



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • Nov. 14, 2017

## THE NEWS & OBSERVER

### Hurricanes need firepower from the Finns

By Chip Alexander

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November 13, 2017 11:29 PM

Teuvo Teravainen was in for an NHL first Monday, returning to the Carolina Hurricanes locker room after a game to find a pile of hats in his stall.

The new collection came courtesy of his first NHL hat trick, his three goals powering the Canes to a 5-1 win over the Dallas Stars. The hats hit the ice in the third period as Teravainen ripped one, two, then a third shot past goalie Ben Bishop.

On a night when Finland's Teemu Selanne was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto, Teravainen shined. He also found it fitting that a fellow Finn, Sebastian Aho, scored his first goal of the season in the Canes' victory.

"Of course he's big in Finland and everyone my age has always looked up to him," Teravainen said of Selanne. "He's one of the idols of many people in Finland. Everyone likes him."

Now in his second season with the Canes, Teravainen, 23, has shown flashes of his skill and potential. There were games last season when the forward was invisible offensively, then others when his speed, puck-handling and a deceptively quick release on his shot made him a threat.

But nothing like Monday.

Teravainen assisted on Aho's goal in the first period, a relieved Aho pumping his arms and letting out a scream after scoring. But it was a 1-1 game entering the third, the Stars having tied the score on a power-play goal by Alexander Radulov in the second.

In third, Teravainen let a shot fly from the left wing as Elias Lindholm screened Bishop on the power play. Goal.

A little more than four minutes later, Teravainen let one go from the right wing, the puck glancing off the stick of Dallas defenseman John Klingberg and past Bishop.

Later, strong forechecking by center Jordan Staal and Aho along the wall resulted in Teravainen getting an open shot from the slot. He didn't miss and the ice was peppered with

hats, Teravainen later saying it was his first hat trick since his junior hockey days.

"He was on fire today," Aho said.

After the game, Teravainen said, "I'm more like passer, I'm not a goal scorer." In his mind, he's naturally suited at center, as a setup man, not on the wing blasting away.

But the Hurricanes (7-5-4) are a team in need of scoring from someone other than Jeff Skinner, who managed to get a fifth puck past Bishop in the final seconds for his ninth of the season. Aho had 24 goals last season after not scoring in the first 13 games as a rookie, and Canes coach Bill Peters believes Aho can do that again now that he's broken through and gotten the first one.

"The guys were happy for him," Peters said. "That thing went in and I don't know who was happier, more collectively on the bench or himself. But he's been playing well and you knew it was going to come and hopefully everything now returns to normal."

Peters has been tinkering with the lines, looking to find the right balance and consistency. Having Staal with the two Finns might be able to produce a solid scoring line — Staal's four assists Monday were a career high.

The Chicago Blackhawks made Teravainen a first-round draft pick 2012 and he was a valuable part of the Blackhawks' 2015 Stanley Cup championship. Salary-cap issues forced Chicago to part with Teravainen in June 2016 as the Canes obtained Teravainen and forward forward Bryan Bickell in exchange for draft picks.

Teravainen had career highs in games (81), goals (15) and assists (27) in 2016-17. He signed a two-year contract extension in the offseason that pays him \$2.86 million this season and in 2018-19.

The Canes are expecting more from him this season. Monday's game will only add to those expectations.

"He should attack the net more because he has the ability and the skill set to do that, and the skating ability," Peters said. "He should be a little more, I wouldn't say selfish, but a little more attack the net, shooter's mentality."



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## Hurricanes relieve pressure, but only for one night

By Luke DeCock

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November 13, 2017 10:39 PM

RALEIGH

For a moment, although maybe not for long, the pressure is off. One win isn't enough for the Carolina Hurricanes. The team needs to start stringing them together. A bunch of them. And fast.

One win felt good Monday night though, especially after a disheartening Saturday night loss that saw the Hurricanes blow a two-goal third-period lead. Not only did they outplay the sluggish Dallas Stars on Monday in a 5-1 win, you could almost see the relaxation flow.

"We've been in a lot of one-goal games this year," Hurricanes goalie Scott Darling said. "It was nice to see five up there. We were all able to take a little bit of a breath."

Sebastian Aho got his first of the season. The epically struggling power play finally broke through for only its third goal of the season at home. Darling, who followed up a sterling Cam Ward start on Friday with a less-than-stellar one of his own Saturday, answered the call. The Hurricanes extended a 3-1 lead instead of merely clinging to it. And Teuvo Teravainen doubled his season goal total with his first career hat trick.

So that's good enough for one night, but one night isn't good enough. This has to be the beginning of something, or it's going to turn out to be the end of something.

The Carolina Hurricanes' Teuvo Teravainen scores three goals in the third period for his first career hat trick, leading the Canes to a 5-1 victory over the Dallas Stars at PNC Arena in Raleigh on Nov. 13, 2017.

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This would be a four-game winning streak if the Hurricanes had been able to hold on against the Blackhawks, but as things stand the Hurricanes have followed their 1-4-2 skid with a 3-0-1 streak. That's good, but they need to push, press on, continue from here. And not every opponent is going to be as cooperative as the Stars, who gifted the Hurricanes at least two of their goals.

But that's how it goes sometimes. Dallas defenseman John Klingberg deflected Teravainen's otherwise harmless shot past Ben Bishop perfectly for Teravainen's second of the night; a second-period Dallas shot hit an unaware and completely screened Darling right in the blocker. That's a two-goal swing right there, pivotal considering Jeff Skinner scored Carolina's final goal with 2.6 seconds to play.

The question, then, is whether Aho can build on this. (He should; despite the lack of goals, he has been playing well.) Whether the power play – still too perimeter-oriented, but

with Brock McGinn and Elias Lindholm both commendably in the crease Monday – can build on this. Whether Teravainen, who doesn't think of himself as a goal-scorer, can keep scoring goals anyway. And whether Darling can be this good on nights where he's asked to do more.

Of all of that, the power play and Darling's play stand out as most critical. This inept power play alone would be enough to keep the Hurricanes out of the playoffs, aside from everything else. It's not supposed to be this difficult, especially at home, where they improved, so to speak, to 3-for-28 with Monday's goal.

The Hurricanes didn't do themselves any favors Monday night even without the puck, with first Elias Lindholm and then Justin Williams taking silly penalties to curtail Carolina power plays prematurely – the latter leading directly to the Dallas goal that tied the score 1-1. That left the Hurricanes with a total man-advantage time of 3 minutes, 52 seconds from three power plays, a wide margin short of full value. On their fourth, Lindholm's screen paved the way for Teravainen's shot – from the outside, at the top of the left circle – to get past Bishop and the Hurricanes were on their way.

The Hurricanes' mix of players doesn't lend itself to the power play, without enough forwards capable of making quick, accurate passes in tight quarters – even though there are supposed to be several – and only one big shot from the point: Faulk, who occasionally struggles handling the puck at the line. For these outside shots to work, they're going to need traffic in front, from Lindholm and McGinn and Justin Williams and Jordan Staal. That continues to be the key.

As for Darling, this was perhaps an even bigger game for him. His Hurricanes career was off to a rough start, to the point where there was actually grumbling among fans that Ward should have played Saturday. He desperately needed a statement start to maintain his claim to the No. 1 role.

This wasn't his most taxing outing, but he made the saves he needed to make, even if the best save of the night came from Brett Pesce, diving to deny Tyler Seguin an open net in the third. Darling can still be a little scrambly on rebounds, which is how the Stars got their first when the Hurricanes were unable to clear while short-handed, but he stopped 25 shots and has allowed one goal in three of his past four starts.

"It was a tough first three, four, five games for me, adjusting to a new team, new system, new life," Darling said. "The last couple games, I'm starting to feel really good."

Games at the Islanders and Buffalo are up next, the kind of games that the Hurricanes need to win, even on the road, to keep up with the competition. This was a feel-good night for a team that has been feeling the pressure, but this is no time to relax now.



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## Teravainen scores 3 in 3rd as Hurricanes beat Stars 5-1

Posted 11:17 p.m. yesterday  
Updated 11:19 p.m. yesterday

By MIKE POTTER, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Sebastian Aho made an early splash Monday night before fellow Finn Teuvo Teravainen stole the show.

Teravainen had a natural hat trick in the third period, his first three-goal game in the NHL, to lead the Carolina Hurricanes to a 5-1 victory over the Dallas Stars.

Aho added his first goal of the season and two assists, and Jordan Staal's career-best four assists gave him 201 with the Hurricanes. Jeff Skinner scored the other Carolina goal in the closing seconds.

Scott Darling stopped 25 shots for the victory.

### ADVERTISING

"I liked the fact we scored on the power play," Carolina coach Bill Peters said. "That gave us momentum. It gave us life. It was good for (Aho) to get one. The guys were happy for him. I don't know who was happier for him, collectively the team on the bench or himself."

Alexander Radulov scored for Dallas, which won the previous meeting at home 4-3 on Oct. 20. The Stars came out on top in their previous three trips to Raleigh.

"It's disappointing," Dallas coach Ken Hitchcock said. "We had the game right there and we cracked. We were in a great position on the road, exactly where we wanted to be, and we were the ones who made the mistakes."

Aho's first goal came in his 14th game of the season, two earlier than last season when he finished with 24 goals.

Carolina took the lead on a rush at 8:07 of the first period as Aho beat Ben Bishop through the legs after Staal's pinpoint centering pass from the left wing.

Radulov tied it by working hard in the slot on a power play at 8:44 of the second.

But the Hurricanes went ahead again on a power play at 2:39 of the third, with Teravainen scoring on a rocket from the left point. Staal and Aho had assists on Carolina's first power-play goal this month.

"My goal came on a great play by Teuvo," Aho said. "Then Jordan made a great (centering) pass and I finally got my first one. That felt pretty good. Teuvo was on fire and it was fun to play with him today. Jordan was good. It was a lot of fun playing with both those guys today."

Teravainen made it 3-1 at 6:51 from the high slot, getting the puck past Bishop with Aho providing a screen.

"It's been a struggle with the power play lately and I haven't been scoring that many goals," said Teravainen, who has six on the season. "I just go out and play and try to do my thing, and sometimes the puck goes in. It was exciting when (Aho) finally scored a goal, and I felt good for him. I guess his luck is going to turn around."

Bishop finished with 23 saves.

NOTES: Dallas D Marc Methot missed his second straight game with a lower-body injury. ... Carolina RW Lee Stempniak (upper body) was placed on injured reserve after getting hurt Friday during his AHL conditioning stint. ... LW Phillip DiGiuseppe and D Klas Dahlbeck were healthy scratches for Carolina. ... Dallas' healthy scratches were C Jason Dickinson and LW Remi Ehle.

### UP NEXT

Stars: At the Florida Panthers on Tuesday night, the second stop on a three-game road trip.

Hurricanes: Visit the New York Islanders on Thursday night.



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## Recap: Teravainen's Hat Trick Leads Canes Past Stars

### Teravainen, Staal each record four points in 5-1 win

by Michael Smith [@MSmithCanes](#) / CarolinaHurricanes.com

November 13th, 2017

[Teuvo Teravainen](#)'s natural hat trick in the third period propelled the Carolina Hurricanes to a 5-1 win over the Dallas Stars.

Both Teravainen (3g, 1a) and [Jordan Staal](#) (4a) recorded four-point nights, as the Hurricanes extended their point streak to five games (3-0-2).

Here are five takeaways from the season series finale between the Stars and Canes.

#### One

When the Hurricanes needed someone to step up offensively and help the team break a 1-1 deadlock in the third period, Teravainen came through with not one, not two, but three goals, his first-career NHL hat trick - and it took just seven minutes and 15 seconds to happen.

Teravainen's first goal came on the power-play, as the man advantage finally broke through for the Hurricanes. Along the near wall, Teravainen's shot beat Ben Bishop through an Elias Lindholm-sized screen in front.

#### Teravainen's big slapper for PPG

"I liked the fact that we scored on the power play. It gave us momentum," head coach Bill Peters said. "It gave us life and energized our bench."

Just over four minutes later, [Jaccob Slavin](#) flipped a puck through the neutral zone to Teravainen, who skated into the zone, pulled up along the far wall and fired a wrist shot on net. John Klingberg got a stick on it and redirected it past his own goaltender to make it a 3-1 game.

#### Teravainen's second of the game

Three minutes after that, the Canes forced a Stars' turnover in their own zone and Staal swung the puck over to Teravainen for the one-timer in between the faceoff circles. Hats rained down and then surrounded Teravainen in his stall in the locker room.

"It's a good collection," he said with a smile.

Teravainen, who said his last hat trick probably happened in "some junior games or junior national team, something like that," became the first Canes player to record a natural hat

trick since Eric Staal did so on Dec. 18, 2010 in a 4-2 win over Anaheim.

#### Teravainen finishes the hat trick

"We found a way to stick with it," Staal said. "More or less, Turbo did a great job putting a few in the net for us."

Teravainen said he thinks himself as more of a passer than a shooter, but maybe after tonight he'll do more of the latter.

"He should attack the net more because he has the ability, skillset and skating ability to do that," Peters said. "He is a pass-first guy ... but he needs to be a little more selfish going to the net and getting his own shot."

#### Two

In his rookie season, it was Nov. 12, the Canes' 14th game of the season, in which [Sebastian Aho](#) scored his first (and second) career goal(s). This season, Aho finally netted his first on Nov. 13 in the team's 16th game of the season.

In the defensive zone, Teravainen poked the puck off the stick of Klingberg, ahead to [Jordan Staal](#). Esa Lindell attempted to defend the 2-on-1 rush but blew a tire at the blue line. Staal held onto the puck and slid it over to Aho, who was all alone in front of Bishop. Aho went forehand-backhand to open up Bishop's five hole and scored. His celebration - fist pumps surrounding his right leg in the air and a scream of what had to be pure exuberance and relief - said it all.

#### Aho's slick backhand goal

"It was a relief. It felt pretty good, but this win feels even better," he said. "It was a great play by Turbo to get the puck in the neutral zone. I knew Jordo was looking for me. It was a great pass by Jordo. There was a one-on-one with me and the goalie, and I knew what I was doing. I'm happy it went in."

So, too, were his teammates.

"That was nice to see. He's been getting a ton of chances," Staal said. "You could tell the monkey flew off his back after that one. Hopefully he continues to stay hot."

"It was good for him to get one. The guys were happy for him. That thing went in, and I don't know who was happier - more collectively on the bench or he himself. He's been playing well, and he knew it was going to come," Peters said. "You know he's going to score."

#### Three



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So, how about that Aho-Staal-Teravainen trio? The Canes' top line was dynamic and dominant on the scoresheet tonight. Teravainen (3g, 1a) and Staal (4a) each had four points, and Aho tallied a three-point night (1g, 2a).

"It was lots of fun playing with Jordo and Turbo tonight," Aho said. "We all can make some plays. We try to play fast."

"We think the game the same way. We play fast," Teravainen said. "Jordo is really good with the puck and he's strong. He can hold onto pucks, and me and Seabass just skate around, see each other and try to make some plays. At the same time, we try to play good defense, and many nights we have the match-up against the No. 1 line from the other team. We try to take care of our own zone first."

"Both very talented players. Both of them have great hands and great vision. I'm just trying to make some room for them and go to the net hard," Staal said. "They do a lot with the puck, and I've kind of got the easy part. It's been fun playing with those two guys. Hopefully we continue to contribute for this team."

## Four

Let's go back to Teravainen's first goal - the Canes' first on the power play in six games.

The key to the goal was simple: parking a body in front of the net. In this case, it was Lindholm right in front of Bishop's eyes. On the other power play unit, you could find [Brock McGinn](#) net front on a regular basis. If the Canes continue to get to the front of the blue paint and make it tough on the opposition's goaltender, they are going to start to see regular success on the man advantage.

## Postgame Quotes vs. DAL

"It's been frustrating all throughout the room," Staal said of the power play. "It's nice to see us get rewarded with a simple shot with a great screen."

"We've been talking about shooting more. Lindy was making a good screen, and the goalie couldn't see the puck. I just tried to get it to the net, and luckily it went in," Teravainen said. "Shoot some pucks, get some rebounds, get some action."

"That was a real good screen. ... Lindy was in his eyes," Peters said. "I thought there were a lot of good things, things we can build on moving forward."

## Five

The Hurricanes have now tallied points in five straight games, earning eight of a possible 10 points (3-0-2). At 7-5-4, the Canes have 18 points in 16 games as they continue their climb in the standings.

"These were a big two points for us," Aho said. "Now we'll try to keep it going."

"It's coming, for sure. No question," Peters said. "Now everyone is getting comfortable and we're getting some results and some wins."

## Up Next

The Hurricanes will head to the state of New York for a two-game road trip when they face off with the Islanders on Thursday and Sabres on Saturday.

# NORTH STATE JOURNAL

## Teravainen's natural hat trick blasts Hurricanes past Stars

### Aho gets first goal of the season as top line totals 11 points

Hurricanes forward Teuvo Teravainen celebrates one of his three third-period goals with forwards Jordan Staal and Elias Lindholm. Carolina defeated the Dallas Stars 5-1. (James Guillory / USA TODAY Sports)

RALEIGH — If there was ever a good omen, it came just eight minutes into the Hurricanes' home game Monday at PNC Arena when struggling Sebastian Aho scored for the first time this season.

From there, he let countryman Teuvo Teravainen take over.

Teravainen had four points, including a natural hat trick in the third period, to bust open a tie game in Carolina's 5-1 over the Dallas Stars in front of 7,968 at PNC Arena.

The first came with the game tied 1-1 in the third period and Carolina's near-death power play on its fourth opportunity of

the night after seeing two of the previous three washed away by penalties.

"It's been a struggle with the power play lately, we haven't scored that many goals," Teravainen said. "But we've been talking about shooting more ... pucks and being around the net."

On the left point, Teravainen did exactly that, firing a shot while an in-front-of-the-net Elias Lindholm took away Ben Bishop's sight line and the puck went over the goalie's left shoulder for a 2-1 lead at 2:39 of the third.

"That's just a byproduct of guys wanting to do too much, right?" Peters said of the two earlier power plays that were wiped out by penalties on Lindholm and Justin Williams. "They want to do too much. Now that we've scored on it ... we can build on moving forward."

It was the Hurricanes' first power play goal since Oct. 29, snapping a five-game drought and giving Carolina (7-5-4)



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just its second power play goal in the last 11 games after it started the season with five in its first five games.

"It's been frustrating, all throughout the room," said Jordan Staal, who finished with a career-high four assists on the night. "It's nice to see us get rewarded with just a simple shot with a great screen. We'll continue to work like we have to get a better PP."

Teravainen's second goal, just over four minutes later, was another shot from far out that hit Dallas defenseman John Klingberg's stick and deflected past Bishop (23 saves) for a 3-1 lead. At 9:44, Teravainen one-timed a pass from Staal in the slot that beat Bishop and sunk the Stars (9-8-0), giving the 23-year-old forward his first career hat trick.

An early Stars power play opportunity and some sloppy play by Carolina had visiting Dallas with a 7-1 shot advantage and the Hurricanes scrambling to survive.

However, just like the Hurricanes have been searching for consistency, Aho had been looking for the back of the net.

The sophomore Finn who scored 24 times last season got his first goal of the year in his 16th game at 8:07 of the first period, finishing off a 2-on-1 feed from Staal to give Carolina an early lead.

"I tried to be positive and just go and make plays, just not think about it too much," Aho said of his goal drought, which nearly mirrored his start last season when he didn't score until his 14th game. "I know it was coming and I'm glad it happened then."

The play was started in Carolina end when Teravainen poked a loose puck past Klingberg to spring Staal and Aho. The one man back, Esa Lindell, lost his edge and slid toward Staal's feet, leading the co-captain to feather the puck to a streaking Aho. Aho opened up Bishop's pads with a deke and slid the puck in.

"That thing went in and, you know, I don't know who's happier — more collectively as a group on the bench or himself," Peters said. "He's been playing well and he knew it was going to come."

The line with Staal centering Aho and Tervainen finished with 11 points — the same total it had when Aho got his first career goal against Washington last season in a three-point night.

"It was an exciting moment," Teravainen said of Aho's goal. "He scored a goal finally, and last year was the same thing — he didn't score in a lot of games at the start. It's good for him and hopefully he'll get more now."

Carolina appeared to jump out to a two-goal lead early in the second when Brock McGinn, who had scored in three straight games, for the second straight game beat a goalie with a backhand on the rush. The horn went off, but review showed the puck hit both posts and did not go in.

Four minutes later, the Stars evened things on the power play.

After Williams was called hooking while Carolina was on the power play — the second time in the first half of the game the Hurricanes had a man advantage erased by a penalty — Alexander Radulov fired a Tyler Seguin feed past Carolina goalie Scott Darling (25 saves) to tie it 1-1 at 8:44 of the second.

But that was all the offense the Stars would muster.

Jeff Skinner closed the scoring with just 2.6 seconds left, getting his ninth goal and second in as many games to produce the final margin.

The win gave the Hurricanes points in five straight (3-0-2) and helped shake off Saturday overtime loss where they blew a two-goal lead in the final period.

"You only have a short-term memory with the bad stuff; the good stuff you remember and keep it rolling, keep the confidence going," Darling said.

Stars coach Ken Hitchcock had a different point of view.

"I don't want to put it behind us," a disappointed Hitchcock said. "I want us to remember this and I was us to grow from it."

Notes: Radulov extended his point streak to eight games with his goal. ... Staal lost all six faceoffs he took in the first period, but won 10 of 16 in the final two frames. ... Haydn Fleury's 19:47 of ice time Monday was the most he's had in a regulation game in his career. ... Josh Jooris was credited with a team-high five hits. ... Klingberg, Lindell, Seguin and Radulov were all minus-3 on the night. ... Stars defenseman Stephen Johns had a game-high eight hits, but was called for an illegal check to the head 51 seconds into the third period, leading to Carolina's game-winning power play goal.



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## TriangleSportsNetwork

### Hurricanes 'Finnish' Stars off 5-1

#### Teravainen nets hat trick, Aho scores first goal of season

By Peter Koutroumpis

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RALEIGH, N.C. – The Carolina Hurricanes provided the knockout punches, a flurry of them, in the final period, and posted a decisive 5-1 win over the Dallas Stars at PNC Arena on Monday.

It was the Finnish duo of Teuvo Teravainen and Sebastian Aho who led the Hurricanes, with Jeff Skinner adding one late.

Goalkeeper Scott Darling's 25-save performance backstopped the win that highlighted milestones for the Hurricanes' top offensive line of the night.

Teravainen recorded first career hat trick, scoring his fourth, fifth, and sixth goals of the season in succession, while Jordan Staal was involved on all of them and set up Aho to finish with a career-high four assists in a game.

Alexander Radulov scored the lone goal for the Stars while Ben Bishop took the loss on a 23-save effort.

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[Boxscore – NHL GameCenter \(NHL.com\)](#)

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Struggling to score through 15 games, Aho showed his emotion when he tallied his first goal of the season.

"It feels pretty good," he said afterwards.

The postgame scum comment was a much more modest reaction than the screaming and fist-pumping celebration he showed on the ice.

Aho's marker put Carolina ahead 1-0 at 8:44 of the first period on a cross-ice feed from Staal.

After Teravainen broke up a Dallas possession in the Hurricanes zone, Staal rushed the puck up along the left-side boards and dodged a falling Esa Lindell before sliding the puck into the slot as Aho had gotten a step on Dallas' other defenseman, John Klingberg.

With no one to beat but Bishop, Aho subtly went backhand-forehand-backhand and slid the puck between the Stars netminder's pads.

"It was good for him to get one," Carolina head coach Bill Peters said.

"The guys were happy for him. I don't know who was happier, them collectively as a group on the bench, or

himself. He's been playin' well. You knew it was going to come."

Carolina carried its one-goal advantage into the second period.

Radulov evened the score at 8:44 on a play initiated by Jamie Benn and put away a feed from Tyler Seguin.

Both teams continued to skate hard and carried a 1-1 deadlock into the final regulation period.

Teravainen's shot from the top of the left circle on the power play quickly put the Hurricanes ahead 2-1 at the 2:39 mark.

Off the rush, Teravainen then queued up a wrist shot from the top of the right circle that deflected off Klingberg's stick and beat Bishop high on his blocker side at 6:51.

A strong forecheck by Aho soon got the puck to Staal who then found Teravainen open three minutes later to cap off the natural hat trick.

"We've been talking about shooting more," Teravainen said.

"I just go out and do my thing and sometimes the puck goes in."

With Carolina leading 4-1 and the final 10 minutes running down, Skinner caught Bishop out of position and ripped a shot past him with 2.6 seconds remaining to complete the four-goal victory with his team-leading ninth goal.

In picking up another win, Carolina has put together a 3-0-2 record over its last five games which Peters accounts to better defensive play.

"You have to be good defensively," he concluded.

"Otherwise, if you're not good defensively, and they sail through you, you spend the rest of your shift in the D-zone and you gotta come 200 feet. I think our team game has tightened up. We've been better defensively. I didn't think we skated early in the game, but I thought the final 10 minutes of the first we got skatin', and then continued to skate for the next 50 minutes."

**Notables:** Aho's first goal this season came one year and a day following his first-ever NHL goal on Nov. 12, 2016...Staal's four assists helped him surpass the 200-point mark with Carolina...The Hurricanes finished 1-for-4 on the power play and 2-for-3 on the penalty kill...In a release sent out during the game, the team placed forward Lee Stempniak back on injured reserve. Stempniak suffered an upper-body injury during the first game of his recent conditioning stint with Charlotte (AHL) on Friday night in Utica



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## Teravainen propels Hurricanes past Stars

**Forward scores natural hat trick in third period for Carolina**

by Kurt Dusterberg / NHL.com Correspondent

November 13th, 2017

**RALEIGH, N.C.** -- [Teuvo Teravainen](#) had a natural hat trick in a span of 7:05 during the third period to help the Carolina Hurricanes to a 5-1 win against the Dallas Stars at PNC Arena on Monday.

Teravainen broke a tie at 2:39 of the third when his rising slap shot got past [Ben Bishop](#) to the far post, then made it 3-1 at 6:51 on a wrist shot that redirected off [John Klingberg](#). The 23-year-old capped his first three-goal game in the NHL with a sharp wrist shot from the top of the slot for a 4-1 lead at 9:44.

"He should attack the net more because he has the ability and the skill set to do that," Hurricanes coach Bill Peters said. "He should have a little more of a shooter's mentality. He is a pass-first guy, a center by trade growing up, but he needs to be a little more selfish going to the net and getting his own shot."

Teravainen has 11 points (four goals, seven assists) in the past nine games.

"There are some nights I can play better, but there are some nights I think I'm doing really good," Teravainen said. "I just try to get my legs moving. Whenever I'm moving good, I think I'm playing good too."

### They said it

"It's really disappointing. We had the game right there. We cracked. We were in a great position on the road, exactly where you want to be, and we were the ones who made the mistakes. We got beat off the boards for three of the goals. They outplayed us in the third period. They dialed it up and we did not answer the bell." -- *Stars coach Ken Hitchcock*

"It's coming for sure. We've tightened up. We like the (roster) changes we've made, it just takes time unfortunately. You want instant gratification, but that's not the way it works. Now everyone is getting comfortable and we're getting some results." -- *Hurricanes coach Bill Peters on [Teuvo Teravainen](#)*

### Need to know

The Stars power play has scored in seven of the past eight games. ... Prior to Aho's goal, the Hurricanes were 1-for-29 with the man-advantage.

