Hart Friday had one hope: That this time, it would be Mackenzie Blackwood's turn.

Executed by Sean Couturier to win a shootout and give the Flyers a 4-3 victory over the New Jersey Devils, the move was best recognized as a standard of Hall of Famer Peter Forsberg. Basically, it requires a shooter with a long wingspan to draw the goalie far to his right and then, with one hand, tuck the puck into the opposite corner.

That's what Couturier did to score the only goal in the shootout and help the Flyers rebound from two recent lopsided losses.

"That was a pretty sick move," Hart said. "He's been doing that on me in the last couple of practices. So I was kind of expecting it."

As for Blackwood, who otherwise was sharp in helping the Devils secure a standings point, he had no chance.

"I had an idea," said Couturier, who had also scored earlier. "I knew I was going to try it. And I don't think he saw that one coming."

After Jake Voracek and Claude Giroux failed in the shootout, Couturier converted the tricky shot. When Hart made a save on Taylor Hall, the Flyers had snapped a two-game losing streak during which they were outscored, 12-4.

"He'd burnt me a couple times," Hart said, smiling. "So it was nice to see him do it tonight."

Joel Farabee, the 14th player selected overall in the 2018 draft, scored his first NHL goal Friday. Hustling into the slot to corral a long redirection of a Michael Raffl wrap-around attempt, Farabee blasted a shot past Blackwood to force a 3-3 tie with 9:31 to play.

"You always think about your first one," Farabee said. "You don't necessarily think about the play or how it's going to happen. But it just felt really good. It was an all-around good play. Raf bought a lot of time and allowed me to get back into the play. I just came down into the slot, kind of closed my eyes and shot it."

As the Flyers try to find their early-season way, Giroux has moved back to center, where he played most of his career, from left wing.

Like riding a bike?

"A rusty bike, maybe," he said. "It's definitely a different game. But I have played center for a lot of years. It's not like it's something brand new for me. I know I made a few mistakes as a centerman and I'll probably make more. But it's about minimizing those mistakes and being able to play my game."

German Rubtsov made his NHL debut, playing eight minutes and taking one shot.

"I didn't say anything to him," Giroux said, before the game. "I'm sure I'll have a few words for him. But it's just, 'Go out there and enjoy the game.'"

Rubtsov was the fourth Flyer to play his first NHL game this season, following Carsen Twarynski, Connor Bunnaman and Farabee.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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"It's fun to see it," Giroux said. "Any time a guy plays his first NHL game it kind of reminds us when we did. And it's a special moment. You want to play well. There's a lot of emotions going on in your head and it's an important game for those players."

Alain Vigneault passed on applying pressure on Rubtsov before the game.

"You know what?" the coach said. "I've never really gotten involved in players' first games. They've got a lot on their mind. Usually you want them to be calm and enjoy it."

NOTES >> Wayne Simmonds scored his first goal as a Devil, beating Hart on the power-play in the first period. ... Couturier acknowledged a minor injury, believed to be to his left hand, that has limited his participation in face-offs. "I just don't want to do anything to aggravate it," he said.

Delaware County Times LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159615 Philadelphia Flyers

Couturier leads Flyers to 4-3 shootout win over Devils

By MATT SUGAM Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Philadelphia's Sean Couturier used a move made popular by Swedish star Peter Forsberg in the 1994 Olympics to send the Flyers past the New Jersey Devils.

Couturier scored in regulation and had the only goal in the shootout on a nifty backhand shot, nearly identical to the one used by Forsberg so many years ago.

In the shootout, Couturier skated down the center of the ice and as he closed on in the net drifted left to draw the goaltender to the side of the crease, and tucked a backhanded shot into the net.

Forsberg popularized the move after using it in a shootout in the Olympics to win the gold medal.

"Everyone has seen those goals (by Forsberg)," Couturier said. "We have a lot of fun at the end of practice doing shootouts and that's one move I didn't do on him so maybe I caught him off guard. I did that in practice before, but never in a game."

Oskar Lindblom and Joel Farabee also scored for Philadelphia. Carter Hart had 23 saves.

Wayne Simmonds, Sami Vatanen and Taylor Hall scored for the Devils. Mackenzie Blackwood had 28 saves.

Farabee's first career NHL goal at 8:31 of the third period tied the game and forced the extra period. The goal came after Michael Raffl's wrap-around shot bounced off Blackwood and out to Farabee on the point.

"It definitely felt good," Farabee said. "I was pressing pretty hard lately so to get the monkey off my back felt pretty good."

Farabee nearly won the game in overtime, but his rebound off his own shot was kicked in. Blackwood also had glove save on Claude Giroux to end overtime.

Hall scored a goal midway through the third period to give the Devils a 3-2 lead. Hall managed to slide a shot past Hart as Shayne Gostibehe moved past and shielded a shot as he was pushed from behind and into the goalpost by Justin Braun.

"I know it happened very, very quickly and my head was in the ice but anytime there's the puck is there you just get your stick going north and see what happens," Hall said. "But it was nice to see that go in. It hasn't been a great year for me goal-scoring wise and any time you can get a goal, especially a goal that was harder, those kind of mean a lot."

Simmonds opened the scoring with a power-play goal against his former team 6:24 into the first off a pass from Jack Hughes.

Midway through the period, the Devils turned the puck over at center ice and Lindblom scored for the Flyers, with the assists going to Travis Konecny and Sean Couturier.

The Devils appeared to take a 2-1 lead later in the period when Nico Hischier put a loose puck into the net on a rebound, but the goal was waved off.

"They said because we shot it that went under him and that was the difference as opposed if their guy shot it into them," Devils coach John Hynes said, adding that the referees told him the play couldn't be reviewed.

Hughes, the No. 1 overall pick in the NHL Draft, played just four minutes in the first before going to the locker room after he was hit hard into the end-boards by Flyers defenseman Matt Niskanen. Kyle Palmieri came to the defense of his teammate, picking up 17 minutes in penalties (two for instigating, five for fighting and 10 for misconduct), while Niskanen picked up a five-minute penalty for fighting.

Hughes returned at the start of the second period after going through concussion protocol.

The Flyers took a 2-1 advantage at the 8:26 into the second after the Devils failed to clear the zone and Couturier fired in a shot that bounced off of Devils defenseman Matt Tennyson and into the goal.

The Devils answered with 5:32 left in the second. Nico Hischier passed to Sami Vatanen at the center point and he scored past Hart on the power play as Giroux served a tripping penalty.

NOTES: Devils acquired goaltender Louis Domingue from Tampa Bay for a conditional seventh-round pick in the 2021 NHL draft. ... Hart shut out the Devils 4-0 on Oct. 9, stopping 25 shots in Philadelphia. ... C German Rubtsov, the Flyers' first-round pick in 2016, made his NHL debut. ... Simmonds had three assists in the last game vs. Flyers. ... Vatanen had four goals in 50 games last year and four already this season. ... The Flyers called up three players from the minors in D Phil Myers, C German Rubtsov, and F Carsen Twarynski from the AHL's Phantoms, placing F Scott Laughton on long-term injured reserve and sending C Misha Vorobyev and D Samuel Morin to Lehigh Valley.

UP NEXT:



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 2, 2019

Flyers: Host Toronto Saturday night.

Devils: At Carolina on Saturday night to start five-game trip.

Delaware County Times LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159616 Philadelphia Flyers

McCaffery: Giroux doesn't deny Flyers coach Vigneault's demand for more

By Jack McCaffery

NEWARK, N.J. — With German Rubtsov to make his NHL debut in a matter of hours, Claude Giroux faced a decision Friday. As the captain, he could have encouraged the new Flyers centerman to skate a solo lap around the Prudential Center ice in a longstanding hockey initiation ritual. Or he could have decided that there was enough hazing having gone around the team for one week.

"We'll see," Giroux was saying, outside the Flyers' room, before a game against the New Jersey Devils. "We don't know that yet."

By then, neither Giroux nor the Flyers were in much of a mood for jokes. Besides, after being outscored by a combined eight goals in their last two games, there was a chance a rookie would provide more help than hilarity.

It had been 13 years since Giroux played his first NHL game. Six times, he had been an All-Star. He'd been a finalist for the Hart Trophy, for the NHL's MVP. He'd been in 69 playoff games, and 900 overall. Once, he was called the best player in the world.

Yet there he was doing his daily work in Voorhees Thursday when suddenly, and a little surprisingly, he was made to feel like a rookie.

"We need G," Alain Vigneault would say, "to be a top-level performer."

Coaches say those things. Not all say them to the press about a player who would not be out of place some day in the Hall of Fame, at least not to the press. Yet that's why the Flyers hired Vigneault, his coaching accomplishments a match for Giroux's on-ice achievements. They wanted an experienced winner, a boss who would demand excellence, one who would not easily tolerate his highest-paid player providing two goals in his first 11 games.

Still, when Vigneault openly asked for more from Giroux, and from all of his more experienced Flyers, too, it just sounded scratchy. Wouldn't such a verbal poke at a 31-year-old franchise legend be a bit bothersome?

"No," Giroux said. "No. I know I can give more. And I know I have to give more. I mean, the coach can say what he thinks is good for the team, but I think you know I'll be the first guy to criticize my play."

"I am not worried about that kind of stuff. I'm just worried about getting my game where I know I can bring it."

Even if it is a small stretch, Giroux has been expected to be a superstar. Too often, he has been something slightly less. Already this season, he has been bumped from the left wing back to the center spot he played for the bulk of his career. There are not many more moves Vigneault can make before wondering if he is receiving all Giroux is able any more to give.

Though the Flyers' coach for just over a month of regular-season play, Vigneault has won a reputation for intolerance. More than once, he has famously made displeasures known, either verbally or through lineup changes. Twice having guided teams to a Stanley Cup Final and in his 17th year as an NHL coach, he knows what he wants to say, where, when and how. And when he openly challenged his captain to play better Thursday, he was more than aware of how long ago it had been since Giroux's rookie lap.

"I just think I'm stating the obvious and the facts," Vigneault would say a night later. "I don't think I'm any different than their guy here in New Jersey. He'd probably say, 'I need (Taylor) Hall to be one of my top players every night.' We're playing Toronto tomorrow. I'm sure (Mike) Babcock would say, 'I need (Mitch) Marner, I need (John) Tavares, I need (Auston) Matthews.' Every coach is the same."

"If your team is going to do well, you need your top players to be top performers. Just stating the obvious. The players, I'm sure, know it. They don't need me or anybody else to say it. I'm sure they know it, and whether it be G or Jake (Voracek) or anybody else on that team, they need to play well."

That's how Giroux interpreted the push, even if it did come at him in some second-hand way.

"I mean, I try not to read your stuff, to be honest," he said to a handful of writers. "Nothing personal. I've had a lot of talks with coaches before about where my game is at and that I haven't been helping the team as much. I mean, I have had plenty of those talks before. But if he goes in the media, or if you guys write a lot of negative stuff sometimes, I don't let it get to me. I try not to."

"I'm here to play for my teammates and the organization and for myself. So it's about worrying about helping the team win."

That was Vigneault's idea. The only question was what his next move will be should his captain continue to flatten.

"I know I can improve on a little bit of everything," Giroux said. "It's not just one thing. It's working on my game defensively and offensively. Sometimes you've got to take a step back before you take a step forward."

"Enjoy the game, play with passion, and usually if you do that, good things are going to happen."

And the gentle, late-career hazing can stop.

Delaware County Times LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159617 Philadelphia Flyers



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 2, 2019

Joel Farabee, Sean Couturier (banged up?) deliver in Flyers' show-me win over Devils

By Jordan Hall November 01, 2019 10:45 PM

The Flyers exhibited plenty of character Friday night to pick up a 4-3 shootout win over the Devils at the Prudential Center.

Head coach Alain Vigneault challenged his group, specifically the core pieces, following consecutive losses to divisional opponents by a combined score of 12-4.

It wasn't pretty, but the Flyers (6-5-1) answered behind Sean Couturier, Joel Farabee and Carter Hart to beat the Devils (2-5-4) for the second time this season.

- Couturier might be banged up and he still came through in a show-me game for the Flyers.

The do-it-all center put up a goal, an assist and scored the only tally in the shootout.

Couturier, who had the second-best faceoff win percentage (57.1) among the NHL's top-20 players in draws taken last season, took just three faceoffs Friday. Travis Konecny was in the dot more than Couturier, who never took fewer than six draws in a game last season.

Couturier lost his only three faceoffs Friday, while Konecny went 7 for 9. It's something to watch.

"I'm not feeling 100 percent," Couturier told reporters in Newark, New Jersey. "It's part of the season, it's a long season, you've got to battle through injuries. I'm just trying to do what I can to help the team win.

"Just cautious, being day to day ... should be fine."

- Farabee picked a clutch time to score his first career NHL goal. The Flyers had just fallen behind, 3-2, on a deflating marker in the final frame.

The 19-year-old got everyone up a minute and a half later. At Boston University last season, Farabee ranked among the country's top 10 in game-winning goals. He has a knack for timely playmaking, exactly what the Flyers needed when they summoned him from AHL affiliate Lehigh Valley.

- Hart, who had a 5.56 goals-against average over his previous four games and hadn't won since Oct. 9 against the Devils, made 23 saves on 26 shots. He responded well and two of the three goals came when the Flyers were shorthanded.

On the first tally, Philippe Myers let Wayne Simmonds backdoor him for a 1-0 New Jersey lead in the opening period. On the second marker, Travis Sanheim lost his footing, which allowed Nico Hischier to attack the net, shrink the Flyers' coverage and set up a wide-open shot for Sami Vatanen, tying the game at 2-2 in the middle stanza.

- Justin Braun has had a rough go 12 games into his Flyers career. He has an excellent stick, but he's 32 years old and not moving well.

It really showed Friday night on Taylor Hall's go-ahead goal midway through the third period. Braun is a team-worst minus-9 on the season and the Flyers need him to be better.

Hall takes it COAST to COAST #WeAreTheOnes | #NJDevils pic.twitter.com/gp5e3JjqsB

— New Jersey Devils (@NJDevils) November 2, 2019

- Konecny and Oskar Lindblom have not skipped a beat this season.

The two have 24 combined points through the Flyers' first 12 games.

Last season, they had eight combined points through the Flyers' first 12 games.

- During the first period, Matt Niskanen delivered a clean check on 18-year-old center Jack Hughes. But if you put the 2019 first overall draft pick on his backside, Devils teammates are going to stand up for the 5-foot-11, 170-pounder. Directly after the check, Niskanen had to drop the gloves with Kyle Palmieri.

Matt Niskanen lays a hit on Jack Hughes and Kyle Palmieri comes to his defense. pic.twitter.com/wZZgnjk3s9

— NBC Sports Philadelphia (@NBCSPhilly) November 1, 2019

- It's only fitting that Simmonds' first goal with the Devils came against the Flyers.

The 31-year-old scored 91 power play goals with the Flyers, third most in the NHL since 2011-12, behind only Alex Ovechkin (153) and Steven Stamkos (98).

Simmonds got his first man advantage tally with New Jersey by beating Hart.

- German Rubtsov made his NHL debut, while Myers made his season debut. Rubtsov had an early turnover behind the Flyers' net and Myers wasn't sharp on the Simmonds goal, but both played well overall and made positive contributions.

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159618 Philadelphia Flyers

Flyers at Devils: Live stream, storylines, game time and more

By Jordan Hall November 01, 2019 3:30 PM

Following forgettable back-to-back losses, the Flyers have a big weekend ahead.

It starts Friday when the Flyers (5-5-1) visit the Devils (2-5-3) before returning home Saturday to welcome the Maple Leafs (6-5-3).

Let's get into the essentials for tonight:

- When: 7 p.m. ET with Flyers Pregame Live at 6:30 p.m. ET



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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- Where: Prudential Center
- Broadcast: NBC Sports Philadelphia
- Live stream: NBCSportsPhiladelphia.com and the NBC Sports MyTeams app
- Alain Vigneault has no qualms with challenging his players, even the veteran ones. He has felt the need to do so following consecutive losses to divisional opponents by a combined score of 12-4.

Right now, the head coach is looking at his core pieces, specifically Claude Giroux and Jakub Voracek, along with Sean Couturier, Kevin Hayes and Carter Hart.

Vigneault knows how to deliver a message and has done so a few times, including Thursday after practice:

What is true about our team is no different than any other team: We need goaltending and we need our top players to lead the way for us. Lead the way by how they're supposed to play, how they have to play on the ice. We need G to be a top-end performer like he's been for the past few years, I need Jake to be a top-end performer like he's been for the past few years. We need those guys to lead the way for us with their play on the ice and I'm very confident that's going to be the case.

Starting the right way, playing the right way, starts with your top players. It starts with their leadership, their involvement in making sure that everybody is dialed in, tuned in. That goes from Kevin Hayes to Jake to G to Coots. Those are the guys that we look to for guidance. When I say we, I'm a teammate in this room. I want those guys to step up and show us the way.

I know that whether it be G, whether it be Jake, whether it be Coots, whether it be Hayesey, whether it be Carter Hart, those guys know they need to be better for us to have success and they're gonna get an opportunity [Friday] to prove it.

It's not the first time the Flyers have warranted their coach pleading for more during the opening month of a season (see story).

