



CAROLINA HURRICANES

GAME PREVIEW

CAROLINA HURRICANES vs. FLORIDA PANTHERS

Saturday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. ET

RBC Center * Raleigh, NC

Hurricanes: 23-26-12 (58 pts.)

Panthers: 27-20-12 (66 pts.)

** All statistics through NHL games of Feb. 23*

TV: No Carolina Broadcast (Florida's broadcast will be available via NHL Center Ice, including in the Carolina viewing territory)

RADIO: Hurricanes Radio Network: WCMC 99.9 FM The Fan (Raleigh – flagship); WWNB 1490AM/105.7FM (New Bern, NC); WAVQ 1400 (Jacksonville, NC); WMFD 630AM (Wilmington, NC)

INTERNET: www.CarolinaHurricanes.com

AUDIO CLIP OF THE DAY

Please find below a link to an .mp3 file of Hurricanes head coach Kirk Muller as he spoke to the media at the RBC Center on Friday following the team's practice. [Click here to listen.](#)

TOMORROW'S GAME

Carolina hosts the Florida Panthers on Saturday at the RBC Center for the third of six meetings between the teams this season (7 p.m., Hurricanes Radio Network). The Panthers won the first two meetings, 3-1 on Nov. 29 in Raleigh, and 3-2 in overtime on Dec. 18 in South Florida.

The Hurricanes will hold their annual Military Appreciation Night on Saturday. The team will honor members of the armed forces throughout the game, and a special military vehicle and weapons display will adorn the RBC Center's front law before the game, and each branch of the military will be represented on the concourse during the game. It is Carolina's ninth Military Appreciation Night.

HURRICANES STREAKS

Jiri Tlustý has points in nine straight games (2/2-2/23: 4g, 6a), including assists in two straight (2/20-2/23: 0g, 3a)

Eric Staal has points in seven straight games (2/8-2/23: 6g, 6a), including assists in six straight (2/10-2/23: 5g, 6a)

Jaroslav Spacek has points in three straight games (2/18-2/23: 1g, 2a), including assists in two straight (2/20-2/23: 0g, 2a)

Anthony Stewart has points in two straight games (2/20-2/23: 1g, 1a)

HURRICANES MILESTONES WITHIN REACH

Brandon Sutter is one point shy of 100 NHL/Hurricanes points

Cam Ward is three games shy of 400 NHL/Hurricanes games played and four wins shy of 200 career NHL/Hurricanes wins

HURRICANES MILESTONES AND FIRSTS RECENTLY ACHIEVED

Justin Peters earned his first career NHL/Hurricanes shutout, Feb. 20 vs. WSH

CAROLINA NOTES

-- **Ruutu Re-signs:** Hurricanes forward Tuomo Ruutu agreed to a four-year contract extension on Wednesday (2/22). Ruutu currently ranks second among Hurricanes skaters this season with 17 goals and 106 hits, and ranks fourth on the team with 30 points. Carolina acquired Ruutu from Chicago on Feb. 26, 2008, and he now ranks ninth on the Hurricanes' all-time goal-scoring (80) and points (187) lists since the team's relocation in 1997.

-- **Against the Southeast Division:** Carolina is 5-8-2 thus far this season against Southeast Division opponents. The Hurricanes posted a 12-8-4 record against divisional opponents in 2010-11. Since the division was created prior to the 1998-99 season, the Hurricanes have posted a record of 151-102-46-4 in 303 games against the Florida Panthers, Tampa Bay Lightning, Washington Capitals and Winnipeg franchise.

-- **Home Ice Advantage:** The Hurricanes hold a 26-6-3 record against the Panthers at the RBC Center since the building opened in 1999. Carolina is 2-1-1 against Florida in the last four meetings in Raleigh, and has earned points in 23 of the last 26 meetings at the RBC Center (21-3-2).

-- **Stingy Defense:** In their last 21 games (since Jan. 1), the Hurricanes have allowed just 46 goals (2.19 per game). Carolina has allowed two goals or fewer in 15 of those 21 games. The Canes have allowed two goals or fewer in nine of their last 11 contests at home (Jan. 3-Feb. 23).

-- **Scoring First:** Carolina has scored the game's first goal in seven of its last eight games overall, and five of its last seven games at home. The Hurricanes have earned points in each of their last 14 games when netting the game's first goal (9-0-5). The Canes are 17-6-8 when scoring first in 2011-12.

-- **Power Play Production:** Carolina has scored a power play goal in four of its last five games, and has gone 5-for-16 (31.3%) in that span. The Hurricanes have netted a power play goal in three straight at home, and are 6-for-18 (33.3%) on the man-advantage in their last seven home games. The Canes are 14-9-4 when scoring a power play goal this season.

NINE FOR NUMBER NINETEEN

Winger **Jiri Tlustý** earned an assist in Thursday's game against Anaheim to extend his point streak to nine games, the longest by a Hurricanes player this season. Tlustý has 10 points (4g, 6a) during the scoring streak, and Carolina has posted a 5-1-3 record in that span. Tlustý's nine-game scoring streak is the longest by a Hurricanes player since Jussi Jokinen recorded points in 10 straight games from Jan. 28-March 2, 2010 (9g, 4a). Earlier that same season (2009-10), Eric Staal set the Carolina record (since relocation) with an 11-game point streak from Jan. 16-Feb. 5, 2010 (10g, 7a). The longest point streak in franchise history is 18 games by Mike Rogers (11/22/80-1/2/81: 19g, 20a).