### What's next

**Stars:** At the Florida Panthers on Tuesday (7:30 p.m. ET; FS-F, FS-SW+, NHL.TV)

**Hurricanes:** At the New York Islanders on Thursday (7 p.m. ET; MSG, FS-CR, NHL.TV)



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## Teravainen hat trick lifts Canes past Stars

Alec Sawyer, Assistant Sports Editor

10 hrs ago

There were 19 Dallas Stars on the ice Monday night in PNC Arena, but it was Carolina Hurricanes forward Teuvo Teravainen who shined the brightest, picking up his first career hat trick in a 5-1 Hurricanes win.

Teravainen notched all three of his goals in the third period to seal the game for the Hurricanes (7-5-4), who extended their point streak to five games. The Stars (9-8-0) were killed by Carolina's top forward line of Teravainen, Jordan Staal and Sebastian Aho, who combined for 11 points in the game.

Staal and Teravainen each had four points, a career high for them both. Staal assisted four goals, while Teravainen added an assist to his hat trick. Aho had the opening goal, as well as two assists. Sitting in his locker surrounded by a heap of hats that fans threw on the ice, Teravainen expressed how well he felt he was playing as of late.

"I've never had this many hats ... hopefully my teammates want some of those," Teravainen said. "I just go out and play and try to do my thing and sometimes the pucks go in."

The Canes broke the scoreless tie with 11:53 left in the first period, as Aho notched his first goal of the season off of a Dallas turnover. Teravainen made a great play in the defensive zone to win the puck, which fell to the stick of Staal.

"First of all it was a great play by [Teravainen], then Jordan made a great pass, and my first goal, it feels pretty good," Aho said. "It was a lot of fun to play with those guys today."

Staal skated around a Stars defender and delivered a crisp pass to Aho all alone in front of goal. Aho put it away with some fancy stick work, slotting the puck through Stars goaltender Ben Bishop's five-hole to put the Canes up 1-0.

"It was good for him to get one," head coach Bill Peters said about Aho. "He's been playing well and you knew it was going to come. Hopefully now everything returns to normal. I don't want to say the floodgates open, but you know he's going to score."

Dallas tied things up at 1-1 midway through the second period, as forward Alexander Radulov scored with seven seconds remaining on a Dallas power play. It was a shortened man advantage for the Stars, as Canes forward Justin Williams went to the box during a Carolina power play.

After failing on their first three power-play opportunities of the game to fall to an abysmal 2 for 27 on the man advantage at

home this season, the Hurricanes finally broke through on a power play to open the third period.

Teravainen ripped a shot from the point that beat Bishop midway through the man advantage, to put the Canes up 2-1 and end a home power play drought that dated back to Oct. 29.

The goal was assisted by Aho and Staal, and helped greatly by a screen from forward Elias Lindholm. Lindholm was camped in the crease in front of Bishop, completely shielding the puck from the Stars goaltender who saw it too late.

"It's been a struggle with the power play lately, we haven't scored many goals," Teravainen said. "We've been talking about shooting more pucks and being around the net, so I think [Lindholm] was right at the net, so that's why my shot got through."

Teravainen doubled the Hurricanes lead just a few minutes later, scoring his second goal of the period with 13:09 remaining in the game. Teravainen collected the puck at the top of the right circle, and unleashed another hard wrist shot that beat Bishop high, putting Carolina up 3-1.

Teravainen finished off the hat trick just seven minutes and five seconds after his first goal, putting the Hurricanes up 4-1 with just over 10 minutes remaining in the game. It was another hard wrister, this time from between the circles, that got past Bishop.

"He was on fire today," Aho said. "It was a lot of fun to play with him today. I think he scores from everywhere he shoots."

Canes forward Jeff Skinner added some icing on the cake with just 2.6 seconds remaining in the game, scoring his team-leading ninth goal of the season to make it 5-1.

Carolina will now embark on a two-game road trip before returning home Sunday to host the Islanders. With a five-game point streak and some goals finally coming for the Hurricanes, Peters likes where his team is at.

"Everyone's getting comfortable. We're getting some results and some wins," Peters said. "It's coming for sure, there's no question. We've tightened up and if we can get the power play going on a consistent basis, I think it's coming in the right direction."

Whether it's personnel changes, stylistic or structural changes, Peters, assistant coach Rod Brind'Amour and the Canes have to find a way to jumpstart the power play. Without better production up a man, Carolina is likely to be looking at another long summer when this season wraps up.



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## The Hockey News

### Why the Hurricanes need to find a way to inject more scoring into the lineup

By: [Jared Clinton](#) Nov 13, 2017

Hurricanes GM Ron Francis checked almost everything off of his summer to-do list, but his inability to land another scorer to pick of the offensive slack is hurting Carolina early.

No team was expected to take a bigger step forward this season than the Carolina Hurricanes. Reason being is that, if you asked just about anyone, GM Ron Francis had done everything right in the off-season.

Acquire a goaltender? Check. Francis went out and nabbed one of the most sought after backup-turned-starters available, Scott Darling, and inked him to a four-year deal to hopefully put an end to the Hurricanes' longstanding goaltending woes. Lock up the blueline? You bet, as Jaccob Slavin and Brett Pesce were signed to long-term deals this summer. Solidify the depth? Francis did that, too, by bringing aboard Trevor van Riemsdyk to help out on the back end, plugging Marcus Kruger in as a depth center and inking veteran winger Justin Williams to add some scoring punch up top.

Yet, with seemingly every item on the to-do list crossed out, Carolina finds themselves nearly one-fifth of the way through the 2017-18 campaign and in an all-too-familiar spot: multiple points outside of a post-season position and right near the bottom of the Metropolitan Division. And it might just be that the one thing Francis couldn't accomplish in the off-season is the one thing that is holding the Hurricanes back right now.

A few times throughout the summer, it was reported that Carolina was kicking the tires and sniffing around on adding a scorer to the lineup. It was a justified belief, too, given that Carolina finished with the 11th-fewest goals for in the league, but it was warranted even more so because the Hurricanes were one of 10 teams to finish the 2016-17 campaign with two or fewer 20-goal scorers. Even teams that finished further outside of the playoff picture, such as the New Jersey Devils, Buffalo Sabres and Florida Panthers, had at least a trio of players who were able to hit the 20-goal mark. And while the Hurricanes were one of the few teams that had a great depth of scorers — nine finished with at least a double-digit goal total, tied for 11th in the league — what they were lacking was anyone, outside of 37-goal scorer Jeff Skinner, who could be a true game-breaking sniper. It's not as though Carolina didn't chase such a player, however. Matt Duchene's name cropped up in connection with the Hurricanes several times throughout the summer, and a player of Duchene's ilk — a five-time 20-goal scorer who registered 30 tallies only two seasons ago — seemed to fit Carolina's needs. Nothing came to pass of the Hurricanes' reported interest in Duchene over the summer, though, and, long on the market, the former Colorado Avalanche center is now a member of the Ottawa Senators thanks to a three-way trade that also included the Nashville Predators. But missing out on Duchene and failing to land any other top-six calibre

scorer appears to be plaguing the Hurricanes now in more ways than one.

Carolina's lack of offensive punch is most evident in their inability to fill the net through the early season. With 40 goals, the Hurricanes rank second-last in goals for and their 2.67 goals per game rate is the ninth-worst in the league. Meanwhile, Skinner and Jordan Staal are Carolina's only skaters with more than five goals and they've had no single scorer to really stand out so far. In fact, Brock McGinn is the only other Hurricane to score at least five goals and Carolina remains one of only 11 teams without at least four five-goal scorers at this point in the campaign.

None of this is for lack of chances offensively, mind you, as the Hurricanes have been among the most difficult teams to defend this season. [According to Natural Stat Trick](#), per 60 minutes at 5-on-5, Carolina ranks first in shot attempts (73) and shots (37.8), second in scoring chances (33.5) and fourth in high-danger attempts (12.5). The issue, though, is that the Hurricanes have been average or worse when it comes to making good on their opportunities. At 5-on-5, Carolina is shooting only 6.8 percent, ninth-worst in the league, and their 13 percent conversion rate on high-danger attempts is 18th in the league. The Hurricanes' lack of finish is an unfortunate trend that has carried over from last season, too, as Carolina ranked 20th in 5-on-5 shooting percentage and had the fourth-worst conversion rate on their high-danger attempts last season. That's why a second pure scorer, someone who could supplement Skinner, could be so helpful to the Hurricanes.

But it goes beyond scoring at even strength. The lack of another true weapon up front has also hindered Carolina's power play. Through 15 outings, the Hurricanes are operating at a measly 12.2 percent with the man advantage, the second-worst mark in the league, and they've been among the least threatening teams in the league. Despite their ability to generate big numbers at 5-on-5, Carolina ranks 25th in shot attempts (91.2), 31st in shots (43.9), 29th in scoring chances (43.9) and 18th in high-danger chances (20.6) per 60 minutes on the power play. It shouldn't be surprising, then, that the Hurricanes rank 25th in shooting percentage when on the man advantage, and that's yet another indication that maybe the only thing holding Carolina back right now is another prime offensive weapon.

To be sure, the lack of another offensive weapon and lack of a truly functional power play are seemingly the only things holding this team back. Defensively, Carolina has been among the stingiest teams in the league, allowing the fewest attempts and fewest shots against per game of any team, with the sixth-fewest scoring chances against, as well. The only real shortcomings defensively are that Carolina ranks in the bottom-third of the league in allowing high-danger chances and that Darling has only been OK, not great or as good as the Hurricanes had hoped, through the start of the



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season. Still, only 10 teams have allowed fewer goals against per game than Carolina.

There are ways for the Hurricanes to rectify the situation, however, one of which is to simply have patience and hope that the dam breaks for one of their scorers. Sebastian Aho, for example, has yet to light the lamp despite putting 45 shots on goal. This on the heels of a 24-goal rookie campaign. Likewise, Williams has only found twine twice on 34 shots, and his shooting percentage has dipped by nearly 10 percent from last season. Faulk, Hanifin and Joakim Nordstrom are also shooting less than five percent with more than 20 shots on goal.

But if patience is wearing thin, Carolina has a wealth of talent on the blueline they can use to test the trade market. What Francis will have to decide, though, is whether he wants to make such a move and, if he does, who goes. Slavin and Pesce, recently extended, aren't going anywhere. The same

likely goes for Noah Hanifin who, though he has struggled at times, is starting to develop into a top-four defender and is only two seasons removed from being drafted fifth overall. Maybe, then, Justin Faulk, who has been rumored as trade bait before, could be the piece moved, or possibly a package that includes one of Trevor van Riemsdyk, Haydn Fleury or Klas Dahlbeck, prospects or picks.

No matter what route the Hurricanes take, though, it's becoming clear something needs to be done to bring the offense to life. Entering this season, there was every reason to believe Carolina could shake their eight-year playoff drought, but if they continue to have trouble cashing in, the Hurricanes could be looking at a ninth-straight season outside of the post-season picture.



## Stempniak's Stability Essential for Canes

**By Mark Shiver** November 13th, 2017

Lee Stempniak is a key part of the Carolina Hurricanes roster but he has yet to play a game this season. Having sustained a hip injury on October 3, Stempniak was placed on injured reserve at the beginning of the season. He has been missed, and the sooner he can get on the ice with the Hurricanes, the better.

[The team announced Thursday](#) that they have activated him and assigned him to their AHL affiliate, the Charlotte Checkers, for a reconditioning assignment. It is not likely he will play Saturday night against the visiting Chicago Blackhawks, but it was thought he could [possibly be available to play Monday](#) night in the 'Canes home game against the Dallas Stars. However, he left Friday night's game with the Checkers after a couple of shifts and did not return.

Whether it is on Monday or on Thursday on the road against the New York Islanders, the return of Stempniak can only be looked forward to as a positive.

### Stempniak's Stability Needed

Stempniak came to the Hurricanes in the 2016 offseason, via a trade deadline move with the Boston Bruins. [According to Timothy Rapp at Bleacher Report](#), it was the third season in a row that he had been dealt at the trade deadline. In fact, while stability can be used to characterize what Stempniak brings to a team, his career has been anything but stable. [NHL.com reported](#) upon his signing with the Hurricanes that

this was the 10th team that Stempniak has been with since being drafted in 2003 by the St. Louis Blues. 'Journeyman extraordinaire' would be an appropriate way to describe him.

Lee Stempniak was with the Boston Bruins previously, one of the 10 teams he has played for. (Kim Klement-USA TODAY Sports)

While his career has changed locations over his tenure in the league, stability in his play has been a constant. In the above-referenced NHL article, Kurt Dusterberg quoted former Hurricane Jay McClement as having said, "He's a good player, he's been healthy and he's a pretty steady performer. But there have always been playoff teams looking for a guy like him. People are always looking for scoring wingers, so it's a testament to him. How many teams have looked to add him for playoff drives?" While reliability and dependable scoring have caused Stempniak to stand out in the past when teams have needed it, one team needs it now more than ever — the Hurricanes.

### Stempniak 2016-17

Last season, Stempniak proved to be stable and reliable for the Hurricanes. He played in all 82 games and notched 16 goals and 24 assists. While his 40 points overall might not garner a lot of attention at first glance, Stempniak filled the role for which Hurricanes' GM Ron Francis signed him. The two-year, \$2.5 million contract Francis inked was for a reliable presence on the top lines, and he got it in Stempniak.



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In 2016-17, Stempniak was often on the top line or a part of the second line. A look at [frozenpool.dobbersports.com](http://frozenpool.dobbersports.com) shows that nearly 34 percent of the time, Stempniak was lined up with Sebastian Aho and Teuvo Teravainen. As a line, they accounted for a third of Stempniak's total even-strength production. Frankly, I can't wait to see those three together again, completely healthy. In my opinion, it will do Aho good to get the stability of Stempniak back, and hopefully will help Aho break out of the scoring slump he has been in all season.

## Going Forward

The Hurricanes need Stempniak. Is he a household name to the casual hockey fan? No, and likely never will become a name on a billboard. Is he going to compete for scoring titles year in and year out? Again, not likely. But, the 'Canes are

struggling to be consistent, and desperately need his leadership and consistency.

Bringing in Justin Williams has been an enormous help to a team that needed a successful veteran presence. Already, Williams has made a difference in bringing the emotional level and intensity up on the ice several times. In like manner, Stempniak brings something that this team needs in his own way, a stability that will hopefully help them not blow 3-1 leads like they did Saturday night against the Chicago Blackhawks.

Is Stempniak alone going to take the Hurricanes to the playoffs? No. But, he is missed a great deal, and I firmly believe will be a positive presence for this team when he returns.



## Hometown Weekly Report: November 13

Written by Nicholas Niedzielski

Published: November 13, 2017

Taking on the middle leg of a grueling three-week road trip, the Checkers picked up another sweep before seeing their hot streak come to a halt in Syracuse. The team now has one last three-game week to go before returning home to Charlotte.

### Week in Review

#### Team Statistics

- Overall record 10-4-0
- Home record 2-2-0
- Road record 8-2-0
- Last week's record 2-1-0
- Last 10 games 7-3-0
- Division Standings 2nd
- Conference Standings 3rd
- League Standings 5th

### Checkers 5, Utica 2

The high-flying Checkers used another strong start to pick up a mid-week win over the Comets. Beginning with Andrew Miller's tally 26 seconds into the contest, the visitors notching

three goals in the opening frame to build a 3-1 lead through 20. The two sides exchanged goals in the middle frame, but any Comets' rally was snuffed out by Jeremy Smith, who turned aside all 14 shots he saw in the third en route to a 33-save win. [Full recap](#)

### Checkers 5, Utica 2

The Checkers' final meeting with Utica for the season was a closer affair than the night before, but another flurry of goals led the visitors to another victory on the road. Nic Roy's finish on a shorthanded two-on-one broke the ice in the first, then Clark Bishop followed in the middle frame with his first of the year. The home squad wouldn't roll over, however, as Jayson Megna lit the lamp in the final minute of the frame to pull Utica within one with 20 minutes to go. The Checkers wasted no time reasserting themselves in the third, with Andrew Poturalski and Janne Kuokkanen each finding the back of the net inside of the first five minutes. The Comets would answer back once more but it wouldn't be enough, as Bishop's second of the night later in the frame would seal a lopsided 5-2 final. [Full recap](#)

### Syracuse 5, Checkers 3

Wrapping up a busy week on the road in Syracuse, the Checkers couldn't quite keep their winning ways rolling. The defending conference champs broke out early, netting three unanswered tallies in the first period. The Checkers punched back with power-play goals both in the waning moments of the first and early on in the second to pull within one, followed by both squads trading goals in the back half of the



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frame to set up a 4-3 Crunch advantage heading into the third. Charlotte would once again pull within a goal in the final five minutes of regulation thanks to Aleksi Saarela's third of the year, but they couldn't find the equalizer. Eric Condra iced the contest with his second of the night late in regulation, snapping the Checkers' road streak. [Full recap](#)

## Three Stars Of The Week

- **3rd Star Nicolas Roy** 2g, 1a
- **2nd Star Andrew Poturalski** 2g, 1a
- **1st Star Andrew Miller** 1g, 3a

## Notables

### LIGHTING THE LAMP

The Checkers currently sit in a tie for the most goals scored this season in the AHL, even with a Laval Rocket team that has played one more game, and rank second in goals-per-game, trailing only the Penguins, who have played one fewer game.

Charlotte has recorded at least five goals in eight of its 14 games this season, including three of the team's last five, and are a perfect 8-0-0 in those games. Additionally, the Checkers have scored three or more goals in 12 of 14 games this season, holding a 9-3-0 record in those instances.

While their offense has been prolific, the Checkers have only been averaging 29.07 shots per game, ranking them 21st in the AHL. The Checkers have been outshot in eight of their 14 games this season, but are a perfect 6-0-0 when outshooting their opponent.

## STRONG FINISHERS

- Checkers To Wear Cam Newton Foundation Jerseys On Carolina Football Night [Read More](#)

## Last Week's News

- [Hurricanes Return Brown, Recall Di Giuseppe](#)
- [Checkers Reassign Josiah Didier to ECHL Florida](#)
- [Hurricanes Return McKeown To Charlotte](#)

So far this season the Checkers' offense has become more and more productive as the game goes on. With 20 total goals in second periods and 22 in third periods, the Checkers are the only team in the AHL with at least 20 goals in multiple frames. In fact, that third-period total is the second-highest among any single period in the AHL, as is the team's plus-nine goal differential.

## PLAYING OUT IN FRONT

The Checkers have been at their best this season when jumping out in front and playing with a lead. The team is a perfect 5-0-0 when scoring the game's first goal, as well as 4-0-0 when leading after one period and 8-0-0 when leading after two.

## NED STAYS PERFECT

Friday was another start and another win for netminder Alex Nedeljkovic, who improved his perfect start to 7-0-0. Nedeljkovic, who is tied for second in the AHL in wins and 10th in goals-against average, is one of only two goalies in the league with more than two starts who has yet to lose a game in regulation or overtime this season – rookie Hunter Miska is 5-0-0 in six starts for the Tucson Roadrunners.

Nedeljkovic, in his second season as a pro, is the only Checkers goalie to start the season with seven consecutive wins for the team (Tom McCollum won his first six starts as a Checkers after winning his lone game with Stockton, putting him at 7-0-0 as well), while his seven-game winning streak is the longest in franchise history.

## MILLER TIME

With a strong push recently, Andrew Miller has moved to within one point of the team scoring lead held by Lucas Wallmark, who has missed the last two games due to injury. The veteran forward has logged 14 points in as many games this season, tying him for 16th in the AHL, and has only been held off the scoresheet in three games, none of which came consecutively.

Miller, whose strong finish a season ago was a big part of the Checkers' road to the playoffs, hasn't missed a beat, logging 46 points in his last 48 games dating back to last season. Since Jan. 27 of last season, when he returned from injury, only two players have scored more in the regular season than Miller's 46 points – Chris Bourque with 47 and Chris Terry with 51.

## Ranks

- Lucas Wallmark is tied for eighth in the league in scoring
- Valentin Zykov is tied fifth in the AHL in goals
- Warren Foegele is tied for the league lead in shorthanded goals and points, is tied for third among league rookies in goals and is tied for second among league rookies in game-winning goals
- Alex Nedeljkovic ranks 10th in the AHL in goals-against average and is tied for second in wins

## INJURIES

- Brenden Kichton missed 5 games starting Nov. 3
- Jake Chelios missed 5 games starting Nov. 3
- Lucas Wallmark missed two games starting Nov. 10

## Transactions

- **Incoming**
  - Nov. 9: (D) Roland McKeown assigned to Charlotte (AHL)
  - Nov. 12: (C) Patrick Brown assigned to Charlotte (AHL)
- **Outgoing**



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- Nov. 11: (D) Josiah Didier assigned to Florida (ECHL)
- Nov. 12: (RW) Lee Stempniak recalled by Carolina (NHL)
- Nov. 12: (LW) Phil Di Giuseppe recalled by Carolina (NHL)

### Coming Up

- **Wednesday, November 15 at 10:30 am - Checkers at Springfield**
- **Friday, November 17 at 7 pm - Checkers at Springfield**
- **Saturday, November 18 at 7 pm - Checkers at Bridgeport**

### By the Numbers

CATEGORY	RECORD	AHL RANK	LAST WEEK
Power play	20.0%	7th	14th
Penalty kill	83.8%	13th	14th
Goals per game	4.0	2nd	2nd
Shots per game	29.07	21st	17th
Goals allowed per game	2.93	t-12th	15th
Shots allowed per game	30.57	21st	t-17th

**Penalty minutes per game** 13.79 10th 9th

<b>CATEGORY</b>	LEADER(S)
<b>Points</b>	Lucas Wallmark (15), Andrew Miller (14), Valentin Zykov (13)
<b>Goals</b>	Valentin Zykov (8), Warren Foegele (7), Andrew Poturalski, Andrew Miller (5)
<b>Assists</b>	Lucas Wallmark (11), Andrew Miller (9), Trevor Carrick, Sergey Tolchinsky (6)
<b>Power play goals</b>	Valentin Zykov (4), Nick Schilkey, Andrew Poturalski (2)
<b>Shorthanded goals</b>	Warren Foegele (2), Nicolas Roy (1)
<b>Game-winning goals</b>	Warren Foegele, Valentin Zykov, Andrew Poturalski (2)
<b>Shots on goal</b>	Trevor Carrick, Warren Foegele, Lucas Wallmark (28)
<b>Penalty minutes</b>	Trevor Carrick, Patrick Brown (25), Zack Stortini (23)
<b>Plus/minus</b>	Philip Samuelsson, Trevor Carrick (+8), Lucas Wallmark (+7)
<b>Wins</b>	Alex Nedeljkovic (7)
<b>Goals-against average</b>	Alex Nedeljkovic (2.30)
<b>Save percentage</b>	Alex Nedeljkovic (.917)

### TODAY'S LINKS

- <http://www.newsobserver.com/sports/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/article184469303.html>
- <http://www.newsobserver.com/sports/spt-columns-blogs/luke-decock/article184465563.html>
- <http://www.wralsportsfan.com/teravainen-scores-3-in-3rd-as-hurricanes-beat-stars-5-1/17112422/>
- <https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/recap-teravainen-hat-trick-leads-hurricanes-past-stars/c-292952752>
- <http://trianglesportsnet.com/carolina-hockey-network/hurricanes-finnish-stars-off-5-1/>
- <http://nsonline.com/article/2017/11/teravainens-natural-hat-trick-blasts-hurricanes-past-stars/>
- <https://thehockeywriters.com/lee-stempniak-hurricanes-stability/>
- <http://www.thehockeynews.com/news/article/why-the-hurricanes-need-to-find-a-way-to-inject-more-scoring-into-the-lineup>
- [http://www.technicianonline.com/sports/article\\_56f8a9e4-c8ed-11e7-9e13-1f911db9e371.html](http://www.technicianonline.com/sports/article_56f8a9e4-c8ed-11e7-9e13-1f911db9e371.html)
- <http://gocheckers.com/articles/features/hometown-weekly-report-november-13>
- <https://www.nhl.com/news/dallas-stars-carolina-hurricanes-game-recap/c-292953408>



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## SportScan

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

1083166 New York Islanders

Thomas Greiss is 'forcing' Doug Weight to play him in Islanders' goal

By Arthur Staple

Updated November 14, 2017 2:11 AM

Doug Weight said he's been looking for players to grab the reins of late.

"Forwards, D — I'm looking for guys to force me to play them," he said. "That obviously goes for goaltending as well."

Weight may have found his man in goal. Thomas Greiss was the star of Saturday's 5-2 win over the Blues in St. Louis, making half a dozen "wow" stops among his 35 saves.

The Islanders played a strong game and converted opportunities well against the best team in the Western Conference, but they wouldn't have gotten very far without Greiss' acrobatics.

And it could not have come at a better time. The Islanders have had no trouble scoring through their 9-6-2 start, but their goaltending tandem of Greiss and Jaroslav Halak has been decidedly average. The Isles carried a team save percentage of .898 into Saturday's game, in the bottom third of the league.

At even strength, Halak's .917 save percentage sits below the league average of .921. According to the website Corsica Hockey, his "low-danger" save percentage of .937 is worst in the NHL among goaltenders with at least six starts.

Greiss' numbers over the course of the season were worse than Halak's, but in terms of Weight's evaluation, Greiss has had higher highs than Halak. Of Greiss' four wins in eight starts this season, three involved some robbery. He made 40 saves in a 3-1 win over the Sharks on Oct. 14 and 31 saves in a 6-4 win over the Avalanche on Nov. 5 before Saturday's high-wire act.

"Thomas in the past two weeks has started to gain momentum," Weight said. "It was a real good team we played, with some real dangerous shooters. He was confident and our team was feeding off it. I definitely took note of that."

The Islanders are off until the Hurricanes come to Barclays Center on Thursday, the start of two sequences in the coming two weeks in which the Islanders will play three games in four nights. Even if Greiss is anointed the No. 1 goalie, he and Halak both will get regular work.

The Islanders need more consistency from both of their goaltenders. Halak won four straight starts recently, beginning with his usual strong outing against the Rangers, but was the culprit in a 4-3 loss to the Capitals on Nov. 2 in Washington and was in net for the 5-0 loss in Dallas on Friday.

In Weight's system, the goaltenders need to make the saves they can see, and the coach has preached to his defensive-zone players to clear the front of the net. Halak's weak numbers on easier chances aren't part of that system.

So for now, it seems, Greiss is the one forcing Weight's hand.

"Even before the game, we were talking. We didn't necessarily need him to steal one, but at least get that vibe," Weight said. "He was dialed in, and your team feeds off it."

Newsday LOADED: LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083167 New York Islanders

Nikolay Kulemin out six months after surgery

By Arthur Staple

Updated November 13, 2017 7:48 PM

Nikolay Kulemin had shoulder surgery on Monday that likely will end his season and quite possibly his time with the Islanders.

Kulemin, 31, crashed awkwardly into the boards on a hit from the Oilers' Eric Gryba last Tuesday and left the ice clutching his arm. The Islanders said his recovery time will be six months, meaning they would have to be deep in the postseason for the big winger to return.

Kulemin signed with the Islanders as a free agent on July 2, 2014, part of a package signing along with close friend Mikhail Grabovski. Kulemin signed for four years at \$4.19 million per season, Grabovski for four years at \$5 million per.

Kulemin ended up finding a more regular role than Grabovski, who played only 109 games with the Islanders before concussion effects put him on the sideline. The Islanders traded Grabovski's rights to Vegas during the expansion draft in June, but Grabovski still has not been cleared to play.