- Like the Flyers, the Devils have also allowed 12 goals over their past two games, both losses. New Jersey has lost eight of its first 10 games and has been outscored 41-28.
- Four rookies are expected in the lineup for the Flyers: Joel Farabee, German Rubtsov, Carsen Twarynski and Philippe Myers (see story).

"It's certainly not about message sending," Flyers general manager Chuck Fletcher said Thursday. "As I mentioned in training camp, it's going to be a process here early in the season and there would probably be a steady flow of players getting called up and getting sent back to Lehigh Valley. Part of it would be based on performance up here and part of it is these are young players that you want to make sure you develop them properly.

"What we're trying to do is just balance what we need up here to have the most competitive team on the ice, as well as making sure that they're developing and maintaining a high level of confidence."

Projected lineup

### Forwards

James van Riemsdyk-Claude Giroux-Jakub Voracek

Oskar Lindblom-Sean Couturier-Travis Konecny

Michael Raffl-Kevin Hayes-Joel Farabee

Carsen Twarynski-German Rubtsov-Chris Stewart

### Defensemen

Ivan Provorov-Matt Niskanen

Shayne Gostisbehere-Justin Braun

Travis Sanheim-Philippe Myers

### Goalies

Carter Hart

Brian Elliott

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159619 Philadelphia Flyers

Shayne Gostisbehere still evolving, knows where he stands with Flyers

By Jordan Hall November 01, 2019 1:35 PM

VOORHEES, N.J. — Ever since Shayne Gostisbehere took the Flyers by storm in 2015-16, pushing them into the playoffs behind 17 goals in 64 games as a rookie, the defenseman's success has more often than not been associated with numbers.

Point production is an easy, sometimes lazy, way to determine if Gostisbehere is on top of his game. He fueled that narrative in 2017-18 when he scored the fourth-most points among all NHL defensemen with 65.

Eleven games into 2019-20, following a season in which he scored 37 points, was a minus-20 and some trade buzz floated around, Gostisbehere hasn't put up the offensive statistics many cry for when judging his game. He had four points on one goal and three assists through the Flyers' 5-5-1 October.

But a lower point total doesn't mean Gostisbehere's dynamic ability isn't there. It doesn't mean he's no longer a threat to the opposition's defense. It doesn't mean he's not pushing the puck up ice to augment the Flyers' attack-oriented style.

And it doesn't mean he's done evolving as a 26-year-old.

What was different when he was 22 and ripping off goal after goal?

"No one knew who the hell I was," Gostisbehere said Thursday. "A lot easier, man, they don't think a little 5-11 guy is going to have a shot like that. So I was little more open, but it's a little different, you've got to roll with it. That's what



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makes you a good player — when players know what you're going to do but you can still do it.

"Look at [Alex Ovechkin], everyone knows he's going to one-T, but he's still doing it. I think that's growing as a player and making yourself better, more skilled."

The Flyers need Gostisbehere to continue to adjust, transition the puck and create offense. Points aren't everything but they are something, and the Flyers are better when Gostisbehere is scoring. He didn't do it nearly enough last season and 2019-20 hasn't started better.

The Flyers are also deeper this season on the blue line. Ivan Provorov, Matt Niskanen and Travis Sanheim are all playing 20-plus minutes a game. Provorov handles No. 1-like responsibilities, Niskanen plays on both special teams units and the offensive-minded Sanheim is coming off a promising year. The Flyers also added 32-year-old veteran Justin Braun to help lighten the burden on the young defense.

The points might not come as much for Gostisbehere. He might not ever score 65 again.

Is that a huge deal?

"Everyone is going to have some good years — that was one of my better years obviously," Gostisbehere said. "We have a different supporting cast this year, we have a lot of good guys who can put up some numbers and help our team contribute. It's a different league where every defenseman has a little offensive instincts. For us, it's good. The more, the merrier."

The Flyers' coaching staff is sticking with Gostisbehere and his power-play role. This season, he is new to head coach Alain Vigneault and assistants Michel Therrien (power play, forwards) and Mike Yeo (penalty kill, defensemen). Vigneault knew of Gostisbehere, though, and is aware of the ability. He would like to see it more.

"I think points are a reward for doing the right things," Vigneault said. "I've seen him come here, have a great camp, really well prepared. A little inconsistency, but a lot of times you see that vision and that passing and that shooting ability — if we could just see it on a more consistent basis, we'd be a better team for it. I know he knows that and he's trying his best. It's the same thing with our best players. It's time to step up and lead the way. In Ghost's case, he's one of our top offensive players and he needs to lead the way, also."

As the coaching staff has worked with Gostisbehere, keeping faith in the power play quarterback, he has noticed.

"I think their communication is such a big thing, you always know where you stand," Gostisbehere said. "The scheduling, the communication is so clear. We know our system, any guy in here will have the same answer if you asked anything about the system. I think that's a good part. It's up to us and finding that chemistry and putting the product out there."

Comcast SportsNet.com LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159620 Philadelphia Flyers

Carter Hart's rough two weeks got him questioned, now he has his net back

Dave Isaac, NHL writer Published 11:03 p.m. ET Nov. 1, 2019

NEWARK — For as little as Allen Iverson cared about practice, Carter Hart cherishes it.

New Flyers coach Alain Vigneault doesn't like spending a ton of time on the ice, canceling most morning skates as long as the team practiced the day before, Hart needed the extra time. Thursday's practice was the only non-game time the Flyers had on the ice this week and it helped the goalie clear some cobwebs in his play.

"I really have to make the most of each practice," he said. "We don't get a lot of time to get on the ice to practice so when we do you have to make sure that however long it is that you get value out of each practice."

In his last four appearances, Hart had a .750 save percentage. His line Friday night was better, making 23 saves on 26 shots in a 4-3 shootout win over the New Jersey Devils.

The second-year goalie is one of the Flyers' most important players — the team won't go far without him — so to finally get back in the win column after blowout losses to the New York Islanders and Pittsburgh Penguins was as important for Hart as it was anyone else.

"Feeling good about his game and how he played, he had quite a few big saves to make and he did at the right time for us," Vigneault said. "It wasn't a real pretty game from both sides. A lot of plays that could have been made that weren't but at the end of the day I liked the way we stuck with the game plan. We found a way to tie the game and found a way to win it."

The game was won by Sean Couturier, who seems to have an injured left hand that's keeping the best faceoff man in the league from taking faceoffs. He only needed his right hand to pull off a move Peter Forsberg once made famous to beat MacKenzie Blackwood.

It almost didn't get that far. It looked like the Flyers would have a tough time getting back into the game when Taylor Hall scored in the third period. He never actually got a shot off, but Justin Braun shoved him to the ice and the puck behind Hart.

After two weeks of scrutiny about his play and a potential sophomore slump, Hart had the mental toughness to not let that late goal bother him.

So, what did he find in practice that helped him turn the tide?

"I think just a couple things that I was focusing on, details in my game," he said. "I think just kind of getting back to the basics of my game, the foundation and what makes me who I am in the net. The boys did a good job tonight of collapsing in front of our net and getting bodies out of the way so I could see pucks, clearing bodies out of the way."



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The victory was Hart's first win since he shut out the same team on Oct. 9, making 25 saves in the Flyers' home opener. Since then he had been questioned by pundits and took a back seat to Brian Elliott, who started three straight games.

One outlet even wondered with a headline "Has Flyers' Goaltending Curse Claimed Another Victim?"

Well, no.

Hart had some growing pains and the Flyers expected them.

In Vigneault's last two stops as a head coach he had Roberto Luongo in Vancouver and Henrik Lundqvist in New York, two future Hall of Fame goalies that he really didn't have to think twice about a bad outing.

"To some extent we've done almost the same thing with Carter," Vigneault said. "We've gone back with him a couple of times but then Brian got on a pretty good roll. We've got two guys right now that are battling real hard and they're trying to give us a chance to win and that's what you want from your goaltenders."

"Carter's had some good games, some games haven't been as strong. It's kind of what I expected from a 21-year-old goaltender," president and general manager Chuck Fletcher added. "It's why we felt we really needed another very good goaltender. Not just from the risk of injury but you need two guys to push each other and it's a long season. There are going to be stretches when one guy is going well and one guy is not going so well. Carter is talented, he's smart. He's going to be very good. He's working hard at his game. I don't think there's anything unusual."

Courier-Post LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159621 Philadelphia Flyers

Misery loves company: What's wrong with the Flyers and Devils?

Dave Isaac and Abbey Mastracco, NHL writer Published 8:44 p.m. ET Nov. 1, 2019

Matt Niskanen and Kyle Palmieri fight in the first period Friday after Niskanen hit Jack Hughes.

Things haven't looked good for either team in the Battle of the Turnpike.

Off Exit 13A are the basement-dwelling Devils, who finished a six-game homestand with the Flyers Friday night. An expensive offseason and some luck with landing Jack Hughes and the No. 1 pick has done them no favors in the early going.

Some 80 miles down the road at Exit 4, right before heading into Philadelphia, the Flyers are still trying to find their way also. A new general manager and new coaching staff haven't paid off just yet.

So what gives? Our Gannett New Jersey reporters, Abbey Mastracco and Dave Isaac, take a dive into what's ailing the Devils and Flyers.

What's wrong with the Devils?

When the fans turn against the team and the team turns against the fans, you know things have gone off the rails.

Taylor Hall hasn't been happy with the boos coming from Prudential Center but the one thing no one has been happy with has been the blown leads. The Devils have had a lead in all seven home games played prior to Friday night and won only two of them. So, who is to blame? Probably everyone.

A team full of talented forwards is hamstrung by a thin blue line and goalies who have been inconsistent and underwhelming. Cory Schneider and Mackenzie Blackwood have combined for the worst save percentage in the NHL. The defensemen in front of them can't seem to clear the zone and get the puck up to those talented forwards. P.K. Subban has been good but somewhat inconsistent as he's settled into his new team and his new surroundings. Another left-shot defenseman could be a big boost.

The forwards aren't absolved of much here either. It took Hughes, the top overall pick in the draft, some time to acclimate. Nikita Gusev, the reigning KHL MVP, was supposed to put New Jersey over the top and instead he's been a defensive liability at times and a healthy scratch twice. Lines have been juggled by coach John Hynes, who added assistant general manager Tom Fitzgerald to his bench after losing six straight.

What do they need?

Devils' general manager Ray Shero and owners Josh Harris and David Blitzer, who also own the 76ers, decided to take a page from the Washington Nationals and keep Hynes around for continuity. Besides, who else is there?

It's not too late for New Jersey. They're healthy, Hall is still there (for now) and they may be able to get some goaltending help from Louis Domingue. They think they're trending in the right direction, and if they're right, then that upward trajectory is coming at the right time as they head out on a five-game road trip starting Saturday in Raleigh, North Carolina.

What's wrong with the Flyers?

Philadelphia didn't have the flashy offseason that the Devils or New York Rangers had. Chuck Fletcher did his work early, before the draft even, and acquired Kevin Hayes, Justin Braun and Matt Niskanen. So far, Hayes has impressed and the other two have been serviceable but not necessarily difference makers on what remains a pedestrian defense.

After winning their opener in Prague, the Flyers came home to go 2-0 with a win over New Jersey, then embarked on a Western Canadian road trip that started a month of blemishes. Between going winless in those three games, and back-to-back awful showings against the New York Islanders and Pittsburgh Penguins, the Flyers are still an inconsistent bunch.

What do they need?



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Carter Hart had a bad two-week stretch and the Flyers aren't strong enough yet to overcome that. They need better goaltending from the 21 year old and over the course of the season they likely will. Their biggest need under new coach Alain Vigneault is to find the right combinations and pairings. Nolan Patrick being out indefinitely with migraines threw a wrench into the Flyers' plans and now a second center is out in Scott Laughton.

Vigneault said his first year with the New York Rangers it took him until Christmas to find the right lines and pairings. If it takes that long this season, the Flyers could be in trouble. They need to find consistency with their units and the sooner, the better.

Courier-Post LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159622 Philadelphia Flyers

Flyers at Devils: Game 12 preview, projected lines, betting and broadcast info

Dave Isaac, NHL writer Published 7:00 a.m. ET Nov. 1, 2019 | Updated 10:58 a.m. ET Nov. 1, 2019

Jack Hughes and the Devils end a six-game homestand against the Flyers Friday night.

Tonight: Flyers at New Jersey Devils

Site: Prudential Center / Newark, N.J.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

TV/Radio: NBCSP, 97.5 FM

Records: Flyers 5-5-1 | Devils 2-5-3

Last game: Flyers lost to PIT 7-1 on Tue. | Devils lost to TBL 7-6 in OT on Tue.

BetMGM odds: Flyers +1.5 | O/U 6.5

Eleven games into the Flyers season and they're trending in the wrong direction. So new coach Alain Vigneault has called from more of his top players, a power move that hasn't been used by a Philadelphia hockey coach in a while.

"I would say to you that starting the right way, playing the right way, starts with your top players," Vigneault said. "It starts with their leadership, their involvement in making sure that everybody is dialed in, tuned in. That goes from Kevin Hayes to Jake (Voracek) to (Claude Giroux) to (Sean Couturier). Those are the guys that we look to for guidance. When I say we, I'm a teammate in this room. I want those guys to step up and show us the way. Like I said, before those last two games, we were on right track. We had that little blip in the road. Hopefully (Friday) we're back to how we were playing before. We were taking strides every day, playing well defensively and that's what I'm confident I'm gonna see (Friday)."

FLYERS PROJECTED LINEUP

Forwards

25-James van Riemsdyk, 28-Claude Giroux, 93-Jake Voracek

23-Oskar Lindblom, 14-Sean Couturier, 11-Travis Konecny

12-Michael Raffl, 13-Kevin Hayes, 49-Joel Farabee

81-Carsen Twarynski, 50-German Rubtsov, 44-Chris Stewart

Defense

9-Ivan Provorov & 15-Matt Niskanen

53-Shayne Gostisbehere & 61-Justin Braun

6-Travis Sanheim & 5-Phil Myers

Goalie

79-Carter Hart

(37-Brian Elliott)

Injuries/suspensions

C Nolan Patrick – migraine disorder, injured reserve

LW Scott Laughton – broken right index finger, out four weeks

DEVILS PROJECTED LINEUP

Forwards

9-Taylor Hall, 86-Jack Hughes, 21-Kyle Palmieri

37-Pavel Zacha, 13-Nico Hischier, 63-Jesper Bratt

20-Blake Coleman, 19-Travis Zajac, 17-Wayne Simmonds

44-Miles Wood, 16-Kevin Rooney, 15-John Hayden

Defense

28-Damon Severson & 76-P.K. Subban

6-Andy Greene & 45-Sami Vatanen

8-Will Butcher & 7-Matt Tennyson

Goalie

29-MacKenzie Blackwood

(35-Cory Schneider)

Injuries/suspensions

D Connor Carrick – broken pinky finger, out four to six weeks

Courier-Post LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159623 Philadelphia Flyers

Devils lose to Flyers in shootout after another 3rd-period lead vanishes

By Chris Ryan



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Sean Couturier scored the lone goal in a shootout to lift the Flyers to a 4-3 victory over the Devils on Friday at Prudential Center in Newark.

Mackenzie Blackwood opened the shootout with a glove save on Jakub Voracek before Kyle Palmieri and Claude Giroux both drew iron with misses on their shots. Carter Hart made a save on Jack Hughes.

Couturier made pulled the puck back and tucked it inside the right post to beat Blackwood before Taylor Hall was stopped on the final attempt.

The third-period began as a 2-2 tie before the teams traded goals to send it to overtime.

Hall gave the Devils the lead when he scored at 9:58. Driving to the net on a 2-on-1, Hall was shoved to the ice, drawing a penalty, but he still managed to sneak a shot under Flyers goalie Carter Hart for his second of the season.

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

But it wouldn't be a Devils game without a blown lead in the third period, and the Flyers answered. Flyers rookie Joel Farabee scored his first NHL goal by snapping home a shot from the slot at 11:29. In eight home games this season, the Devils have had third-period leads in seven of them. They have surrendered the tying goal in five of those instances.

The Devils collected their first two goals by converting on a pair of power plays in the opening 40 minutes, giving them their first game this season where they converted on multiple man advantages. And after not scoring a power-play goal in the first six games of the season, the Devils have scored at least one in five straight.

Wayne Simmonds opened the scoring for both teams when he notched his first goal as a Devil, coming against his former team.

A pass from Kyle Palmieri on the left wall found Jack Hughes in the middle of the ice, and Hughes quickly dropped a soft pass down to Simmonds in front of the net. Simmonds patiently drifted toward the right circle before tucking a shot past a diving Hart at 6:24 of the first period.

Plan your Devils road trip: Lodging at Airbnb, Last Minute Travel, Choice Hotels, Intercontinental Hotels, Hotels.com

Oscar Lindholm scored off a rush at 10:39 of the first period, beating Mackenzie Blackwood high from the left side to tie the game, and a Sean Couturier shot rebounded off Devils defenseman Matt Tennyson and into net at 7:26 of the second period for a 2-1 Flyers advantage.

Sami Vatanen scored a goal for the third straight game to tie it at 2-2 at 14:28 of the second period, again on the power play. Nico Hischier made a slick move along the left wall to get free in the circle, and he hit Vatanen in the high slot. Vatanen's shot went bar down for his fourth goal of the season.

