



CAROLINA HURRICANES

GAME PREVIEW

CAROLINA HURRICANES vs. NASHVILLE PREDATORS

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m. ET

RBC Center * Raleigh, NC

Hurricanes: 23-26-13 (59 pts.)

Predators: 36-19-7 (79 pts.)

** All statistics through NHL games of Feb. 26*

TV: FOX Sports Carolinas HD

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 CLIPS 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 Monday following the team's practice. [Click here to listen.](#)

Also, [click here to listen](#) to audio of Jim Rutherford's media availability from Monday afternoon at the RBC Center following the passing of the NHL trading deadline.

TODAY'S GAME

Carolina hosts the Nashville Predators on Tuesday at the RBC Center for the second of two meetings between the teams this season (7 p.m., FOX Sports Carolinas, Hurricanes Radio Network). The Predators won the first meeting, 5-2, at Bridgestone Arena on Jan. 7. Nashville has won each of the last six meetings between the teams (CAR: 0-5-1).

HURRICANES STREAKS

Eric Staal has points in eight straight games (2/8-2/25: 6g, 7a), including assists in seven straight (2/10-2/25: 5g, 7a)

Jerome Samson has points in two straight games (2/23-2/25: 1g, 1a)

HURRICANES MILESTONES WITHIN REACH

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

HURRICANES MILESTONES AND FIRSTS RECENTLY ACHIEVED

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

CAROLINA NOTES

-- **Home Ice Advantage:** The Hurricanes have posted a 16-12-5 record at home this season and are 10-2-3 in their last 15 games at the RBC Center. The Canes have a plus-15 goal differential in their last 15 games at home (GF 43, GA 28), and have scored three goals or more eight times in that span. Carolina is 1-0-2 during its current six-game home stand, including a 5-0 win against Washington on Feb. 20. The Canes host Nashville (2/28), the New York Rangers (3/1) and Tampa Bay (3/3) this week to conclude the home stand.

-- **Stingy Defense:** In their last 22 games (Since Jan. 1) the Hurricanes have allowed 48 goals (2.19 per game). Carolina has allowed two goals or fewer in 16 of those 22 games. The Canes have allowed two goals or fewer in 10 of their last 12 contests at home (Jan. 3-Feb. 25).

-- **Power Play Production:** Carolina has scored a power play goal in three straight games (3-for-8, 37.5%) and five of its last six contests (6-for-18, 33.3%). The Canes have scored a power play goal in four straight on home ice, and are 7-for-20 (35.0%) on the man-advantage in their last eight home games. Carolina is 14-9-5 when scoring a power play goal this season.

-- **Scoring First:** Carolina has scored the game's first goal in eight of its last nine games overall, and six of its last eight games at home. The Hurricanes have earned points in each of their last 15 games when netting the game's first goal (9-0-6). The Canes are 17-6-9 when scoring first in 2011-12.

-- **Taking a 2-0 Lead:** The Canes led 2-0 in their 3-2 shootout loss against Florida on Saturday, marking the fourth time in their last six games they have scored the game's first two goals. Saturday's shootout loss dropped Carolina to 14-1-3 when taking a 2-0 lead. Prior to Saturday, the Hurricanes had won their previous eight games when opening a 2-0 lead.

-- **Faulk Among the Best:** Hurricanes defenseman **Justin Faulk** ranks first among NHL rookie blueliners in average ice time (22:41), goals (7) and power play goals (5), and is tied for second with 16 points (through games of Feb. 26). The 19-year-old has four points in his last six games (3g, 1a), with all three goals coming on the power play. Faulk leads the Hurricanes in power play goals (5).

JUSTIN PETERS SHUTTING THE DOOR

Goaltender **Justin Peters** has started three straight games for the Hurricanes and is 2-0-2 in his last four starts. Peters has allowed two goals or fewer in each of his last four starts and has a 1.44 GAA in those games. Peters earned his first career NHL/Hurricanes shutout on Feb. 20 vs. Washington (17 saves).

THE CAPTAIN LEADS THE WAY

Carolina captain **Eric Staal** extended his point streak eight games (6g, 7a) with an assist on Saturday. Staal has 31 points (11g, 20a) in his last 24 games, and leads the Hurricanes in goals (18), assists (33) and points (51). The Thunder Bay, Ont. native has led the Canes in scoring in three of the last four seasons, including his 76 points (33g, 43a) in 2010-11.

AGAINST THE WEST

The Hurricanes match up against a Western Conference opponent for the 14th time this season on Tuesday against Nashville. Carolina is 5-4-4 against the West thus far this season, including a 1-1-1 mark against the Central Division. Carolina posted a 10-6-2 record against Western Conference foes in 2010-11.

BROADCAST NOTES

- FOX Sports Carolinas continues 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.
- 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.

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: 16-12-5

CAROLINA ON THE ROAD: 7-14-8

CAROLINA ON THE POWER PLAY: 37-of-226 (16.4%)

CAROLINA SHORTHANDED: 143-of-183 (78.1%)

INJURIES

Goaltender, **Brian Boucher**, injured reserve, lower body, missed 34 games

Defenseman, **Joni Pitkanen**, injured reserve, knee, missed 33 games

Forward, **Tuomo Ruutu**, day-to-day, upper body, missed 5 games

Forward, **Chad LaRose**, day-to-day, upper body, missed 5 games

Goaltender, **Cam Ward**, day-to-day, lower body, missed 3 games

2011-12 MAN GAMES LOST: 152

UPCOMING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	LOCATION	TIME
Feb. 28	Tuesday	RBC Center	10:30 a.m.
Feb. 29	Wednesday	Raleigh Center Ice	12:00 p.m.
March 1	Thursday	RBC Center	10:30 p.m.
March 2	Friday	Raleigh Center Ice	12:00 p.m.
March 3	Saturday	RBC Center	10:30 a.m.
March 4	Sunday	None	-

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

HURRICANES vs. PREDATORS SERIES NOTES

-- Carolina trails all-time 4-9-2-1 (16), including 3-1-2-1 (7) at home and 1-8-0 (9) on the road.

-- The teams meet twice in 2011-12: at CAR: Feb. 28; at NSH: Jan. 7 (5-2 loss).

-- Nashville won both meetings in 2010-11 and is 6-0-0 in the last five meetings between the teams. The Predators have earned points in each of the last eight meetings (7-0-1).

-- Carolina's lone win in Nashville came via a 2-1 score on Dec. 3, 2002.

-- CAR point-per-game players vs. NSH: Jerome Samson – one assist in one game.

-- Cam Ward is 0-4-1 with a 2.97 GAA in five career appearances against the Predators. Brian Boucher is 4-3-3 with a 3.08 GAA and one shutout in 11 games against Nashville. Justin Peters is 0-1-0 with a 5.00 GAA in one game against the Predators. Mike Murphy has not faced Nashville.

-- NSH point-per-game career players vs. CAR: Patric Hornqvist – six points (5g, 1a) in four games; Shea Weber – seven points (4g, 3a) in seven games; Martin Erat – nine points (2g, 7a) in nine games; Craig Smith – one goal in one game; Roman Josi – one assist in one game

-- Pekka Rinne is 3-0-0 with a 1.63 GAA in three career appearances against Carolina. Anders Lindback is 1-0-0, with a 2.00 GAA in one appearance.

-- No player on either team's active roster has played for both Carolina and Nashville.