Kulemin had his best Islanders season in 2014-15 with 15 goals and 16 assists. He had a goal and two assists in 13 games this season.

Newsday LOADED: LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083168 New York Rangers

Rangers win streak still a losing situation for this defenseman

By Brett Cyrgalis November 14, 2017 | 12:53am

Brendan Smith called it a "double-edged sword," and that seems apt.

The gritty defenseman has been a healthy scratch for five straight games, and during that time, the Rangers have put together a six-game winning streak. So it hasn't exactly been easy dealing with the benching, which is set to continue as coach Alain Vigneault said he would stick with the same lineup Wednesday night on the road against the Blackhawks. But it's also something that Smith understands.

"It almost comes off like a double-edged sword, where you want the team to win, and you want to help the team in that aspect," Smith told The Post after Monday's practice. "I'm happy we're winning. I want to be playing at



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the end of the year in the playoffs, so these wins are huge for us. Sometimes it's just how the cookie crumbles. When I get a chance to get back in, I just have to make the best of it."

Smith, 28, signed a four-year, \$17.4 million deal with the Blueshirts this summer just before reaching free agency. This was not exactly the scenario envisioned by him or the team, now carrying his annual \$4.35 million salary-cap hit while he has been scratched in seven of the first 18 games.

"I want to be able to play," Smith said. "I think I'm capable of helping this team win. But obviously we're playing really well. It's just an interesting thing that's going on right now in my life."

Vigneault had said that he wants to get Smith back in, and it's going to happen rather soon. It's just this was not quite the time.

"Sometimes the circumstances make it that it's not just the wins right now, but it's also the way our 'D' group is playing," Vigneault said. "That group right now is playing extremely well, the team is winning. We're going to get him back in, but for now, the next game, I'm going to stick with the same group of D's that we had."

Vigneault said goalie Henrik Lundqvist was going to start against the Blackhawks, the seventh straight start for the franchise bedrock whose game is rounding into form. Backup Ondrej Pavelec has not played since he got two starts in a row Oct. 26 and 28.

The same lineup means Boo Nieves will remain as the fourth-line center and Paul Carey will be a healthy scratch. Nieves returned Saturday after missing three straight games with a stomach bug. He said he felt "100 percent" again after Monday's practice.

New York Post LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083169 New York Rangers

Gruesome injury won't keep Jimmy Vesey out of lineup

By Brett Cyrgalis November 14, 2017 | 12:10am

There are a handful of ways to describe what happened to Jimmy Vesey on Saturday afternoon at the Garden — disgusting, gruesome, extremely painful, cringe-worthy.

Then there is this description of Vesey's appearance, coming from coach Alain Vigneault:

"Looks like a hockey player. Beautiful young man."

That was Vigneault after Monday's practice, one day after Vesey finally had his two front teeth removed from his bottom lip. They were lodged there for all of Saturday's third period, which he played with a full fishbowl cage on after taking the toe of a skate from Oilers forward Zack Kassian to his face early in the second. After the game, the doctors undid the stitching that had stopped the bleeding, removed the teeth, and stitched him up again.

Vesey then went to the dentist Sunday and got what he called "a couple root canals." He sat on the couch the rest of the day, then returned to practice Monday, as he awaits the swelling in his lip to subside before going back to the dentist to get caps put on the stubs left of his two front teeth.

Quite a few days for the 23-year-old out of Harvard, who tweeted about it while adding the hashtag #SorryMa. A somewhat traumatic experience, but not one that will keep Vesey from playing when the Rangers bring a six-game winning streak into Chicago to face the Blackhawks on Wednesday night.

That's hockey #SorryMa pic.twitter.com/oeYJg6FgfV

— Jimmy Vesey (@19Vesey) November 11, 2017

"It's almost like I saw the skate coming in slow motion but couldn't move out of the way," Vesey said with a slight lisp. "Hit me pretty hard square in the face. I knew right away my teeth were gone. I guess the nerve was exposed and when I was breathing, just air hitting the nerve was really sensitive and painful."

Now in his second year in the league after signing with the Rangers as a free agent and reigning Hobey Baker Award winner, it's been a while since Vesey wore the big cage. He will don it again versus the Blackhawks and is unsure for how many games after. Vesey hardly seemed fond of doing it, no matter his past success wearing it.

"Yeah, it feels horrible now to go back to it," he said. "Bulkier and you can't really look down. When the puck's at your feet, you can't see it. That's definitely different. I don't think I'll be in it very long."

It was hard to tell exactly what happened when Vesey went down, but when he got up off the ice, his mouth was covered in blood. He missed the final 16:36 of the second period, and returned from the locker room just before the puck dropped for the third period.

"I knew I was getting some sort of stitches when I was leaving," Vesey said. "They had to remove my teeth, I didn't know what the deal was going to be, but once we got in there, the thing that delayed it a little bit was the X-rays. Luckily enough they saw my teeth were in my lip."

The Rangers aren't exactly overflowing with depth up-front, so it's a good thing Vesey wasn't more seriously injured. More than anything, he was lucky not to catch the skate blade rather than just the toe of Kassian's boot. Vesey's line with David Desharnais and J.T. Miller has been effective during this stretch of winning, which has stabilized the Rangers' season after a dreadful start.

And surely Vesey won't be feeling great when he gets on the ice in Chicago, but playing through pain is just as much a part of being in the NHL as fake front teeth.

"For me, as a coach, you get to know which player can play through certain levels of discomfort in a game," Vigneault said. "I would say most of the guys, if they get to this level, it's because they've accustomed their body to playing through some pain. With the schedule and the demands of practices and everything, you're never 100 percent. It just doesn't happen."

"So you have to be able to play. Once Jimmy got sewn up after the second period, he came back. Then they found the tooth, they opened him up again, and he was all right after that."

New York Post LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083170 New York Rangers

Jimmy Vesey keeps dentist busy after skate incident

By Anthony Rieber

Updated November 14, 2017 2:09 AM

GREENBURGH, N.Y. — He's definitely a hockey player.

Rangers winger Jimmy Vesey practiced Monday with a protective cage covering his face after he took a skate to the mouth in Saturday's 4-2 win over the Oilers.



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Why wouldn't Vesey practice? After being hit by the skate blade of Edmonton's Zack Kassian, he returned to Saturday's game after getting 10 stitches in his lower lip and two teeth knocked out.

Oh, and Vesey returned to the game even though two teeth were embedded in his lip. If he could have, he would have hopped back onto the ice even earlier. "The thing that delayed it a little bit was the X-rays," he said. "Actually, luckily enough, they saw my teeth were right in my lip."

Vesey went to the dentist Saturday night and again Sunday and will be going back again. On Monday, he sported a smile only a mother could love. His top front teeth were gone and his lower lip was badly swollen.

On Sunday, Vesey posted a photo on Twitter of his new (temporary) smile and a copy of his X-ray along with the caption: "That's hockey #SorryMa".

"My mom was at the game," Vesey said. "She thought I just got stitches. She wasn't happy about the teeth."

Vesey said he was in quite a bit of pain over the weekend. "Today's been the best day," he said. "Saturday night was painful. [Sunday] I went to the dentist again and had a couple root canals and pretty much sat on the couch all day. Today I feel a lot better. It's just the swelling in my lip that's been really bad. So once that goes down, I'm going to go back in and they're going to cap my teeth. Should be good to go."

Of the incident, he said: "It's almost like I saw the skate coming in slow motion but couldn't move out of the way. It hit me pretty hard. Square in the face. I knew right away my teeth were gone, but I guess the nerve was exposed. When I was breathing, just the air hitting the nerve was really sensitive."

Vesey wore the cage at Harvard. He doesn't plan on wearing it long in the NHL. "Feels horrible now to go back to it," he said. "You can't really look down. When the puck's at your feet, you can't see it. That's definitely different. But I don't think I'll be in it that long."

Coach Alain Vigneault said he already knew what kind of player the 24-year-old was before he witnessed Saturday's event.

"For me as a coach, you get to know which players can play through certain levels of discomfort and pain," he said. "I would say most of the guys if they get to this level, it's because they've accustomed their body to play through some pain. With the schedule and the demands of practice, you're never 100 percent. It just doesn't happen. You have to be able to play."

"Once Jimmy got sewed up after the second period, he came back and they found the tooth and they opened him up again. He was all right after that."

Lundqvist to face Blackhawks. Vigneault said goalie Henrik Lundqvist will start in Chicago on Wednesday night.

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1083117 Buffalo Sabres

Thanking family and Buffalo roots, Dave Andreychuk enters Hockey Hall of Fame

By Mike Harrington | Published Mon, Nov 13, 2017 | Updated Mon, Nov 13, 2017

From his youth days in Hamilton to his teenage days as an NHLer in Buffalo and as a 40-year-old hoisting the Stanley Cup, a career in hockey quickly flashed through the mind of Dave Andreychuk Monday night in Toronto.

As his father openly wept in the audience at Brookfield Place, the 22-year NHL veteran accepted his induction into the Hockey Hall of Fame in a speech highlighted by his family and his days with the Sabres.

Andreychuk's parents both worked in a Hamilton steel mill as he grew up before becoming a junior player in nearby Oshawa and a first-round draft pick of the Sabres in 1982.

"You don't have to cry, Dad. It's OK," Andreychuk said to his father, Julian. "They were with me day in and day out. My father was 30 years at the steel mill, then retired at 52 years old and has followed me around ever since."

Andreychuk revealed he spoke to his father every game night in a sort of ritual that lasted through his career.

"Every game day at four o'clock he got a call," Andreychuk said. "We didn't talk about that game that was going to happen. We talked about other things."

That included family. Andreychuk's wife, Sue, was a Buffalo native and their three daughters (Taylor, Caci and Brooke) were all born here.

"Nobody thinks, 'I want to be a Hall of Famer, that's where I want to be,'" he said. "You think about just trying to play in the NHL. You think about just trying to make your team better. Lots of it is about who's with you and how you get there and the circle you have around you."

Andreychuk thanked former Sabres coach and GM Scotty Bowman for drafting him in 1982. He scored 368 of his 640 career goals for the Sabres, third in franchise history behind only French Connection linemates Gilbert Perreault and Rick Martin.

"Great players in Buffalo. The 12 years that I spent there were exciting times for me," Andreychuk said. "I grew up in Buffalo. Lots of Buffalo friends are in the house. My girls were all born in Buffalo. I married a Buffalo girl. Good times in Buffalo. Really, really good times. Great players. Hall of Fame players. Gilbert Perreault, Phil Housley ... I grew up there."

Classy move by #Sabres to honor Dave Andreychuk in today's @TBNSports. Induction at 8 pm in Toronto on @NHLNetwork pic.twitter.com/aCFDYC2CbO

— Mike Harrington (@ByMHarrington) November 14, 2017

Andreychuk said he revealed in wearing a Leafs sweater and thanked the organizations of New Jersey, Boston and Colorado for his time there. He credited his wife for convincing him to go to Tampa Bay in 2001, where he captained the Lightning to a Stanley Cup in 2004.

"What happened in Tampa Bay was just magical," he said. "I get there with some young horses that were just phenomenal. I realized right away this team was going to be good."

"Our ultimate dream is to win the Stanley Cup. That's why we play. That happened for me. No chance you're thinking you're going to go to Tampa Bay and you're going to win. We did some really good things there."

Legendary Buffalo News Sports Editor Larry Felser once wrote, "Dave Andreychuk skates like wood" and Andreychuk has long admitted foot speed was not his forte. And as he joked Monday, Tampa Bay coach John Tortorella's analysis of his captain was that he was "slow as molasses but for some reason he gets it done."

Buffalo native and Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs, the chairman of Delaware North, was inducted in the Builders category and drew huge plaudits from NHL commissioner and close confidante Gary Bettman.

Jacobs, 77, had special praise for current Boston stars Zdeno Chara and Patrice Bergeron, former player and current president Cam Neely and ex-Bruin Mark Recchi, who was a Cup champion with the Bruins in 2011 and was also inducted Monday. He also credited longtime Bruins executive Harry Sinden with being his mentor in the hockey world.



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Jacobs thanked his wife, Peggy, and son, Charlie, who is the CEO of Delaware North's Boston Holdings that include the Bruins and is a key cog in the major development project growing around TD Garden. And he saved his highest praise for his late father, Louis Jacobs, who brought hockey to Buffalo in 1940 in the form of the American Hockey League's Bisons. They stayed for 30 years, until the birth of the Sabres in 1970.

"One of my greatest joys in hockey is that it brings together my large and geographically scattered family," Jacobs said. "To say I'm blown away by the size and strength of today's franchises is an understatement. I cannot even imagine what my dad would have thought."

Andreychuk was one of four players inducted Monday, joining Recchi, Teemu Selanne and Paul Kariya. In addition to Jacobs, the class also included Canadian college coaching legend Clare Drake and former Team Canada women's star Danielle Goyette.

Andreychuk is just the third player drafted by the Sabres to enter the Hall, along with former teammates Gilbert Perreault and current Buffalo coach Phil Housley. Andreychuk was drafted 10 spots after Housley was taken out of the Minnesota high school ranks.

Other ex-Sabres in the Hall include Dale Hawerchuk, Pat LaFontaine, Dominik Hasek, Tim Horton, Clark Gillies, Grant Fuhr, Dick Duff and Doug Gilmour.

Buffalo News LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083118 Buffalo Sabres

Sabres Notebook: Crosby also enduring a prolonged goal scoring drought

By Amy Moritz | Published Mon, Nov 13, 2017 | Updated Mon, Nov 13, 2017

Jack Eichel and Sidney Crosby have something in common.

They're both in the midst of a goal-scoring drought.

While it's reached eight games for Eichel, in his third season with the Sabres, it has stretched to 11 games for Crosby, the veteran of the Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins.

Crosby last scored Oct. 20 against the Florida Panthers.

The 11-game stretch is the second longest of Crosby's career, second only to a 12-game stretch in the 2011-12 season. That lasted from Nov. 23 to March 29 and included Crosby missing 40 games with a concussion.

Crosby, of course, isn't stressing about the goal drought.

"There's been some chances there, some posts, things like that," Crosby told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette when the skid hit nine games. "But still I'd like to generate a little bit more."

His teammates aren't stressing too much either.

"He's our best player," Patric Hornqvist said in the Post-Gazette story. "He shows up every single night. If he's not on the point sheet, he's blocking shots and winning key faceoffs. He can do all those things. That's why he's the best player in the world."

While Crosby has five goals, Phil Kessel has emerged as one of Pittsburgh's most consistent players. Kessel has seven goals and 15 assists to lead the Pens in scoring.

"We've liked a lot of Phil's game this year," Pens coach Mike Sullivan told the Pittsburgh media. "I think a lot of it has to do with the approach that

he took coming into training camp and the effort that he put in to training camp to put himself in this position. He's playing strong hockey for us."

Fun fact: The Pittsburgh Penguins are 5-0-1 at home this season. The Pens and New York Islanders are the only two teams in the NHL yet to lose in regulation at home.

The Sabres, meanwhile, are 3-5-2 on the road.

The Sabres practiced in KeyBank Center on Monday morning before flying to Pittsburgh. The lines were:

Evander Kane-Jack Eichel-Sam Reinhart

Benoit Pouliot-Ryan O'Reilly-Kyle Okposo

Matt Moulson-Johann Larsson-Jason Pominville

Jordan Nolan-Zemgus Girgensons-Nick Baptiste

So it looks like the line of Kane-Eichel-Reinhart will be staying together. At least for another game. The trio, who played together at times last season and seemed to have some chemistry, were reunited for the first time this season in the Sabres 2-1 overtime loss at Montreal on Saturday.

"I think the first couple shifts, we really liked our possession through the neutral zone, creating, and the opportunities were there," Reinhart said. "To get a practice under our belt to continue building with each other. I know I'm excited. I know they're excited to get the opportunity. It's been a while for us so hopefully we can get familiar with each other as soon as possible."

Defensive pairings were:

Jake McCabe-Taylor Fedun

Victor Antipin-Justin Falk

Josh Gorges-Nathan Beaulieu

Marco Scandella did not practice on Monday.

"Marco was feeling a little bit under the weather so we just told him to stay home," Sabres coach Phil Housley said. "I anticipate him being in the game tomorrow but we'll see tomorrow."

In other injury news, Housley said Alexander Nylander had been skating with the Rochester Americans and confirmed that the forward did not undergo surgery. There still is no timetable for his return.

The Sabres assigned forward Justin Bailey to Rochester on Monday afternoon. Bailey had missed five games with a lower body injury and was on the Sabres injured reserve list. Bailey has played in seven games for the Sabres this season with two goals and one assist.

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1083119 Buffalo Sabres

When hard effort goes unrewarded, it can be frustrating for the Sabres and Jack Eichel

By Amy Moritz | Published Mon, Nov 13, 2017 | Updated Mon, Nov 13, 2017

Jack Eichel slammed his stick over the boards at the end of a drill Monday morning in KeyBank Center. It's not an uncommon occurrence. Heck, Ryan O'Reilly did the same thing just a few minutes before.



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It's a sign of frustration. A sign of wanting to do more. A sign of wanting the results to match the effort and of trying to will the effort to be better focused.

Eichel has gone eight games without a goal. That's not acceptable to the 21-year-old who became the face of the Buffalo Sabres franchise when the team drafted him in 2015.

He's looking to break that skid, and the Sabres are looking for a road win, when they play the defending Stanley Cup Champion Penguins in Pittsburgh on Tuesday night.

Eichel has said he needs to be better. He has four goals this season, his last coming on Oct. 21. The frustrating part is trying to stay positive, to stay simple, when the results don't show up on the scoresheet at the end of the game.

"It's weird. I think early in the year, you get some bounces and you're getting a couple points and then you go through a stretch where you think you're playing pretty good," Eichel said, naming games against San Jose, Arizona, Dallas and Washington as instances where he played well, but didn't score.

"That stretch of games where you think you're doing good things. You're getting opportunities. You're not finding anything. You're not getting rewarded on the stat sheet. But you know you're doing good things so you're staying positive and I think that was kind of the case with me. I felt like my game was good, but I wasn't being rewarded. Obviously in the last few games ... you're going to go through ups and downs and I'm just fighting the puck, doing a little too much thinking."

In the first nine games of the season, Eichel had four goals and seven assists. His goal-scoring slump started Oct. 24 against Detroit. In those eight games, he has three assists.

For his part, when Phil Housley met with the media Monday morning, he wasn't too concerned about Eichel's lack of production because the coach sees positive work from his star center away from the puck. And forcing your game, well, that's usually a recipe to never find your game.

"Jack is creating so I'm not worried about the offensive part of his game," Housley said. "I think he's doing really good things away from the puck. He's got to just take what the game gives him. When you start searching for things, those are the times things get turned back on you. I don't know if it's gripping the stick. I think he's trying to do the right things. He means well. He's just got to continue to work through it."

On Monday, Eichel again skated with Evander Kane and Sam Reinhart, a trio that loves playing together. And while Eichel said he doesn't put any more pressure on himself than any other player in the NHL does, he is certainly aware of what he needs to do – put the puck in the net on a frequent and consistent basis.

"I feel like people are judged based off statistics so frequently," Eichel said. "So is the case with our league. For a reason. That's my job. My job is to produce. I haven't obviously produced in the fashion that I would have liked early in the year but it's a long season. The puck luck, the bounces, that sort of thing, they're coming around. You know when you're playing good and getting your chances it's obviously a positive. It's just in those games when you are playing well and you have it and you're feeling it and pucks are coming to you, it's important to make sure you're burying your chances."

So how does he get out of his funk? "Just get back to playing – moving my feet, doing things that make me successful," Eichel said. "Just try to get engaged mentally and physically pretty early in the game. That's all I'm going to try to do tomorrow. Just try to help us be successful."

Buffalo News LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083222 Websites

The Athletic / Red Wings announcer Ken Daniels shares his heartbreaking loss to save others from predatory rehabs

Craig Custance 17 hours ago

As the parent of an addict, Ken Daniels explains, the only time you truly feel at peace is when you know your child is somewhere safe. When his son Jamie first went down to Florida for rehab in the spring of 2016, he initially found a place like that.

And there was a temporary bit of peace at the Daniels home.

Jamie Daniels went to Florida to get help with an opioid addiction traced back to painkillers he received after his wisdom teeth were pulled. An innocent enough beginning.

That innocence was gone for good the morning Ken heard a knock on the front door of his Birmingham home last December. He was wrapping Christmas presents the morning after returning from a game in Winnipeg, a shootout win for the Red Wings.

Ken Daniels, the longtime Red Wings television play-by-play broadcaster, spoke to his son that night after the game. Jamie was watching the Red Wings but shut it off after the first period when the Jets jumped out to an early lead. Instead, he ended up painting the wheels on his car with a roommate down in Florida.

"You're not going to hate it," he assured his dad of the paint job. He promised to send pictures later when it wasn't dark out.

"He sounded great," Ken said, nearly a year later.

The next morning, on Dec. 7, 2016, the knock on the door of his home was from a Birmingham police officer, there to deliver the news every parent of an addict desperately fears.

Jamie Daniels was gone. Dead at the age of 23.

"He took something. I don't know how, or why," Ken said.

He only knew the result.

"He never woke up," Ken said.

A toxicology report finalized months later would confirm the fears, showing a detection of acute heroin and fentanyl, a synthetic opioid likely taken in pill form.

It was crushing to a family. The news was crushing to a Red Wings organization that treats its employees like family. It was crushing to a hockey world that becomes remarkably small when you're as beloved as Ken Daniels is among those in the hockey community.

It also took a twist that even a father dealing with an addict never would have anticipated. That turn came in the form of a text three days after Jamie's death.

Jamie Daniels was battling his opioid addiction during a time when he was also a target. Well-meaning laws in the Affordable Care Act removed limits insurance companies could place on treatment for rehab. It also allowed parents to keep their children on their own insurance longer, in this case, ensuring Jamie good health insurance through Ken while he tried to get clean in Florida and pursue a career in a law firm.

That combination may have contributed to his death.

Palm Beach County, where Jamie went to get treatment, is ground zero for a crisis called "patient brokering." And young, unsuspecting addicts from the Midwest are often a prime target.

Criminals lure those with strong insurance coverage into their treatment homes in order to run up excessive charges to insurance companies with the ultimate goal of another relapse, to reset the entire process and



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extend the money-making cycle. The consistent payoff is in the relapse, not the recovery.

It's called the Florida Shuffle.

"In a predatory model, what is driving this isn't patient care and outcomes," said John Lehman, chairman of the Florida Association of Recovery Residences. "This is a revenue source. The insurance card in the wallet of the kid is going to be milked for every penny it's worth."

What was once an area of the country known for quality rehab care — the reason Jamie went there in the first place — has turned into one that has led to nearly 600 overdose deaths in 2017, according to Lehman. Lehman estimates that total would have exceeded 5,000 if not for fast-acting first responders in the county who are constantly dealing with overdoses.

This scam is now spreading across the country as south Florida cracks down.

These criminal treatment homes go by pleasant-sounding names like "Reflections" and "Journey to Recovery," often changing names multiple times to stay one step ahead of anyone suspecting anything illegal.

When Jamie first arrived in Florida, he checked into Beachway Therapy Center, and it was one of the rare times Ken was at peace. He knew his son was safe, because he wasn't allowed to leave the premises. He knew his son was getting help at a proper facility.

"It was a wonderful spot," Ken said.

Jamie spent a month at Beachway Therapy Center and then moved on to another rehab center with a strong reputation called Sober Living in Delray.

Chris Ege, who works at Sober Living, was at the front door when Jamie arrived. Like most addicts coming out of their first 30-days, Jamie looked like someone who was happy, eager for the next step and ready to follow the plan, according to Ege.

"Jamie came in the door and immediately it was very apparent that he was a very smart guy. He is well-educated. He is no dummy," Ege said. "Jamie, by the grace of God, had an idea of what he yearned to do, and he was learning the process."

In Ege's experience, removing the addiction creates a void in the life of an addict. Time and time again, he's watched people try to fill that void with something else. For example, some fill the void with exercise. The recovering addict will work out in the morning and then go to CrossFit at night.

"Jamie chose work. He put his work ahead of a lot of things," Ege said.

What lured Jamie away from the reputable homes he started with isn't exactly clear. The streets of Palm Beach County are filled with people trying to find recovering addicts with good insurance willing to switch to their home. According to an NBC News report, many of these homes have "body brokers" who get kickbacks for finding addicts with insurance.

"The predatory model is, we'll offer this kid free room and board, free transportation and free other stuff because we're going to get in competition with other predatory providers," Lehman told The Athletic. "We're going to have to up the ante to keep him. Cell phones and scooters and nicer properties on the intercostal with jet skis. ... Where is the money coming from to pay the sober-home operator paying the housing, food and other benefits? The answer is [they'll] over-utilize urinalysis testing."

The reason why Jamie ended up moving to his final home, Daniels said, was finances. He was sober, getting more and more responsibility at his law firm. He might not have felt he needed the strict rules at the other homes, treatment centers that also come with a price tag that runs around \$1,000 a month.

Jamie's last house cost \$50.

That drop in rate raised red flags back home.

"The first place he was at, was great. They did drug tests. He was there, they looked after him," Daniels said. "He got coerced to move out because it was cheaper. I begged him not to go, he decided it was cheaper. ... I didn't know about patient brokering until after the fact."

That concept was introduced to Ken in a text from Jamie's last roommate, sent to Ken on the Saturday after Jamie died.

I have so much dirt on the owners I could have them buried under the prison.

Ken said the kid was trying to extort money out of the family, in return for Jamie's personal belongings. But the scam by those running the house was much worse than that.

Ken Daniels estimates that the fraudulent charges to his insurance as part of Jamie's attempts to get clean were close to \$60,000. The reality is that his death may be the only reason the total wasn't higher. One family in the NBC report had their insurance billed over \$1 million in 15 months.

Drug tests that should cost \$25 would instead cost thousands. A few days before Jamie died, Daniels was billed \$1,500 for a lab test by a provider named "Journey to Recovery."

In May, the Florida Sun-Sentinel reported that Kenneth Chatman, who ran "Journey to Recovery" and many other fraudulent sober homes, was sentenced to 27-1/2 years in federal prison. Chatman, according to the report, operated several illegal drug treatment centers and received between \$9.5 million and \$25 million in insurance payments.

The Daniels family worked with FBI and local investigators to try and expose as many people as possible. When reached by The Athletic, the FBI declined to confirm nor deny any ongoing investigation, as is its policy. At one point, Ken said he shared with investigators a photo of Jamie at Joe Louis Arena with legendary broadcaster Bob Cole, taken around Thanksgiving to prove he wasn't in Florida getting treatment as the dates on some fraudulent insurance claims said he was.

For many of those closest to Jamie, that Thanksgiving trip back to Michigan was the last time they'd see him.

"He was perfectly fine," said his best friend Chad Chaiken, whose close circle of friends use Thanksgiving as a chance to get everyone together. "He hung out with us. He wasn't drinking or anything, wasn't using or doing anything that was influencing his behavior. By the time it was Thanksgiving, that wasn't the issue. You're having a job, getting your life back in line. You're back doing your own thing."

If Jamie made a mistake, aside from trusting someone inside a corrupt house, it was trying to do too much too soon, according to his sponsor, Sarge.

Jamie was eager to do well at the law firm. He was taking on extra hours and work. Sarge, instead, wanted him pushing shopping carts or packing groceries, doing a menial job to focus on recovery rather than his career.

"He was so determined once he got clean to impress," Sarge said. "It's one of those tragic, unfortunate situations. Most people who die from drug addiction have tremendous potential because addicts are the most sensitive, talented people."