Hughes injury scare

Hughes went to the locker room at 11:59 of the first period after taking a hard hit into the boards from Flyers defenseman Matt Niskanen. Hughes' helmet flew off, and his

exposed head then hit the ledge between the glass and the boards.

Hughes missed the rest of the first period, likely getting checked for a concussion, before returning to start the second period.

Following the hit, Palmieri went after Niskanen, and both got five-minute fighting majors. Palmieri also received a two-minute instigator minor and a 10-minute misconduct. He sat out until the middle of the second period while serving his 17 penalty minutes.

Next up

The Devils are, finally, hitting the road. Following their six-game home stand, the team will play its next five games on the road, starting on Saturday when they visit the Carolina Hurricanes at 7 p.m. at PNC Arena in Raleigh.

The road trip will then take them through Western Canada, with stops to play the Winnipeg Jets, Calgary Flames, Edmonton Oilers and Vancouver Canucks.

Star Ledger LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159624 Philadelphia Flyers

Injury might have kept Sean Couturier out of faceoff dot, but can't prevent him from leading Flyers to hard-earned win

By Charlie O'Connor Nov 1, 2019

When Sean Couturier hopped over the Philadelphia Flyers' bench as the team's third option in a scoreless shootout Friday night at Prudential Center, you could almost see the collective eyebrows of everyone watching the game being raised. It became clear through 60 minutes that Couturier was battling some sort of injury, which was the only logical explanation for why the NHL's leader in faceoff percentage was largely deferring to wingers Travis Konecny and Oskar Lindblom on draws. Sending him out for a skills competition was a decision that could have turned ugly.

But like the Flyers as a whole Friday, Couturier found a way to pull beauty out of ugliness.

Not only did Couturier fool New Jersey Devils goalie MacKenzie Blackwood, but he also did so in highlight-reel fashion — using the same famous one-handed move that Peter Forsberg made famous at the Olympics over two decades ago. But might his choice to deploy “The Forsberg” have been influenced by the fact that just maybe, it was the unused left hand that wasn't quite at full strength?

“Not really,” Couturier said with a big smile on his face.

Just as their most effective player on this night wasn't playing at 100 percent, neither were the Flyers at their sharpest. Head coach Alain Vigneault after the game acknowledged as much, praising his club less for their high-skill plays and more for their ability to grind out a victory even when the team wasn't exactly on its A-game.



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"It wasn't a real pretty game from both sides, a lot of plays that could have been made that weren't," Vigneault said. "But at the end of the day, I like the way we stuck with the game plan."

Over the previous two games, sticking to the game plan had been a legitimate problem for the Flyers. Defensively, they were nothing short of a mess, and neither Vigneault nor the players came away satisfied Tuesday with the club's energy and compete level. A two-game skid shouldn't have been viewed as anything close to season-ending, but it was raising uncomfortable questions about the direction of the club. And while Vigneault's post-practice "challenge" to stars Claude Giroux and Jakub Voracek to improve the quality of their play got the most press, they weren't the only players named by the head coach. Kevin Hayes and Shayne Gostisbehere also got the "they can be better" treatment, as did Couturier himself.

And while Vigneault made a point to praise Giroux's battle level in particular during his postgame availability, Couturier was who stepped up the most.

After the Flyers fell behind 1-0 because of an early power-play goal, it was Couturier who sent a cross-slot pass over to Oskar Lindblom four minutes later to put Philadelphia on the scoreboard and help to ensure the game wouldn't spiral out of control the way the Pittsburgh and New York defeats had earlier in the week. It was Couturier who fought through the pain and blasted a slap shot toward Blackwood in the second period, getting rewarded for his trouble with a fortunate bounce that made it 2-1. It was Couturier who led the Flyers in five-on-five Corsi For percentage (68.42) and expected goals for percentage (53.15). And of course, it was Couturier who gave the team its final lead in the shootout, despite playing through an injury that he surprisingly acknowledged to the media in the wake of the win.

"Yeah, I'm not feeling 100 percent," he said, noting that he's trying his best not to further aggravate the issue despite playing through it. "It's part of the season, it's a long season, you've got to battle through injuries. I'm just trying to do what I can to help the team win."

Couturier's teammates picked up the slack for him where they could. Konecny, for example, stepped in for Couturier on nine draws despite only having taken 52 in his NHL career prior to Friday night. The result? A 7-for-9 evening that even Couturier himself (who took only three draws Friday and lost them all) would have been proud to deliver, even if Konecny himself took the route of humility after the game.

"It goes pretty far back, but I used to play center," Konecny said. "So I've just been taking a few here and there to get back into it. Obviously it's not the same with me taking draws as (Couturier)."

Konecny wasn't the only one who brought more than expected to the table. Joel Farabee finally was rewarded with his first NHL goal, and it came in clutch fashion, forcing a 3-3 tie with less than 10 minutes remaining in the contest. Carter Hart's save percentage on the night might not have been shiny, but he made a number of tough stops and successfully rebounded from his three-start rut. German Rubtsov — playing in his first NHL contest — earned praise from Vigneault after the game for his willingness to step in front of a P.K. Subban slap shot in the second period. And

then there was Matt Niskanen, who leveled rookie Jack Hughes with a clean first-period hit, and then answered the bell with Kyle Palmieri shortly thereafter, as the Devils veteran tried to make it clear that New Jersey's 18-year-old phenom was off-limits. Hart viewed the sequence as the moment when he realized the Flyers had brought the energy that had been lacking in Long Island and Pittsburgh.

"Nisky's a very solid defenseman, he's got a lot of skill as well, and for him to step up like that and set the tone there, I thought that set the tone for the hockey game," Hart said.

And the tone was clear — nothing was going to come easy in this one. With the Prudential Center ice surface far from at its best — Couturier jokingly attributed all of the solo falls to snipers taking target practice in the arena — it was never going to be a contest filled with tons of picturesque passing plays and slick dangles. Both teams ended up with a good-luck-bounce goal (Couturier's tally and Taylor Hall's third-period goal, which came about because Justin Braun knocked Hall and the puck into Hart on a two-on-one rush). Farabee said — perhaps in jest, perhaps not — that he had simply "closed his eyes and shot" on his game-tying tally. There was even a Wayne Simmonds goal (his first of the year), which should provide a window into what type of game this was.

The Flyers weren't necessarily the "better" team — primarily because of an effective power play, New Jersey finished with a small yet significant advantage by all-situations expected goals according to Natural Stat Trick (2.29-1.44) and Evolving Hockey (2.45-1.53). But in the end, the biggest difference between the two teams was that Philadelphia had Couturier — who continues to rank No. 1 in the entire NHL when it comes to five-on-five Corsi For percentage at 65.31 — and the Devils didn't.

Even if he wasn't at full strength.

The Athletic LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159601 New York Rangers

Rangers' Mika Zibanejad remains out with neck injury

By Larry Brooks November 2, 2019 | 2:53am

Mika Zibanejad will miss his second straight game Saturday afternoon in Nashville, as the Blueshirts' center has yet to skate since absorbing a punishing blow to the upper chest from Patrice Bergeron late in the first period of last Sunday's Garden match against the Bruins.

"It's more of a neck, upper-body thing," David Quinn said of the center who has previously suffered multiple concussions, including one as a Ranger two seasons ago.

Absent Zibanejad, the Blueshirts will again line up down the middle with Ryan Strome, Filip Chytil, Brett Howden and Lias Andersson.

"I prefer to have [Zibanejad], that's for sure, and when you look at our situation from the standpoint of our youth down



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the middle and when you look at it you think, 'Boy we really do miss him', and we really do," said the coach. "That being said, I thought that Filip Chytil had a second-line-center-type night, I thought Howden had a really good night. I thought Lias Andersson had his best night.

"Now they'll need to follow it up."

Alex Georgiev will be in nets against the Predators, marking the first time this year that the 23-year-old has gotten consecutive starts. Georgiev is 2-2-1 with a .924 save percentage and 2.56 goals against average. He is 2-1-1/.933/ 2.26 in four starts.

The Blueshirts, 4-5-1, are coming off two victories in the past three games in which respectable outings against the Sabres and Lightning were sandwiched around a debacle against the Bruins.

"We've done it two out of the last three games but that's not enough," Quinn said. "You can't go from playing well against Buffalo and then having that colossal drop that we did against Boston, and then we have an even better performance against Tampa than we did against Buffalo.

"We've got to find that level where if you're not having a great night and not feeling it, you've got to be able to survive."

New York Post LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159602 New York Rangers

Marc Staal frustrated about being left out of Rangers' lineup

By Anthony Rieber

GREENBURGH, N.Y. — Marc Staal spoke slowly and chose his words carefully on Friday. It was the first time he ever had to answer questions about being a healthy scratch in his 13-year NHL career.

"Obviously, I was upset, and pretty frustrated," said Staal, who was scratched Tuesday in the Rangers' most recent game. "You want to be in the lineup. You want to play. When I get that next opportunity, [I have] to make the most of it."

The 32-year-old defenseman won't get that opportunity when the Rangers face the Predators in Nashville on Saturday. Coach David Quinn said Staal again will sit, replaced for the second game in a row by 21-year-old rookie Ryan Lindgren.

"We talked at length today," Quinn said. "He understands what he needs to do to get back in. He's a guy that I really think will elevate his game . . . or at least I hope so. We need him. We need veterans and we need guys that have been in the league for a while, and I'm expecting him to get back to the level he needs to get to."

Staal said he was "caught off guard" by the decision on Tuesday but now has a better idea of what he needs to do to get back on the ice.

"I think, generally, what it always comes down to is there's obviously a reason why they decided to take me out," he said. "Just don't give them that reason. So it's the way I'm going to look at it and just try not to look too much big picture and just play the way I know I can play and those decisions don't have to be made."

Said Quinn: "If he does what I know he's capable of doing, he's going to be in the lineup. We want to win hockey games. At the end of the day, that's what it's about."

The Rangers had a rousing 4-1 victory over Tampa Bay without Staal in one of their best games of the season, but that doesn't mean Quinn doesn't want him back in there at some point for what he can bring to the team.

"I think he's smart," Quinn said. "I think when he's playing well, he's playing with an edge to his game. He's a strong defender. He's got good gaps. Good penalty-killer. Again, he's as likable a guy as there is. He's got a presence about him. Those are things that we need."

Notes & quotes: Mika Zibanejad did not practice and will not play Saturday. The Rangers' top-line center was injured on a hit by Boston's Patrice Bergeron on Sunday. Quinn clarified that the "upper- body injury" was to Zibanejad's neck and not his head . . . Alexander Georgiev will start in goal against the Predators. "[Nashville is] not only a good team but an old team," center Ryan Strome said. "It's a team that knows how to play the game and plays the right way. It'll be a good test."

Newsday LOADED: LOADED: 11.02.2019

1159603 New York Rangers

Carpiniello: This isn't the end for Marc Staal as a Ranger, but it's coming

By Rick Carpiniello Nov 1, 2019

GREENBURGH, N.Y. — Two things to be very clear about the Marc Staal situation, in which he was scratched for the first time in his 13-year Rangers career on Tuesday and will be held out again Saturday in Nashville:

One, he is not going to be permanently scratched just because the young players are here in numbers, especially a pair of 21-year-olds on the left side, which Staal has played his entire career.

Two, this is the beginning of the end for the 32-year-old Staal, which is more likely to arrive next summer and almost certainly before next season begins.

Oh, one more:

Staal, a career-long Ranger, knows this as well as the team does.

"Yeah, obviously I was upset," Staal said after practice Friday, the first time he's spoken publicly since coach David Quinn gave him the news Tuesday morning.



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"Pretty frustrated. But, you know, obviously at this point you want to be in the lineup, you want to play. I want to get that next opportunity so I can make the most of it."

It hurt even a little bit more on Tuesday against Tampa Bay because the Rangers honored the recently retired Dan Girardi before the game – another blueblood Ranger whose game slipped until he was bought out. Girardi and his kids dropped the ceremonial first puck and it would certainly have been Staal taking that draw against another ex-Rangers defenseman, Ryan McDonagh.

That is, if Staal had been in uniform.

But he wasn't. Quinn has said it was a performance-based decision and that he wants to establish a "meritocracy" around the Rangers where you earn your games. Staal has certainly been a good soldier, playing a role out of necessity last season and this, so far, as a first-pair shutdown defenseman and on the first penalty kill unit, which are arguably more than he should be forced to play at this stage. But the Rangers haven't had that left-sider to handle those duties.

But now lefty Brady Skjei's game is trending upward and 21-year-old rookies Libor Hajek and Ryan Lindgren are looking like they're ready for NHL demands on a youngster at that position, especially Hajek. Lindgren was called up on Monday, which directly or not, led to Staal's removal from the lineup. And Staal certainly struggled mightily against Boston the game before, though pretty much everybody, especially Hajek, did that night. So this has probably been mounting in Quinn's eyes.

But it's not permanent. Not yet.

The situation's reality is that Skjei, Hajek and Lindgren should all be on the team next season, not to mention the possible arrival of first-rounder K'Andre Miller or top prospect Yegor Rukov (currently injured in Hartford) – among the truckload of lefty defensemen the Rangers have in the pipeline. There won't be room for Staal, who has this year and next remaining on his contract, with a \$5.7 million annual cap hit.

So the last 72 games here, if he lasts that long, are all he has left.

The Rangers could try to trade him – which would require him waiving his no-trade clause and the Rangers eating some salary. And make no mistake, he can still play in a lesser role on a better team.

Such a move, however, may not come until over the summer, and it could include the Rangers taking back a bad contract at another position.

If the Rangers go the buyout route next June, they'll be stuck with a \$3.5667 million dead cap-space hit in 2020-21 and \$1.067 million in '21-22 (per CapFriendly.com).

But his departure is coming. Staal has seen Girardi, Derek Stepan, McDonagh, Rick Nash, Michael Grabner, Mats Zuccarello, Kevin Hayes and Kevin Shattenkirk go out the door the last three seasons, all of them over contracts much more than performance. He knows what his future holds and that it's not here.

On another note, the Rangers' pending decision on Henrik Lundqvist, entering the final year of his deal (at an \$8.5 million cap hit) next season, will make this one look like a hiccup. But Alexandar Georgiev will start a second straight game Saturday, has been the better of the two goalies since last January, and Igor Shesterkin, the team's top prospect and Lundqvist's heir apparent for a long time now, is killing it in his first North American season down in Hartford.

The news of Lundqvist sitting out a second straight game as a backup to Georgiev barely registered a ripple on Friday. It would have been big news prior to last season.

Staal isn't looking that far down the road, or at least he isn't saying so.

"I think, internally, what it always comes down to is obviously (there's) a reason why they decided to take me out," he said.

So, he added, "just don't give them that reason."

"That's the way I'm going to look at it and try not to look too much big-picture and just play the way I know I can play. Then those decisions don't have to be made."

Staal said there really hadn't been a lot of discussion about his performance prior to Tuesday, "so it caught me off guard that way."

"There have been (discussions since) and will be going forward here. I was made aware of it and it's my job just to perform on the ice."

And Quinn – another smart guy who understands the big picture while trying to do what's best for his rebuilding team today – is certainly not saying this is permanent for Staal, who skated as the seventh defenseman in practice Thursday and Friday. In fact, he seems to be saying it's quite temporary.

"Yeah, we've talked to him," Quinn said. "He understands what he needs to do to get back in. He's a guy that I really think will elevate his game to where he's going to be in the lineup, or at least I hope so. I mean, we'll need him. He's a guy who's been in the league for a while and I expect him to get back to the level he needs to get to."

Asked what it about Staal that makes him a player they want in the lineup, Quinn said,

"I think he's smart, I think when he's playing well he's playing with an edge to his game. He's a strong defender. He's got good gaps, a good penalty killer. Again, this is a guy who's been around a long time. He's a likeable guy who's got a good presence about him. Those are things that we need."

I asked Quinn if having the two rookie lefties here complicates the decision.

"No, again, if he does what I know he's capable of doing, he's going to be in the lineup. You want to win hockey games, so at the end of the day, that's what it's about."

So this is not yet the end for Staal as a Ranger. But it's the beginning of the end. Or he can at least see the finish line from here.

The Athletic LOADED: 11.02.2019



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1159604 New York Rangers

Identifying key trends and takeaways from the Rangers' first 10 games of the season

By Shayna Goldman Nov 1, 2019

Now that we're through the first 10 games of the Rangers' 2019-20 season, we have a significant enough sample size to get a sense of some early trends and takeaways regarding the team.

The Rangers weren't without challenges to open the season, which included a fairly weak roster, odd scheduling and having to quickly develop chemistry in that limited playing time with so many new faces. A 4-5-1 record and nine points, which puts them 13th in the Eastern Conference and 24th in the league, is reflective of some of those struggles. That record isn't too concerning for a building team — although it has extinguished much of the offseason hype surrounding them. However, it has exposed some of the fundamental weaknesses of this group as well as some of their early season strengths.

Team level-trends and 5-on-5 struggles

The Rangers opened the season with a fast-paced win over the Jets. The underlying numbers didn't match the score sheet, as the Rangers lost the shot and quality battle. Still, it was exciting hockey nonetheless.