THE CAPTAIN LEADS THE WAY

Carolina captain **Eric Staal** extended his point streak seven games (6g, 6a) with an assist on Thursday. Staal has 30 points (11g, 19a) in his last 23 games, and leads the Hurricanes in goals (18), assists (32) and points (50). The Thunder Bay, Ont. native has led the Canes in scoring in three of the last four seasons, including last season when he totaled 76 points (33g, 43a).

BACK IN BLACK

The Hurricanes will wear their black jerseys for the 14th and final time in the 2011-12 season on Feb. 25 against the Florida Panthers. Carolina is 6-5-2 this season when wearing its third jersey. The Hurricanes unveiled their alternate uniform in 2008-09, and have gone 34-17-5 all-time when wearing the third jersey. The full 2011-12 alternate jersey schedule is listed below.

DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT	DATE	OPPONENT	RESULT
Oct. 12	Boston	W, 3-2	Dec. 15	Vancouver	W, 4-3
Oct. 25	Ottawa	L, 2-3, SO	Dec. 21	Phoenix	L, 3-4
Nov. 4	Washington	L, 1-5	Dec. 29	Toronto	W, 4-3 (OT)
Nov. 18	Buffalo	L, 0-1	Jan. 6	Buffalo	W, 4-2
Nov. 23	Montreal	L, 3-4, SO	Jan. 20	Washington	W, 3-0
Nov. 29	Florida	L, 1-3	Feb. 20	Washington	W, 5-0
Dec. 1	NY Rangers	L, 3-5	Feb. 25	Florida	

BROADCAST NOTES

-- Fans can tune into the Hurricanes Radio Network's flagship station, 99.9 FM The Fan as Hall of Fame broadcaster Chuck Kaiton calls every Canes game. Capitol Broadcasting's Mike Maniscalco hosts *Stormfront* and *Aftermath* surrounding all broadcasts.

-- There is no Carolina telecast for Saturday's game against the Florida Panthers. FOX Sports Carolinas will resume its coverage of the Hurricanes' 2011-12 season on Tuesday when the team hosts the Nashville Predators. As always, John Forslund will have the play-by-play call and former professional goaltender Tripp Tracy will provide color analysis. Bob Harwood hosts the Hurricanes Live pregame show, and reports from rinkside during the game.

CANESPR.COM

The Hurricanes Media Relations Department created CanesPR.com to provide local, visiting and national media with a variety of convenient resources to cover team. Please visit CanesPR.com for team media guides, practice and media availability information, game notes, audio of player and coach interviews, media clips and more.

CAROLINA AT HOME: 16-12-4

CAROLINA ON THE ROAD: 7-14-8

CAROLINA ON THE POWER PLAY: 36-of-224 (16.1%)

CAROLINA SHORTHANDED: 141-of-181 (77.9%)

INJURIES

Goaltender, **Brian Boucher**, injured reserve, lower body, missed 33 games

Defenseman, **Joni Pitkanen**, injured reserve, knee, missed 32 games

Forward, **Tuomo Ruutu**, day-to-day, upper body, missed 4 games

Forward, **Chad LaRose**, day-to-day, upper body, missed 4 games

Goaltender, **Cam Ward**, day-to-day, lower body, missed 2 games

2011-12 MAN GAMES LOST: 147

UPCOMING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	LOCATION	TIME
Feb. 25	Saturday	RBC Center	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 26	Sunday	Raleigh Center Ice	11:30 a.m.
Feb. 27	Monday	RBC Center	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 28	Tuesday	RBC Center	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 29	Wednesday	Raleigh Center Ice	12:00 p.m.

* All times are local... Times and locations subject to change

HURRICANES vs. PANTHERS SERIES NOTES

-- Carolina leads all-time 48-31-14-1 (94), including 31-11-4 (46) at home and 17-20-10-1 (48) in South Florida.

-- The teams meet six times in 2011-12: at CAR: Nov. 29 (3-1 loss), Feb. 25, March 21; at FLA: Dec. 18 (3-2 OT loss), March 11, April 7

-- Carolina posted a 4-1-1 record against Florida in 2010-11, earning points in each of the last five meetings.

-- The Hurricanes have earned points in eight of the last 10 games against the Panthers over the last two seasons.

- Since moving into the RBC Center at the start of 1999-00, the Canes boast a 26-6-3 home record against Florida.
- CAR career point-per-game players vs. FLA: Jeff Skinner – eight points (4g, 4a) in seven games.
- Cam Ward is 12-8-2, with a 3.04 GAA in 25 career appearances against Florida. Brian Boucher is 2-3-1 with a 3.11 GAA in eight games against Florida. Justin Peters is 2-1-0 with a 2.37 GAA in three games against the Panthers. Mike Murphy has not faced Florida.
- Jose Theodore is 18-12-3 with a 2.65 GAA and four shutouts in 35 career appearances against Carolina. Scott Clemmensen is 2-4-0, 3.05 GAA in eight games against the Hurricanes.
- The Canes' roster boasts former Panthers Bryan Allen, Anthony Stewart and Jaroslav Spacek. Hurricanes head coach Kirk Muller played for the Panthers from 1996-99.
- Panthers head coach Kevin Dineen played for the Carolina franchise from 1984-91 and again from 1995-99.