He was also stubborn. Probably a bit naive. But mostly just a kid trying to fight a battle stacked against him.

"We loved him as much as we loved anyone," Sarge said.

"He got hoodwinked. He was trusting. He was loyal," Ken said. "Jamie was a great kid. As loyal as can be."

Ken estimated that 1,000 people showed up at Jamie's funeral, and it came in the middle of a Michigan snowstorm. That support is part of what helped the family get through a year that has been equal parts devastating and overwhelming.



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As Ken recounted part of the story recently in the press box at Little Caesars Arena, he was asked how he got through it all. He pointed to the people around him. His co-workers, the other Red Wings employees, scouts at the game. He had long conversations with Mike Babcock and Jeff Blashill and Ken Hitchcock, among many others in hockey.

Just about every week after Jamie's death, he heard from the CBC's Scott Oake whose own son Bruce died six years ago of an overdose.

"We're both members of a club we would give anything not to be in," Oake said.

The Oake family is finalizing plans to open a 50-bed facility open to any addict, to stay for free. Ken is now joining the battle publicly with Oake.

"There are such dangerous drugs out there these days. That's what cost Jamie his life," Oake said. "[Ken Daniels is] not running from it. He's willing to tell the story in graphic terms and it will benefit a lot of people if they listen."

Ken is speaking publicly at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Henry Ford Centennial Library in Dearborn, sharing the details of Jamie's death, a story that wasn't shared initially.

He's done being quiet about it.

"I think it's the shame and stigma of addiction that exacerbates the problem," Ken said. "People need to know. Don't be ashamed of it. ... Now, to honor Jamie and to know how hard he worked, we don't want it to go for naught. If we can save somebody else, that's what we're going to do."

The Athletic LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083223 Websites

The Athletic / Basu: Charlie Lindgren takes no detours

Arpon Basu 18 hours ago

Charlie Lindgren was sitting in his car when he got the news.

It was news that could have left him devastated, news that could have easily led him to start the car and drive away.

Lindgren had just learned he was not selected in the 2013 draft, his second year of eligibility, and his car was parked outside the gym where he trained. Except he did not put his keys back in the ignition, he did not drive away. He did the exact opposite.

"It's time to go to work," Lindgren remembers saying to himself. "I'm going to make this dream a reality."

Lindgren was the 19th ranked North American goaltender on NHL Central Scouting's final list that year, but he was also the U.S. junior goaltender of the year playing for the Sioux Falls Stampede in the United States Hockey League, and he fully expected a team would take a chance on him.

Today, four years later and starting for the Canadiens while Carey Price recovers from a lower body injury, Lindgren couldn't be happier with what happened that day in 2013. That day when he went to work out instead of wallowing in his sorrows. That day that has driven him to this point.

"Being undrafted put a chip on my shoulder. It still does," Lindgren said. "It was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. It was phenomenal. I'm so thankful I wasn't picked...because I was so motivated. I wanted to prove to everyone that I could do it."

If there is one thing that has defined Lindgren throughout his hockey life, it is this. It is his refusal to take detours when road blocks appear on his career path. It is his willingness to work to prove doubters wrong. And it is the product of the competitive environment he grew up in.

Lindgren's father Bob was an accomplished goalie himself, one who grew up loving the Canadiens and Ken Dryden and who played under Red Berenson for one season at the University of Michigan before homesickness drove him back to Minnesota and effectively ended his hockey career.

But Bob and his wife Jennifer had three boys, and they all play hockey. Charlie is the oldest and played at St. Cloud State, Andrew is a junior goalie for St. John's University in Minnesota and Ryan is a sophomore defenceman for the University of Minnesota. Three brothers who all stayed home in the State of Hockey to play hockey, and three brothers who drove each other to succeed.

"Even when they were little, a board game of Sorry! or Monopoly or whatever, there was a lot of tears and stomping up to the bedroom, for sure," Bob Lindgren told The Athletic. "There were some broken walls in the basement from the boys playing hockey. Ultra-competitive, those three."

Then there's the hockey culture in Minnesota, which was another ingredient in Charlie's drive to succeed, but which also cultivated his willingness to battle through obstacles.

"You can almost compare it to Montreal here," Lindgren said. "Everyone plays, all my buddies played, my best friend (Brady Skjei) is playing for the New York Rangers now. The high school hockey tournament is like something you'd never believe. It's like it's out of a movie. You get 19,000 people at the Xcel Energy Center for all the hockey games. Growing up it was just tradition; everyone goes to that. It's pretty incredible."

"And then the resources you have in Minnesota for hockey, the training, there's a ton of guys that play in the NHL that make their homes in Minnesota in the summer just because of the resources. It's just a great place to be. Minnesota's always going to be home to me, that's where I'll always go every summer. I'm really thankful to have grown up there. The person I am today is because of the experiences I've had in Minnesota."

When Lindgren was nine, his father enrolled him at Stauber's Goalcrease, a goalie school run by former NHL goalie Robb Stauber in Edina, not far from Lindgren's hometown of Lakeville just south of Minneapolis. It laid the foundation for what Lindgren has become.

"He spent a lot of time there, and they taught the fundamentals," Bob Lindgren said. "It might have been a few bucks for both of my boys, but it was money well spent. They've got a great thing going over there."

Even then, it wasn't always clear that Lindgren was a special talent. He had a late growth spurt, so even though he is now 6-foot-1, Lindgren was a pretty short kid, his dad said. And perhaps as a result, he didn't necessarily stand out right away.

"You knew he loved hockey, and he was good," Jeff Hall, a coach at Stauber's Goalcrease who has known Lindgren since he first enrolled, told The Athletic. "But growing up, I can't say he looked like an obvious NHL goalie. But he was just a good, hard-working kid."

Hockey culture being what it is in Minnesota, making the Select U-15 state travel team is a big deal, just as it is at the U-16 and U-17 levels. Except when Lindgren was first eligible for the U-15s, not only did he not make the team, he did not even make it out of his district.

"It was a terrible feeling," Lindgren said. "It's one of the big things in Minnesota, you get in front of a lot of scouts. At that time, you're kind of young enough where colleges aren't looking at you yet, but it's kind of at that point where it's just starting. So you want to get your name out there. It was disappointing, for sure."

"But it's adversity. So you either take adversity head on or you shy away from it. It's pretty much those two options. I wasn't going to let those



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things determine my fate. I was going to put everything in my power to have my fate in my own hands."

It was at around the same time as he got cut from the U15 team that Lindgren approached Stauber with a proposition. Stauber had instituted practice sessions on Sunday night for kids he thought had some potential, and Lindgren wanted in.

"I still remember where I was on the ice, it was right at centre ice when he came up to me, I can still see it," Stauber told The Athletic. "He said, 'I want to be in those sessions, because I'm going to play in the NHL.' When you say that to yourself, you have nowhere to hide. You have to put the work in, because you're not going to get there on skill alone. So he learned to value the mental aspect of the game very early on.

"So many young kids fail there, and when you fail between the ears, your chance of success is so limited."

Lindgren has never had that problem.

He made it down to the final six goalies for the U16 team, but got cut again. Then he made the U17 team, because that's what Lindgren does.

After three seasons at St. Cloud State, Lindgren signed as an undrafted free agent with the Canadiens on March 30, 2016 and a week later made his NHL debut in Carolina, making 26 saves in a 4-2 win in front of his parents, his brother Andrew, his girlfriend and his goalie coach at St. Cloud, Dave Rogalski.

The Canadiens season ended two days later, having missed the playoffs because Price didn't play after Nov. 25. Lindgren went back home to Minnesota and went back to work, helping out at his parents landscaping business, Minnehaha Falls Nursery and Landscape. He did the same at the end of last season, his first as a professional when Lindgren was an AHL All-Star and he established himself as the most promising goaltender in the Canadiens organization.

"In the spring time it's busy around there, and he just fits in," Bob Lindgren said. "He helps with customers. He might not know everything, but he's personable and if he doesn't know something he'll come get me. He's a good kid."

It's easy to see why Lindgren's rise to the NHL has been special for his parents, especially his dad, who once had the same dreams and now gets to see his son realize them. Bob and Jennifer watched their son play at the Bell Centre for the first time Thursday against his favourite team growing up, the Minnesota Wild.

It wound up being Lindgren's first loss of his NHL career after five straight wins, a Canadiens team missing Jonathan Drouin and Shea Weber unable to score a single goal and squandering Lindgren's stellar performance that allowed his team to enter the second intermission in a 0-0 tie before losing 3-0.

"He told me Thursday night in the hotel how proud he is," Lindgren said of his dad. "This obviously means a ton to him. He's really pinching himself. I think he really can't believe it that right now I'm playing for his favourite team growing up. He's definitely very excited."

Bob Lindgren can't hide the fact his enthusiasm sometimes gets the best of him, but he is enjoying the hell out of his son's ride.

"My wife doesn't like to sit by me just because sometimes I make kick saves in my seat, so I might kick her or the neighbour next to me and I have to apologize," Bob said with a laugh. "But for us, as parents, from the Carolina game, the Canadiens were nice enough to get us out there, so that was a lot of fun. Then we got to go see him in Florida last year.

"As parents, you might dream or hope that your kid makes it like that, but until it happens and when it's happening, like right now, it's pretty crazy when you think about it."

The thing is, it's not that crazy to Charlie because he always believed it, regardless of all the reasons he had not to.

So now, after deciding to sign with the Canadiens in large part because they gave him the opportunity to play that one game in 2015-16, burning the first year of his entry-level contract, it would appear Lindgren's road to a starting job in the NHL has yet another road block, and his name is Carey Price.

But Lindgren, not surprisingly, doesn't see it that way.

"Pricer is one of the best goalies in the NHL, there's no doubt about that, but it's so beneficial to learn from him. Steph Waite, same thing," Lindgren said. "I was able to play that game right away out of college, which was a big time bonus. I've been super thankful to be a part of this organization. I'm so thankful and happy. It's just a great place to be.

"Learning from guys like Steph Waite and Carey Price, it goes a long way. You can look at someone like Aaron Rodgers and Brett Favre, you can look at other athletes, like Jimmy Garoppolo and Tom Brady, the knowledge that he's going to have is huge."

It's not all that clear how Lindgren will clear this final obstacle standing between him and a job as a No 1 goalie in the NHL. Price is in Montreal for the long haul, having signed an eight-year, \$84 million contract extension that kicks in next season.

But what is clear is that Lindgren has all the experience in the world breaking through road blocks. This is just the latest one, and it's hard to imagine that now, when he's so close to realizing his dream, Lindgren will suddenly decide to take a detour.

The Athletic LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083224 Websites

The Athletic / The Video Room: The skills Kyle Turris and Matt Duchene bring to their new teams

By Rachel Doerrie 15 hours ago

Hockey fans got their wish last Sunday, and so did Matt Duchene. The extremely rare three-team trade between Colorado, Ottawa and Nashville saw multiple assets change hands. The big one-for-ones are rare enough in the salary cap world, never mind this level of intricacy involving three teams.

How it ultimately came together has been covered. I'll say this, the return for Taylor Hall in the Oilers-Devils trade in 2016 was Adam Larsson. The return for Duchene was three players that will make an impact in the very near future plus three picks. For everyone who harped on Avalanche GM Joe Sakic for holding out, this is why it serves you well not to budge on price point. Without getting too much into trade comparisons, this was one massive haul for the Avalanche.

Five players changed sweaters, and none of them were throw-ins. Each team got what they needed, and we won't know the full value of the deal until the picks and prospects come to fruition in Denver. Each player is different in their own right, possessing skills that their new teams and fans hope they use to bring team success. The evaluation of the haul the Avalanche got will not be included. This will focus strictly on what Duchene and Kyle Turris bring to their respective teams and what it could mean in terms of team success.

Duchene is the consensus best player in the trade, and rightly so. I'm prepared to say that Duchene's lack of offensive output is directly related to who he played with in Colorado. There's a big difference between an outlet pass from Nikita Zadorov (or any other Avs rearguard), and an outlet pass from Erik Karlsson. Just ask Mike Hoffman. Duchene brings



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an element of speed the Senators will benefit from, particularly in transition. He is one of the fastest players in the NHL through the neutral zone and entering the offensive zone. Last season, on one of most abysmal teams of the past decade, Duchene managed to rank 23rd in the NHL for carry-in percentage. According to Corey Sznajder, the Exits/Entries King, 68 percent of Duchene's entries were of the controlled variety. To put this in perspective, that puts Duchene in the same company as Mark Scheifele, Brad Marchand and Evgeny Kuznetsov. The common denominator among league leaders in carry-in% is north/south speed.

This plays right into Senators coach Guy Boucher's system, which may come as a surprise, considering the Sens play a 1-3-1 in the neutral zone. The thing about a 1-3-1, is that once the Sens turn the puck over and move up ice, there is often a swing to hit a player with a pass. Duchene is the perfect swingman because of how quickly he gets going. His wide base allows him to cut easily, and most importantly, protect the puck. The first clip shows his acceleration in the neutral zone as he blows by the defenders from a standstill. The second and third show pass reception at speed and good puck protection through the neutral zone and offensive zone entry. Duchene's speed coupled with the passing ability of Karlsson and Boucher's system is a scary combination for opponents. It is not unreasonable to expect Duchene to put up 65-70 points, especially if he plays with Hoffman and Mark Stone. He may not start with those two players, but Duchene immediately becomes the team's most offensive pivot, and he deserves a look between those two.

The second key part of Duchene's game that will improve the Senators offensively is his play below the hashmarks. Last season, the Senators were the only team to make the playoffs with a negative goal differential (-2), and scored the fewest goals among the qualifiers with 212. This season, their Expected Goals For/Game of 2.19 is 25th in the NHL. One of the key ways to generate high danger shots is low-to-high play. This means working the puck behind the net and out to the high danger area. This is effective because it forces the goalie and the defenders to look away from either the coverage or the puck. That split second is all someone like Hoffman needs to get his shot off of a pass from below the red line. Duchene's ability to protect the puck with his wide base and move the puck to the danger areas make players like Bobby Ryan, Stone and Hoffman more dangerous. If Duchene found Karlsson sneaking down a lane on the PP, my goodness that would be a nightmare to defend. It doesn't matter who he plays with, they are going to be dangerous in the offensive zone because of Duchene's ability to create with his play below the dots.

Moving on to one of the NHL's most underrated players in Kyle Turriss. He's likely underrated because he played in the same division as superstar pivots named Steven Stamkos, Auston Matthews, Jack Eichel and Patrice Bergeron. In the immediate, Nashville got the biggest upgrade to their lineup. They added a significant piece in Turriss, without subtracting a piece off their roster. Here's the thing about Turriss: he does nothing spectacular, but he does everything well. He doesn't blow you away with speed, but he plays fast. He doesn't "wow" you offensively, but he will put up 50-55 points. He won't win a Selke, but he's defensively sound and can be trusted in a secondary match-up role. Most importantly, he will play in all situations, which is exactly what the Predators need. Ryan Johansen is their top centre, meaning Turriss will get second team reps on the power play, will factor into the penalty kill and will most certainly be relied upon in the dying minutes of a game, regardless of the situation.

One of the key places Nashville improves is in the face-off circle. Currently sitting fourth in the NHL, adding Turriss, who is over 60 percent on draws this season, is a big boost. Adding him to the group of Colton Sissons (60 percent), Johansen (55 percent) and Calle Jarnkrok (52 percent) makes Nashville very deep up the middle, where face-offs and talent is concerned. When Johansen went down last year, Nashville's depth at centre was exposed, particularly when matched against Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin in the Stanley Cup final. With Turriss in the fold, Nashville can withstand an injury up the middle and still be able to ice a strong lineup.

Turriss is a good fit with Kevin Fiala because he's a pass first guy. Fiala is one of league's most dangerous shot contributors, shooting within the high danger areas. Considering the amount of shot assists that Turriss racks up, this bodes well for Fiala because Turriss can create and move the puck to the scoring areas with the best of them. If the chemistry is there, look for Fiala's goal total to rise and Turriss' assists to go up, giving Nashville a dangerous top-six.

Duchene and Turriss are bonafide 1A centres. They aren't among the top 15 centres in the league, but definitely in the top 40. The Predators got the most significant and immediate upgrade to their team because they didn't subtract an asset off their roster. A team that went to the final just added an extra 50 point man to their lineup, putting every team in the NHL on notice.

Time will tell if the Senators lost in this deal. The good news is, they are clearly going for it. Both Duchene and Karlsson have contracts expiring in 2019, so the Senators have a really good two years ahead of them. If the Senators can keep Duchene past next season, this could very well be a win for them. I'd argue they haven't lost (yet) because they managed to not give up Thomas Chabot, Logan Brown or Colin White in the deal. However, when you consider they subtracted a key piece (Turriss) and replaced him with a ~12 point upgrade, on top of giving up multiple futures, it isn't as clear a win. If Duchene walks next summer and the Senators haven't won the Cup, the trade doesn't look good. For now, Duchene becomes Ottawa's most dangerous threat up front.

Every team involved in this deal got better. How much better? Well, that remains to be seen. For now, let's all be happy we can still have trades like this, however rare they are, in the salary cap era.

The Athletic LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083225 Websites

The Athletic / The bond between Bobby Gassoff Jr. and his dad's Blues led to an improbable post-hockey career as a Navy SEAL

By Jeremy Rutherford 12 hours ago

As retired Naval Petty Officer First Class Generald Wilson prepared for the opening note of the Star-Spangled Banner Saturday night at Scottrade Center, Bobby Gassoff Jr. cued up his three children.

It took only a subtle gesture from Gassoff for the posture of son Bobby, 9, and daughters Mia, 7, and Olivia, 4, to stiffen up quickly, and their focus to turn to the singing of the national anthem.

"They always make sure they stand at attention and put their right hand over their heart, respect the colors of the flag and respect the sacrifice and history," Gassoff said.

This night was particularly patriotic because the game between the Blues and New York Islanders happened to fall on Veteran's Day, an evening that included soldiers from nearby Fort Leonard Wood repelling from the rafters to drop the ceremonial first puck.

Hanging from those same rafters is a banner that reads: "Bob Gassoff, No. 3," the first sweater in franchise history to be retired when it was raised on Oct. 1, 1977, and today one of only seven to receive that honor.

In the theater box seats below, his hand still over his heart, the youngest Gassoff boy is draped in a Winter Classic version of the No. 3 sweater, proudly remembering the grandfather that he and his sisters never met. In fact, neither did their father, who was two months from being born



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when Bobby Gassoff Sr. was killed in a motorcycle accident at age 24 on May 27, 1977.

It was a tragedy that would help shape the life of an unborn son, from a hockey career that included an NCAA national championship at the University of Michigan to a military career that had an amazing ascent to the position of Navy SEAL. It's a story that intertwines sport and service, providing perspective during a time when the perception of anthem protests have placed "too much" negativity in the headlines, according to Diana Gassoff, Bobby Jr.'s mother.

Bobby Gassoff Sr. was a third-round pick of the Blues in 1973 and pound-for-pound they didn't come any sturdier. He was 5-foot-10, 190 pounds and racked up 866 penalty minutes in 245 NHL games. Many of those minutes stemmed from his 42 fighting majors, featuring bouts against opponents who stood as much as a half-foot taller than him.

"Bobby Gassoff Sr. was one of the toughest most dedicated players I ever met in the game," said former Blues goaltender Ed Staniowski, a teammate of Gassoff's. "You knew when he was on the ice. As a goalie, I could focus on playing the puck angles because nobody was going to get anywhere near me. He was a hard-nosed guy and he was the same way in the dressing room. If you weren't carrying your weight, he let you know it. He was really respected and we all loved him."

In the days after the 1976-77 NHL season, in which the Blues finished fourth in the Smythe Division and were swept by Montreal in the first round of the playoffs, the team gathered for an end-of-the-season BBQ at the home of Garry Unger in Gray Summit, Missouri.

Gassoff Sr. was one of a few players, including Bobby Plager and Bruce Affleck, who jumped on dirt bikes before the food was ready and wetted their adventurous appetites on the property. Affleck was ahead of Gassoff Sr. and another bike with a young boy on it when, blinded by the upcoming hill, they unknowingly approached a car driven by Douglas Klekamp. Klekamp, 19, had been parking cars at the party but left briefly to buy soda and ice and then returned.

"I came over the hill and this car was coming by me, and then I heard the crash," Affleck said. "I couldn't see them because they weren't over the hill yet, so I turned around and went back. The car was speeding. It was fish-tailing a little bit when I came over the hill, but the car was on (its own) side of the road. However the accident occurred, (Klekamp) missed the 12-year-old kid somehow and then hit 'Gasser.'"

Gassoff Sr. was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Washington, Missouri, where a nearly eight-month pregnant Diana Gassoff and the rest of the Blues were devastated to hear that he had been pronounced dead.

"My brother Barclay and I, we promised Diana that night that we would be there for the birth and she wouldn't be alone," Bobby Plager recalled recently. "So two months later, I get the phone call and it's Barclay, he says, 'Let's go! She's in the hospital, Diana, they just took her in.' One of us had to go in the room with her when she was giving birth, so I look at Barc and I said, 'You're going in.' So Barclay was there when young Bob was born. He was very special to us."

Now it was just Diana and baby Bobby, but as he got older, she would lean on her fallen husband's former teammates. They invited him to work in the locker room and later tag along with them at bars.

"The guys just always took him under their wing, always," Diana Gassoff said. "No matter who got traded here, who got sent away, people always kept with him. They would all go to the tavern to watch football and say, 'Can we take the kid?' I'd say, 'Sure can.' I used to always say that I didn't want him hanging with me too much because he's got to be around men sometimes. He always felt like he was part of the Blues' family, and it was just a beautiful part of his life."

It was as close to his dad as he could get.

"My father was killed two months before I was born, so I never grew up knowing him," Bobby Jr., now 40, said. "I don't really remember when I

kind of figured out what happened. It was just kind of the way my life was."

Bobby Jr. followed in his father's footsteps, playing with the Blues' alumni in a local men's league as a young teenager, moving onto the University of Michigan and continuing in the Blues' organization with its minor-league affiliates. But at every stop, the younger Gassoff faced one challenge that was the result of his father's reputation.

"I didn't have the natural goal-scoring ability and, even if I did, you've got the name 'Gassoff' on the back of your jersey, so people expect you to be able to mix it up and be able to test themselves against you," Bobby Jr. said. "I remember playing with the Blues alumni when I was maybe 14-15 years old, and people would say, 'Let's see how tough these Gassoff's really are.' I would get in a scrap or two and beat up somebody who was probably 30-something years old. The alumni would say, 'Hey, you know you just got beat up by a kid, right?' They're like 'What?' And the alumni would say, 'Yeah, he's 14.'"

At Michigan, Bobby Jr. played for one of his dad's ex-teammates with the Blues, Red Berenson, winning an NCAA national title together in 1998. In 2001-02, the Blues brought him into the fold with the Peoria Rivermen, playing 51 games with the ECHL franchise and then the Worcester IceCats, where he suited up for another three.

"He came in with our farm club and gave it a shot," Bobby Plager remembers. "I don't think he was good enough to play in the NHL, but he could have played in the minor leagues for a long time. But when you're in the minors, there's a lot of players who will never play in the NHL and they want to make a name for themselves, so they went after him. I was very honest with him when I told him that he'll never play in the NHL. He could play in the minors, but he was going to have to fight every night. He said, 'Thank you.'"

Bobby Jr. didn't mind fighting, but he had been dreaming for years about doing it for his country.

"I knew hockey didn't last forever and I tried to figure out what I wanted to do when hockey was done," he said. "Being part of a team your whole life, I kind of learned a little bit of what the Navy SEAL teams were about and it kind of made sense for me to go from one team to another team, so that was my goal. I said, 'I'm not getting any younger, if I want to do the SEAL thing, no time is better than the present.'"

At age 26, Bobby Jr. actually had to make the decision quickly because applications for SEAL team candidates are only accepted up to age 28. When he made up his mind that he would give it a go, he called his mother to let her know.

"That was quite a day in my life," Diana said. "He was in Worcester playing hockey with the Blues and called me one morning and said, 'Mom, I'm going to retire from hockey and I'm going into the Navy.' I said, 'What are you talking about? You're only 26 years old, you can't retire from hockey. You've got to keep going, man, you're just starting.' He laughed and said, 'Actually, mom, I've already told the coach.' I'm like, 'Oh I'm second on the list, I see.' He said, 'Mom, look at everything I have, look at the life we have.' He said, 'I owe somebody something, and I think I owe my country.'"

"It gets me really upset just saying it because that's when I quit fighting him. That made me go, 'OK, if this is in his heart and soul, I'm going to stand behind him.' I said, 'You know, I really never minded you getting pucks shot at your head at 90 mph, but I do mind bullets being shot at your head.' But whether I like it or not, I got to choose my life and now he was choosing his. I said my prayers at night that he would forget about it and the timeframe would pass and it would be too late for him, but my luck didn't hold up. He said, 'I'm going to Washington D.C., and I'll be home in a few days.'"

In order to become a SEAL, Bobby Jr. actually had to undo some steps his mother had taken earlier in his life to prevent this day.

"It's funny, because my father was Canadian, my mom was able to get my Canadian citizenship," Bobby Jr. said. "She thought if something ever



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happened, if there was a war, she could ship me across the border to my grandparents. It turns out, 10 years later I'm chasing the war and actually had to renounce my Canadian citizenship so I could get my (U.S.) security clearance."

Bobby Jr. headed off to BUD/S (Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL) training in 2003, but before he left, his mother had some not-so-sympathetic words for him.

"I said, 'Do not be a quitter. Don't you ever call me on the phone and say, I quit. Never. You start it, you finish it,'" Diana recalled. "I said, 'I don't care if your leg is broke or your arm is broke, or anything isn't working, do not quit under any circumstances. You will not be OK if you call me and tell me you quit.' He said, 'I won't,' and I said, 'Good, then I'll see you at your graduation.'"

SEAL training is not for the faint of heart, even for someone like Bobby Jr. who showed plenty of heart in his hockey days.

"I guess you sometimes say it keeps you out of trouble, but usually they send us where the trouble is," he said. "We have a lot of sayings with the SEAL teams, but one is, 'Mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't really matter.' Being a competitive person and playing a competitive sport in hockey my whole life I thought prepared me well, but it doesn't matter. If you can do 100 pull-ups, they're going to make you do 101; if you can do 400 pull-ups, they'll make you do 401. So it's all about pushing your limits because out there when it's war and rounds are being fired, you've got to go the extra mile."

There were approximately 200 candidates who began the training but only 20 who made it to the graduation ceremony where Bobby Jr. promised he would see his mom again. She didn't doubt him, but wondered why him?

"We had the little get-together when he got his SEAL pin, and I said to one of his really tough instructors, 'I just have one question that I would like an answer to,'" Diana said. "He said, 'OK, give it to me.' I said, 'I want to know what's the difference between these 20 guys and the 180 that aren't here?' He got this great big smile on his face and he said, 'Don't you know already?' and I'm like, 'No, I don't know. That's why I'm asking you and I want an honest answer.' He said, 'See those 20 guys over there?' and I said, 'Yeah.' He said, 'Those are the 20 guys that decided they'd die before they quit.' He said, 'Those are the 20 I want.'"

Bobby Jr. spent nearly six years as a SEAL, with deployments in Iraq and Southeast Asia and compared it to his prior profession.

"There's a lot of similarities between the platoon (area) and the hockey locker room — it's all about the team," he said. "It's all about the guy to your left and the guy to your right. The big difference is out here we're playing for two points and out there we're playing to make sure we bring everybody back home, so the stakes are obviously a lot higher."