The next game, their first on the road, was more decisive with a 4-1 finish. Not only did they convert on the power play twice and tally a short-handed goal, they took a step forward below the surface. Then again, they were facing a much different opponent in the Senators.

"I thought maybe those first two games really deceived us in what we're going to have to do to be successful... I thought, because we scored six goals in the Winnipeg game even though we were fortunate to get out of there with a win, then we go up to Ottawa and win and (we scored) a goal everybody was talking about," head coach David Quinn explained.

"Unfortunately, to have to sit there and live with it for a week, maybe we convinced ourselves that we were going to be somebody that we really can't be."

After that week, in their third game of the season, the Rangers were dominated by the Oilers, who took over 70 percent of both the shot and expected goal share.

Starting with their next game, a tilt in New Jersey, their scheduling was finally consistent. Unfortunately, their play through many of those games was all over the map, whether it was a lack of offense, struggling defense, or efforts weren't there for the full 60 minutes. Along the way, there were some questionable lineup decisions and combinations and a lack of tactical adjustments that this team appears to be in need of.

Their five-game losing streak came to an end against the Sabres. But it was followed by an awful game against the

Bruins that couldn't simply be excused by the absences of Jesper Fast and Mika Zibanejad for two periods. It was more than just being outmatched versus a top team like Boston, it was a systematic failure.

The Rangers ended October on an unexpected high note with a victory against the Lightning, led by some of the team's most coveted youngsters. Calling up Filip Chytil gave the forward group a much-needed spark and balance. Ryan Lindgren's promotion appears to have helped in his first game, but also shows how the coaches are seeking more consistency from their blue line at any cost — even if it's scratching veteran Marc Staal.

"I think throughout this homestand we got a little bit of an eye-opener of what it's going to take for us to be successful. The good news is two of the last three games we've put together two good performances and won hockey games and in between we showed certainly how we weren't going to be able to have success," Quinn continued.

Through 10 games, the Rangers rank last in the league with a sub-42 percent Corsi; their expected goal rate of 43 percent puts them second to last. Offensively, their weaknesses are more with quantity than quality, but defensively they're the worst in the league in both respects.

The only positive takeaway that they're slowly trending up from season start.

Viz via [ChartingHockey.ca](http://ChartingHockey.ca)

The question is where they go from here. November is a much busier month in terms of playing time and the opponents — The Athletic's Dom Luszczyszyn has the Rangers with the third toughest schedule next month. But with more games, at the very least, the team will better define themselves and what they are, as Quinn explained.

"So, when you play more games, you find out what it's going to take to win, and you also find out what we can't do if we're going to have the season we think we're capable of having."

Player level trends — who's hot and who's not?

Along with trends at the team level, there's a lot to learn at the individual level through the first 10 games. First, let's start with those who have been hot in October.

Artemi Panarin is that damn good. He's started the season with 10 points with five goals and five assists through 10 games. Elite playmaking and his right-handed shot make him such a dangerous player, but his skill extends further than that.

Panarin is a workhorse every shift. He battles for pucks and once he has it back on his stick, good luck trying to get it away from him. Whether it's maintaining control and deking away from an opponent or sending a crafty pass to set up another play, how he sees the ice and processes his next move so quickly makes him such a dynamic player whose impact is already clear early in his Rangers tenure.

Another new face worth talking about after October is rookie defender Adam Fox. Being a part of this blue line is no easy task, and adapting to the NHL from the NCAA level isn't without its challenges. But Fox has taken it in stride. While the defender has just three points on the season, his



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underlying numbers paint a better picture of what he's added to this team.

He's the closest Ranger to breaking even in terms of Corsi at 5-on-5 at 49.98 percent, and is one of their top players in expected goals as well. It's because of his play on each end of the ice. The Rangers are shooting more with him on the ice and getting higher quality chances as well as limiting shots and chances against.

Goaltenders can hide defensive deficiencies. That's been the case in New York for most of Henrik Lundqvist's tenure. The Rangers defense is at a point where it's pretty tough to mask their weaknesses. With each defensive breakdown, the question is how their goaltenders are going to stand on their head to support the team. Lundqvist and backup Alexandar Georgiev have both been doing that to start the season.

Both goaltenders are at least saving what the average netminder would against those shots. When factoring in quality, both have saved more than expected through their first few starts. Their in-game workloads are tough with the number of shots and chances they're subjected to, but their workloads in terms of balanced starts is another positive trend.

On the positive side of things, Filip Chytil responded to his demotion out of training camp with a high level of play in Hartford. He played at his natural position of center, generated offense with his puck possession play, was solid in his own end, and finished his AHL time with nine points in nine games — all of which, earned him a promotion when the Rangers lost Zibanejad to injury. In his first game back, he thrived between Chris Kreider and Pavel Buchnevich, netting his first NHL goal of the season and finishing with the third-best game score of 2.21 on the night.

Let's look at those who have trended down, starting with Kreider.

Despite numerous line combinations, including time with Kaapo Kakko and Ryan Strome on the second line, a shift to the right to move up to the first line with Zibanejad and Kreider, and time on the left of Zibanejad and Kakko, Kreider often hasn't looked like the play-driving winger he's known to be. At 5-on-5, he's below the 40 percent mark in both Corsi and expected goals through 10 games.

It's possible that trade speculation has been weighing on him and influencing his game. Not clicking with his center seemed plausible until he moved up to play with Zibanejad. Maybe it's simply that his and Kakko's playing styles didn't fit together.

Chart via HockeyViz

Kreider has tallied three points over his last three games — which is encouraging — but what stands out even more was his performance against Tampa Bay when he played alongside Chytil and Buchnevich. The winger reached a season-high 1.86 game score for his efforts, which is far better than his season average of -0.17.

That brings us to Kreider's frequent linemate, Kakko. With the second-worst average game score in the league of -0.88, there are rightfully concerns about his game and his development.

Adjusting to the NHL is a process, and it's even tougher while on a struggling team.

When Zibanejad returns from injury, as long as Chytil maintains his role on the second line, the forward group should be deeper. This bodes well for Kakko — whether he ends up on the first or third line. Right now, Kakko's averaging 14:41 in all situations, which is about third-line minutes, but he hasn't exactly done much to earn more playing time. The coaches could finally put him with Panarin and Zibanejad on the first line on a consistent basis in the hopes that their playing styles mesh, or they could keep him in a sheltered role lower in the lineup. If they feel he's really struggling, Hartford is another option that has to be considered if it seems necessary.

Another struggling rookie is Libor Hajek, whose average game score of -0.82 is the third worst in the league in October. He isn't the only defender in New York to struggle. Their defensive systems — from the tactics themselves to their execution — are the root cause of the problem. But some of his flaws are still noticeable.

Hajek's 33 percent 5-on-5 Corsi is the worst on the Rangers and his expected goal percentage rates poorly. They don't shoot at a high rate with him on the ice, but more importantly, he's on for the highest rate of shots against of the defense (74.66 per 60). What helps is that Hajek blocks shots, so his Fenwick against, which is all unblocked attempts, is an improvement. However, there's still an issue with quality.

The question is whether it's best for him to play through it at the NHL level or return to the AHL under their new look coaching staff to work on his game. He already is playing alongside the team's leading defender in Jacob Trouba. If Lindgren builds off his first game with the Rangers this season, there's going to be competition on the left side of the lineup, which may force a decision on what's best for Hajek for the time being.

There's also the fourth line. It's less that they've trended down and more that they aren't doing much of anything to make this team better, which is why they don't see much ice time. The problem is that there's an important piece of the Rangers' future down the middle of that line playing between defender Brendan Smith and either Micheal Haley or Greg McKegg. While Lias Andersson has stayed defensively reliable even with these linemates, it's limited his offensive potential.

For as hard as this line works, teams in today's NHL should be rolling four skilled lines. With a healthy Zibanejad and promoted Chytil in the lineup, someone that was skating in the top-six will have to move to the bottom-six, which should put a more skill on the fourth line as a result. With an improved fourth line, they should see more minutes, and that should better balance the Rangers' forward group as a whole — which times well with the upcoming schedule they have ahead in November.

Data via Evolving-Hockey, NaturalStatTrick, and HockeyViz. This story relies on shot-based metrics; here's a primer on these numbers. The Athletic's Rick Carpiniello contributed to this report.

\*Note: an issue in NHL play-by-play tracking data with shot locations affected some of the shot-based metrics that were



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used here. While the error was fixed beginning with Oct. 16 games, others prior to were not retroactively corrected. Counsel with Evolving-Hockey resulted in our use of this year's data in comparative means only.

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The Athletic / LeBrun: Coaches who could soon be free agents, plus how the concussion protocol played out with Carey Price

By Pierre LeBrun Nov 1, 2019

We spend so much time spotlighting key players who are pending UFAs and not nearly as much time on the men behind the bench.

It's never very comfortable for a head coach to be working on an expiring deal, but it's also part of the business, especially when you've been somewhere a while or you're working for a new boss.

There are three head coaches on expiring deals, more or less, this season:

Detroit's Jeff Blashill signed a two-year extension late last season with the Red Wings but my understanding is that it's a one-year deal plus a club option for Year 2. So this season is the only guaranteed part of things.

Minnesota's Bruce Boudreau is in the last season of the part of his contract that pays him a coaching salary; he does have two more seasons on his deal that pay him less money to be a consultant. And knowing Boudreau, that's just some insurance in case he can't do what he'd much rather be doing moving forward: coaching.

Winnipeg's Paul Maurice is in the last season of his deal, pure and simple, no options or consultant years tacked on.

So those are your three guys with uncertain futures. And both Boudreau and Blashill similarly were inherited by new general managers. Both Wild GM Bill Guerin and Red Wings GM Steve Yzerman have a lot of roster building to do over the next few years. Where does each coach fit into that?

I would think Yzerman is using his first season as GM in Detroit to get to know everyone around him, including his coach. Yzerman never rushes into any decision. So I wouldn't even try to guess right now where he's going to go with Blashill. All I can tell you from my vantage point is that I feel Blashill has gotten the maximum from a rebuilding roster the past few years, I really do. But it's been a tough season so far for the Wings, that is for sure.

Guerin told me recently when we sat down for a Q&A that he's enjoyed getting to know Boudreau and he's certainly not rushing into any decisions, either. It would seem though that given Boudreau's contractual crossroads at the end of the season, it will force a decision by Guerin either way. If Boudreau miraculously makes this lackluster Wild roster

compete this season, maybe that wins over Guerin. If Boudreau is cut loose, he'll be hired pretty fast elsewhere, in my mind.

Maurice is an interesting situation. As head coach in Winnipeg since January 2014, he's done nothing but elevate his stock with his work on a Jets team built nearly from scratch. He had to teach kids, mold them into veterans and deal with higher expectations. But the salary cap has crushed the Jets this year, plus Dustin Byfuglien decided he didn't feel like playing – at least so far – which created all kinds of mayhem for Maurice to deal with on his suddenly thinner roster.

If the Jets miss the playoffs, is it really fair that Maurice would pay the price? Makes no sense to me. I know he's been there five years and that's normally the kind of timeline where coaches get judged on but given the roster blue line chaos that was out of his hands, you would think at least an extension would be warranted.

As for the coaches under contract past this season whose teams are slow out of the gates, I've gotten a lot of questions over the past week from hockey fans wondering about Pete DeBoer in San Jose.

Two things to consider here:

The contract extension he signed in the summer of 2018 actually kicked in this season.

GM Doug Wilson has only fired two coaches in 16 years and never did it in-season. Ron Wilson and Todd McLellan were both let go after the season.

Now, I'm not saying Wilson wouldn't ever make a change in-season, I'm just saying he never has. I also know Wilson has great affinity for DeBoer and how he goes about his business.

Yes, if the Sharks' season doesn't get out of the toilet, there will be pressure to react, even if the plan before the season was to try and integrate some youth and with that the knowledge that there may be some growing pains.

The Sharks were meandering in the opening half last season, too, before waking up in December and getting it going. They need to find that resolve again.

Goalies and Concussion Protocol

Carey Price grabbed his head. Then he looked off-balance trying to skate it off.

Surely, that called for the quiet room for a little checkup?

I was really surprised and frankly dismayed this week when, after taking an inadvertent skate to the head in Arizona on Wednesday night, Price didn't get a quick trip off the ice as part of the concussion protocol.

And so on Thursday morning, I checked with NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly on two things:

What the rules were in the updated concussion protocol language as far as what the concussion spotters are looking for before pulling out a goalie in that situation.

What Daly was informed from his staff had actually happened Wednesday night in Arizona with Price.



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Answer No. 1 via email from Daly: "Discretionary removal only if slow to get up or clutching of the head (in other words, on-ice evaluation by trainer at next timeout is permissible). Mandatory removal only if lying motionless on ice, blank and vacant look or exhibited motor incoordination."

Answer No. 2: "The play was flagged by the central spotters and team was alerted to visible signs (slow to get up and clutching of the head). Spotters did not characterize incident as having involved demonstrated motor incoordination. As indicated previously, the noted visible signs only require alerting of Club — removal is at the discretion of the Club."

So as far as the current rules are stated, the play met all the criteria Wednesday night. My understanding is that the Habs did check on Price at the next available break in play. So nobody was in the wrong Wednesday night.

Mind you, when seeing Price off-balance going for a skate and almost running into the referee, I might argue that constituted the part where he "exhibited motor incoordination," which then might have checked the box for automatic removal. But that's in the eye of the beholder in real-time, and I get that's a tough call.

It just feels to me that when it comes to goalies, the threshold is so much higher than skaters for the in-game protocol to take effect.

Listen, the NHL has come a long, long way in how it handles these things. Players have never been safer when it comes to concussion protocol.

But the goalie position, for me, is still a grey area.

If I had my way, the current in-game protocol would be tightened so that it takes away the onus from the team. I just don't think it's fair to heap that decision on team personnel when they're in the midst of a competitive situation. Of course, teams care about the safety of its players, but in the heat of the game, there's a lot going on. I think a neutral, third party should be making that call with a clear vision.

If you see a goalie clutch his head like Price did Wednesday night after taking a skate to the head, the league protocol should immediately call for a trip to the quiet room. Period.

In Price's case, he took a puck to the head two seasons ago during a game in Philadelphia, seemed fine at the time and finished the night in goal. Then he missed a month with a concussion.

Remember when Corey Crawford took a slap shot from Shea Weber in the mask, from the faceoff dot no less? Crawford stayed in the game. If I had my way, he certainly would have been put through in-game protocol there.

Just earlier this season we had another one like Price. Ottawa veteran goalie Craig Anderson took Jason Zucker's skate to the mask.

The Senators' athletic therapist did come out and check on Anderson, which is a good thing. But again, I would like in a beefed-up protocol that he leaves the ice there for a quick quiet room checkup to make really sure.

Listen, the goaltending position makes it a unique problem. You may remember how Mike Smith reacted in 2017 after being pulled out of a game for the protocol to get checked out.

"I think there's a lot of flaws in the system, especially with the goalie position, and it needs to get fixed," a heated Smith told the Arizona Republic the next day. "What stops a fourth-liner from going and bumping into a goalie? It's just a two-minute penalty to get your starting goalie out? I don't think it's happened in a playoff game yet, but I'm sure it will."

GMs looked at it at their annual meetings in March 2017 but the protocol is here to stay. Goalies need protection just like the skaters. I just personally feel the current protocol — which has come a long way — can take one more step forward for goalies.

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The Athletic / DGB Grab Bag: The Svechnikov debate, who'll survive the curse of November 1st and sexy Joel Quenneville

By Sean McIndoe Nov 1, 2019

From the headlines

Today is one of my favorite dates on the hockey calendar: Nov. 1, the day we can look at the standings and declare a whole bunch of teams' playoff chances dead and buried.

It's all thanks to Elliotte Friedman, who made a stunning discovery years ago: Teams that are four points or more out of a wild card spot on Nov. 1 rarely make the playoffs. It seemed like it couldn't be right — four points is just two measly wins to make up over five whole months — but back then, just three of the last 32 teams had managed to make the comeback.

In the years since, as parity around the league has become even more pronounced, it's become slightly more common to see teams pull it off, with last year's Blues going from six points back all the way to winning the Cup. So no, the curse of Nov. 1 isn't some hard-and-fast rule, and it's never been close to a sure thing. But even now, it serves as a sobering reminder for fans of underperforming teams that making up ground in the NHL is a lot tougher than we'd intuitively think.

This year, there are 12 teams that are already at least four points back, which is way higher than most years and actually a little bit crazy. With so many candidates, you'd think that it's all but a sure thing that at least one or two will come back and make the playoffs. But which ones? Here's my best guess, ranked from least to most likely.

12. Ottawa Senators — Nope.

11. Detroit Red Wings — Also nope. Like the Senators, the Wings are rebuilding and the playoffs aren't the goal this year. Miracles happen, so you never say never, although Dom kind of already has. I'll just go with "nope."

10. Los Angeles Kings — Those underlying numbers suggest that there's more life here than we think. But unless



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Jonathan Quick time travels back to 2012, they've already fallen too far behind.

9. New Jersey Devils – I still like a lot of their roster on paper, but any playoff hopes always rested on a goaltending bounce-back and they aren't getting it. There's already a ton of ground to make up, and a non-zero chance they have to trade their best player over the next few months.

8. Minnesota Wild – Here's a fun fact: One analytics site currently lists the Wild as having a better shot at the playoffs than the Maple Leafs. That seems extreme, but there are some pieces here. Of all the teams that could pull off what would feel like a miracle comeback, the Wild are the most likely. They're also the most likely to completely implode and finish dead last in a spiral of in-fighting, firings and drama.

7. Chicago Blackhawks – They've won fewer games than the Wings, Wild and Kings, and are slowly but surely closing the games played gap from the Europe trip, so that's not an excuse anymore. On paper, they're the most talented team on our list so far, but they've got a long way to go.

6. New York Rangers – If you've spoken to many Rangers fans lately, you might be surprised to learn that they're not 0-10-0. They're not good, but with a bit of momentum from a big win over the Lightning and plenty of games in hand, you could see them gaining some ground.

5. Winnipeg Jets – The Dustin Byfuglien saga seems to have taken a turn for the worse with this week's surgery announcement, which hurts their chances. Still, they're four points back and have games in hand on everyone they're chasing.

4. Columbus Blue Jackets – Wait, the Blue Jackets were technically three points back at midnight on Nov. 1 in their time zone, and only fell to four points back when the Canadiens pulled off the comeback in Vegas. Do they count? I may need a ruling here.

3. Philadelphia Flyers – They haven't really impressed so far, but they're five points back with multiple games in hand, so just based on the numbers they're in better shape than almost anyone else.

2. Dallas Stars – A few days ago, they would have felt like a long shot. As early as tomorrow, maybe they will again. But man, that comeback over the Wild felt like the sort of win that marks a turning point in a season, didn't it?

1. San Jose Sharks – There's just too much talent. They have a lot of ground to cover, and haven't given us any reason to think they'll do it. For lack of a better term, they just look broken right now. But then you look down the roster, and ... I mean, something has to change, right? Whether it's a big trade or a coaching switch or just a few stars upping their game, it can't be like this all season. Well, yeah, it can, and at seven points back already there's a very good chance that this pick makes me look dumb when the Sharks miss the playoffs by double-digits. But I'm already in too deep, so let's ride or die.

The week's three stars of comedy

The third star: Not Don Cherry – As a Canadian living in a country where literally everyone has a terrible Don Cherry impression that they're convinced is excellent, this one isn't bad. He works in a "you kids out there" and gets a name

wrong, which is solid attention to detail. It's not Jim Ralph, but it's a B+. Fits right in with the L.A. image.

(NOT) @COACHSCORNERDC, IT'S (NOT) DON CHERRY#GOKINGSGO  
PIC.TWITTER.COM/MXHZHFQWJK

&MDASH; LA KINGS (@LAKINGS) OCTOBER 31, 2019

The second star: The Boston Bruins – I'm not really a Halloween guy, so I can't get too worked up over every random costume. But as far as they go, this was the best group effort of the bunch, and for a good cause to boot.

WE ARE READY. ☐ #NHLBRUINS  
PIC.TWITTER.COM/JT7D5FAIEW

&MDASH; BOSTON BRUINS (@NHLBRUINS) OCTOBER 28, 2019

The first star: T.J. Oshie – Who doesn't love a good callback?

WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE RUN BY THESE @NATIONALS. YOU COULD TELL THEY HAD SOMETHING SPECIAL IN THAT CLUBHOUSE. CONGRATS FELLAS! ACCORDING TO YELP HERE'S SOME FOUNTAINS IF YOU WANT TO KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE. #WORLDCHAMPIONS #FIGHTFINISHED PIC.TWITTER.COM/KKCPMMI8BW

&MDASH; TJ OSHIE (@TJOSHIE77) OCTOBER 31, 2019

Debating the issues

This week's debate: On Tuesday, Carolina's Andrei Svechnikov scored a lacrosse-style goal from behind the net against the Flames. While we've seen the move from time to time over the years in college, junior hockey and other leagues, Svechnikov is the first to pull it off in a meaningful NHL game.

This week's debate topic: Hey, that was pretty awesome, wasn't it?

In favor: Sure was!

The final verdict: Cool, good debate. On to the next section.

Opposed: Wait.

In favor: Oh no.

Opposed: It's me, the NHL fan who will find a way to have a problem with literally anything fun!

In favor: You can't possibly object to somebody scoring a goal in a cool and entertaining way.

Opposed: Oh just watch me.

In favor: OK, hold on. Can we just point out that this guy is a distinct minority of hockey fans? Almost everyone loves the Svechnikov thing, right?

The final verdict: Actually, read our Twitter mentions. These fans are definitely out there.

In favor: Deep sigh

Opposed: May I?

In favor: If you must.



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Opposed: These goals are wrong!

In favor: Because ...

Opposed: Well for one thing, they're disrespectful. I don't know if you've ever laced them up and actually played the game, but I have. And let me tell you, if you tried to pull that move against my team when I was out there, you'd be getting a knuckle sandwich.

In favor: Gosh, you must be ever so tough.

Opposed: Thanks, I am.

In favor: But this is nonsense. Look, I'm old school enough to believe that there really is such a thing as being disrespectful out there. I don't give a full pass for every celebration, especially when a game is already decided. And I can at least see the objection to stuff like the Linus Omark spin move that don't have anything to do with the actual play. But this is a guy scoring a goal to tie the game in the third period, and doing it in pretty much the only way he could from where he was on the ice. What could you possibly have a problem with?

Opposed: It would make me and my teammates feel bad.

In favor: So, tough.

Opposed: But it's not just about respect. There's also a safety element.

In favor: See, this seems to be the other main objection. I don't get it. Explain this to me.

Opposed: Let's say the move becomes more common, like some people expect. Suddenly, goalies are going to have to deal with stick blades whirring around their heads at all times?

In favor: Not all the time, no. But occasionally, yeah, maybe. I'm not sure if you've noticed, but goaltenders wear facemasks. That's kind of been a thing for a few decades now.

Opposed: But a stick blade at just the right angle can get through a goalie's mask. And even if it doesn't, what if he gets smacked in the head? Or in the throat, or shoulder?

In favor: Then he gets smacked. But goalies wear more protection than any other pro athlete, and they already have stick blades waving around at face-level pretty much all game long. I'm sure a stick to the head could hurt, and I'm not trying to be glib here. But is it really worse than the risk of a 100 mph slapshot, which has been part of the game forever? If the once-in-a-generation chance of an injury from a perfectly placed stick really what we're going to hang our hat on here?

Opposed: Also, that move is really hard to stop.

In favor: Good!

Opposed (sobbing): Won't somebody please think of the goalies!

In favor: No. This league has been thinking of the goalies for the last 30 years. We gave them expert coaching and giant equipment and dumb rules that randomly take goals off the board for no reason. Now we finally might be ready to enter the era where players occasionally score by pulling off a

move that looks cool and takes a ton of skill, and we're honestly going to complain about it? Why? How is this a thing? Where is this coming from?

Opposed: Don Cherry doesn't like it.

In favor: There it is.

The final verdict: Seriously, if you're mad about this just wait until those weird floorball kids make it to the NHL.

Obscure former player of the week

John Carlson is unstoppable right now, having just posted one of the greatest Octobers in terms of blueline offense that we've ever seen. By racking up more than 20 points, he joined a club that's only other members since the WHA merger are Paul Coffey, Brian Leetch and Al MacInnis.

That's pretty impressive. But scroll just a bit further down the list, and you'll find a slightly less familiar name. This player is the proud owner of a 19-point October, one that came way back in 1981. That would be this week's obscure player, Risto Siltanen.

Siltanen was a Finnish defenseman who was variously listed anywhere from 5-foot-7 to 5-foot-9. That would be considered small today; by early-80s standards, it practically made him a hobbit. But after some impressive seasons as a teenager in Finland, the Blues rolled the dice on him with an 11th round pick in the 1978 draft.

I want to pause here, because Siltanen's selection kicks off one of my favorite draft stories. As you might remember, the draft in the 1970s was weird. Until it was reworked as the more familiar entry draft in 1979, the draft didn't have a limit on how many rounds it could go. Teams could just keep picking until they were out of names they wanted, and the draft kept going until everyone had passed. That led to some weird situations, like the Rangers, Islanders and Capitals dragging things on for 25 rounds in 1974. Thing didn't go quite as long in 1978, but it got close, largely because the Blues kept buying picks from other teams. In fact, let's play a guessing game: How many picks do you think the Blues made in 1978 after picking Risto Siltanen, who I will remind you was taken in the 11th round?

Believe it or not: 18 picks. Yes, really. In addition to using their own picks in the 12th, 13th and 14th rounds, the Blues traded cash for 15 more selections. And here's the best part – the 18 players they drafted after Siltanen would combine to play a grand total of zero NHL games.

That's right. Eighteen players taken over the course of four rounds, not one of whom ever sniffed the ice in the NHL. All while guys like Anton Stastny, Darryl Sutter, Chris Nilan and Viacheslav Fetisov were being taken by other teams. That may be the least successful draft in Blues history, which is pretty impressive considering they once sat one out entirely.

Anyway, Siltanen ended up signing with the WHA's Oilers instead, playing the 1978-79 season in Edmonton. When the merger happened in 1979, the Blues were allowed to reclaim his rights, but quickly traded him back to the Oilers. He put up decent numbers there, with 35 points in 1980-81 and then 53 in 1981-82, earning a single third-place Norris vote to tie Curt Giles and Rick Lapointe for 21st in the balloting. His best year came in 1981-82, when he had that red-hot start, capped off by a four-point night on Halloween (which was



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also his 24th birthday). He finished the year with 63 points, then was dealt to the Whalers for Ken Linesman in a trade that took him by surprise.

Not as surprisingly, being dealt away from the burgeoning Oilers powerhouse put a dent in Siltanen's numbers; he'd play five more seasons in Hartford and Quebec, but only topped 50 points once. He finished with 355 points for his NHL career before heading back to Finland in 1987, where he'd play for another decade.

Just for fun, here he is in the 1982 playoffs during one of the rare examples of 3-on-3 hockey from the era, taking a pass from Wayne Gretzky and then confusing everyone.

Classic YouTube clip breakdown

In recent weeks, we've developed a bit of a theme in this section. Two weeks ago we looked back at a young Joe Sakic riding a bike with one leg. Last week it was Allan Bester teasing the ladies in front of a piano.

It was all in good fun, I can imagine what you're probably thinking: Dude, enough with the awkwardly retro rookie profiles from the distant past. Can't we do something a little more modern? Isn't there some current-day newsmaker you could profile for a change? Somebody like, just to pick a random example, highly paid Cup-winning head coach Joel Quenneville?

Fine, you win. Here's an awkwardly retro rookie profile of Joel Quenneville.

If the uploader's description is to be believed, this clip comes to us from almost exactly four decades ago: Oct. 31, 1979. It's from the broadcast of a game between the Leafs and Whalers, one that will end up having some historical importance as it features the last ever goals in Toronto for both Gordie Howe and Dave Keon. We have an intermission report on tap, and as the soundtrack might indicate, things are about to get sexy.

Can we just point out that this clip is from 40 years ago and Dave Hodge looks exactly the same as he does today? Is everyone OK with this? I won't say anything if you won't, but I feel like we're not making a big enough deal out of the fact that somebody in the 1970s obviously developed hologram technology that could be trained to flip pencils.

OK, so I lied a little bit in the intro. This isn't a rookie profile; Quenneville has just started his second year with the Leafs. But we're recapping his offseason, so I think that's close enough.

Our reporter is Heather Marshall, and she immediately gets all up in Quenneville's business by telling us how much he earned in junior. Spoiler alert: It's slightly less than he makes these days.

But the important thing is that he was "the idol of many a Windsor teenage girl." We immediately cut to Quenneville lounging next to a giant white umbrella, and for a second I got very excited thinking he was about to launch into a song-and-dance number. Sadly, no. It's just a very weird photoshoot.

Our photographer has Quenneville holding a cigar and is trying very hard to get him to smile. Remember, he plays for

the Harold Ballard era Maple Leafs, so he's probably forgotten how.

We hear about how in-demand the kid is and how it all adds up to "fame, fortune, and invasion of privacy." Avoid the temptation to roll your eyes, because you're going to need them to get a look at this tall drink of water. He doesn't have a mustache so I have no idea who it is, but his come-hither stare game is so strong that it makes '70s music start playing.

Also, he likes golf. That will come in handy over his Maple Leafs career.

More personal philosophy from our modest hero. The shot gets closer as he talks, either because the camera is zooming in or the cameraman is leaning over to try to kiss him.

By the way, Quenneville is 20 years old in this interview. That's it. He's one year older than Allan Bester was in last week's clip. I thought I had a pretty good handle on aging curves for NHL players, but apparently not. Twenty-year-old Joel Quenneville in 1979 looks older than Dave Hodge does in 2019.

He tells us that he hopes he's "never too good for anybody". Luckily for him, that's the 1979-80 Maple Leafs' team slogan.

We find out that Quenneville keeps in shape during the offseason by playing the occasional scrimmage with friends, which is pretty close to what players do these days. We also get a shot of him helping out at a summer hockey school, which I believe makes this official coaching debut. It's pretty much the same as this year's Panthers, except that those kids have a goaltender.

We keep leaning into the local hero angle, as he walks down what I can only assume has been renamed Joel Quenneville Street. We get to watch him shop for a new coat for his nights on the town and/or Inspector Gadget Halloween costume, and then it's back to the ice as we wrap up. All jokes aside, it's clear from the report that Quenneville is a fine young man, a pillar of the community and the sort of strong leader that the Maple Leafs can build their team around for years to come as they turn toward a hopeful future.

Epilogue: A few weeks after this aired, Quenneville was traded to Colorado as a throw-in to one of the most-hated deals in franchise history.

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The Athletic / The Athletic's NHL Power Rankings: What's on the horizon for November?

By Scott Burnside Nov 1, 2019

Au revoir October, we hardly knew ye.



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Over the course of a six-month NHL season, the first month of play is an appetizer of sorts. Some teams will fall into the tasty category, but can they carry it into the main course, which really begins being served in November?

If October was a little undercooked and bland, there's still time but November is the month that GMs and coaches traditionally point to as when a team reveals its true colors (unless you're the defending Stanley Cup champions who made a mess of everything last season until January, but St. Louis' route is not the recommended bill of fare).

The rankings are a compilation of voting by The Athletic's NHL team and will be done at the beginning of every month of the regular season.

### 1. Boston Bruins (26 first-place votes)

Record: 9-1-2

Previous Ranking: No. 2

David Krejci is back in the lineup and the Bruins are quietly firing on all cylinders with a league-best .833 winning percentage. What Stanley Cup final hangover?

### 2. Colorado Avalanche (four first-place votes)

Record: 8-2-2

Previous Ranking: No. 9

The early Western Conference darlings, the Avalanche face a mighty test with the loss of Mikko Rantanen and Gabriel Landeskog to injury.

### 3. Washington Capitals

Record: 9-2-3

Previous Ranking: No. 4

Maybe the Stanley Cup window hasn't closed on the Caps who are once again atop the Metropolitan Division led by the Great 8, Alex Ovechkin, who has 11 goals in his first 14 games.

### 4. Vegas Golden Knights

Record: 8-5-1

Previous Ranking: No. 5

Marc-Andre Fleury leads the league in wins and the Golden Knights look to be built for the long haul.

### 5. Nashville Predators

Record: 8-3-2

Previous Ranking: No. 7

Terrific start for a Nashville team that crashed and burned in the first round of the playoffs. The moribund power play has shown signs of life, and getting Roman Josi under contract removes potential distractions down the road.

### 6. Buffalo Sabres (two first-place votes)

Record: 9-2-2

Previous Ranking: No. 26

Yes, the Sabres won 10 in a row last season and still stunk. But there's a different feel around this team now in Ralph Krueger's first season in Buffalo. In short, is it too early to say the Sabres are finally the real deal?

### 7. Carolina Hurricanes

Record: 8-3-1

Previous Ranking: No. 13

Speaking of the real deal, the Hurricanes are showing last season's renaissance was no fluke. Well-built. Well-coached. What's not to like, Don Cherry?

### 8. New York Islanders

Record: 8-3-0

Previous Ranking: No. 16

Ho hum, more coaching magic from Barry Trotz as the Islanders are the cream of the New York area, ranking fifth in the league in goals allowed per game.

### 9. Tampa Bay Lightning (one first-place vote)

Record: 6-4-2

Previous Ranking: No. 1

Hmm. Did Jon Cooper get a vote in this ranking? Something not quite right for the Lightning who have been pedestrian at best through the first month, and pedestrian won't cut it in the Eastern Conference.

### 10. Edmonton Oilers

Record: 9-4-1

Previous Ranking: No. 27

A critical lack of depth scoring remains the key factor in the Oil getting back to the playoffs, but they'll take that fashionable 9-4-1 record through October any day.

### 11. St. Louis Blues

Record: 7-3-3

Previous Ranking: No. 10

Vladimir Tarasenko's absence for five months will make the daunting task of repeating even more onerous for the Blues, but if any team is built for this it might be the Blues.

### 12. Pittsburgh Penguins

Record: 8-5-0

Previous Ranking: No. 11

The Penguins have ridden out injuries to key personnel and questions about the blue line to stay in the thick of the Metropolitan Division race thanks to superlative play by Sidney Crosby.