Diana knew those stakes, but after losing her husband, she could only pray that she wouldn't lose her son.

"It's terrible, very difficult for a mother with an only child," she said. "But like I said, he got to choose his life and this is the life he chose, so I can't inflict my insecurities on him. Just because I'm scared, I'm not going to put that on him. I wanted him to go reassured that we were backing him 100 percent. It was important for him to go and know that everybody wasn't sitting at home ringing their hands. He had enough stress, I wasn't putting more on him."

## Learning his father's legacy

Bobby Jr. made it home safely from his days as a SEAL, but now in his 15th year of service, remains in active reserve. He still travels two to three months a year and often overseas, but said, "I'm a commander now, so my door-kicking days are a little bit behind me. We'll let the younger kids do that stuff. For me, it's more sitting back and doing the senior leadership stuff and 'what have you' from a planning perspective."

Last weekend, Bobby Jr. spent time in the Blues' locker room, where he chatted with Stanowski, who himself went onto a 29-year career in the Canadian military after 10 years in the NHL.

"For Bobby Jr., it doesn't surprise any of us the success he had playing the game at university and minors, championships after championships, and then to hear that he joined the Navy SEALs," Stanowski said. "That didn't surprise anybody because he's the consummate warrior, just like his father."

Stanowski shares stories with Bobby Jr. about how much his dad helped those Blues teams in the late 1970s.

"I had the opportunity to be the starting goalie for the Buffalo series in (1976)," Stanowski said. "I told him that I just remember Bobby Sr. being a pillar. I was 20 years old, it was the playoffs, and you had all the hype of playing against one of the top teams, and the confidence and intensity that Bobby Sr. played with carried over to rookies like myself. That's one of the big things I remember: he was a no-nonsense guy and you had to love him for it."

Diana says her son loves hearing those tales.

"No matter where he goes, he runs into somebody that knew his father and Bob just can't wait to sit down and get a story out of them," she said. "It's wonderful how his life has worked with him playing hockey and now him traveling all over the place. It just really makes my heart feel glad that people are so sharing with him."

"I just tried to instill good values in him when I was raising him because it was just him and I for a long time. I tried to make him see the importance and value of growing up to be a good human being. I thought that was my chief goal in life and my mission and my job ... to make sure that I raised a good human being."

Mission accomplished.

"You won't meet a nicer, kinder, more polite person," Plager said. "With us, you'd never know he was a Navy SEAL, nothing. I always said his dad would have been so proud of him. He's a tough, little guy like his dad. I'll tell you, if I'm ever out at a bar and there's five or six guys after me, I'm going to call one guy. I'll call Bobby Jr., and he'll be right there. That's one guy I'm never scared to go out and have a drink with. I want him."

That doesn't mean Diana doesn't still worry about her son. As the soldiers descended from the ceiling at Scottrade Center Saturday night, she grew worried.

"I actually said to somebody, 'I hope that's not Bob coming out of the rafters for God's sake,'" Diana said. "I've seen him do it all, parachute out of planes, you name it."

It's a resume that should give Bobby Jr. some authority to speak on the current state of affairs.

"I've traveled the world, I've seen everything this world has to offer," he said. "I've seen the best and the worst and we've got it the best. "So many service members have paid the ultimate price. Every veteran has written that blank check and never knows when it could be cashed in to that person's life. I've been to probably over 50 funerals and memorials over the last 10 years of very good friends of mine to some of my closest friends. That's certainly been tough and challenging, so it means a lot to me."

"We're very fortunate and so I just hope people keep that in mind when they want to voice their opinions. Everybody's entitled to freedom of speech and their rights and their beliefs — that's what we go and fight and die for. But there's a time and a place and just because you can do certain things, maybe it's not always the most prudent thing to do. It's a perspective that unless you've experienced it, you probably won't ever understand it. I wouldn't want to change anything because I feel really blessed to have been able to live two dreams and be involved with just so many incredible people both on the ice and on the battlefield."



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The Athletic LOADED: 11.14.2017

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The Athletic / Burke on analytics, Bettman on social protest, and other notes from the Primetime Sports Management Conference

By Justin Bourne 14 hours ago

I've been attending the Primetime Sports Management Conference in Toronto for about six or seven years (save for the two I was with the Toronto Marlies), and there's always one can't miss panel: Brian Burke, adorned in his trademark tie "scarf," weighing in on analytics. His combination of insight, opinion, and gruff manner on such a buttoned up topic make a wonderful soup. This year the panel was maybe the best yet, with Tim Bezbatchenko (GM of the Toronto Football Club), Megan Chayka (co-founder Stathletes), and Dana Sinclair (partner, Human Performance International) filling out the group.

The tone of the panel has taken a decidedly different course than it did in the conference's earlier days – where it was at times near-combative – with Burke even lamenting his oft-recited quote about stats (that they're like a lamppost to a drunk – good for support, but not illumination). "In this business, ignore innovation at your own peril," seemed closer to his more-progressive message in 2017.

That panel was followed up with a 1-on-1 sit-down with Gary Bettman, with TSN's Gord Miller doing the interrogating. What follows are 14 items of note from those conversations, with a little of my own opinion splashed in there for good measure.

Brian Burke

1) Burke told a story of interviewing Jaromir Jagr in a hotel room in Prague like 25 years ago when they were doing interviews before the draft. Burke places a lot of value on character, so he said at the time one of his go-to questions was "have you ever been a captain" to potential draftees. If not, he considers that a "red flag," a phrase I'll get to further in a second. Anyway, Burke said Jagr gave what was basically the only acceptable follow up to the answer "no" – because he was always playing three years up in leagues.

2) Burke says he values three tools in scouting: Eyeballs first, background second, analytics third. It's crazy how much these players have their background dug up these days. Teams interview their school teachers, billets, basically anyone who got within 100 yards of these kids.

3) What may have been most interesting part of the whole thing (well, to me anyway, I went to school for psychology), was Sinclair, who discussed her work in behavioral psychology before the draft. Her primary job seemed to be finding "red flags" through interviews, which Burke would then put on his "Do Not Draft" list. No matter how far a talented kid dropped, if they figured he'd be a problem, he's just as much of a problem in the fifth round as first, so they just strike people off entirely.

I'm fascinated by how you determine if a 17 year old is a red flag or not. What kind of questions do you ask? How can you tell what's just immaturity and what's a personality "flaw?"

Anyway, an interesting counter was made by TFC's GM — he mentioned that when he took over, the team had "D" grade talent, and there's a point where you at least have to get better talent and give your coaching staff a chance. Eventually, as you build it up, he figures you can purge those more talented players with "red flags."

You can see how miserable it is being at the bottom. You're already losing, and now you're picking up bad apples, desperately hunting for talent. Tough go.

4) I gave this one the curious puppy-dog head tilt: Burke: "Most great skaters are bow-legged."

Are ... I mean ... I guess maybe?

5) Part of scouting isn't just knowing talent, but being able to communicate what your eyes tell you to the higher ups. Some people can tell a guy is good, just not exactly why. In scouting, if you can't give a detailed breakdown of why a particular player is good/bad, you can't even have accurate, useful conversations, and you're stuck. Communication is vital.

I learned that reading some scouting reports for the Maple Leafs. Teams come to learn what specific things certain scouts are good at, and they learn how they generally talk and explain things. So teams with longer relationships with their scouts are probably getting slightly more accurate information, as they know what a scout means when they give their opinions.

6) Burke mentioned draft strategy, and how you're not always drafting Mike Bossy or Pavel Bure. He said often, he's trying to "fill boxes" – when doing this, he gestured to a roster card with 12 forward boxes, six for D and two for goalies. They wanted Ryan Kesler to be a second line center, so they drafted him for that, and boom, he was great there. And while I get the idea of what he's saying here, I can't agree with that strategy.

To me, you're always trying to draft your fifth round Nicklas Lidstroms, your Henrik Zetterbergs, your Pavel Datsyuks. Talent trumps all. You can fill out the bottom of your roster a million different ways. But if you hit on a few long shots, you win Stanley Cups. Heaven forbid you end up with too many top line wingers, right?

I just think you should always draft for ceiling. Players routinely fall short of it – at least a guy with a high ceiling who falls short of it might still play in the league. Aim lower down the lineup and miss a bit and you're drafting AHLers.

7) Burke went a bit deeper into his thoughts on analytics in hockey – which he specified is a difficult sport to quantify — with his main problem being that there's a lack of "judgment" on each play. As in, blocking a floater point shot 10 minutes into the game with your shinpads is the same as diving mouth first in front of a game-saving one-timer with seconds left. It's a blocked shot, a single tick for both. He acknowledged that there are companies now willing to say, break down every puck battle, and assign some judgment to the outcomes. But I got the impression he still thinks there's a long way to go here.

8) Chayka was asked just how far we are from a good one-number catch-all from hockey players (ala baseball's WAR, wins above replacement), and she said she thinks we may never get there. I hear this a lot from stats people who work for teams and companies. We'll probably get there (if we aren't already) to a degree that satisfies serious hockey fans. But internally, teams have the time and responsibility to look at each individual aspect of a player's game independently, and assess where they're stronger/weaker than the next player.

9) Burke and Sinclair also talked about how they tried to interview potential draftees early in the season before they're all coached up. I thought it was interesting that he said the interviews at the combine are all identical. "Who was your hero growing up?" "My Dad." "Who was your role model?" "My brother." Kinda sucks for those kids to have to put it on like that. I know I'd hate it.

10) Burke says he doesn't like scouting with video. Says it's so important to see, say, how a kid responds after you see his coach rip into him. Or if a player's D partner makes a bad turnover, it's important to see how he reacts. He wants to see that body language.

I'm fine with that, but it blows my mind scouts don't watch more video, at least for follow-up viewings. There wasn't a game in my two years with



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the Marlies that we didn't change our opinion on something or someone based on a re-watch of the game. To me it would be a no-brainer as a scout to always do a morning re-watch of the game I watched the night before.

Gary Bettman

11) Bettman wants even more games overseas in the near future. It'll be interesting to see how the Player's Association feels about that. If I were a player, not sure I'd be fussed on adding travel to the schedule.

12) One of the themes of Bettman's chat was shifting blame — at one point, he vaguely pointed the finger at the players for the previous lockouts: "They ended up with the same thing they could've got at the start." But most of his anger and misdirection was thrown toward the International Olympic Committee, who didn't want to pay for the NHL's participation at first (well, pay for the NHL's costs is I suppose more accurate). The reality is, the NHL was in a really crappy situation here. That the NHL can't even use, say, footage of Sidney Crosby's Golden Goal in exchange for shutting down their league and putting their assets at risk seems a little preposterous. I don't like that the NHL isn't going to participate, but I can whole-heartedly understand why the league doesn't want to.

Scary line from Bettman, though: "[IOC President] Thomas Bach said if you don't go to Korea, you can't come to Beijing. Well, OK. Thank you." I thought he shrugged that one of pretty casually for league that just played pre-season games in China and clearly values the market. (Of note: he did mention that if the Games come back to North America "it would be different." So there's that.)

13) A really funny subplot to these conferences is Gord Miller vs. Gary Bettman. My impression is Bettman kinda loves Miller — he's oh-so-playful at these things — but that he also fears him juuuust a little. And that's because, to Miller's credit, he does a tremendous job holding Bettman's feet to the fire on tough issues. (Bettman was asked about Olympics, social protests, concussions, expansion ... it was really thorough.)

This almost always leads to somewhat of a political-style filibuster from Bettman. He knows the interview has a pre-determined time slot, so the more he talks, the less he has to answer. He was given a window to talk about the success of Vegas so far and he sounded like a long-winded Donald Trump. Just a tremendous, tremendous success, people. Tremendous.

14) The most disappointing part of the Bettman's interview was his thoughts on hockey players and social protest. Basically, he doesn't want them to (he did specify they've never issued an "edict" against it, though the league clearly is opposed). I'll never get why other leagues don't see what the NBA is doing — just embracing it, and letting players heighten awareness of causes they believe need more attention — and mirror them. By embracing it, the NBA has created a more positive, inclusive culture, and have in turn appealed to more, often younger, fans. Meanwhile, the NFL has been (further) permeated with anger and negativity. The game itself feels secondary at this point. Which looks like a better outcome for both the individuals and the league as a whole?

At one point, he started explaining that "the first amendment in the U.S. technically doesn't extend into the workplace." Whether that's true or not, it ain't a good look.

The Athletic LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083227 Websites

The Athletic / Dellow: Early returns on Travis Hamonic deal don't look good for Flames

By Tyler Dellow 14 hours ago

It's early but Calgary's results with Travis Hamonic on the ice haven't been particularly good. Worse for the Flames, the problem that Hamonic is having is exactly the thing that undermined his 2016-17 season with the New York Islanders. If you traded for Hamonic on the assumption that last year was a mix of injury and too much time on a discombobulated Islanders team, it has to send a chill down your spine to see the same thing happening again.

From my perspective, the idea behind acquiring Hamonic in a trade was that he'd give the Flames a second legitimate top four right shot defenceman to slot into their lineup. He'd end up with either TJ Brodie or Mark Giordano, with Dougie Hamilton partnering with whichever one of those two wasn't partnered with Hamonic. Given that finding a partner for whoever wasn't with Hamilton had been an issue for Calgary, it all made sense.

The only concern was that Hamonic had suffered through a horrific season. A big part of this was the shot attempt volume that he'd allowed on on-the-fly (OTF) shifts. When Hamonic was on an OTF shift in 2016-17, the opposition generated 0.68 shot attempts per shift. To put that into some context: it was the worst number by a defenceman in the NHL. The guy with the second worst number (minimum 500 OTF shifts), Nathan Beaulieu, allowed the opposition to generate 0.58 shot attempts per OTF shift.

Hamonic was in a league of his own as far as permissiveness. Unsurprisingly, the Islanders got outscored 21-15 with Hamonic on the ice for an OTF shift. A typical defenceman playing that number of minutes would have seen his team outscore the opposition 16-14 on those shifts.

There are two components to the rate at which you allow shot attempts per shift: how often do you let them get at least one and then, if they've got one, how many do they get on average. Like a lot of numbers in hockey, a sport that supposedly defies numerical classification, the norms are amazingly constant.

Since 2010-11, defencemen have give up at least one shot attempt on between 34 and 36 percent of their OTF shifts like clockwork. When they allow at least one shot attempt, they've collectively allowed a maximum of 1.431 (2013-14) and a minimum of 1.416 (2015-16). Hockey really is just the same stuff happening over and over once you figure out how to break it down.

Here's what Hamonic has allowed at OTF since entering the NHL in 2010-11 in terms of the likelihood of the opposition generating at least a single shot attempt. The blue line represents league average. Obviously, you'd prefer to be below it, although Hamonic has historically played tough competition, which means playing against players who are better at generating shot attempts.

It kind of went off the rails last year. In fact, there was no defenceman who was more likely to allow at least one shot attempt on an OTF shift than Hamonic. And it's further off the rails again this year. No defenceman with at least 100 OTF shifts this year is more likely to allow the opposition to generate a shot attempt than Hamonic.

If you look at it in terms of how many shot attempts the opposition is allowed to generate once they've generated the first one, you can see why Hamonic produced the worst OTF season of the decade from the perspective of allowing shot attempts last year.

It was easy to generate the first shot against Hamonic last year. And it was easy to generate shot attempts afterward — that's one of the worst numbers of the decade. It was a toxic mix. This year's been much better in terms of subsequent attempts so far, although I'd bet on Hamonic's number ending up very close to league average.



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It's the frequency with which opposition players are able to generate at least a single shot attempt that's troubling. When Hamonic's on the ice on an OTF shift, teams are slicing through the Flames. This isn't happening with other Calgary defencemen, particularly when Dougie Hamilton or Mark Giordano, who play the toughest minutes, are on the ice.

You might wonder about Brodie's role in all of this — he's been very good at it, historically, which is why I'm focused on Hamonic here.

It's important to try and ground this in what your eyes see. Imagine you're trying to capture this just by watching. You'd be trying to pick up the fact that on OTF shifts, Hamonic and Brodie allow a shot attempt on a shift an extra 1.5 times out of ten. Over the course of the season, that's an outrageously large volume of shot attempts but I'm not sure my sense of the game when I'm watching would be good enough to catch it if I was just eyeballing things, what with everything else going on. This is all the more true if I was just seeing Calgary a limited amount of times over the season and didn't go in knowing that this is an issue.

Armed with this knowledge as well as the knowledge that shot attempts are tied up with zone entries, I went through the video of the last game that Hamonic played (against Pittsburgh) and contrasted the entries into Calgary's end with him on the ice against those with Giordano was on the ice on an OTF shift. What caught my eye as I did this was the odd zone entry where either Hamilton or Giordano managed to get up on the defensive blueline and force a dump in. Eric Tulsy (late of the internet, where people castigated him for the shooting percentage of his current employer, the Carolina Hurricanes) has done work suggesting that the odds of generating a shot attempt decrease dramatically if you're forced to dump the puck in rather than carry it.

There's an example here. That's Hamilton positioned aggressively above the blueline. The puck gets tipped in.

Another example. This results in a carry into Calgary's zone but Pittsburgh has to complete a cross-ice pass in order to do so because of Hamilton aggressively defending the blueline. A lot of players would just dump the puck in rather than making that pass in the same situation.

Hamilton and Giordano aggressively defending the neutral zone, followed by Hamilton skating like a deer, as they (apparently) say:

I'm not wild about Hamilton's slow backhand into the slot here but Hamilton does dispossess Bryan Rust in the neutral zone and get possession in the defensive zone. Assuming the bad pass into the slot isn't a usual feature, that's good.

This is a difficult thing to try and figure out because an old baseball saying applies here: you're going to win one-third of your games, lose one-third of your games and it's what you do in the other one-third that matters. There are a small amount of opposition attacks through the neutral zone where you can have an impact as a defender. If you've just come on the ice, you're probably going to have to give up the blueline, as this clip with Brodie and Hamonic coming on while Pittsburgh attacks shows.

Identifying difference makers is really about identifying when a player has an opportunity to make a difference and manages to make that difference. Hockey's a hard game to evaluate in a way, because on so much of what happens, a player on the ice doesn't have the opportunity to make a difference.

The Flames have to be a little concerned here. Mike Weber has posted the worst season of the past decade in terms of the percentage of shifts on which at least a single shot attempt was allowed, with a 44.2 percent on history's greatest tank job, the 2014-15 Buffalo Sabres. Hamonic is following up history's 15th worst season in 2016-17 with a season that's even worse on OTF shifts this year — the Flames have allowed at least a shot attempt on 45.6 percent of his OTF shifts. So with Hamonic on the ice, it's been easier to generate an OTF shot attempt than it was against the most permissive defenceman on arguably the worst team of the century.

The problem shows up after offensive zone losses too, with the same profile as 2016-17. From 2010-16, the Islanders allowed 0.52 shot attempts per shift that started with an offensive zone win with Hamonic on the ice. In 2016-17, that spiked to 0.64. This is the 16th worst season for a defenceman who was on the ice for at least 100 offensive zone losses since 2010-11. His numbers in Calgary have been bad too — Calgary's allowing 0.61 shot attempts per OZL shift with Hamonic on the ice.

The thing that both OTF and OZL shifts share is the likelihood that you're defending against an opponent trying to transition the neutral zone with possession. If you lose a neutral zone faceoff, the other team is probably going to end up dumping or tipping it into your end because of all the bodies between them and your end. If you lose a defensive zone faceoff, well, they're already there.

If you contrast what Calgary gives up with Hamilton on the ice in this situation versus Hamonic, it's crazy. Hamilton's been on the ice for 53 offensive zone losses. Calgary's given up 18 shot attempts on those shifts. Hamonic's been on the ice for 33 offensive zone losses. Calgary's give up 20 shot attempts on those shifts. The same thing happened with the Islanders last year — Hamonic and his partner were the worst at giving up shot attempts in this situation by a substantial margin.

At the moment, Hamonic's around even in terms of possession. Calgary undoubtedly wants more from their second pairing — the whole point of getting a high end defenceman to pair with Brodie was to have two game altering pairs. They aren't getting that. It's early, yes, but the same thing that resulted in Hamonic having a terrible season seems to be happening again.

Trading mid-first round picks for difference making top four defencemen if you're a contender makes sense, which is why I liked this deal for Calgary when it was made. If this is what Hamonic is now — a guy who gets routinely shelled on OTF/OZL shifts, he's not a difference making top four defenceman.

The Athletic LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083228 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Kariya-Selanne connection on display during Hall of Fame speech

Chris Johnston

@reporterchris

November 13, 2017, 10:16 PM

TORONTO — They spent the entire weekend attached at the hip.

And when it finally became time for Paul Kariya and Teemu Selanne to officially gain entrance to the Hockey Hall of Fame, they did so as something deeper than friends and former teammates.

"We will always be brothers," Kariya said during his acceptance speech on Monday night. "In this life and the next."

"For me, by far the best player I ever played [with]," Selanne said of Kariya. "I have learned so much from you. You and I always joked that half my [time] I played hockey and half I tried to make you into a normal person."

"Everything you have done for me I'm so proud. Thank you so much."



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As always, it was a class of disparate personalities with a variety of credentials. The unlikely buddy duo of Selanne and Kariya. Dave Andreychuk and Mark Recchi, who each spent 23 years as NHL players. Two-time Olympic gold medalist Danielle Goyette, the fifth female to be inducted.

University hockey coach Clare Drake and Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs in the builder's category.

One constant that ran through their speeches was the theme of family. Goyette lamented that her parents died shortly before women's hockey made its Olympic debut at the Nagano Games in 1998. Jacobs talked about how his father built up the family business by working with struggling sports franchises.

Andreychuk joked that he spent more money on tickets than he earned while spending his first 15 seasons with the Buffalo Sabres and Toronto Maple Leafs — both a short drive from his hometown of Hamilton. He also paid tribute to parents that supported their kids through work at the steel plant.

"My father was 30 years at the steel mill and retired at 52," said Andreychuk. "He's followed me around ever since."

Recchi said that the first time he ever saw his father tear up was after getting the call from the Hall back in June. He called his mother the "rock" of the family and gave each of his six children an individual mention.

Growing up in Kamloops, B.C., he never envisioned having this kind of career in pro hockey.

"Wow, did it go quick," said Recchi. "It was an amazing ride and an amazing run."

Kariya and Selanne grew close during a six-year run with the Anaheim Ducks and another season spent together in Colorado.

They paid tribute to their parents as well as each other. Selanne also thanked his twin brother, Paavo, a former goalie who stood in for a lot of shots while he honed the skills that would help him score 684 NHL goals.

"I apologize that I stole your confidence to stop playing, but I needed that confidence," said Selanne. "Thank you."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083229 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Kariya on playing with Gretzky and Hull: 'How is this possible?'

Andrew Bottomley

November 11, 2017, 8:52 PM

It was Jan. 20, 1996 and Paul Kariya was about to play in his first all-star game on the starting line with his two biggest hockey idols: Wayne Gretzky and Brett Hull.

"I remember standing next to them for the national anthem and looking to my left, looking to my right [and thinking] how is this possible?" Kariya said, on Hockey Night in Canada in a sit-down interview with all the new members of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

It wasn't long before Kariya showed that he deserved a spot between the all-time greats.

Just over five minutes into the second period, the then 21-year-old set up the Western Conference's first goal after he made a slick pass to Hull, and then Kariya put himself in the goal column with a nifty move on a breakaway 10 minutes later.

Now the 43-year-old, who's career was cut short due to concussion problems, joins his "biggest idol" and "second-biggest idol" in the Hall after racking up 402 goals and 587 assists in 989 career games.

Looking back he still thinks back to one of his most treasured hockey memories that happened in just his second year in the NHL.

"It was beyond a dream come true to play a game with those two guys. Unbelievable."

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 11.14.2017

1083230 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Hall welcomes Goyette, Recchi, Andreychuk, Selanne, Kariya

Staff Report

Canadian Press

November 10, 2017, 7:59 PM

TORONTO — Danielle Goyette was a steady presence on the Canadian national team in the early 1990s, but knew she needed to take her game to another level after women's hockey was added to the Olympic program for the 1998 Nagano Games.

In August 1996, she packed up her belongings to make the long road trip west from her hometown of St-Nazaire, Que., to Calgary. It was a decision that sent her on a path to two Olympic titles and now a place in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

"I put my clothes in, my hockey bag and my bike, and I left," Goyette said. "I didn't know what to expect over there. But I knew that if I didn't take that chance, there was no way I would be able to (realize) my dreams."

Goyette became an honoured member of the Hall on Friday along with former NHL stars Dave Andreychuk, Mark Recchi, Teemu Selanne and Paul Kariya. Longtime Canadian university coach Clare Drake and Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs entered in the builder category.

A formal induction ceremony was scheduled for Monday night.

Goyette won eight world titles over her career and also won an Olympic silver. When she retired in 2008, she was fourth on the women's world hockey championship all-time points list with 68.

When Goyette first joined the national program in 1992, most women's hockey players did not train full-time like they do today.

"For us it was like a hobby," she said. "It was a social thing. We'd play once a week."

Once Nagano became an option, she was determined to become more familiar with on-ice systems while ramping up her training and ice time. Goyette, who knew little English at the time, called the move west for centralization the hardest thing — but the best thing — she ever did.

"I had to do something for me to be able to compete with my teammates and to know what my coaches wanted for me to have a chance to make the (Olympic) team," she said.



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"I would say the first two months I was crying pretty much every night because I couldn't communicate with (anybody)," Goyette added.

She took a job at the Olympic Oval in Calgary to make ends meet.

"I cleaned the toilets, cleaned garbage from the dressing room and the office," she said. "But it allowed me to train full-time during the day and I was working four until 11 at night. But at that time, I was willing to do anything in my power to get there. I think that's the one thing I'm so proud of."

Goyette made the Nagano squad and led the silver medal-winning team with eight goals. She also helped Canada win gold at the 2002 Salt Lake Games and the 2006 Olympics in Turin, Italy.

She settled in Calgary and later coached the University of Calgary Dinos women's team and served as a consultant for the Canadian women's team.

Selanne, meanwhile, started his NHL career with a bang by scoring 76 goals as a rookie with the Winnipeg Jets. He won a Stanley Cup with the Anaheim Ducks in 2007 and currently holds or owns a share of 18 different NHL records.

Selanne played 21 NHL seasons and finished with 684 goals and 1,457 points. He won four Olympic medals (three bronze, one silver) for Finland.

He spent part of his career as a linemate with Kariya, who averaged exactly a point a game over his 989-game career. Kariya was a five-time all-star who scored 50 goals in the 1995-96 season.

Both Recchi and Andreychuk played in over 1,600 career NHL games. Recchi, a three-time Stanley Cup winner, finished with 576 career goals.

Andreychuk, who won a Cup with Tampa Bay in 2004, scored 640 goals over his career. A grin spread over his face when he tried on his Hall ring at Friday's ceremony.

"This is real," he said. "This is actually real."

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Sportsnet.ca / Brian Burke opens up about van Riemsdyk trade, Toronto media, Iginla

Luke Fox

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November 13, 2017, 5:14 PM

TORONTO — With his necktie unknotted and dangling off his shoulders, Brian Burke was his usual, opinionated self Monday at the 10th annual PrimeTime Sports Management Conference in downtown Toronto.

While speaking to TSN radio, addressing a large room of sports business professionals (and hopefuls), and talking one-on-one with Sportsnet, the Calgary Flames president of hockey operations shed light on a number of personalities and subjects including Jarome Iginla, Jaromir Jagr, Sam Bennett, James van Riemsdyk, Nazem Kadri, and how he treats "red-flag" prospects.