### 13. Arizona Coyotes

Record: 7-4-1

Previous Ranking: No. 18

One of the most pleasant surprises of the first month, the Coyotes are the top defensive club in the Western



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Conference. Can they find enough offense to propel them back to the playoffs for the first time since 2012?

### 14. Toronto Maple Leafs

Record: 6-5-3

Previous Ranking: No. 3

Trouble is brewing in Toronto where the Leafs overpaid for young stars, are missing captain John Tavares and can't seem to find any level of consistency, especially on the defensive side of the puck.

### 15. Florida Panthers

Record: 6-3-4

Previous Ranking: No. 15

The Panthers are tied for 29th in the league in goals allowed per game. Guess \$70 million doesn't get you as much goaltending as you thought it would.

### 16. Vancouver Canucks

Record: 8-3-1

Previous Ranking: No. 25

The Canucks are another pleasant surprise and are a ton of fun to watch with their potential for offensive fireworks while still getting it done on defense, where they are fourth in the league in goals allowed per game.

### 17. Calgary Flames

Record: 7-6-2

Previous Ranking: No. 6

The mediocre Flames are not close to being where they need to be in terms of consistency, and after last spring's first-round collapse, there are red flags aplenty for this talented team.

### 18. Montreal Canadiens

Record: 7-4-2

Previous Ranking: No. 17

There is lots to like about this young team, including a dynamite power play, but it is definitely a work in progress, especially on the penalty kill where the Habs are 29th.

### 19. Anaheim Ducks

Record: 8-6-0

Previous Ranking: No. 28

I feel our voters were a bit harsh on the improving Ducks who are thriving under new coach Dallas Eakins.

### 20. Philadelphia Flyers

Record: 5-5-1

Previous Ranking: No. 19

Definitely some growing pains with a new coaching staff in Philadelphia. Special teams have improved but one step forward, one step back through the first month.

### 21. Columbus Blue Jackets

Record: 5-5-2

Previous Ranking: No. 23

The Blue Jackets are grinding it out after the offseason departure of key personnel, but they'll need to figure out the goaltending as Columbus sits 27th in goals allowed per game.

### 22. Winnipeg Jets

Record: 6-7-0

Previous Ranking: No. 14

A difficult month for the up and down Jets as they continue to play without Dustin Byfuglien, as the big D-man contemplates his future while recovering from an ankle injury.

### 23. San Jose Sharks

Record: 4-8-1

Previous Ranking: No. 8

Even the return of Patrick Marleau hasn't cured what ails the Sharks who were expected to contend for the top spot in the Pacific but are a desultory 4-8-1 with an ugly minus-16 goal differential.

### 24. Dallas Stars

Record: 5-8-1

Previous Ranking: No. 12

Big comeback win against woeful Minnesota aside, things have been ugly in Dallas where the Stars are last in goals per game and 27th on the power play in spite of a talent-laden lineup.

### 25. Chicago Blackhawks

Record: 3-6-2

Previous Ranking: No. 21

The Blackhawks are 30th in the league in goals scored per game. An unhappy Brent Seabrook has been a healthy scratch. Uneasy times in Chicago to be sure.

### 26. Minnesota Wild

Record: 4-9-0

Previous Ranking: No. 24

Surprised the Wild are this high, really. Can't score off the rush. Can't defend. New GM Bill Guerin has his work cut out for him with this poorly built squad.

### 27. New York Rangers

Record: 4-5-1

Previous Ranking: No. 22

I still think the Rangers figure this out. Really.

### 28. Los Angeles Kings

Record: 4-9-0



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Previous Ranking: No. 30

By far the leakiest team in the NHL, allowing a ghastly 4.15 goals per game, the Kings aren't really very good on special teams either. And they can't score. Other than that everything is fine.

29. New Jersey Devils

Record: 2-5-3

Previous Ranking: No. 20

Probably the biggest disappointment of the 31 teams through the first month after multiple collapses. Turning things around must start with better goaltending after the Devils gave up 4.10 goals per game to start the season. Crunch time with Taylor Hall may come much sooner than most envisioned in New Jersey.

30. Ottawa Senators

Record: 3-7-1

Previous Ranking: No. 31

Pretty much where we thought the young, talent-challenged Senators would be. Playing hard, though, and they will get better. Not much, but better.

31. Detroit Red Wings

Record: 4-8-1

Previous Ranking: No. 29

The Red Wings are full value for their ranking here at the bottom. A long, uphill road ahead for GM Steve Yzerman starting with a creaky blue line and popgun offense that is tied for 29th in the league.

So, what lies ahead in the month of November?

Here's a look at 10 storylines to follow:

Let's Start At The Top

People talk Colorado, Tampa, Toronto, Vegas, Nashville, lots of different teams when it comes to potential Stanley Cup champions. Further down this list, you'll see a scout's early potential final matchup. But Boston is surprisingly off the radar, which we doubt the Bruins mind. They top our Power Rankings after one month of play and I'll admit some surprise. People talk about Stanley Cup hangovers but there's a finalist hangover, too. Short summer. Painful memories. They can conspire to derail teams or at least make getting into a groove difficult. Not the Bruins who boast goal and point machine David Pastrnak, who has 12 goals and 24 points in 12 games. They also happen to lead the league in goals allowed per game. Bruce Cassidy has done yeoman work in getting his team ready to play from the get-go in the competitive Atlantic Division. All this with starting the season with a four-game Western road trip. One longtime Eastern Conference analyst chalks it up to a single thing: culture. There is no sense of satisfaction with the team, he said: "I couldn't be more impressed with (Cassidy) as a coach."

Bye, Bye, Tarasenko

Speaking of Cup champions, the Blues looked frankly a little better than you might expect a defending champ to look in

the first month of the season. The Blues are in the mix for the top spot in the Central Division but now face the prospect of playing the balance of the season without sniper Vladimir Tarasenko, who had shoulder surgery and will be evaluated again in five months. Gulp. Good news is that the Blues are as well-balanced a team as there is in the NHL. It's how they won the Cup. Already lots of names being thrown around as to who steps up, like Robert Thomas, Sammy Blais, etc. But it's not that simple. "That's a kick," one longtime scout said of the Tarasenko news. "That's a hard one." A big challenge for the leadership group and the coaching staff is to ensure this doesn't become the subtle psychological trigger to accepting there might not be a repeat in their future. "That's the last thing you want to have," the scout said. Hey, it's nigh on impossible to repeat, now you take away the team's most gifted offensive player, no one will bat an eye if the Blues don't make a deep run next spring. Or even miss the playoffs. The challenge is for those thoughts to stay firmly outside the walls of fortress Blues. They'll find out pretty quickly just how things will go sans Tarasenko as the Blues play 15 games in November, with eight on the road.

New York State of Mind

At the start of the season there seemed to be a possibility of a titanic three-way battle for supremacy among the New York area teams. It's been forever since the Islanders, Rangers and Devils were all relevant and playoff-worthy at the same time. Well, it's a streak that doesn't look like it'll be ending anytime soon as the Rangers and Devils emerged from October with a combined 6-10-4 record. While it's not too late for either team to rebound into the playoff picture, there is lots of work to be done on both sides of the Hudson River. At one point this week the Rangers and Devils were tied for 30th overall in goals allowed per game at an unsightly 3.78. The Devils' predicament is more pronounced given the specter of former Hart Trophy winner Taylor Hall departing as a free agent next summer. Assistant GM Tom Fitzgerald came down from the executive suite to add another set of eyes on the bench, but one of the key issues you can see from just about anywhere is that the Devils are once again getting substandard goaltending. Cory Schneider has not returned to form and MacKenzie Blackwood has not been able to replicate his sterling work when he was called up late last season. There was discussion in the offseason about adding a veteran netminder but the decision was made to see what the Devils had in-house. Right now it's turning out to be a less than pretty sight as the Devils are allowing 4.10 goals per game. The Devils have a five-game road trip mostly through Western Canada and play six games in 10 days to start November, and already the questions are rampant about whether or even why Hall would want to remain a Devil.

Hall to the Blues?

Speaking about Hall. We spoke to a longtime scout and executive who floated this idea. What happens if the Devils are still muddling through the season heading into the New Year and there is no extension in sight for Hall? How good would Hall look patrolling the wing for the Blues given the sizeable hole on the team's top line and top power play unit? Could St. Louis GM Doug Armstrong find a way to make it work vis a vis the salary cap if Tarasenko isn't coming back until after the end of the regular season? That would be a pretty powerful statement from a Blues standpoint and there are lots of shiny baubles in the Blues pipeline that might be



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interesting to the Devils, who are in desperate need of help along the blue line. Hmm. It would be perfectly Armstrongesque if he did take a run at Hall as the deadline approaches and a real timetable on Tarasenko's return becomes available.

### And Then There's The Islanders

While the Rangers and Devils try and dig themselves out of early holes, the Islanders chug along in semi-anonymity. Ground has broken on a new arena but their uncomfortable split between Long Island and Brooklyn continues to leave fans wanting – the Isles rank 30th in attendance. Their offense is middle-of-the-pack but once again they remain one of the most difficult teams in the league to play against – a tribute to the personnel assembled by GM Lou Lamoriello and defending coach of the year Barry Trotz. Last season they were tops in the league in goals allowed and, even though they inexplicably let Robin Lehner depart and replaced him with injury-prone veteran Semyon Varlamov, they are fifth in the league in goals allowed per game and were 8-3-0 through their first 11 games with a tidy plus-7 goal differential. One scout familiar with the team said it's simple, not pretty, but simple. "It's a totally different mentality. It's a system," he said of the Isles' approach. "They're winning because they're stingy. Period. You and I could be in goal." Can you win it all playing that way? Probably not given the lack of true game-breakers in the lineup, but right now the Isles are as good as it gets in the New York area and look once again to be a playoff team even without Jordan Eberle in the lineup.

### Avalanche Rising

The Blues aren't the only team dealing with the absence of a top-end, game-changing offensive talent. Matt Duchene and Filip Forsberg were both down near the end of the month for a very good Nashville team. Eberle has appeared in just five games for the surprising Islanders, and then there is the double-whammy sustained by the Avalanche as they are without both Mikko Rantanen and captain Gabriel Landeskog to start November. The skilled Rantanen was off to a superb start with 12 points in nine games fresh off the new contract he signed on the eve of the season. Their injuries aren't as serious as Tarasenko's, but they also aren't considered day-to-day either, which will test the Avs' newfound scoring depth that has been aided in large part by the arrival of Nazem Kadri, who has eight points in 12 games but will play up the lineup in the coming days. "He's been a good fit," said one western-based scout. J.T. Compher has moved into Rantanen's spot for the most part, playing with Nathan MacKinnon. And then there's Cale Makar, who is tied for the rookie lead in points with 10 and is already making observers shake their head in wonder. "The question really is how many Norris Trophies is he going to be able to fit in his house," one scout said. "He is unreal." The Avs have been excellent at home and on the road compiling identical 4-1-1 records, which is a good thing as they play nine times away from Denver in November. All nine of those games are against Western Conference opponents who will be looking to feast on a team minus two star forwards.

### Colorado and Carolina in the final?

First, pending the extent of the injuries to Rantanen and Landeskog, could you imagine a scenario where Avs GM Joe Sakic takes a run at Hall? The Avs have a lot of good

talent coming through the pipeline that might be enticing to New Jersey GM Ray Shero if it comes to that. Just saying. But there is definitely a feeling the Avs are built for the long haul. Unbidden one of the scouts we were chatting with this week offered this early-season look ahead to next June. How about Colorado and Carolina in the final, he wondered? "Now, that would be entertaining," he said. Hard to argue that. The Canes play an exciting brand of hockey and have quietly assembled a formidable lineup. Traditionally slow out of the gates, they emerged from October with an 8-3-1 record and plus-9 goal differential. They haven't really missed former captain Justin Williams who stepped away from the game; and Petr Mrazek, with help from new backup James Reimer, has been very steady as the Canes were seventh in the league in goals allowed while averaging more than three goals scored per game. This scout admitted he was skeptical when Rod Brind'Amour took over as head coach last season but there has been no backsliding from a Carolina team that shocked observers by advancing to the Eastern Conference final last spring. "They play for him," the scout said. "I like them a lot."

### Lamentable Times in Big D

It was almost exactly 10 months ago that Stars president Jim Lites said in no uncertain terms what he thought of the play of top stars Jamie Benn and Tyler Seguin. The Stars rebounded to make the playoffs and knocked off Nashville in the first round before taking eventual Cup champ St. Louis to double-overtime in Game 7 of the second round. With the addition of Joe Pavelski, the continuing evolution of franchise defensive prospect Miro Heiskanen and the emergence of blazing-fast Roope Hintz, once gain the hockey world was bullish on the Stars. Not so fast. The first month of the season has brought more consternation for the squad as they rank dead last in the league in goals scored and their power play is ranked 26th. Benn and Seguin have combined for four goals in 14 games. Alexander Radulov has four goals and three of them were scored against lowly Minnesota in one game. "It looks like a chemistry issue in my opinion," one longtime scout said. He noted that you can't just expect Pavelski to jump into a true leadership role. "That takes time," the scout said. By playoff time, look for Pavelski to be an integral part of the Stars' hopes for a long playoff run. But first they need to get there and that includes a critical four-game Western Canadian road trip in the middle of the month. As for lingering feelings about the public excoriation, one executive put it this way: "that stuff never goes away."

### Pacific Dark Horses

With San Jose continuing to struggle, a couple of Pacific Division teams have staked early claims to playoff spots. Both Vancouver and Arizona have nearly identical records heading into November, although they're getting it done in different ways. The Coyotes (7-4-1) continue to ride the hot hand of netminders Darcy Kuemper and Antti Raanta – they are second in the league and tops in the Western Conference in goals allowed per game. One scout admitted he's still trying to figure out who the Coyotes are identity-wise, but he did offer high praise for the goaltending tandem. "They're both 'B' goalies but they're playing like 'A' goalies," he said. He also pointed to Connor Garland, who leads the team with six goals. "He's figured it out," the scout said. "He plays inside the dots. He's relentless." They'll need to get more out of Garland and the rest of the group to solidify what



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would be their first trip to the postseason since 2012, as both the goals per game and power play are slightly lower than middle of the pack.

The Canucks, now an impressive 8-3-1, on the other hand, are a team that has shown it can win in multiple ways, including overpowering teams with an offense that was fourth in the league. Much was made of the decision by GM Jim Benning to acquire J.T. Miller from Tampa for a package that included a first-round pick. That pick can be pushed to 2021 if the Canucks don't make the playoffs this year and don't want to risk a lottery pick ending up in Tampa's hands. But Miller has been as advertised with 14 points in 12 games. Said one scout who saw a lot of Miller out East when he was with the Rangers and Tampa: he's been good everywhere he goes. But he was pushed down the depth chart in Tampa whereas Miller is now proving to be a valuable top-six performer for the Canucks. By the way, does anyone talk about the job that Travis Green has done with the Canucks? They should because the Canucks have quietly gotten it done defensively, ranking fourth in the league in goals allowed per game.

Score More, Give Up Less

Not rocket science but one longtime scout and executive was discussing how he likes to focus on one stat above all others in a world with myriad statistical explanations for all facets of the game: the goal differential. Of the 16 teams that qualified for the playoff tournament last spring, not one had a negative goal differential. Makes sense. An early look at the playoff standings through the first month shows the Maple Leafs, who are even in goal differential, and St. Louis (minus-1) and Florida (minus-4) were the only two teams in playoff spots with negative goal differentials. One Eastern-based scout suggested that unless Florida turns that red number into a green or positive number, it won't be playing playoff hockey even though they continue to collect points. If you're a Panthers fan, one assumes Sergei Bobrovsky will be better come November because certainly the Panthers were expecting more from a \$70 million goaltender than a 3.71 GAA and .873 save percentage. Other playoff-hopeful teams on the negative side of the goal differential include defending Pacific Division champion Calgary (minus-4), Winnipeg (minus-8), San Jose (minus-16) and Columbus (minus-12).

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Sportsnet.ca / Canucks hoping star defenceman Quinn Hughes won't be out long

Iain MacIntyre | November 2, 2019, 2:01 AM

ANAHEIM, Calif. – The one point, the Vancouver Canucks can live without. The one defenceman, Quinn Hughes, they desperately need.

The outstanding 20-year-old rookie, an early candidate for the Calder Trophy, was injured Friday in the first period of a

game the streaking Canucks lost 2-1 in overtime against the Anaheim Ducks.

The Canucks dominated the first 35 minutes, outshooting the Ducks 32-10 on Anaheim's lumpy ice, but still needed a late bank-shot goal from Adam Gaudette to leave with one point in the National Hockey League standings.

But Vancouver could lose several more points over time if Hughes, who appeared to torque his left ankle when he fell on his own while pivoting in the neutral zone, is out for a lengthy period. Fortunately for the Canucks, the initial prognosis is Hughes will be back soon.

The dynamo who co-led NHL rookie scoring with 10 points in 12 games – as a defenceman – will be re-examined Saturday in San Jose and may even play that night against the Sharks when the Canucks end their three-game California tour.

"I don't think it's anything too crazy, so that's good," veteran centre Brandon Sutter said of the injury. "We just keep going. Anytime someone goes down, everyone's just worried about their next shift. We don't dwell on it too much. Hopefully it's something pretty small and we'll see him real soon here."

"It's obviously something you never want to see. . . especially your defensive partner," Chris Tanev, who is Hughes's defence partner, told reporters. "He's been so good for us throughout the first 11 or 12 games. Hopefully, it's nothing too serious. It sort of looked like he toe-picked or caught an edge or something. But like I said, hopefully it's nothing serious and he's back sooner rather than later."

Why the concern about a rookie with 18 games of total NHL experience?

It's not hyperbole to say the Canucks have never had a defenceman as dynamic as Hughes, who has played in Vancouver's top-four since the season began and went into Friday's game averaging 20:20 of ice time, second among all NHL freshman.

He has been a catalyst in the Canucks' surging power play and the 8-1-1 tear the team carried into Anaheim. The Canucks control 55.6 per cent of even-strength shot attempts when Hughes is on the ice.

"He's super skilled," Tanev said. "He's a tremendous player. He skates, he moves the puck, he's quarterbacking the power play. As I said, it's a big loss and hopefully he's back soon."

Hughes played nearly half of the first 15 minutes before he went down. Skating quickly back towards his zone as the Ducks rushed up ice, Hughes pivoted and appeared to stub his toe. His ankle was jarred and he fell forward on to his knees. Play was stopped and he was able to get up and, with referee Kyle Rehman's help, limp off the ice and to the Canucks dressing room.

The team soon announced Hughes would not return due to a "lower-body" injury.

His absence was immediately felt on the Canucks' power play, which pumped in four goals during Vancouver's 5-3 win Wednesday against the Los Angeles Kings, but went 0-for-5 against the Ducks.



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Even before Hughes fell on his own, it looked like the ice at the Honda Center might be poor. Despite getting outshot 19-5 in the opening period, the Ducks scored the only goal shorthanded with the help of a couple of bounces.

Hughes stopped a rush by Rickard Rakell, but the puck tumbled away from the Canuck just inside the Vancouver blue line. With Jakob Silfverberg skating after it, Canucks winger J.T. Miller had an angle to cut off the Duck or collect the puck. He did neither, as the puck hopped past his stick. Suddenly on a breakaway, Silfverberg roofed a forehand over goalie Jacob Markstrom's left shoulder.

"It was a bit weird, to be honest," Canucks winger Tanner Pearson, who played five years in Los Angeles, said of the ice conditions. "You're in California; it's hot outside. You kind of expect it. It was so-so."

The Canucks trailed for 40 minutes and 14 seconds before tying it at 13:42 of the third period. For all the pressure and shots Vancouver generated in the first two periods, Gaudette's goal banked in off the skate of Anaheim defenceman Korbinian Holzer as the Canuck tried to return a pass to Sutter, who had dished it wide on an outnumbered rush.

The Canucks survived a controversial delay of game call against Markstrom late in the third period when the goalie was penalized for coming out of his crease to cover a loose puck as Anaheim forward Max Comtois hovered over him. Tanev made two key blocks on the penalty kill, the second with his butt as he fearlessly slid in front of Silfverberg's one-timer.

But the Ducks won it at 2:30 of overtime when Markstrom gambled and raced for the puck but was rounded by Ryan Getzlaf, who scored easily on the breakaway.

"He got the puck and his first touch wasn't the best," Markstrom explained. "I thought I had him beat and I didn't. That's the read I had. It's always easy to say now I should have stayed in, but I didn't. It's a tough loss when we played such a good game."

On the late penalty call against him, which appeared to be correct under Rule 63.2, Markstrom said: "I still think it's really weird. I didn't get that penalty at all. I don't agree with it, but also I'm not 100 per cent sure what the rule is, and I think the referees know the rules better than I do."

Shots finished 40-29 for Vancouver. One that didn't count as a shot was Elias Pettersson's wristed off the bar in the final second of regulation time.

The Canucks are 8-1-2 since starting the season with two losses and have outshot opponents in nine straight games.

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1159698 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Crosby vs. McDavid: A timeline of every superstar showdown

Mike Johnston | November 1, 2019, 3:13 PM

Whenever the Pittsburgh Penguins play the Edmonton Oilers, the game within the game is always going to be Sidney Crosby vs. Connor McDavid.

The two superstar centres are set to meet for the first time in 2019-20 on Saturday for a matinee at PPG Paints Arena – and history suggests it'll be a fan-friendly affair.

McDavid and Crosby rank first and fourth, respectively, in NHL scoring since McDavid entered the league in 2015-16. During that time, McDavid has earned one Hart Trophy, two Ted Lindsays and two scoring titles, while Crosby added two more Stanley Cups, two Conn Smythes and a second "Rocket" Richard to his massive career trophy case.

Not to mention, McDavid has been voted No. 1 in each of the past two Sportsnet top NHL players lists with Crosby finishing third this year and runner up in 2018.

Crosby has 19 points in 16 career games against the Oilers, while McDavid has 10 points in six career games versus the Pens. Interestingly (or not) Crosby averages less ice-time per game against the Oilers than he does against any other team, while the opposite is true of McDavid. The Pens are the only team against which McDavid, who recently played in his 300th career game, averages more than 24 minutes per game.

#LetsGoOilers Connor McDavid's 260 career assists are the 7th-most in #NHL history through a player's first 300 career games:

W. Gretzky – 413

M. Lemieux – 317

P. Stastny – 302

P. Forsberg – 274

D. Savard – 272

S. Crosby – 269

C. McDavid – 260

— Sportsnet Stats (@SNstats) October 30, 2019

Both players, unsurprisingly, are off to hot starts once again in 2019-20. McDavid sits tied for third in the league with 23 points in 14 games with Crosby not too far behind at 17 points in 13 games so far.

With the first of two possible Crosby-McDavid showdowns this season going down this weekend – the Pens and Oilers also meet Dec. 20 at Rogers Place – we've decided to look back at how each Crosby vs. McDavid game has gone so far.

EDM @ PIT – Nov. 8, 2016

Final score: Penguins 4, Oilers 3

As a rookie in 2015-16, McDavid broke his clavicle a few days before his first scheduled encounter with Crosby and the Pens and he was still recovering for the second scheduled meeting that season, so he never faced Crosby as an 18-year-old.



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Also, the Crosby-captained Team Canada and the ultra-popular McDavid-led Team North America never met at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey. So, despite making his NHL debut on Oct. 8, 2015, McDavid didn't go up against Crosby until the 2016-17 campaign.

McDavid showed out in his first matchup with Crosby, registering an assist on each of Edmonton's three goals.

Despite scoring eight goals through his first six games of the season, Crosby was held pointless and struggled in the faceoff circle this night against the Oilers but his team came out on top, scoring two in the third period for a come-from-behind win in regulation.

2017 NHL All-Star Game – Jan. 29, 2017

Final score: Metropolitan 4, Pacific 3

The second time the two superstars faced off against one another on NHL ice was during the 2017 All-Star Game festivities when Crosby represented the Metropolitan Division and McDavid the Pacific.

Crosby and McDavid performed well at the skills competition the day before the game. Both won their matchup during the accuracy shooting competition and McDavid shockingly had the best time in the fastest skater event.

In the actual games, Crosby had a goal and an assist when the Metropolitan team beat the Atlantic Division squad. McDavid had a goal and two assists as the Pacific blew out the Central. McDavid scored in the final but just like in their first NHL encounter, Crosby was scoreless yet his team won 4-3.

PIT @ EDM – March 10, 2017

Final score: Penguins 3, Oilers 2 (SO)

The second official 87 vs. 97 showdown began with each registering a quality scoring chance on the opening shift.

McDavid had nine shots in the game and scored his 23rd of the season in the third period that tied the game at two goals apiece. Overtime solved nothing so it went to a shootout where they ended up trading goals. Crosby scored on Cam Talbot blocker-side before McDavid beat Marc-Andre Fleury post-in to keep his team alive. Phil Kessel won it for the Pens to sweep the season series.

EDM @ PIT – Oct. 24, 2017

Final score: Penguins 2, Oilers 1 (OT)

Stop me if you've heard this one before. McDavid scored for the Oilers, Crosby was left off the scoresheet yet his Penguins emerged with a one-goal win that required extra time and Phil the Thrill notched the game-winner – on a breakaway no less.

PIT @ EDM – Nov. 1, 2017

Final score: Penguins 3, Oilers 2

One week after Kessel's OT winner the teams met again, this time in Alberta. Unlike their previous three NHL games (four including the All-Star Game), Crosby managed to register a point in this one. Sid helped set up a Conor Sheary goal and McDavid assisted on both of his team's

goals in another losing effort. Crosby's assist and McDavid's second apple both were lovely backhand feeds.

PIT @ EDM – Oct. 23, 2018

Final score: Penguins 6, Oilers 5 (OT)

This one early last season is the best Crosby vs. McDavid game to date.

Crosby deflected in a Kris Letang pass to open the scoring midway through the first period for his first career goal against the Oilers with McDavid in the lineup. The Oilers captain kept his team afloat with a goal and assist and these teams went into overtime for the third time in as many seasons.

The game ended with Crosby scoring one of the best goals of his career, which is saying a lot.

EDM @ PIT – Feb. 13, 2019

Final score: Penguins 3, Oilers 1

Their most recent meeting is the only game that was decided by more than one goal. Crosby and McDavid each recorded an assist in this one with McDavid leading all forwards in ice-time with 25:06 played.

The signature moment from this game was McDavid getting stopped on a penalty shot late in the second period. McDavid patiently skated in on Matt Murray but the Penguins netminder flashed the leather.

"It's a great challenge," Crosby said after the game when asked what it's like going one-on-one with McDavid. "He's pretty tough to defend. A lot of times you can be in good spots and good positionally but with his speed if you're even you're probably in trouble."

Head-to-head stats excluding the All-Star Game...

So, as you can see above, McDavid often wins the battle but Crosby always wins the war.

Will that continue to be the case this season? Tune into Sportsnet early on Saturday to find out.

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Sportsnet.ca / Canucks' Sven Baertschi out to prove he's an NHL calibre player again

Iain MacIntyre | November 1, 2019, 6:46 PM

ANAHEIM, Calif. – It wasn't the physiological recovery that allowed Sven Baertschi to get back to hockey this fall as much as the psychological one he required after suffering a concussion and the onset of anxiety last season.

Baertschi's new outlook, his mental peacefulness and confidence, was severely tested a month ago when the Vancouver Canucks demoted him to the minors, dumping



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the winger back where he started more than four years ago. Ultimately, that same mindset has carried him back to the National Hockey League for another chance with the Canucks.

The 27-year-old Swiss was recalled Friday from the Utica Comets after Canucks forward Micheal Ferland, whose summer signing by Vancouver helped push Baertschi on to waivers and down to the American League on Sept. 30, was sent home after suffering a concussion in a fight Wednesday against Los Angeles Kings forward Kyle Clifford.

Baertschi was not scheduled to play Friday night against the Anaheim Ducks, but skated with his old teammates in the morning and could play Saturday in San Jose when the Canucks end their three-game tour of California.

"Once a team puts you on waivers, you sort of have that. . . weird feeling, kind of: 'What's next and where do we go from here? Do they need me still?'" Baertschi told reporters at the Honda Center. "All these things kind of go through your head.

"The first feeling when I got back to Utica was: 'Why am I here again? I thought I left the AHL and became an NHL player.' At the end of the day, I was going to Utica with the mindset I am an NHL player. I've become that."

Whether in Vancouver or somewhere else, Baertschi plans to prove this again.

He'd probably be on another NHL team already were it not for a one-way contract that demands a salary of \$3.37-million this season and next.

The former first-round pick, acquired in a 2015 trade with the Calgary Flames, has 58 goals and 108 points in 219 games with the Canucks. And until he was concussed on an unpenalized hit from behind last Oct. 24 in Las Vegas, Baertschi was a top-line regular beside Canucks captain Bo Horvat.

The concussion Baertschi suffered, and the anxiety that followed, restricted him to just 26 games last season. He scored nine goals, so he can still play.

Baertschi credited his adoption of mindfulness meditation, which has its roots in Zen and Buddhism, for healing him and getting him ready for training camp in September.

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But Canucks coach Travis Green and general manager Jim Benning detected hesitancy in Baertschi's game and, with the off-season additions of wingers Ferland and J.T. Miller, assigned the veteran to Utica.

Truthfully, the organization hoped another NHL team would claim Baertschi on waivers and lift his salary off the Canucks' payroll. But Baertschi cleared – as nearly everyone did on the eve of the regular season – and reported to upstate New York, where he helped the Comets start 8-0-0 by scoring 10 points in seven games.

"I know Sven well, so I know he was hungry to get back and do well," Green, who coached Baertschi in junior hockey in Portland, told reporters Friday morning. "There was never a

doubt about that. Those are hard conversations to have with guys that have been in the league a little bit. Really, we said that all summer long — that we would have to make some hard choices. And we did, and that was one of them."

Green was unsure when Baertschi will play but said, "I know we'll get his best when he's back in the lineup."

The Canucks' objective in the summer signings was, partly, to establish regular linemates for Horvat, who endured 30 different combinations of wingers last season. But with Baertschi gone, the two-way centre has already cycled through five different line combinations in 12 games. Ferland bounced around the lineup while managing one goal and five points in 12 games.

Now with Ferland on injured reserve and Horvat struggling to generate even-strength offence, Baertschi seems like an obvious fit with his old linemate. Of course, Baertschi also looked like a fit for the 23-man roster before he was re-assigned.

"Sven and I are really good friends, so it was tough to see him get sent down," Horvat said Friday. "It's nice to have him around the room again. I knew he would do exactly what he's been doing: producing and playing well and maintaining a positive attitude. It's not easy moving your whole family down. He was super-positive though the whole experience, and I think that's why he's back so soon. I'm just happy to have him back."

Baertschi, his wife, Laura, and their six-month-old son, Callan, lived in a Utica hotel the last month. Laura and the baby have returned to Portland, her hometown, and Sven has arrived back at the Canucks with three huge suitcases.

"Everything I own," he said.

Baertschi is planning to be here awhile.

"It's a call you don't want to get," Baertschi said of his demotion. "But it happened. It was their decision at the time. I had to wait for the visa (to play for Utica) at the time, so I had four or five days to think about it and prepare for myself for whatever is next. That situation, the best you can do is accept it and make the most of it for what it is. I think that's what I did."

• Extra forward Adam Gaudette goes back into the lineup Friday to replace Ferland on a line with Brandon Sutter and Josh Leivo. The other three lines are unchanged: J.T. Miller-Elias Pettersson-Brock Boeser, Tanner Pearson-Horvat-Jake Virtanen, and Tim Schaller-Jay Beagle-Loui Eriksson.

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TSN.CA / Five Takeaways: Canucks vs Ducks

Jeff Paterson

TAKEAWAYS



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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1) Travis Green is fond of saying sometimes a team plays well and doesn't win. That was the case for most of Friday night in Anaheim. The Canucks dominated the Ducks on the shot clock through the first 30 minutes of the contest, but trailed 1-0 after giving up a short-handed goal to Jakob Silfverberg midway through the first period. While the Ducks were able to gain control of the shot clock in the second half of the game, it was the Canucks that scored the only other goal of regulation time when Adam Gaudette, playing wing for the first time in the NHL, banked a centering pass intended for Brandon Sutter in off Ducks defender Korbinian Holzer with under seven minutes remaining. That set the stage for overtime where Ryan Getzlaf got in behind the Canucks defence and beat Jacob Markstrom who charged out of his net, gambled and lost. So did his hockey club. The Ducks skated away with a 2-1 win that perhaps they didn't deserve on balance. But John Gibson was terrific in the Anaheim net early in the hockey game when the Canucks held a 19-5 edge in shots on goal.

2) The biggest takeaway from this one was the injury to Canucks rookie defenseman Quinn Hughes with five minutes remaining in the opening period. Hughes stumbled in the neutral zone, appeared to pick the toe of his skate into the ice and looked to have twisted his left ankle awkwardly. He skated off the ice under his own power, but left the game and did not return. The Canucks say it was for precautionary reasons that the 20-year-old was held out of the remainder of the game. Afterward, Travis Green said Hughes would be re-evaluated in the morning in San Jose and the coach added that Hughes had not yet been ruled out for Saturday's game against the Sharks. Hughes was spotted outside the Canucks locker room post game talking to family members, however he was not made available to the media. With no morning skate in San Jose, it will likely be much closer to game time to determine whether Hughes is a legitimate possibility to play on Saturday night. Obviously, the Canucks will miss him in all areas, but particularly on the power play where Alex Edler returned to man the point on the top unit and Tyler Myers became the lone defenseman on the second unit. If Hughes can not play, Jordie Benn would likely be tapped to bump up the depth chart while Ashton Sautner, a healthy scratch on Friday, would likely draw into the line-up for the first time this season.