On the Flames considering bringing back Iginla

Burke said his Calgary Flames took a long, hard look at not only Jaromir Jagr but also 40-year-old Flames icon Jarome Iginla—a potential signing of "a very serious veteran player" that would have rocked Alberta.

"We never made an offer to Jarome Iginla, but I think a player of that stature who had accomplished so much as a Calgary Flame, we spent a lot of time on him," Burke told Sportsnet Monday.

"Is there a way that Jarome can contribute to our hockey club? Would it knock a kid out of a box? That's the problem when you sign a 40-plus-year-old player. You're taking a job from a younger player. Is that a sensible thing to do?"

Iginla, who is recovering from minor surgery, remains an unrestricted free agent. His preference is to land an NHL gig this winter. Would the Flames, whose offence ranks 25th overall, still consider adding Iginla?

"No," Burke said. "We're not looking at changes in that way."

Burke told the conference room the Flames were impressed with the 46 points Jagr produced as a 45-year-old in Florida, but their decision to sign the mulleted legend went beyond simply production.

"He's got great charisma. He brought some stature to the room. We have a great captain [in Mark Giordano], but we thought he would augment that because we have a very young team," Burke said. "He's 6-4, 240. He's a great, big bastard."

Burke remembers interviewing Number 68 (through a translator) during Jagr's 1990 draft year in a hotel room in Prague. The executive was with the Vancouver Canucks at the time.

Jagr had never been a captain of a hockey team.

Burke says that's "a huge red flag" for a star prospect. When Burke asked him why he'd never been a captain, Jagr said it's because he'd always played with guys three years older than him.

"That's the only good answer to that question in the history of pro sports," Burke said. "We agonize over a guy playing up [an age group] one year in Canada. He played up three years."

Burke's Canucks opted to take Petr Nedved second overall. Jagr went fifth to Pittsburgh. Burke said Jagr would've gone first overall, but the Czech government maintained the young player still owed two years of military service.

"Pittsburgh is rumoured to have made some financial arrangement with the Czech government," Burke said, "and Jaromir never served in the military."

On why Sam Bennett would be "crucified" in Toronto

It took 16 games for highly touted Flames forward Sam Bennett to register a point this season.

"He got an assist [Thursday] night. My view is, once he gets one, he'll get 10," Burke told Sportsnet.

"Hopefully he snaps right out of it. We love him as a kid. His work ethic is great. And he has been a contributor even though he hasn't scored. He's tough, he hits, he fights. He makes a contribution even on the nights he doesn't score."

Burke said that scoring slumps of this magnitude "absolutely" get in the head of a 21-year-old.

"Tonight he'll get another one, I bet."

Burke told TSN radio that the Calgary media has been easier on Bennett than the Toronto media would be had Bennett been struggling to score for the Leafs.

"If he were in Toronto, they would've traded him 70 times, shot him six times, condemned his parents four times," Burke said. "If he was going through that here, he'd be getting crucified."



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On why Burke was too 'cowardly' to trade for James van Riemsdyk on the draft floor

I like to describe James van Riemsdyk as Burke's parting gift to the Maple Leafs.

The power forward, who is on pace for a second 30-goal season, was acquired by Toronto shortly after the 2012 draft for right-shot defenceman Luke Schenn. The defenceman has just two points and is a minus-5 this season for the last-place Arizona Coyotes, his third club since leaving the Leafs.

"We actually made that trade driving back from the draft because I was afraid to make it on the floor," Burke told me.

"Because Luke Schenn was so popular, I thought I'd get fried for that one by the fans in Toronto. [Then Flyers GM] Paul Holmgren wanted to make the deal at the draft in Pittsburgh. I said, 'No, we'll do it on the way home.' I was a coward. I did it in my truck driving home. Our fans loved Luke Schenn. I did not know it would work out as well as it has. JVR has been great."

Despite his Calgary focus, Burke still keeps tabs on the players he acquired during his tenures in Vancouver, Anaheim and Toronto.

"When I see the Leafs play, I'll stop and talk to the guys [I brought there]. You still take pride in the guys you leave," Burke said. "I'm down to two in Vancouver—just the twins."

On his strong opinions about the Maple Leafs...

Burke isn't surprised to see the Toronto Maple Leafs off to a fast start, pointing out in a radio interview that the organization has a quality head coach, a quality GM, and quality players.

Of all the Burke-acquired members of the Leafs, he was most impressed watching 2009 first-rounder Nazem Kadri explode for 61 points in 2016-17 season.

Burke describes the shutdown centre with adjectives such as "belligerent," "obnoxious" and "truculent." From Burke, these are of course compliments of high order.

"He was a bit of a project," Burke said on-air. "Kinda cocky. [Former Marlies coach] Dallas Eakins had to hit him upside the head with a two-by-four a couple times."

During his radio appearance, Burke voiced strong comments on the Toronto hockey media.

"When things are going well, they're picking out a parade route, right? Should we go down Bay Street or Yonge? When things are bad, it's like, 'We gotta get rid of these guys. We've got to change 10 players, get rid of the coach, get rid of the GM.' That's the nightmare of working in Toronto. But it's one of the attractions of working in Toronto, too. It is the Vatican," Burke said.

"There's a significant chunk of the [Toronto] media that wants you to fail. We don't have that in Calgary. We don't have that in Edmonton. It's a different vibe."

Burke said that the beauty of his current role as president is that GM Brad Treliving bears the brunt of the media responsibility. So what if Burke is the better quote?

"I don't mind being in the backseat," he said.

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

Before the Flames hit the draft floor, team executives and scouts get in a room so they can argue, curse, yell and eventually settle on a draft list. That list is always arranged according to who is the best player, regardless of position. That list is final.

"I tell our scouts this: 'If you want to get fired, argue on the floor. Argue on the floor that day,'" Burke told the audience. "Goddamnit, you argue about that list on the floor, you're getting canned."

"If the top name on that list is a defenceman, we're taking a goddamn defenceman. Doesn't matter if we've got positional depth there. You adjust your depth chart by trades."

Burke can not overestimate the importance of scouting and developing in hard-cap system.

Thus the Flames have a "Do Not Draft" list that does away with the theory of dropping talented first-round-projected athletes to Round 2 or Round 3 due to behavioural issues.

"My view is, he's still going to be a problem for my coach in the second round. He's still going to be a problem for my coach in the third round. We just don't draft him," Burke said.

"If you bring in a guy who is a big enough headcase, it's probably gonna cost you a coach. And we don't want to do that."

"They don't exist for us."

Burke said he was picking the collective brain of the Indianapolis Colts, watching their draft prep 15 years ago, when Bill Polian as the helm, and was relieved to see that NFL team also had five names specified as "Do Not Draft."

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Sportsnet.ca / Canucks trying to get more production out of woeful power play

Iain MacIntyre

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November 13, 2017, 9:26 PM

LOS ANGELES – In this city where so many have dreamed of being a star, the Vancouver Canucks on Monday held what amounted to an open casting call.

They practised with three power-play units.

Nine forwards and four defencemen auditioned briefly in 1-3-1 formations, hoping for the chance to score a rare power-play goal for the Canucks, who try to salvage their four-game National Hockey League road trip Wednesday against the Los Angeles Kings.

Loui Eriksson, it's your time to shine. Markus Granlund, this is your big break.

There were so many players required to cast three power-play units (one of which is likely to be gonged even before going on stage against the Kings) that the few Canucks excluded looked forlorn as they shot pucks at the opposite end of the ice in suburban El Segundo.

Unfortunately, no one in the Canucks' power-play audition line was named Steven Stamkos or Alex Ovechkin or Kevin Shattenkirk.

So the guys who took reps on the power play are the same ones, largely, who have contributed to a 28th-ranked unit that has generated only 10 goals in 17 games and on Saturday cost the Canucks the chance to win in what turned out to be a 5-0 loss to the San Jose Sharks.



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Daniel and Henrik Sedin, centrepieces on a power play that is last in the NHL since the start of the 2015-16 season, practised with Eriksson in front of the net and Ben Hutton and Michael Del Zotto on the point.

The Bo Horvat-Brock Boeser-Sven Baertschi line was the nucleus of another unit, while Thomas Vanek, Granlund and Sam Gagner were the forwards on the third power play.

The dreadfulness of Canuck power-play results this season can be summarized in Hank Sedin's offensive totals with the man-advantage: 59 minutes of power-play time, zero goals, zero assists and one shot on net.

Hutton, who has amassed more power-play time on the point than any Canuck since the start of the 2015-16 season, has logged 371 minutes of PP ice time in the last 26 months and scored twice.

The longer we watch the Canuck power play struggle, the more it appears that the issue is not so much execution as personnel. Vancouver lacks a blue line quarterback who can get point shots on target, plus an elite finisher (although rookie Boeser provides some hope) and a consistent net-front presence to menace opposition goalies and occupy opposition defencemen.

"You watch Tampa Bay's power play, there's some pretty high-end players that are moving the puck around and filling spots, moving," Canucks coach Travis Green said, referring to guys like Stamkos, Nikita Kucherov and Victor Hedman. "You can't just say you want a power play to run a certain way. You've got to work towards what your players are and what fits your players the best. There's not much more to say about it. We're trying to get more production out of our power play."

Just because it's a fun comparison, Stamkos and Kucherov have combined for 26 points in about 70 minutes of power-play time. In about 60 minutes, the Sedins have combined for three – a goal and two assists by Daniel. But amid desperate cries from Canuck Nation for others to get power-play time, Horvat (3-1-4 in 51:12 of PP time), Baertschi (2-1-3 in 54:06) and Vanek (1-3-4 in 54:03) haven't done much better. Boeser (1-5-6 in 45:06) has been the most productive Canuck on the power play.

As for Green's need to apply a system that "fits your players the best," he's asking Canuck players to work harder to win and retrieve pucks. Too many times, Canuck shots are one-and-done on the power play. A goalie makes the save and a penalty killer retrieves the puck and clears the zone. Rinse, repeat.

"I think the biggest thing for us is retrievals," Del Zotto, signed as a free agent partly to help the power play, said Tuesday. "I think our entries have drastically improved. We've gotten in the zone pretty clean for the most part on our power plays. It's a matter of retrieving the puck and getting second and third opportunities, which at that point you've got tired penalty killers, and that's when seams open up and the quality chances become available.

"When you're on the PK, you have that mindset to do whatever it takes to clear the puck. As a power play, you have to have that same mindset – that gritty mentality of winning those puck battles and getting to loose pucks. When you do, you have one more guy than they do. Something has to open up at that point."

Vancouver was 29th in the NHL last season with a power-play success rate of 14.1 per cent, the same dismal efficiency as this season. It tied for 26th at 15.8 per cent the year before.

Henrik Sedin, the Canuck captain who has 352 power-play points in his career, said the current power play is an improvement on the last couple of years because it feels like it can actually score.

"Last year it, it felt like we'd never score on the power play," he said. "This year, we've had games where we've scored two power-play goals and it feels like we've got something going. Then all of a sudden there's three games where we're not executing, we're not making the plays."

But do they have the players?

"We have three units now," he smiled. "So there's enough guys there."

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Sportsnet.ca / Rare scheduling break gives Maple Leafs, Matthews time to rest

Chris Johnston

@reporterchris

November 13, 2017, 2:53 PM

TORONTO – Breathe easy, Leafs fans.

The path for Auston Matthews' return to the lineup has been laid out. He skated Monday on his own and will do so again while his teammates get Tuesday off. If everything goes OK for him in Wednesday's practice, Matthews will be back for Thursday's visit here by the New Jersey Devils.

"We're not going to know [where he stands until then]," said coach Mike Babcock. "He's got to practice with the team and all that."

Still, it sounds a lot better than the previous standing update from the organization: Day-to-day with an upper-body injury.

The Leafs managed to reel off three straight wins without Matthews, and four in a row overall, but they're under no illusions about the kind of impact his absence has on them in the big picture.

"He's irreplaceable," said centre Nazem Kadri. "He's not a guy that you can just throw any other player in the lineup and fill his shoes."

The current break in the schedule has arrived at an opportune time for this group. Not only does it give the Leafs a chance to stretch out Matthews' rehab and recovery, but it's provided his teammates a chance to come up for air after playing 19 games in the first 39 days of the season.

Only the Pittsburgh Penguins and Arizona Coyotes have seen as much action so far.

Players are feeling the wear and tear of games every other night, with Tyler Bozak (maintenance) and William Nylander (ill) both missing Monday's practice. In total, the team will have had two days off and two practices before facing the Devils.

"A little refresh," said Babcock.

"That's the most important part, I think – just taking this time to kind of try to clear the bumps and the bruises, and try to get guys back to 100 per cent," added Kadri. "Over the course of the season things are going to happen and you're not going to feel your best every single game. So it's important to have these stretches to try to get back to that."

It's still a little too early to gauge how good this team is. Their 12-7-0 record is among the best in the Eastern Conference, but some of the underlying numbers paint a less rosy picture.

The Leafs have controlled 50.35 per cent of even-strength shot attempts to this point – good for 13th in the NHL. Just a little above middle of the pack. However, they also lead the league with 471 total scoring chances for, according to naturalstatstrick.com.

Even while being outshot in each of their last five games, the Leafs believe they have taken positive strides on the defensive side of the puck. Players point to a decline in odd-man chances against as a sign of improvement.



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"We weren't where we wanted to be a week and a bit ago," said forward Connor Brown. "We spent a lot of time in here focusing on the defensive side of the game and being above the puck and going over things in our own zone. Our defensive play has been night and day."

They will certainly get a boost when Matthews is ready to return. He's quickly become the engine of this team – a big centre who goes head-to-head with other stars and still spends more time creating offence than playing defence.

While his undisclosed injury is not believed to be serious, there will be some relief around the organization when he's back skating in line rushes.

Banking points without Matthews was good for morale, too.

"Well I think just any time you're playing better, you're feeling better about yourself, you're more likely to play good," said Babcock. "I think that's obviously a real positive for our group. We need to continue to get better and play with more detail."

This is the rarest of weeks in a jam-packed NHL schedule where they're able to work on some things.

It's also a much-needed opportunity to get extra rest.

"It's felt very busy, especially over the last couple weeks," said Kadri. "I feel like there hasn't been much R-and-R time, it's just been constant go, go, go. So I think we like the situation we've put ourselves in so far — those are hard wins to get; those are hard points to get."

"It's important, obviously, for a team to get off to a good start because in this league if you dig yourself a hole early on it's tough to get out of."

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Sportsnet.ca / Three reasons why the Oilers offence continues to sputter

Mark Spector

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November 13, 2017, 4:22 PM

The statistics are one thing, but actually watching the Edmonton Oilers play is quite another.

There was a 2-1 overtime loss in Pittsburgh in which Edmonton, with just the smallest bit of finish to their game, would have had three or four goals in regulation. There was this past Sunday in Washington, where the Oilers out-chanced and out-played the Capitals, yet lost 2-1 in a shootout because the Oilers best players simply could not will a puck over the line in regulation.

For whatever reason, a team that ranked 11th last season with a shooting percentage of 9.5 per cent sits dead last this season at 6.3 per cent — converting shots at barely half the rate of the league-leading Toronto Maple Leafs' 12.1 per cent.

Trading away Jordan Eberle, a career 13.4 per cent shooter, for Ryan Strome (career 8.6 per cent) accounts for a slight percentage loss. But that salary dump has little effect on the shooting percentages of a host of players who are below their career average.

Here are a few thoughts on how a team that ranked eighth last season with 2.96 goals per game is scuffling along at 2.24 goals per 60 minutes, dead last in the National Hockey League.

Power plays can win games by themselves, but it can also be a tonic for individual players to find some scoring confidence. While the Dallas Stars, who have four more points in the standings than Edmonton, have a power play that's clicking at 31.3 per cent, Edmonton's unit ranks 24th at 14.9 per cent.

Why? It starts with a struggling Oscar Klefbom, the point man and high shooter on the 'A' unit, who has been entirely ineffective in all areas this season — but particularly at getting shots through on the power play.

Klefbom has just two power-play points in 17 games (no goals), and because his shots are getting blocked or missing the net with regularity there are no rebound goals for forwards crashing the net. You can quibble with the power play personnel and their usage, but the same units (minus injured, second-unit point man Andrej Sekera) were effective last season at 22.9 per cent. This year? Crickets, thus far.

In the NHL, depth scoring provides the body blow that sets up the knock out punch in later rounds.

When the game starts, opponents plan to stop Connor McDavid's No. 1 line, leaving more favourable matchups for lines 2-4. As long as the game stays tied or within a goal, the opposition's game plan remains intact. Get a depth goal or two, and the opponent must focus more on scoring more than defending. Quality chances ensue, and the top guys usually capitalize.

McDavid's line has pulled its weight at five-on-five, as have Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Milan Lucic. But starting with the sixth forward all the way through the defence, the Oilers Top 5 forwards have had almost no help.

Stay-at-home point man Adam Larsson leads the defence corps with two goals, while Kris Russell leads all D-men with five points. That's an indictment on Klefbom and to a lesser extent Matt Benning, who it was hoped could make up for Sekera's absence, to an extent.

Among the forwards, Anton Slepyshev and Drake Caggiula have spent the season on and off injured reserve. Zack Kassian chipped in seven goals last season, but has not scored yet this fall. Letestu doesn't have an even strength goal. Strome has one. The two Finns, Jussi Jokinen and Iiro Pakarinen, haven't scored.

In 17 games played the Oilers have a grand total of three even strength goals by their bottom-six forwards. That level of production won't cut it.

The general manager

Peter Chiarelli took a chance dumping Eberle's salary, knowing that he'd have to start creating some cap space with McDavid's second contract kicking in next season. He knew he was trading a 25-goal man for a 15-goal man, and was hoping those extra 10 goals might come from other sources.

Here's what's gone wrong with Chiarelli's gamble:

Caggiula and Slepyshev were the main contenders to help fill the void, but both have spent the season off and on IR; the state of Klefbom's game has cost everyone goals, as he is on pace for about half of last season's 38-point output. Your best defenceman is counted on to start the offence and Chiarelli needs Klefbom to be better, plain and simple.

We all knew Patrick Maroon might score at a lesser pace after shooting at 15.2 per cent clip last year. But he's had plenty of Grade A chances thus far and simply been unlucky/ineffective at burying pucks. He's still shooting at a 9.1 per cent clip, and could easily have double the four goals he has thus far, but for some bad luck/execution on Maroon's part.

The Oilers shot metrics are excellent, and would assume that this team will begin to score more as it works (at worst) to a median league average shooting percentage last season of 9.1 per cent. And, Nugent-



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Hopkins' scoring has increased (six goals), helping to make up for Eberle's absence.

The Oilers just scored eight goals on their just-completed four-game trip and brought home five points from the road. Had they averaged three a night, that likely would have been seven points. Maybe eight.

Like Darryl Sutter used to say, it's a 3-2 league. That's a fact the Edmonton Oilers are learning the hard way this season.

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Sportsnet.ca / Down Goes Brown Weekend Wrap: Are the Pittsburgh Penguins broken?

Sean McIndoe

@DownGoesBrown

November 13, 2017, 10:53 AM

Every Monday, Sean McIndoe looks back at weekend play in the NHL and the league's biggest storylines. You can follow him on Twitter.

Opening faceoff: Are the Penguins broken?

Almost a quarter of a way into the season, the Pittsburgh Penguins have lost more games than they've won. They have the league's third-worst goals differential, having given up 17 more than they've scored. They've lost six of their last eight. And Sidney Crosby is struggling through an extended slump, one that sees him with a bigger number on the wrong side of his plus/minus (-14) than in the points column (13).

Should we be concerned here?

The knee-jerk reaction is to say no, of course not. It's early, there are still five months to go and these are the Penguins we're talking about. Most good teams go through a cold spell or two over the course of a season, and we shouldn't overreact just because the Penguins' stretch is coming in October and November instead of being buried in February when nobody would even notice.

That's pretty much the stance we've been taking around these parts, where we spent October stubbornly slotting the Penguins into our top-five list even when they were losing games 10-1. That seemed fair – two straight titles should buy you some benefit of the doubt. But as the season wears on and the Penguins continue to look like a decidedly mediocre team, it may be time to start wondering.

After all, this is a team that lost a lot of last year's roster. They were depth pieces, sure, and in theory the core was even better because Kris Letang is back. But Letang is off to a terrible start, and the team seems to miss guys like Nick Bonino, Ron Hainsey and Chris Kunitz. They've missed Marc-Andre Fleury too, as Matt Murray is off to a slow start and the backup spot has been a mess.

They've also had issues with back-to-back games. They've played two games in two nights six times so far this year, and they've lost the second game all six times. That includes three embarrassing blowouts by scores of 10-1 (against the Blackhawks), 7-1 (Lightning) and 7-1 again (Jets). No team likes to play back-to-backs, but seeing the Penguins struggle like this has to be a concern. This team has played a ton of hockey over the last two years, and you have to wonder about fatigue. Seeing them constantly look like their tank is empty in back-to-backs is a worrying sign.

Let's circle back to those three ugly blowouts. In a weird sort of way, maybe they're good news. The Penguins were outscored 24-3 in those three games, which accounts for that terrible goals differential. You can't just hand-wave away a team's worst games, but it's not like the Penguins have been as consistently bad as a first glance at the numbers might suggest.

But there's a flip side to that coin, and it's that it's extremely rare for good teams to get blown out this badly this often. Only three teams have ever lost three games by six goals or more and gone on to win the Stanley Cup that year: the 1917-18 Toronto Arenas, 1979-80 Islanders and 1983-84 Oilers. All three of those teams played in high-scoring eras. Since the year 2000, there have been only four other times where an eventual champ was blown out by six or more. On the other hand, two of those included last year's Penguins, so maybe this is just a thing this team does.

It's also worth noting that the Pens have been very good at home but lousy away from Pittsburgh. That's important, because they've played 13 of their 19 games on the road. That's part of a bigger issue, which is that their early schedule has been a tough one. They've played the Lightning, Predators and Capitals twice each, as well as the Blues, Jets and Blackhawks. That's a tough start, especially when you're on the road for most of it.

The bottom line is that it's certainly too early to write off the Penguins – as bad as things have been, they're still sitting in second spot in their division. But they don't look much like the team that's rolled through so much of the league since Mike Sullivan arrived on the scene. Maybe it's fatigue, maybe it's a lack of depth, or maybe it's just one of those cold streaks that happens sometimes. We don't know yet, and there's still plenty of time to find out. But even if it's not panic time, at least a little bit of concern seems reasonable.

The five teams that look like they're headed towards Stanley Cup-favourite status.

5. Toronto Maple Leafs (12-7-0, +8 true goals differential\*): The Leafs sneak back onto the list after winning four straight this week, despite not actually playing all that well and missing Auston Matthews. Good teams have to find ways to win when they're not at their best.

4. San Jose Sharks (10-6-0, +7): Honestly, there's like a half-dozen teams we could slot into the No. 4 and 5 spots. But we'll give this spot to the Sharks even though they may not deserve it. You know, kind of like it's a penalty shot.

3. Los Angeles Kings (11-4-2, +13): They're still comfortably on top of the Pacific, but have now lost two straight for the first time all season.

2. St. Louis Blues (13-4-1, +12): A loss to the Islanders snapped their latest winning streak. Now they head out for a three-game swing through western Canada.

1. Tampa Bay Lightning (14-2-2, +24): Make it four straight weeks at No. 1, and if anything the gap between them and the rest of the league is growing.

(\*Goals scored minus goals allowed, without counting shootouts like the NHL does for some reason.)

Not much movement this week, as for the first time all year there isn't a single first-time team in the top five. The Leafs move back into the five-spot, the Blue Jackets drop out, and everything else stays pretty much the same.

But speaking of the best of the best: It's Hall of Fame weekend in the hockey world, as the hall prepares to formally induct players Danielle Goyette, Teemu Selanne, Paul Kariya, Mark Recchi and Dave Andreychuk, plus builders Jeremy Jacobs and Clare Drake. So today, let's join in the Hall of Fame fun with a debate we like to break out this time of year: Which game from the weekend featured the most future Hall of Famers?



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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The first team we usually turn to whenever this topic comes up is the Blackhawks. According to the NHL they have three active players who are already among the best 100 to ever play the game. In theory, that means Jonathan Toews, Patrick Kane and Duncan Keith are already locks, with Corey Crawford playing like a guy with at least a shot of entering the discussion someday. Even without counting Marian Hossa, who's still technically on the team but not playing, that makes the Hawks a formidable starting point. But they faced the Hurricanes and Devils over the weekend, two teams that don't have any sure-thing candidates to offer, so we'll have to keep looking.

We could turn to the top team in the league right now. The Lightning are a young enough team that boasts no sure things quite yet, but Steven Stamkos is close and Nikita Kucherov and Victor Hedman look like they're on the way. They played Anaheim, which means we can add Ryan Getzlaf in the "probably" category and maybe Corey Perry, too. But Getzlaf didn't play due to injury, so that's probably not our game.

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If we stay in California, last night's Kings/Sharks matchup has a decent case to make. Joe Thornton is a lock, Drew Doughty is pretty close, and Anze Kopitar, Brent Burns and Jonathan Quick all have a shot. The Sharks played the Canucks too, where the Sedins probably give us a two-fer. Elsewhere, the Oilers/Rangers matchup had one sure-thing in Henrik Lundqvist, plus Connor McDavid and maybe Rick Nash or Leon Draisaitl. And the Wild/Flyers game featured two solid maybes in Ryan Suter and Eric Staal, plus Claude Giroux, Jakob Voracek and various younger guys with a shot.

Those Bruins/Leafs games make for another sneaky candidate. Boston has one lock in Zdeno Chara, another getting close in Patrice Bergeron, and two more veterans with outside shots in Tuukka Rask and Brad Marchand. It's still too early to start inducting Auston Matthews and friends, but the Leafs do have Patrick Marleau, and their young roster (plus Boston's David Pastrnak) could produce a few Hall candidates down the line. And even the Jets/Coyotes game, despite not featuring any sure things, had enough young talent that it could be a dark-horse pick.

But our winner is probably going to be one of the games involving those slumping Penguins. They've got only two locks in Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, but Kris Letang has a shot, Matt Murray is starting down the road and Phil Kessel could have an outside chance. They faced the Predators on Saturday, who have some decent candidates in P.K. Subban, Pekka Rinne and a few of the younger guys. That's a solid combination.

But the weekend's most HHOF-rich game likely came on Friday, when the Penguins faced their old pals, the Capitals. With Alex Ovechkin locked in, Nicklas Backstrom on pace to join him, Braden Holtby possibly on the way and even Evgeny Kuznetsov as a down-the-road candidate, this one feels like our winner.

The five teams that look like they're headed towards watching Rasmus Dahlin highlights and playing with draft-lottery simulations.

5. Carolina Hurricanes (6-5-4, -1): Scott Darling couldn't beat his former team on Saturday against the Blackhawks, but he helped the Hurricanes earn a point in their fourth straight game.

4. Detroit Red Wings (8-8-2, -3): Might want to work on the 2-on-0's, guys.

3. Florida Panthers (5-9-2, -8): They won a game for the first time in two weeks. It was against the next team on our list, but they'll take it.

2. Buffalo Sabres (5-9-3, -19): There haven't been many positive stories out of Buffalo this year, but this was a nice gesture by goalie Robin Lehner.

1. Arizona Coyotes (2-14-3, -30): Four more games, four more losses. And as we'll see down below, it gets even worse.

—

So the Coyotes have been terrible. They've won just two games all season, neither of which came in regulation. You don't need me to tell you that their start has been bad.

But how bad? There are a few ways you could look at it. For example, we could think about it in terms of their playoff chances. Last year, it took 94 points to earn a Western Conference wild card. In order to hit that total this season, the Coyotes would have to earn 87 points over their last 63 games; over a full season, that's a little better than a 113-point pace. Three times in the salary-cap era, that would have been enough to win the Presidents' Trophy. In other words, their awful start means the Coyotes would have to play like the best team in the league, or very close to it, for the rest of the season just to sneak into a wild-card spot on the season's final weekend.

So that gives you a sense of how bad it is in the context of today's NHL. But what if we looked back even further? How bad has the Coyotes' start been in terms of the entire 100-year history of the league?

Pretty bad, as it turns out.

The Coyotes' 17 losses in their first 19 games ties them with four other teams for the most ever. Some of the worst teams in history didn't start this badly. The 1943-44 Rangers lost only 15 games of their first 19. The full-on tank-mode Sabres of 2013-14 and 2014-15 lost 16 and 15, respectively. The depressing 2009-10 Maple Leafs, who'd just traded away their first-round pick, lost 16. Same with the disastrous 1990-91 Maple Leafs, as well as the terrible 1991-92 expansion Sharks. Even the 1974-75 Capitals, often called the worst team of all-time, lost only 15 of their first 19.

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And sure, some of those teams played in the days when there were still ties, so it was easier to not lose. But that was also before the NHL entered its age of ultra-parity. It's not supposed to be possible to be historically bad anymore. And yet here the Coyotes are.

So who were those four other teams that started with 17 losses in their first 19 games? And can they offer any hope for this year's Coyotes? Not really, no. Two of those seasons came in the NHL's early days; the 1924-25 Bruins did it in their very first year in the league, and the 1930-31 Philadelphia Quakers did it in their only one. Both teams ended up finishing dead last.

The 1992-93 Senators also hit the 17-loss mark. That was their first season in the league, and they also ended up dead last, although in their case they were tied with another terrible team, the second-year Sharks.

And then there's our final team, and the only NHL team in history other than this year's Coyotes to lose 17 of 19 in anything other than their very first season in the league: the 1983-84 Devils. They were another historically awful team, one probably best remembered for Wayne Gretzky calling them "a Mickey Mouse organization". And here's where we can find something that looks like good news for the Coyotes: That year's Devils didn't finish dead last. They climbed all the way to, uh, second-last. It can be done!

Just one problem: Not finishing last was the worst possible thing that could have happened to those Devils. By finishing three points ahead of the Penguins, they missed out on the first pick in that year's draft. And that means they missed out on Mario Lemieux.

A terrible start, a punchline of a season, and you still don't even get the first pick. Chin up, Coyotes fans. Apparently it can always get worse.



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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## Tape II Tape

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

- Max Pacioretty's OT winner against the Sabres was the 10th of his career, establishing a new franchise record:

The Canadiens have climbed to within three points of a playoff spot.

- It was a good weekend for the two Ontario teams. The Maple Leafs earned a pair of wins against the Bruins, while the Senators swept the Avalanche in Sweden.

- The Rangers are the league's hottest team, with six straight wins. They'd briefly moved into an Eastern wildcard spot before the Caps bumped them back down with last night's win over the Oilers.

- Patrik Laine is hot again, scoring in five straight to help the Jets hold down second spot in the Central.

- New Predator Kyle Turris had a goal and an assist in his debut to help Nashville beat the Penguins. For his part, Matt Duchene was held pointless through two games as a Senator, so you know what that means: The Predators won the trade.

- Here's what Jimmy Vesey looked like after finishing Saturday's game with a tooth lodged in his lower lip. Don't click the link if you're having breakfast.

- Roberto Luongo moved past Curtis Joseph into fourth place all-time with Friday's win over the Sabres, the 455th of his career. Next up is Ed Belfour, at 484. And Braden Holtby's win over the Penguins was his 200th, making him the second-fastest goalie to hit that mark.

- Have you been enjoying the ongoing arena drama in Calgary, compete with vague threats about the team someday leaving? Get ready for the upcoming sequel in Ottawa.

- Weird stat from Minnesota, where Jason Zucker has scored six times in three games, accounting for every Wild goal over that span. That's all Devan Dubnyk has needed lately, as he's put up back-to-back shutouts.

- Finally, this feature on Hall of Famer Paul Kariya is well worth a watch on induction day.

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Sportsnet.ca / HHOF inductee Mark Recchi reflects on career in Players' Tribune

Mike Johnston

@MikeyJ\_MMA

November 13, 2017, 3:30 PM

The Hockey Hall of Fame was a long time coming for Mark Recchi, but he will officially be inducted Monday night in Toronto alongside contemporaries Dave Andreychuk, Teemu Selanne and Paul Kariya, plus Danielle Goyette, Jeremy Jacobs and Clare Drake.

Recchi, currently an assistant coach with the Pittsburgh Penguins after three seasons working in player development, took some time to reflect on his playing career in a post for The Players' Tribune.

Recchi played any and all sports as a kid growing up in British Columbia, but his passion for hockey eventually won out.

"Hockey took over my brain," Recchi explained. "When I wasn't playing hockey or watching hockey, I was thinking about the next time I'd be playing hockey or watching hockey. There was no trick to how I stayed in the game for so long. I didn't have any superstition or secret breakfast that kept me in the game. Didn't have a real pre-game ritual like so many great players do. I'm not really even superstitious at all, about anything. ... I just really, really love hockey."

Recchi's junior career was capped off by two outstanding seasons in the WHL with his hometown Kamloops Blazers and he made his NHL debut with the Penguins during the 1988-89 season.

"A lot of scouting reports had me as an undersized, potentially risky forward," Recchi wrote. "My game wasn't flashy. I played inside the dots, in front of the net. I was decent at hitting guys."

All told, the undersized, unflashy, risky forward suited up for seven different teams in his 22 seasons in the NHL. His 1,652 career regular-season games played is fifth most in NHL history and his 1,533 points ranks 12th on the all-time list. In fact, prior to his selection to the Hall, Recchi had more points than any other eligible non-Hall-of-Famer. That distinction now belongs to Pierre Turgeon.

Recchi won a Stanley Cup in 1991 in his second full season with the Penguins, leading his team with 113 points in 78 games and finishing second in playoff scoring behind only Mario Lemieux. The Penguins followed that championship season with another but Recchi was traded to the Philadelphia Flyers midway through the 1991-92 campaign.

"I wasn't angry or bitter when I was traded to Philly," Recchi wrote. "Of course it's sad seeing your friends win the big one without you, but I was young and healthy and just happy to be playing, so I knew that I'd get another chance."

Recchi had to wait 15 years for another chance, though, yet made the most of it as a member of the Carolina Hurricanes and hoisted his second Cup in 2006. Recchi spent the next several years bouncing from team to team — back to the Penguins, then the Atlanta Thrashers, then Tampa Bay Lightning before being traded to the Boston Bruins.

Despite being in his early 40s with the Bruins, Recchi still had some hockey left in him. He had initially planned to retire after the 2009-10 campaign, he explained, but that season ended in heartbreaking fashion.

The Bruins were up 3-0 in a second-round series with the Flyers and up 3-0 in the opening period of Game 7 yet ended up blowing it and getting eliminated.

"I was crushed," Recchi wrote. "My heart had been ripped out of my chest. I looked around the locker room after the game and saw some of the saddest faces I have ever seen in my life.

"That's just not how I wanted to end my career."

After the season he spoke with then-Bruins GM Peter Chiarelli and then-Bruins coach Claude Julien, both of whom agreed Recchi had one more good year left.

So Recchi returned for one last kick at the can in 2010-11 and went out on top.

The Bruins beat the Vancouver Canucks and Recchi, the oldest player to ever score in a Stanley Cup final, got to raise the Cup above his head one last time, in his home province no less.

"I moved around a lot in my career. I'm grateful to have spent 22 years playing in the NHL," Recchi wrote. "Grateful for all seven of the different teams I played on. Grateful to have ended my last season with a third Stanley Cup in Boston. It was a more storybook ending than I could have possibly imagined for myself growing up."

He added: "To everybody who has been a part of my career for 22 seasons. Every fan in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Montreal, Carolina,



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Tampa Bay, Atlanta and Boston. Everyone in Kamloops. You are the ones who made my career. Your love of hockey is what gave me so much faith in hockey. You are the reason people love and give so much for this sport.

"To have accomplished enough in a career to be accepted into the Hall of Fame — I will never be able to thank you all enough."

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Sportsnet.ca / HIS NAME IN LIGHTS

BY KRISTINA RUTHERFORD IN LAS VEGAS AND TORONTO

Spitting chiclets, scaring bears and scoring game-winners. It's no wonder James Neal is the heart of the Vegas Golden Knights' early success. And why that could be a problem.

James Neal opens his mouth and scrunches his face to help raise his scabbed upper lip. All that effort from the Vegas Golden Knights winger results in a view of an absolutely battered gum that once had at least four front teeth and is now home to a gap you could fit half a hockey puck through. "Everything's sensitive," Neal says, standing rink-side after an off-day skate in Toronto. With those teeth missing up top, all aggressively punched out by a stick to the face in late October, Neal "can't do anything," he says. Eating is tough, and don't bother asking him to whistle because he doesn't think that's funny and "it hurts too much." The wounds reopened during a game a couple days ago and blood poured from Neal's mouth. Says the Golden Knights leading goal-scorer, now dressed in sneakers, knee-high socks, shorts and a Vegas hoodie: "Nothing's good right now."

Well, nothing inside Neal's mouth, at least. This season is a whole other story: "Everything's gone better than you'd expect," Neal says, and that's an understatement. Nobody predicted any of this for the Golden Knights. Six days after Las Vegas was the site of the worst mass shooting in modern American history, the NHL's 31st franchise played its first-ever game, and the team not only became a rallying point for a grieving city but, to everyone's surprise, they also started winning, which is very expansion-like. Vegas matched a 100-year-old NHL record for the quickest team to nine wins in an inaugural season — getting there in just 13 games — and the Golden Knights were the best in the NHL for part of October. Only five teams have more than Vegas's 21 points right now, and that's despite a tough stretch of late with their first-, second- and third-string goalies injured — including the face of the franchise in Marc-Andre Fleury.

For now, a gritty goal-scorer from Whitby, Ont., who's sick of food in smoothie form is wearing that franchise label. And you could argue Neal earned the right to share it with Fleury right out of the gate. As teammate Nate Schmidt puts it, "Nealer's pretty much the catalyst of what started our Vegas movement." That's a surprise, too, since Neal didn't think he'd even be in the lineup to start the season. He was in a cast until early August after playing with a broken right hand during Nashville's run to the Stanley Cup Final. Left unprotected by the Predators in the summer's expansion draft, Neal rehabbed and made an impact with Vegas immediately, scoring twice in the first game on Oct. 6, including the game-winner — from his knees.

There's no question the motivation is there for the second-round pick who has outscored all but four skaters taken ahead of him in the 2005 NHL Draft. Neal had a career-high 40 goals six seasons ago, he's had at least 21 in each of his nine seasons in this league, and this is a show-me

year: his contract is up at the end of the season, and he's with a team few expect much from. Whether he becomes a key addition to a club looking to improve its playoff chances or sticks around and leads this unlikely early success story to more wins, it's a big year for the 30-year-old. "This is my fourth NHL team," Neal says. "I want to win."

Notching five goals in the Golden Knights' first three games, Neal put the league on notice that his ability to rack up 40 in a season may not be in the rearview.

James Neal was in Grade 4 and on the smaller side for a nine-year-old when he took black and red markers and went to work on his white bedroom wall. The oldest of five siblings, Neal staked out a spot where he didn't have hockey posters or a jersey hanging, and he wrote, in big block letters:

NHL

JAMES NEAL

2005

Being an '87 birthday, that last line was the year he expected to be drafted. Neal's dad, Peter, walked into his son's room, saw the artwork and couldn't believe his eyes. He gave James a talking to, by then familiar to all, "because I was always mad at the kids for destroying the house," Peter says. Neal laughs, thinking of his art. "My dad eventually painted over it," he says. Even under a couple of cover-up coats of paint, though, Peter says Neal's marker work was still visible.

Young Neal was probably ahead of his time in writing down his goals, but that's pretty consistent with his childhood from a hockey-intensity standpoint. His is a family that purchased Saturn cars because they had plastic doors, which meant dents from errant hockey pucks popped back into place easily. Up until two years before James's magic marker stunt, the family lived in Oshawa, but "we moved to Whitby for the rink," Peter explains. Whitby was home to a brand new six-pad facility, so ice time would be easier to come by. The family also made its own rink, which started in the backyard but moved because, as Neal recalls, "the living room window took a real beating." While neighbours were laying down salt to melt the ice in their driveways, Peter was out with a hose soaking his. This made things dicey for anyone who wanted to enter the Neal home on shoes. "It was hard on the pizza delivery guy," Peter says. To avoid injuries, he'd roll out a carpet.

Outside of daily games on the street, in the front yard and in their home's front foyer (all four Neal boys wore full equipment and used full-sized sticks indoors, so chandelier lightbulbs were often replaced), Neal starred with the Wildcats of the Whitby Minor Hockey Association. In high school, he started to train over the summers with then-active NHLer Gary Roberts, who's now known for training many of the league's elite. One morning, a teenaged Neal had to commute from the family cottage on Balsam Lake back to Whitby for the workout. Neal was running up the road at the cottage to catch his ride when he "collided" with a bear. Both Neal and the bear were so startled they ran in opposite directions. Peter swears this is true.

To see all six-foot-three and 220 pounds of Neal bash around in the corners in search of the puck, you could maybe be convinced of that Chuck Norris-scares-a-bear story. But Neal wasn't this big as a teenager — and his lack of size is probably the reason he was a third-round pick in the OHL draft. Known as a quick skater who easily found the back of the net, Neal was just five-foot-nine in his midget year, and the Plymouth Whalers got him 80th overall. "It's weird about James," says former Whalers coach, Mike Vellucci. "I don't think he ever got the credit that he was due at that age group."

"For some reason, he was always under the radar."

Vellucci, now head coach of the Carolina Hurricanes affiliate in Charlotte, liked what he saw from Neal, despite his size. "I loved his hockey sense and his compete level — I mean, he competed. He always had his feet moving, he was always involved in the play. You could tell he hated to lose."



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Neal began his junior career at a lower tier with the Bowmanville Eagles, and by the time he suited up for his first full season in Plymouth, he stood his full six-foot-three. He wasn't just bigger, though. "You could see his confidence had grown, and he had this incredible shot — he started to use that more," Vellucci says. Neal put up 44 points in 67 games his first year in Plymouth, eighth-best in the league among rookies. That summer, the moment he'd scrawled on his bedroom wall came around. The NHL draft was held in Ottawa, and a kid named Sidney went first. Neal got a phone call informing him he'd been selected 33rd overall by the Dallas Stars. "For some reason," Vellucci says, "he was always under the radar."

Neal continued to star for the Whalers, and his final season in Plymouth, led them to the 2007 OHL championship, the first in franchise history. Neal scored the overtime winner to earn his team a Memorial Cup berth, and his eyes widen thinking about what he calls "the scariest tap-in of my life," because of what was on the line. "I was right in the middle of the net and Evan Brophey made an unbelievable play and he just slid it to me," Neal says. "Tapping it in was an amazing feeling."

And it was the type of moment the team expected from Neal. In 20 playoff games that season, he had 13 goals and 25 points. "He was a pure goal-scorer," Vellucci says. "He was our leader."

At the end of that season, just before Neal would begin his pro career, the coach took the 19-year-old aside and told him: "This is your chance to prove everybody wrong." Now, 11 years and four NHL teams later, that's exactly what Neal is trying to do in Las Vegas.

Neal came into his first full season in Plymouth having sprouted to six-foot-three and went on to score 44 points in 67 games.

No. 18 for the Vegas Golden Knights has all 32 of his teeth and he's walking down a sparkly gold carpet, dressed sharply in a brown sports jacket and a tie with a growling tiger's face on it. It's opening night in Las Vegas, and Neal stops to sign autographs for some of the hundreds of fans who've turned up for pre-game festivities before watching the new team play its first game at home. Elvis has been outside the building for hours. Four Clydesdale horses tow a Dalmatian on a wagon nearby. But most surprising of all is the Golden Knights are 2-0-0, and Neal, the winger who missed training camp while recovering from injury, has already scored three goals.

A couple of hours later, Neal records Nos. 4 and 5 of the season, and a third straight game-winner to bring Vegas to 3-0-0. His former Penguins teammate, Fleury, is another major reason this team gets off to a perfect start. The goaltender grins when asked about Neal following the 5-2 win over Arizona. "He's a great shooter, a smart shooter. He's always hungry for more," Fleury says. "I'm glad we have him."

Finding himself on an expansion team four months after falling two games shy of winning a first career Stanley Cup, you wouldn't necessarily expect Neal to be as "glad" as his teammates. You'd think this would be the toughest transition of his career, a real disappointment. But on opening night in Las Vegas, he keeps repeating that the team has to "enjoy the opportunity we have here." And a little over a month later, on a road trip that includes a stop in Toronto, his message hasn't changed. He points out that at least the move to Las Vegas didn't come as a total surprise. With his contract expiring at the end of this season, he figured the Predators would leave him unprotected. "Honestly, I was more ready for what happened than in the past when it was just a phone call: 'You're traded,'" he says. "This wasn't as bad."

Neal can't tell you which trade was toughest for him to swallow, but he never expected either of the first two. In Dallas, at age 21 he earned his way onto the Calder Trophy ballot after a 37-point rookie season, and his 24 goals remain a Stars' record for rookies (not including the Minnesota era). He improved on that mark with 27 goals in Year 2, but was shipped to Pittsburgh in his third season to help a banged-up team — Crosby was out with a concussion, and Evgeni Malkin had season-ending knee surgery.

Neal had his best year statistically with the Penguins at age 24. Skating on Malkin's wing he put up 40 goals and 81 points in 2011–12 to earn some Hart Trophy votes. He figured he'd be a Penguin forever. But in 2014, following a second-round exit from the playoffs that saw Neal record just four points in 13 games, rumours swirled that he wanted out. "It got so twisted up," he says. "I never asked for a trade. I never wanted to leave Pittsburgh."

After three seasons with the Penguins and no championship, Neal got a phone call while he was at Matt Niskanen's wedding, sitting at a table with a bunch of guys he was about to find out were no longer teammates. "I was north of Minnesota, in the woods, and I get this voice mail," Neal says. "It was a bunch of mixed emotions, especially because it was Nashville. I didn't know much about the Preds. I was leaving a hockey market to go into what at the time wasn't the biggest market." Neal pauses. "It was tough, but as you get older you realize you're not going to be with a team forever."

After making a Cup Final with his third NHL franchise, Neal is determined to win in Vegas with his fourth.

At stop No. 3 of his NHL career, Neal quickly became a valuable piece of the Predators offence. He missed time because of injuries that first year but still managed 23 goals in 67 games, and then in 2015–16 he put up 31 in a full season. Neal joined a nucleus of players that helped bring the franchise from a first-round playoff exit in 2015 to a Cup Final appearance in 2017. "It turned out to be unbelievable," he says, despite the eventual loss to his former team. Neal also played the final two rounds with that heavily-taped broken hand, barely able to hold onto his stick — even with needles before every game to numb the pain. "You do everything you can to play," he says. It's a lesson he learned as a kid, he adds: "Unless you're dead, you're getting on the ice."

Neal now has a plate and screws in his hand and he was still patiently waiting for it to heal in late August, when he flew out to Sonoma Valley in California for a meeting with Golden Knights owner, Bill Foley. The pair shot a commercial for Foley Estates Vineyard and Winery, then ate and drank and talked wine, food and hockey. "It was awesome," Neal says. He was very intrigued by the sommelier on hand and the work required to do that job, but of course hockey was the main topic of conversation. "We talked about being an expansion team, but making the playoffs," he says. "It's a different expansion team than in the past. We have good players, we've got a great goaltender, so there's no reason why we shouldn't expect the most out of our guys."

"When you think 'expansion team,' you think you're going to lose. But for us, we're here to win. Every guy in our dressing room has something to prove, and we're playing that way."

He continues: "I think when you think 'expansion team,' you think you're going to lose, you're going to get good draft picks. But for us, we're here to win. Every guy in our dressing room has something to prove, and we're playing that way."

According to Schmidt, it's Neal who's setting the pace with his play, spreading the message that a playoff-bound season is well within the team's grasp. The defenceman shakes his head when he considers the start Neal had to the campaign despite skating with the team for a total of just four days before the inaugural game. "That might be new recipe for success: Take training camp off, score eight goals in the first four games," Schmidt says, laughing. (It was actually six goals in four games.) "But he's the guy we look to, to say, 'If we're gonna have success, this guy's gonna have to play well.' And that's what he's doing."

Losing four teeth to a stick early in the season sucks when it comes to eating, but as Neal explains it: "Unless you're dead, you're getting on the ice."

Schmidt then launches into a recap of the start of the season: "We got over the hump here, got the first goal. He's the guy. We come back and win the game in Dallas — voila, he's the guy that gets the winner." Schmidt throws his hands up. "It takes a lot of pressure off other players when he's performing well. And it is a lot of pressure for him, but he's



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been doing really well with it and just getting other guys to understand that we need everybody to pull up.”

Schmidt has one hand up in front of him, like it's resting on a ledge. He moves it a little higher: “When Nealer's playing well, it brings the rest of us up as well.”

Across the league, only 10 players have more than Neal's nine goals, and his three game-winners rank second overall.

“That's a world-class player right there,” says fellow forward, Jonathan Marchessault, the 30-goal-scorer for Florida last year, looking to his left, where Neal is sitting in the visitor's dressing room in Toronto. “He puts the puck in the net more easily than anyone on our team. Even with the high expectations on him, he has been able to deliver.”

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TSN.CA / Switch to centre may be key to unlock Granlund's scoring silence

By Jeff Paterson

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. – Last season, Markus Granlund was the Vancouver Canucks version of a silent assassin. He didn't say much, but he effectively went about hitting his target. This year, the soft-spoken Finn is just silent – in interviews and on the score sheet. With only two goals and a lone assist in his first 16 games of the 2017-18 National Hockey League season, Granlund shows no signs of the player who finished second on the team with 19 goals last season and led the hockey club in goals-per-game.

Much of that is due to his deployment this season under new head coach Travis Green. Granlund has spent almost all of his time on the left side of the Canucks' shutdown line with Brandon Sutter and Derek Dorsett. Whenever possible, Green has done his best to hard match that line against the top line on opposing teams.

Still, though, Granlund is second among Canuck forwards in ice-time with next to nothing in the way of a bottom line. Averaging 17:08 per game this season (down 10 seconds per game from a year ago), the 24-year-old has struggled to get anything going offensively despite playing with a linemate (Dorsett) who leads the team with seven goals. Granlund's lone assist so far came on a Dorsett empty-net goal in Buffalo more than three weeks ago.

He's trying to remain confident the offence will flow and to help aid in that regard, Granlund is likely to find himself in a new role Tuesday when the Canucks face the Los Angeles Kings at Staples Center to wrap up a four-game road trip. At practice Monday he was moved to centre on a line with veterans Sam Gagner and Thomas Vanek. The team was shut out Saturday in San Jose and has scored just once in its past two games. Any contribution from Granlund would be a welcome one for a team suddenly searching for offence.

“Obviously, you want to score goals,” the low-key Granlund said after practice on Monday. “Of course, it's frustrating and you have to keep working and hopefully they'll come. I thought I had a couple of good chances last game. I just have to keep shooting the puck and be hungrier.”

Granlund played a season-low 12:23 against the Sharks and his past two outings have been his two lowest ice-times of the season. That's a far cry

from the 22:25 he logged in an overtime loss to Dallas just two weeks ago.

This is a contract year for Granlund who will be a restricted free agent on July 1, so the stakes are high. In the second year of a two-year deal with the Canucks, he is making \$950,000 US with a \$900,000 hit against the salary cap. Last year he was a bargain. This year, he is a player who needs to find his game if he hopes to cash in at season's end.

A drop in his goal-production could have been expected considering his shooting percentage last season (15.6 per cent) was above his career average. In addition, the 19-goal season may prove to be an outlier given Granlund had never before scored more than eight goals in one campaign. But with just 24 shots in 16 games, his shot volume is off considerably this season so he's not giving himself nearly as many opportunities to score as he did last year. Much of that is a result of playing on a line that is controlling fewer than half (49.3 per cent) of all even-strength shot attempts against the league's elite.

As well, last season, Granlund scored three times and collected seven points averaging nearly two minutes per game on the power play. So far this season, his power play time has been reduced to an average of just 43 seconds per game. So he's not getting the same opportunities to score that he was last season. And he was in better positions to contribute offensively splitting his time last season almost evenly between a line with the Sedins and one with Sutter and Loui Eriksson.

Last season, Granlund (19) and Sutter (17) combined for 36 goals. Right now, as the Canucks approach the 20-game mark that duo has combined for three. This year the focus has been on defence first, which Granlund understands. Although he admits it's tough to leave the rink after losses knowing the team could have used the kind of offensive boost he's struggling to provide.

“You have to know your role and I'm okay with doing anything if the team wins,” he explains. “When you lose and you're not scoring, it's tough. You have to keep your head up and keep pushing.”

The Canucks stress offence will come as the result of solid defence and Granlund wants to believe that's the case. But he's gone six games now without a point and with two of his three points on the season coming in the same game (a 4-2 win in Buffalo when he scored his first goal of the season), he's been blanked in 14 of the 16 games he suited up for (he missed a game last week in Calgary with an undisclosed upper body injury).

In tight games where a single goal – or even setting one up – could help the hockey club, Granlund hasn't been able to make things happen yet this season. But the coach hasn't lost faith in a player he looks to for contributions in other areas.

“He's done a lot of good things that go unnoticed,” says Green. “He's been a big part of our penalty kill and he's been a big part of our shutdown line. I know offensively, he doesn't have the numbers he would want. It's not all about points, but if you asked him he'd like to score more. If he's playing the middle, it might give him a little jump if we go there. But he's done a lot of good things that go unnoticed to the average fan.”

Little things are good. All successful hockey teams need players who take care of details. But they also need players to put the puck in the net. Markus Granlund was that player last season for the Vancouver Canucks and they would like to see some of that in his game this year, too.

Granlund may never be one to make much noise, but a boost in his scoring would speak volumes and could go a long way to help the Canucks break out of a California goal drought.

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# CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • Nov. 14, 2017

TSN.CA / Matthews expected to return to practice Wednesday

By Mark Masters

TSN Toronto reporter Mark Masters checks in daily with news and notes from Maple Leafs practices and game-day skates. The Maple Leafs practised at the Mastercard Centre on Monday.

Auston Matthews missed practice on Monday, but there's hope that Toronto's top-line centre will return soon. Head coach Mike Babcock confirmed that Matthews, who has missed the last three games with an upper-body injury, skated before practice and is scheduled to skate again on Tuesday. If all goes well, Matthews will practise on Wednesday before a decision on his status for Thursday's game against the New Jersey Devils is made. He hasn't skated with teammates since playing in last Monday's win against the Vegas Golden Knights.

Leafs Ice Chips: Babcock expects Matthews to practice Wednesday

Auston Matthews (upper body) missed practice on Monday, but did skate before his teammates and head coach Mike Babcock expects the team's top-line centre to practice on Wednesday. Toronto, 3-0-0 since Matthews went down, doesn't play again until Thursday.