3) Give the Canucks credit for sticking with things Friday long enough to get something when it looked like they may leave the Honda Center empty handed. While they obviously wanted the win, down 1-0 with less than seven minutes in regulation, time was starting to become an enemy. But as they've done in earlier games in St. Louis and Detroit, the Canucks once again mounted a third period comeback. While they ultimately completed the job against the Blues and Red Wings, on Friday they came up short in overtime. Still the Canucks managed to find a way to earn a single point that extends their run of games with at least a point to six (4-0-2) and likely allows them to feel they preserved some of the momentum they carried into the contest. No, they're not going to win every game they play. That much is obvious. But if the Canucks can do a better job of managing their losses this season and push games beyond regulation they way they did against the Ducks, it will serve them well as they try to make a push for the post-season.

4) Perhaps they've raised the bar so high in the early going, that an ordinary night for the Canucks top line felt as though

it was much less than that. In a game where the team threw 40 shots at John Gibson and another 27 in his direction that did not make it on net, Elias Pettersson did not register a shot on goal and had but two late attempts. Brock Boeser and JT Miller each had three shots on goal, but according to naturalstatstrick.com, the high-danger scoring chances were even at two apiece when the Canucks top line was on the ice at 5-on-5. So it wasn't the scoring bonanza fans have become accustomed to when that trio hit the ice. Pettersson rang a wrist shot off the crossbar at the final buzzer in the third period, but that was as close as he came to extending his point streak which ended at five games (2+10=12 during that stretch). On the night, the top line just seemed a shade off its game. And because those three have had their games at such a high level since being put together in the third outing of the season, it stood out on Friday as the quietest night yet this season for the Canucks top players.

5) Tanner Pearson led the Canucks with seven shots on goal on Friday. Perhaps he's overdue, but on a team that has seen all sorts of secondary scoring this season, the Canucks have to be looking for more finish from Pearson. He scored in the team's season opener in Edmonton and added his second -- and most recent goal -- at home against Philadelphia on October 12th. Since then he's been skunked in the goal-scoring department and his assist on Adam Gaudette's goal against the Ducks was just his second point in the past nine games. While others have moved around the line-up, Pearson has for the most part been pinned to Bo Horvat as he was late last season after being acquired from Pittsburgh. Pearson showed after the trade deadline that he and Horvat had some chemistry and he definitely looked like he had regained the scoring form he had earlier in his career in Los Angeles. Pearson isn't playing poorly. He leads the Canucks in shots on the season with 44 after Friday's game and he's carrying a 54.7% individual corsi for. He's putting himself in positions to shoot and pulling the trigger often. Friday night was a reminder though that it's not enough to talk about shots and chances. Sometimes the Canucks need that next wave of forwards to find the back of the net. Pearson has one goal in a dozen games since opening night. They could have used one from him on Friday.

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TSN.CA / John Tavares trending toward return with Toronto Maple Leafs on Saturday

Mark Masters

TSN Toronto reporter Mark Masters checks in daily with news and notes on the Maple Leafs. The team practised at the Ford Performance Centre on Friday before travelling to Philadelphia.

John Tavares participated in a second straight practice on Friday, once again skating on a line with Trevor Moore and Mitch Marner.



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"Definitely getting closer and hopefully I'm good for tomorrow," he said after the workout. "With contact and what not it's been pretty good. It's always hard to say specifically just because practice is another step and then a game is another level, so it's just making sure I'm really feeling comfortable and confident that I can go out there and play my game and be effective."

Extra padding has been added to Tavares' right glove, but the last hurdle is determining whether the right index finger, which was broken by a Morgan Rielly shot on Oct. 16, is strong enough.

"Just trying to have that same type of ability to be able to bear down when you need to bear down," Tavares explained. "To me, when you really have to bear down (is when) you're boxing out a guy around the net, trying to win a battle in the corner, bearing down on a faceoff, that seems when you really tend to need the most amount of force or really need to use a lot of leverage. Shooting is different, it's a little bit more of a feel type of thing and a lot of that is in my bottom hand, which is good."

Tavares helps the Leafs in so many different ways, but one key area will be the power play. Toronto is just 2 for 20 since Tavares got hurt, with the top unit striking just once. The right-handed William Nylander has been filling in as the bumper player on the top unit.

"The man in the middle on our power play hasn't been a left-handed shot," noted coach Mike Babcock. "We're not keeping anybody off (Auston Matthews) that way, and that will make a huge difference to us."

"He's a shot threat when the puck is around Mitchy's side," said Matthews. "You look at Washington, who we just played, they have three righties there in the middle, up top and then Ovi on his side and it's five on four and ... usually somebody's open."

Babcock also points out that Nylander's return to the second unit will make that group more dangerous.

'Definitely getting closer': Tavares' return is imminent, will boost PP

John Tavares says he's 'hopeful' he'll be back in the lineup on Saturday against the Flyers but we'll have to wait for clearance from the doctors. His teammates are looking forward to his return and know how big of a boost he'll be to their power play.

Moore, Tavares and Marner got a brief look together in the last two games before the injury and Babcock believes the 24-year-old has earned another chance.

"Everybody's always a better player when they're in the right slot, but when injuries happen other people get opportunity. Moore has done a good job and he's been at the net and got pucks back. That's what we want for those guys," Babcock said. "Obviously, Hyman's the best there is in hockey for that. So, there's an opportunity for (Moore) and he earned it. It's not like we just fired him there. He's earned it."

Hyman is inching toward his own return from off-season knee surgery and, as you might've guessed, Babcock is excited by the prospect.

"Even the people that aren't fans are now fans," the coach said with a smile.

Matthews: 'World's like crashing down on us, but we're staying positive'

Auston Matthews admits they haven't had the start they were expecting but still believes it's early in the season despite all of the outside noise about their poor October.

After a lacklustre October, which saw the Leafs win just six of 14 games, there is plenty of angst in the Toronto market.

"There's a lot of things we can improve on and that we are improving on," said Matthews. "I mean, we're 14 or 15 games in and the world's, like, crashing down on us, but we're staying positive in this room. It's early, still meshing together, new guys, new faces."

Babcock admits he expected a bit of a slower start due to all of the turnover in the off-season.

"I don't think I'm surprised," he said.

But now the coach is setting a more urgent tone.

"We need to get healthy, we need to get playing at a high level," Babcock said. "I think our schedule's set up good for us now, I really do, and so now we got to get some traction. We got to know what we are. We need to know what we hang our hat on."

What do they hang their hat on now?

"Nothing. We're still trying to figure it out."

The Leafs enter November outside a playoff spot, but are getting healthier. Travis Dermott made his season debut on Tuesday and Tavares will be back soon with Hyman to follow.

Toronto does have three-back-to-back sets in November, but unlike the four in October, their opponent in the second games will also be playing on consecutive nights.

Several players have also pointed out that longer road trips in November will allow for more bonding opportunities.

So, there should be no excuses moving forward. It's early, but it's not that early.

"What you try to do is try to get out in the first 20 (games) and you try to get yourself established," Babcock said. "You know who you are and you also want to get yourself in a position where you aren't under duress ... We got six more (games) here and we got to find a game that we can bottle or that's our formula that we can say, 'This is what we do and we do it every day.'"

What does that look like?

"We're going to work at it," is all the coach would say.

Babcock: Leafs must establish identity soon; 'We got to get some traction'

After an underwhelming start to the season, Mike Babcock says the team is still searching for their identity and the goal is to have a few games they can 'bottle up' and use that as their bench mark moving forward.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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Jake Muzzin left Tuesday's game against Washington after taking a big hit from Tom Wilson. The defenceman was diagnosed with a charley horse and missed Wednesday's practice. After a team day off, Muzzin returned to practice on Friday, but skated as an extra.

Babcock revealed Muzzin will miss Saturday's game for personal reasons. Martin Marincin skated in his spot beside Tyson Barrie.

Leafs Ice Chips: Muzzin (personal reasons) won't play Saturday

While the Maple Leafs are hopeful that captain John Tavares will be back in the lineup for Saturday's game against the Flyers, Mark Masters explains why they'll be without one of their top defencemen.

Timothy Liljegren has a moustache that is already in mid-November form.

"He's 20 and it looks like he's 50," said a smiling Rasmus Sandin.

Sandin has a few hairs above his upper lip right now. Is he hoping to emulate his defence partner with the Marlies?

"I'm going to try," Sandin said sheepishly.

"He would if he could," joked Liljegren.

And while Sandin, 19, still looks the part of a teenager off the ice, the defenceman proved during a six-game audition with the Leafs that he can hang with the big boys on the ice.

"I feel like I know I can handle it," said Sandin of what he learned, "and I know a bit more what the game is like up there. Next time I'm getting up there I want to stay up there, so we'll see when that happens."

There are some things Sandin has filed away in his memory bank for when he gets called back up.

"How quick it is, how heavy players are and how strict it is with all the structure you need to play and that kind of stuff," he said. "So, it was good taste for me and good receipt and I feel like I know I can play up there."

While some top prospects take time to adjust after being demoted, Sandin has made a smooth transition back to the Marlies where he emerged as a star last season.

"He's been great right from the moment he came down and walked across the hall over to our side," said coach Sheldon Keefe. "He's come in with a really good attitude. I think he recognizes that he's important in the organization and that he has a bright future. He can just come down and continue to work and play a lot and feel confident and know he can make mistakes and learn from them."

Has Liljegren noticed much of a change in his buddy?

"Not that much really," he said with a grin. "It's just that he has a little more money now."

"Hasn't skipped a beat," observed Marlies goalie Kasimir Kaskisuo. "He's an outgoing guy, really positive. That's good to see ... I feel like he's doing everything right and I can't say what his flaw would be so he does everything at a high level."

"A calm guy," Liljegren said. "He doesn't stress himself out."

Sandin has five points in six games in the AHL this season and seems emboldened by his time with the Leafs.

"Now he does have that experience of another NHL camp, NHL games both preseason and regular season, so that in itself just helps the confidence level," noted Keefe. "I think he's a great player, but his time here now can just (be about) continuing to fine-tune his game and, most importantly, just mature and get stronger. With him it's not necessarily that he's not ready, it's more so when the Leafs are ready for him to play the role and minutes that he's going to be capable of playing in the future. The time's not right so he can continue to develop and grow here. I think we're trying to take advantage of that every day."

"It's been different," Sandin said. "Up there I was averaging about 13 minutes or whatever it was per game (12:13) and so down here it's been a lot of ice time, which all hockey players want ... so that's the part I like and then there's a couple things I need to develop."

Sandin takes demotion in stride, determined to return to Leafs for good

Rasmus Sandin says he's enjoying all the ice-time down with the Marlies but is determined to cement his spot on the Maple Leafs blue line. His defensive partner Timothy Liljegren explains how they complement each other on and off the ice.

Kaskisuo played a key role in the Marlies' run to the conference final last season, posting a .927 save percentage in 12 post-season games.

"He was the biggest part of it," said winger Jeremy Bracco. "We came up short in the end, but what Kas did was remarkable and, obviously, you see the start to this season and nothing's changed, so we're hoping he can continue that."

Kaskisuo is unbeaten in regulation so far this season with a 4-0-1 record and .936 save percentage.

"Things started clicking last year," the Finn said. "I was able to ride that wave into this year."

"The biggest thing has been his mindset," said Keefe, "just how he's prepared every day and his own confidence in himself."

Kaskisuo struggled to get in a groove during much of last year's regular season, finishing with a .896 save percentage, so where did the confidence spike come from?

"I think having a consistent backup has really helped," Keefe said. "Last year, the arrival of Michael Hutchinson (in January) really helped to push him and this year with Joe Woll, as talented and competitive a young guy as he is, I think that helps as well."

Kaskisuo has never played in the NHL, but did dress as Toronto's backup in a handful of games last season when Frederik Andersen and Garret Sparks both got hurt.

"He's just more mature," said Keefe. "It's the first time now, too, where he's been here and really feels like he's here. Previously he went up and down with the ECHL and was loaned out to Chicago in the American League and last year was a full year for him and now he's come back so I think all



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of that contributes to him having a little extra confidence in the net.”

Kaskisuo says a major development in his personal life midway through last season also played a role in his evolution.

“Everybody tells me it’s the birth of my daughter,” he said. “It was that. I mean, it’s life- changing. And, of course, I was called up there for a little bit there, so that’s kind of a nice boost and a shake up so I felt like all those things came together and shook it up to turn my season around.”

Has becoming a dad changed his perspective?

“I think it has. You mature a little bit; you get a little more confidence that you’re head of the family now and all those things. It matures you a little bit and gives you confidence.”

With Hutchinson going 0-3-1 with an .885 save percentage in his first month as the Leafs backup goalie, the door could open for Kaskisuo to get a look in the NHL soon. Is he ready?

“There’s only one way to find out,” the 26-year-old said with a chuckle, “put me in the game. But, yeah, I feel like I’m confident I can play at a high level. The AHL is a good league, but the NHL is a step up. It would be a dream come true and just working toward that every day.”

Off to strong start, Kaskisuo hopes to push way up Leafs goalie depth chart

Marlies goaltender Kasimir Kaskisuo has got off to a great start for the Marlies and says he’s confident in his abilities to play in the NHL and continues to work towards that goal.

Lines at Friday’s practice:

Johnsson - Matthews - Nylander

Moore - Tavares - Marner

Mikheyev - Kerfoot - Kapanen

Timashov - Shore - Gauthier

Spezza, Hyman

Rielly - Ceci

Marincin - Barrie

Dermott - Holl

Muzzin

Andersen

Hutchinson

Power-play units at Friday’s practice:

Rielly

Marner - Tavares - Matthews

Johnsson

Barrie

Kapanen - Kerfoot - Nylander

Mikheyev

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TSN.CA / Head coach Mike Babcock says Toronto Maple Leafs searching for identity

Kristen Shilton

TORONTO – One month into the regular season, Maple Leafs head coach Mike Babcock says his team is still searching for its identity.

“We got to know what we are; we got to know what we hang our hat on. [Right now, it’s] nothing,” Babcock said after the Leafs’ practice on Friday.

“We’re still trying to figure it out. Normally, what you try to do is get out in the first 20 [games] and get yourself established so you know what you are. We’re in a situation after 14 [games] where we got to find a game that we can bottle, that’s our formula, that we can say, ‘This is what we do and do it every day,’ so when we say, ‘This is what we do,’ we know what we do.”

The Leafs enter November with an uninspiring 6-5-3 record, producing the 18th-best points percentage in the NHL (.536). The team sits one point behind Montreal and Florida in the Atlantic Division standings and one point out of an Eastern Conference wild-card spot.

So far, Toronto has scored the second-most goals in the NHL (49) but also given up the second-most (48), a major contributor to the tumultuous start.

After finishing October by losing four of their past five games, the Leafs will meet the Flyers in Philadelphia on Saturday and attempt to kick off a new month on the right foot.

By this point, new additions like Tyson Barrie, Cody Ceci, Alexander Kerfoot and Ilya Mikheyev have had ample time to settle in, and Toronto can’t waste more time finding another gear.

“I’d like us to be better,” Babcock said bluntly. “But [since] we made all the transition this summer, I don’t think I’m surprised. That doesn’t mean you plan for that...you always try to get better and I think we’ve gotten a lot better. We’re not where we need to be. We need to get healthy; we need to get playing at a high level and get some traction.”

There’s a good chance the Leafs will have at least one body back in Saturday’s game, as John Tavares participated in his second full practice on Friday since breaking his finger Oct. 22 and will travel with the team to Philadelphia.

On the other hand, defenceman Jake Muzzin will not play against the Flyers, but Babcock said it’s due to “personal reasons” and not because of the charley horse Muzzin sustained in Tuesday’s loss to Washington.

Tavares said he was anxious to return after missing six games, but wouldn’t know for sure if he had the green light



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until meeting with the team's medical staff later on Friday. Toronto has gone 2-2-2 without Tavares, while its power play slipped to 2-for-20 over those six games, and seeing his return would be a welcome boost for a club trying to turn the page onto better times.

"Suddenly we'd have two [top-line] centres, plus the man in the middle on our power play hasn't been a left-hand shot," said Babcock. "You're not keeping anybody off [Auston] Matthews that way, and so that would make a huge difference to us. Plus it gives us a second group on a power play because then Willy [Nylander] gets that group going, so all in all, it'll be a huge plus."

"Would you rather play with him, or without him? I think it's a pretty obvious answer," added Matthews of Tavares. "We're 14 games in and the world is like crashing down on us, but we're staying positive in this room. It's early. We're still meshing together, with new guys, new faces. We want to take another step here in November and continue to put our best foot forward."

Tavares agreed that working five or six new guys in on a nightly basis has contributed to the Leafs' struggles, but said that obsessing over what's happened so far won't improve Toronto's outcomes in the future.

"It's a dangerous game a little bit, just worrying so much on a daily basis where you exactly sit [in the standings]," he said. "We got a lot of new faces, and we want to get a rhythm in our game and get going. We know that we haven't played to the level that we're capable of, to our standard. We have to continue to find that consistency that's needed night in and night out to get the results we need."

To that end, Tavares doesn't see the Leafs as being far off from where they have to go. Five of their eight losses this season have been by a single goal, and many of the errors being made are fixable.

The looming question now is whether the players are prepared to make the necessary adjustments needed for the team to reach its potential.

"It's just having a higher level of execution and bearing down and everyone continuing to push each other to get to another level," said Tavares.

"We've come out of on the wrong side of a lot of tight games. You can't say there's been more than one, maybe two [games] where we've really played very poorly; we've been right there. We've got to make some plays at key times and not make mistakes that cost us to finish those games off."

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