Rest is a weapon; Nylander, Bozak sit out

Despite taking Sunday off, the players will get another day off on Tuesday to catch their breath after a frenetic stretch that saw them play 10 games in 17 days.

"It has felt very busy," Nazem Kadri acknowledged, "especially over the last couple weeks. There hasn't been much R and R time, it has just been constant go, go, go."

A couple regulars got extra rest on Monday as Tyler Bozak (maintenance) and William Nylander (illness) sat out practice.

"Just taking this time to kind of try to clear the bumps and the bruises and try to get guys back to 100 per cent," Kadri said. "Over the course of the season, things are going to happen and you're not going to feel your best every single game so it's important to have these stretches to try to get back to that."

It's easier to enjoy the down time when you're riding a four-game winning streak.

"Our defensive play has been night and day," said Connor Brown. "I think just being above the puck. Our (forwards) are tracking hard and catching guys from behind. We're playing in better positions, but we're also just working harder away from the puck and we got to continue to build on that if we want to keep winning."

Babcock has reminded his players how quickly a winning streak turned into a losing streak earlier this season.

"The last time we got feeling good we stopped working, so we got to make sure we keep working this time," Babcock noted.

The coach was also quick to point out that Toronto's next opponent, the Devils, "spanked us last time we played them."

New Jersey beat Toronto 6-3 on Oct. 11 at the Air Canada Centre, handing the Leafs their first loss of the season.

Leo Komarov was matched up against Boston's top line during much of the recent home-and-home set, which meant he saw a lot of Brad Marchand. Marchand has been known to play mind games on the ice with his opponents and Saturday night was no exception. At one point, Komarov tied up Marchand at the end of a play and the agitating Bruins winger gave him a kiss on the cheek.

"I told him I have a wife and a baby so I can't do it right now," Komarov said.

Has that ever happened to him before in any league?

"Ahh, it happens sometimes," he said with a shrug. "I mean, it is what it is."

The incident amused Kadri, Komarov's linemate and good buddy.

"Everyone just seems to be a big fan of Leo," he said. "I'm not quite sure what it is. I didn't really see it. I just saw the video and I saw him talking about it afterwards, which I thought was pretty hilarious. I don't really know what (Marchand) was thinking there. Maybe he thought he was on the Kiss Cam or something."

Did it bother Komarov?

"No," he said with a grin. "I kind of liked it."

Kadri's not sure how he'd react if someone did that to him.

"I'd be, like, very confused," he said. "I'd just find it a bizarre and odd situation and not quite sure how I'd react."

Komarov on Marchand's kiss: 'I kind of liked it'

Bruins super pest Brad Marchand was at it again on Saturday mixing it up with Toronto agitator Leo Komarov. In an attempt to get under the skin of the gritty winger, Marchand actually gave him a peck on the cheek after the whistle. But apparently the kiss didn't bother Komarov one bit.

Brown responds to Rielly's fantasy football critique

It may still be early in the NHL regular season, but the NFL campaign has already passed its midpoint, which means the Leafs' fantasy football playoff race is reaching the stretch drive. During an interview on TSN 1050's OverDrive program last week, defenceman Morgan Rielly criticized Brown for his trading record.

"We call Brownie the Town Bicycle just because his trades in fantasy are so bad," Rielly told hosts Bryan Hayes, Jeff O'Neill and Jamie McLennan. "He gets fleeced. He's basically giving away his team. So, me and Bozie will be walking around and be like, 'Who are you giving away today?' He's just giving away his team to everybody else. Everyone else is taking him for a ride."

Rielly: Would buy a Hainsey jersey because "he's a beauty"

OverDrive host Bryan Hayes with Jeff O'Neill & Jamie McLennan are joined by Maple Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly who shares which teammate's jersey he would buy, how he stacks up against Patrick Marleau's speed and how poorly he's doing in the club's NFL pool.

After Monday's practice, Brown hit back.

"He's just blowing smoke," Brown said with a smile. "He's got a worse team than mine. He's out of the playoffs so I don't know why he's going on the air talking about that. I'm getting tweets at me talking about how bad my team is. It's a joke ... I'm in the playoffs, I'm in the seventh seed."

Brown also noted his savvy pick up of Giants receiver Sterling Shepard this week paid huge dividends.

Meanwhile, how's Rielly's team doing?

"I think they're in the nine hole now or something," Brown said. "They're on the outside looking in and it's not looking good."

So, perhaps some jealousy at play?

"I don't know," Brown said with a chuckle. "He's just belittling people around him to make himself feel better, but if that's what he's got to do, that's what he's got to do."

Morgan Rielly created a stir last week during an interview on TSN 1050's OverDrive program. The Leafs defenceman blasted teammate Connor Brown for his poor trading record in their fantasy football league. On



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Monday, Brown hit back. "He's just blowing smoke," the winger said. "He's got a worst team than mine."

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TSN.CA / Leafs finding success with Matthews out

By Kristen Shilton

TORONTO – When the Maple Leafs last had Auston Matthews in the lineup, the team had just halted a 2-6-0 spiral with their first shootout win of the season over the Vegas Golden Knights.

Losing Matthews the next day to an upper-body injury could have signalled another slump from the Leafs. Instead, they're a perfect 3-0 without him.

Matthews was so dominant to start the season that the reigning Calder Trophy winner still leads the Leafs in points (19) despite the trio of missed games. Even if the Leafs' have found success since he went down, there's no question Matthews' teammates are eager to see him return.

"He's obviously an amazing player, let's not forget that," said Frederik Andersen. "It's tough to talk about anyone who can add what he can add. But we want to be a team that can play with anyone in the lineup. We want to be able to play the same way. It's a good feeling to get some wins for him even if he's not playing."

Babcock says Matthews will practice Wednesday

Maple Leafs head coach Mike Babcock says that Auston Matthews skated before practice on Monday and will do the same on Tuesday before practicing with the team on Wednesday.

Matthews hasn't skated with his team in a week; all of his on-ice work has been done individually with a trainer. Listed as day-to-day, coach Mike Babcock anticipates Matthews will practice with the team on Wednesday ahead of Thursday's game against the New Jersey Devils.

The key for Toronto without Matthews available has boiled down to three major factors: playing better defensively, good goaltending and, most crucially, other Leafs have had some of their best hockey this season coaxed out in the absence of the team's best player.

"The game plan doesn't change [without Auston]. We all just try to impact the game a little bit, be more noticeable and involved," said Nazem Kadri, who has one goal and two assists in his last three games. "When important players go down, it's time for other guys to step up.

Subconsciously we understand that, it's in the back of our minds. We don't try to play too differently, but we try to elevate a little bit."

When the Leafs returned home from their four-game Western Conference trip, they had gone 1-5-0 in their previous six contests while being outscored 25-17. Over the 3-0-0 run without Matthews, the Leafs have outscored opponents 11-5. Granted, the teams they played have been struggling through their own major injuries – the Minnesota Wild were without Zach Parise and Charlie Coyle in Toronto's 4-2 win and the Boston Bruins were missing David Krejci, David Backes and Ryan Spooner during back-to-back losses to the Leafs.

But Toronto took advantage of the opportunities in front of them to start shoring up defensively, a long-stated goal that's taken too long to materialize. As a group they've curbed their tendency to make high-risk

passes in their own zone by communicating better and in staying above the puck more often, they're mitigating the effect of mistakes better, especially in the neutral zone.

Poulin: Marner stepping up in Matthews' absence

The Leafs are riding a four-game win streak, and for the last three they've been missing Auston Matthews. How have they done it? Dave Poulin points to Mitch Marner's improved performance, especially in their back-to-back games against the Bruins.

"It's nice to win any way, but when you're tighter defensively and doing things right it makes it more fun," said Andersen. "You get that good feeling instead of winning but knowing there's some other issues. Overall we've been picking our game up a bit, being more patient in our zone. We're getting a good forecheck and being heavier in their zone."

The Leafs' goaltenders have been especially critical without Matthews. Over his last two starts, Andersen has given up four goals and owns a .944 save percentage. Curtis McElhinney was terrific in Saturday's tilt against Boston, giving up one goal on 39 shots for a .974 save percentage.

Andersen cited the Leafs getting to the opponent's net as a vital component of this current win streak. James van Riemsdyk is Toronto's most dangerous net-front presence and he's been their best forward this last week. Van Riemsdyk had three goals and one assist over those three games, tallying each score from tips and deflections in front of the goalie. Mitch Marner's offensive explosion (one goal and three assists in two games) and Patrick Marleau's three-game goal streak have also provided a boost.

Whether with scoring or overcoming multiple deficits in a game like on Friday, maintaining a grind-it-out mentality is what Babcock hopes the Leafs' will do. He remembers well Toronto's plateau at 7-2-0 to start the season, and how the wheels fell off over a subsequent (and excruciatingly long) two weeks of mediocre play.

"The last time we got feeling good we stopped working. We have to make sure we keep working this time," he said. "Any time you're playing better, you're feeling better about yourself, you're more likely to play good. I think that's obviously a real positive for our group. We need to continue to get better and play with more detail."

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TSN.CA / TSN Hockey's Top 10 Storylines of the Week

By Scott Cullen

The big trade, Tampa Bay's run of dominance, a Crosby slump, a Rangers resurrection, scoring rookies and more in TSN Hockey's Top 10 Storylines of the Week.

THREE-WAY TRADE

A week ago, the story was that a big three-way trade was being discussed between the Ottawa Senators, Colorado Avalanche and Nashville Predators, but it fell through and didn't look like it was going to happen.

And then it did.

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I broke down the trade here, and Frank Seravalli covered the behind-the-scenes process to the deal getting done.

Big trades are fun. It would be nice to see a few more.

## LIGHTNING

It's feeling like the Tampa Bay Lightning are the big story on a daily basis, at least when they are playing, because they are winning and putting up impressive goal totals in the process.

The Lightning, the top team in my analytically-based Snapshot rankings, may have the top line in the league, or maybe not, but they have one regulation loss in the past 15 games and have started their California road trip by beating San Jose and Los Angeles, 5-1 and 5-2, respectively.

The good news for Tampa Bay is that, while they do have an unreasonably high (10.5%) shooting percentage at 5-on-5, the rest of their underlying numbers are pretty solid, so maybe they aren't going to win every game forever, but there is a lot of reason to believe that their depth of talent and strong goaltending will give them a chance to be a Stanley Cup contender this season.

## CROSBY SLUMP

Sidney Crosby is \*gasp\* struggling.

Maybe this isn't a huge story, because it's not getting a ton of coverage as near as I can tell, but Penguins superstar Sidney Crosby is mired in a pretty bad slump, with no goals and three assists in his past nine games.

He's playing 20:45 per game in that span, and during 5-on-5 play, No. 87 has a 48% Corsi and has been on the ice for two goals for and nine against.

This may ultimately be a tiny blip on the radar, and Crosby can go back to putting up big point totals, but he's getting burned both ways right now, with a below-average Corsi and an absurdly low 3.7% on-ice shooting percentage. The good news is that the percentages are bound to get better.

## RANGERS

It wasn't so long ago that the story about the New York Rangers was about how head coach Alain Vigneault was on the hot seat and the Blueshirts couldn't get out of their own way.

After five straight wins, the narrative has changed a bit. They aren't out of the woods yet, and could still use better defence and goaltending, but the Rangers are competitive again, thanks in no small part to the emergence of second-year winger Pavel Buchnevich, who has 10 points (6 G, 4 A) in the past eight games.

## KHL OLYMPIC THREAT

The latest difficulty as it pertains to the 2018 Olympic Men's Hockey Tournament is that the KHL is threatening to boycott the event because of issues with the IOC and doping investigations of Russian athletes.

It's bad enough that the NHL players won't be in the tournament, but if KHL players aren't going to be involved, either, it's going to further deplete what was previously a marquee event at the Winter Olympics.

It will be interesting to see how this proceeds, though, because it's not just the Russian team that will be affected; there are plenty of Canadian and American players in the KHL that would qualify for Olympic consideration this year, too.

## BLUES

The Blues, quietly winning night after night.

While the Lightning are the flash-and-dash exciting team at the top of the standings, the St. Louis Blues are just one point behind, having accrued 27 points in 17 games, going 13-3-1.

Since losing 2-1 at Tampa Bay on October 14, the Blues have suffered one regulation loss in 11 games.

Vladimir Tarasenko is great, as expected, but he is second in team scoring to Jaden Schwartz, who has 21 points in 17 games. Newcomer Brayden Schenn has 19 points and No. 1 defenceman Alex Pietrangelo has seven goals and 16 points.

St. Louis' goaltending has been exceptional, but they also have strong possession numbers (53.7% score-adjusted Corsi) that indicate they should be getting the better side of results more often than not. Like Tampa Bay, surely there will be some regression, but the early signs are very promising for the Blues.

## PANTHERS

After touching on three teams that have been moving the right way, it's probably fair to check in on a club that is not doing so hot lately, and that's the Florida Panthers, who are winless in five, have won two of the past 11 games, and have five of their next six games on the road.

The Panthers, with Dale Tallon back at the helm, have made a committed effort this season to undo anything that happened last season when they had a brief dalliance with using analytics.

That meant sending Jonathan Marchessault and Reilly Smith to Vegas in the expansion draft, so that they could keep the likes of defenceman Alex Petrovic who, oddly enough, has been a healthy scratch recently.

It's not like the Panthers don't have talent. Aleksander Barkov, Jonathan Huberdeau and Vincent Trocheck are all very good players and getting Evgeni Dadonov to come over from Russia is a nice boost, but they're a poor possession team (47.8% score-adjusted Corsi) that hasn't been getting good goaltending.

The Panthers aren't out of it yet, but with five of the next six on the road, the decision to start playing for next season could come much sooner than expected.

## ROOKIES

Coming into the season, it didn't look like there were necessarily any high-end rookie forwards. Early returns suggest that forecast might have missed the mark. Arizona's Clayton Keller has been the standout, with 11 goals and 17 points in 18 games, but there are a couple of others making a charge into the spotlight.

Canucks rookie winger Brock Boeser has five goals and 14 points in 13 games, and is skating on Vancouver's top line with Sven Baertschi and Bo Horvat.

Islanders rookie centre Mathew Barzal had a five-assist performance against Colorado this week and is currently on a six-game point streak. He has 14 points in 15 games. He seems to be playing with a lot of confidence at the moment.

Luck has not been on the side of the Anaheim Ducks all season, most notably because they can't get healthy. Their long list of injuries was punctuated with an exclamation point this week when it was announced that star centre Ryan Getzlaf would miss the next two months due to a facial fracture.

The Ducks have managed to tread water, going 7-6-3 through an injury-plagued first 16 games, but it wouldn't come as a surprise if they found it tougher to handle Getzlaf's absence over the next couple of months.

After playing just three games in the NHL, the Russian centre made his NHL retirement official. It was a completely bizarre situation. On one hand, Vegas Golden Knights GM George McPhee suggested that Shipachyov wasn't good enough to play in the league, which is certainly possible but, after three games, who knows?

McPhee was named GM in July 2016. He had a whole year to watch Shipachyov and he decided he was good enough to be one of the 100 highest paid forwards in the league. But after 3 NHL games he's decided Shipachyov's actually an AHLer?



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

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It feels like there should be more to the story, but it's really strange that Shipachyov's NHL experiment is done so quickly, when he could have gone to another team, or at least not surrendered all NHL opportunities until age 35 (his contract was going to run until he was 32).

McPhee had a trade in place which would have sent Shipachyov to another NHL team. He elected not to report.

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TSN.CA / Lindros and Kariya linked by hockey history

By Steve Dryden

Before people made Paul Kariya the poster boy for the perils of brain injuries in hockey, he was a hockey player.

A special player.

He entered the NHL in 1994 as the league's most heralded pure playmaker since Wayne Gretzky.

Mighty Ducks of Anaheim coach Ron Wilson said, "You're never going to be able to find a player like Wayne Gretzky, but Paul has the possibility of coming as close as anyone possibly could."

However hyperbolic that may sound, Kariya was the total package: possessing extraordinary speed, a superlative array of shots – including the game's best backhand – an uncommon imagination and an ability (plus desire) to change on the fly.

He entered the NHL as a Hobey Baker Award-winning collegian who averaged three assists for every goal and by season two was a 50-goal scorer.

"Always be changing, dynamic," said Kariya of his own theory of hockey evolution.

Kariya ranked third in points per game (minimum 800 games) – behind only Jaromir Jagr and Joe Sakic and tied with, who else, Teemu Selanne – over the first dozen seasons of his career.

"[Kariya] has got everything you could possibly imagine in a hockey player," said 1993-94 Hart Trophy winner Sergei Fedorov.

"Oh my God, he's fun to watch," Eric Lindros said of Kariya at the time.

Kariya and Lindros could not be any more different as players, but they are linked by hockey history – connected by brain injuries inflicted by the same player – Scott Stevens.

The two superstars share another common characteristic. They were late to the Hall of Fame party – Lindros elected in his seventh year of eligibility and Kariya in his fifth.

The Hockey Hall of Fame should be home to great players first and to great numbers second. The two don't always go hand in hand and Hall of Fame selectors have historically been slow to recognize the distinction.

Must See: Kariya and Selanne ham it up for the camera

During a promotional video shoot for their Hockey Hall of Fame induction, former Ducks' teammates Paul Kariya and Teemu Selanne were up to their old antics while on set.

The principal factor holding Lindros and Kariya back from first-ballot entries were the cumulative effects of concussions. Neither reached the

absolute upper statistical limits of their career potential, but their brilliance – even if over relatively short periods of time – made them bona fide Hall of Famers.

In November, 1995, Kariya was elbowed by Toronto defenceman Mathieu Schneider – the hit Kariya calls the "dirtiest" he ever took – and suffered his first NHL concussion. It was a sign of the times that one Leaf coach suggested Doug Gilmour would have bounced up and continued playing if he had been hit like that.

Kariya responded, "If Doug Gilmour can play while he's not conscious, all the more power to him."

Arguably, Kariya did just that in Game 6 of the 2003 Stanley Cup final when he famously scored a goal after being knocked unconscious earlier in the contest by Stevens.

Hall of Fame inductees Kariya, Selanne, Mark Recchi and Dave Andreychuk all participated in the TSN Quiz Friday and were asked if they supported Hall of Famer Ken Dryden's call for all hits to the head to be penalized regardless of circumstance or, alternatively, believed the current rule that allows for some exceptions should be maintained.

Recchi and Andreychuk answered "maintain the current rule," Kariya and Selanne said "penalize all head hits."

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Since losing 2-1 at Tampa Bay on October 14, the Blues have suffered one regulation loss in 11 games.

Vladimir Tarasenko is great, as expected, but he is second in team scoring to Jaden Schwartz, who has 21 points in 17 games. Newcomer Brayden Schenn has 19 points and No. 1 defenceman Alex Pietrangolo has seven goals and 16 points.

St. Louis' goaltending has been exceptional, but they also have strong possession numbers (53.7% score-adjusted Corsi) that indicate they should be getting the better side of results more often than not. Like Tampa Bay, surely there will be some regression, but the early signs are very promising for the Blues.

## PANTHERS

After touching on three teams that have been moving the right way, it's probably fair to check in on a club that is not doing so hot lately, and that's the Florida Panthers, who are winless in five, have won two of the past 11 games, and have five of their next six games on the road.

The Panthers, with Dale Tallon back at the helm, have made a committed effort this season to undo anything that happened last season when they had a brief dalliance with using analytics.

That meant sending Jonathan Marchessault and Reilly Smith to Vegas in the expansion draft, so that they could keep the likes of defenceman Alex Petrovic who, oddly enough, has been a healthy scratch recently.

It's not like the Panthers don't have talent. Aleksander Barkov, Jonathan Huberdeau and Vincent Trocheck are all very good players and getting Evgeni Dadonov to come over from Russia was a nice boost, but they're a poor possession team (47.8% score-adjusted Corsi) that hasn't been getting good goaltending.

The Panthers aren't out of it yet, but with five of the next six on the road, the decision to start playing for next season could come much sooner than expected.

## ROOKIES

Coming into the season, it didn't look like there were necessarily any high-end rookie forwards. Early returns suggest that forecast might have missed the mark. Arizona's Clayton Keller has been the standout, with 11 goals and 17 points in 18 games, but there are a couple of others making a charge into the spotlight.

Canucks rookie winger Brock Boeser has five goals and 14 points in 13 games, and is skating on Vancouver's top line with Sven Baertschi and Bo Horvat.

Islanders rookie centre Mathew Barzal had a five-assist performance against Colorado this week and is currently on a six-game point streak. He has 14 points in 15 games. He seems to be playing with a lot of confidence at the moment.

Luck has not been on the side of the Anaheim Ducks all season, most notably because they can't get healthy. Their long list of injuries was punctuated with an exclamation point this week when it was announced that star centre Ryan Getzlaf would miss the next two months due to a facial fracture.

The Ducks have managed to tread water, going 7-6-3 through an injury-plagued first 16 games, but it wouldn't come as a surprise if they found it tougher to handle Getzlaf's absence over the next couple of months.

Vadim Shipachyov, we hardly knew ye.

After playing just three games in the NHL, the Russian centre made his NHL retirement official. It was a completely bizarre situation. On one hand, Vegas Golden Knights GM George McPhee suggested that Shipachyov wasn't good enough to play in the league, which is certainly possible but, after three games, who knows?

McPhee was named GM in July 2016. He had a whole year to watch Shipachyov and he decided he was good enough to be one of the 100 highest paid forwards in the league. But after 3 NHL games he's decided Shipachyov's actually an AHLer?

It feels like there should be more to the story, but it's really strange that Shipachyov's NHL experiment is done so quickly, when he could have gone to another team, or at least not surrendered all NHL opportunities until age 35 (his contract was going to run until he was 32).

McPhee had a trade in place which would have sent Shipachyov to another NHL team. He elected not to report.

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# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## NEWS CLIPPINGS • Nov. 14, 2017

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USA TODAY / NHL power rankings 4.0: Lightning look like the team to beat

Kevin Allen, USA TODAY Sports Published 5:58 p.m. ET Nov. 13, 2017 | Updated 6:08 p.m. ET Nov. 13, 2017

It's not difficult to envision the Nashville Predators making a back-to-back appearance in the Stanley Cup this season. But don't forget the Tampa Bay Lightning were in the Stanley Cup Final in 2015 and came within one win of returning there in 2016.

And the Lightning's disappointing 2016-17 campaign might have looked more like those seasons, or this season, had they not been overrun by injuries.

The point is no one should be surprised that the Lightning look like the team to beat now. They have been trending in this direction.

Here is USA TODAY Sports' power rankings (games through Nov. 12, 2017):

### 1. Tampa Bay Lightning (14-2-2)

This team can beat you numerous ways, including in net where Andrei Vasilevskiy owns a .930 save percentage.

### 2. St. Louis Blues (13-4-1)

Jaden Schwartz sits fourth in the scoring race. He is one of multiple Blues who have taken their game to the next level. Too soon to mention Alex Pietrangelo as a Norris candidate?

### 3. Los Angeles Kings (11-4-2)

The Kings' improved scoring of 3.18 goals per game is one of the keys to their turnaround this season. Anze Kopitar leads the way with 21 points in 17 games.

### 4. New Jersey Devils (11-4-2)

As we approach the quarter pole, the Devils are clearly one of the NHL's biggest surprises. They are sixth in goals per game (3.47).

### 5. Toronto Maple Leafs (12-7-0)

The Maple Leafs have followed up a rough patch with four consecutive wins. You expect that from a Mike Babcock team.

### 6. Winnipeg Jets (9-4-3)

Over the last 10 games, the Jets have only lost once in regulation. This is a team rich in offensive firepower. Blake Wheeler has 11 points in his past five games.

### 7. Ottawa Senators (8-3-5)

Too soon to know what the Matt Duchene trade will do, but the Senators are 5-2-3 in their last 10.

### 8. San Jose Sharks (10-6-0)

Their +8 goal differential is an indication of how they've grown stronger as the season has progressed. They are 7-3-0 in their last 10.

### 9. Vegas Golden Knights (10-5-1)

It feels as if everyone in the hockey world is rooting for this spunky expansion team. They've had reasons to fall off the pace, but they refuse to yield.

### 10. New York Rangers (9-7-2)

With six wins in a row, the Rangers have erased the memories of their disappointing start. They look like a different team.

### 11. Nashville Predators (9-5-2)

After the Kyle Turris trade, the Predators are definitely a better team than they were when they reached the Stanley Cup Final last spring.

### 12. New York Islanders (9-6-2)

John Tavares has 13 goals in 17 games. That's a 62-goal pace. As we count the reasons why the Islanders are in the playoff hunt, let's start with him.

### 13. Columbus Blue Jackets (10-7-1)

The Blue Jackets need another scorer, and they are shopping for one in the trade market.

### 14. Washington Capitals (10-7-1)

Nicklas Backstrom has one point in his past nine games, which is an indication that something is off with the Capitals.

### 15. Pittsburgh Penguins (9-7-3)

As their minus-18 goal differential would suggest, the Penguins are still trying to find their rhythm this season.

### 16. Dallas Stars (9-7-0)

This team is going to be more difficult to face in the second half of the season once everyone gets adjusted to the personnel changes and Ken Hitchcock's arrival.

### 17. Philadelphia Flyers (8-7-2)

The focus is on the Flyers' impressive young defenseman, but Jakub Voracek's and Claude Giroux's presence among the top 10 scorers is equally important.

### 18. Calgary Flames (9-7-0)

While the Flames expected to be better this season, they are on a 91-point pace. They are still in a playoff spot.

### 19. Vancouver Canucks (8-7-2)

Based on where they were in 2016-17, the Canucks are having an encouraging season.

### 20. Chicago Blackhawks (8-8-2)

The Blackhawks' defense just isn't as dependable as it was at when they won Cups in 2010, 2013 and 2015.

### 21. Colorado Avalanche (8-7-1)

This is about the time last season when the Avalanche started the downhill slide. They have made sure it doesn't happen again.

### 22. Detroit Red Wings (8-8-2)

If the Red Wings could find more goals, they might compete for a playoff spot. Jimmy Howard has been good, and their defense has been better than expected.

### 23. Carolina Hurricanes (6-5-4)

This is a team that probably needs to trade a defenseman for a scoring forward. But the Hurricanes are on the rise.

### 24. Anaheim Ducks (7-7-3)

Given the injuries they have endured, their record is impressive. When Ryan Getzlaf, Ryan Kesler and Cam Fowler are back, they will be a force again.

### 25. Minnesota Wild (7-7-2)



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

**NEWS CLIPPINGS • Nov. 14, 2017**

When Coach Bruce Boudreau called out his players recently for not looking like they knew what they were doing, they deserved it. The Wild have been mediocre.

26. Montreal Canadiens (8-9-1)

Habs are 7-3-0 in their last 10, yet still own a minus-15 goal differential for the season. But their play has been sharper.

27. Edmonton Oilers (6-9-2)

The Oilers have been the NHL's biggest disappointment in the first month of the season.

28. Boston Bruins (6-6-4)

The Bruins haven't been as strong on the road (1-3-2) as they have at home (5-3-2). Tuukka Rask's .901 save percentage hasn't helped.

29. Buffalo Sabres (5-9-3)

It's clear that the Sabres aren't as close as they hoped they would be. Injuries on the blue line have hurt.

30. Florida Panthers (5-9-2)

The Panthers rank eighth in goals per game (3.31), but their defensive sloppiness has pushed them well down in the standings.

31. Arizona Coyotes (2-14-3)

With the personnel that the Coyotes have on the blue line, they should not be giving up almost four goals per game.

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