



CAROLINA HURRICANES

BACK-TO-BACK GAMES

CAROLINA HURRICANES at TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING

Saturday, March 10, 7 p.m. ET

Tampa Bay Times Forum * Tampa, FL

Hurricanes: 25-27-15 (65 pts.)

Lightning: 31-29-7 (69 pts.)

CAROLINA HURRICANES at FLORIDA PANTHERS

Sunday, March 11, 5 p.m. ET

BankAtlantic Center * Sunrise, FL

Panthers: 31-23-12 (74 pts.)

** All statistics through NHL games of March 8 (Florida plays March 9 at Pittsburgh)*

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 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 Raleigh Center Ice on Friday following the team's practice. [Click here to listen](#).

BACK-TO-BACK GAMES

Carolina visits the Tampa Bay Lightning on Saturday at the Tampa Bay Times Forum for the sixth and final meeting between the teams this season (7 p.m., FOX Sports Carolinas, Hurricanes Radio Network). The Lightning won three of the five meetings this season (Carolina: 2-2-1), including a 4-3 overtime victory on March 3 in Raleigh. Tampa Bay also earned wins on Oct. 7 in Raleigh (5-1) and on Dec. 31 in Tampa (5-2). The Hurricanes won 4-2 on Nov. 1 in Raleigh, and 5-2 on Jan. 12 at the Tampa Bay Times Forum.

The Hurricanes visit the Florida Panthers on Sunday at the BankAtlantic Center for the fourth of six meetings between the clubs in 2011-12 (5 p.m., FOX Sports Carolinas, Hurricanes Radio Network). The Panthers have won the first three meetings between the clubs this season, including the lone meeting in Sunrise, 3-2, in overtime on Dec. 18. Florida also earned wins on Nov. 29 (3-1) and Feb. 25 (3-2 SO) in Raleigh.

HURRICANES STREAKS

Jeff Skinner has assists and points in two straight games (3/7-3/8: 0g, 2a)

Chad LaRose has goals and points in two straight games (3/7-3/8: 2g, 0a)

HURRICANES MILESTONES WITHIN REACH

Cam Ward is two wins shy of 200 NHL/Hurricanes wins

HURRICANES MILESTONES AND FIRSTS RECENTLY ACHIEVED

Jeff Skinner recorded his 100th career NHL/Hurricanes point, March 7 at Buffalo

Eric Staal set the franchise record for longest assist streak (11 games – 2/10-3/6: 6g, 14a), and the Carolina record (since relocation) for the longest point streak (12 games – 2/8-3/6: 7g, 14a), March 6 at WSH

Brandon Sutter recorded his 100th career NHL/Hurricanes point, March 7 at WSH

Derek Joslin played in his 100th career NHL game, March 7 at WSH

Cam Ward played in his 400th career NHL/Hurricanes game, March 3 vs. TB

CAROLINA NOTES

-- **Back-to-Back Games:** Carolina begins its 13th of 16 sets of back-to-back games in 2011-12 on Saturday at Tampa Bay. The Hurricanes are 11-9-4 thus far this season in back-to-back games, including an 8-3-1 mark in the front halves, and a 3-6-3 record in the back halves of those sets. The Hurricanes played 21 sets of back-to-back games in 2010-11, and went 21-15-6 in those contests.

-- **On the Road:** The Hurricanes continue their five-game road trip this weekend at Tampa Bay (Saturday) and at Florida (Sunday). Carolina has earned points in nine of its last 11 on the road (4-2-6), and is 8-14-9 away from home in 2011-12.

-- **Canes Work Overtime:** The Hurricanes' last three games, and five of their last seven, have gone to overtime (1-0-4). Carolina is 3-15 in games decided beyond regulation this season, and is tied for the fourth-most OT games in the NHL (17), through games of March 8.

-- **One-Goal Games:** Each of Carolina's last seven games, and 16 of its last 21 games, have been decided by one goal, including Wednesday's 3-2 OT loss at Buffalo. The Hurricanes are 5-3-8 in those 16 games and are 11-10-15 in one-goal games this season. The Canes have played the third-most one-goal games in the NHL in 2011-12 (36), through games of March 8.

- **Second Period Offense:** The Hurricanes have scored at least one goal in nine straight second periods (2/18-3/7). Fifteen of Carolina's last 27 goals (55.6%) have been scored in the second period.
- **Scoring First:** Carolina has scored first in eight of its last 11 road games, including Wednesday's 3-2 overtime loss at Buffalo. The Hurricanes are 3-0-5 in those eight games, and are 17-7-10 this season when netting the game's first goal.
- **Thunder Bay vs. Tampa Bay:** Through his seven-plus NHL seasons, Carolina captain **Eric Staal** has more goals (29) and points (60) against Tampa Bay than he does against any other team. The Thunder Bay, Ont., native has 16 points (4g, 12a) in the last 11 games against the Lightning.
- **Ward's Workload:** Goaltender **Cam Ward** faced 91 shots and made 85 saves in Carolina's back-to-back games at Washington (Tuesday) and at Buffalo (Wednesday). Ward ranks second in the NHL with 1,575 saves, through games of March 8.

CENTURY MARK FOR SKINNER

Winger **Jeff Skinner** recorded his 100th career NHL/Hurricanes point with an assist on Wednesday in Buffalo, and now has 48 goals and 52 assists in 133 career games. The 2011 Calder Trophy winner has assists in two straight games (0g, 2a), and points in five of his last six (1g, 5a). Skinner was the second Hurricanes player in as many games to record his 100th career point. Alternate captain **Brandon Sutter** notched his 100th career NHL/Hurricanes point on Tuesday in Washington.

STAAL'S RECORD-SETTING STREAKS END

Hurricanes captain **Eric Staal** had his 12-game point streak (2/8-3/6: 7g, 14a) and his 11-game assist streak (2/10-3/6: 6g, 14a) snapped on Wednesday in Buffalo. Staal's 12-game point streak set a record for the longest such streak in Carolina history (since relocation). Staal (1/16/10-2/5/10: 10g, 7a) and Cory Stillman (12/15/05-1/7/06: 7g, 12a) each held the previous record, having earned points in 11 straight games for the Hurricanes (since relocation). Staal's 11-game assist streak set a new franchise record, eclipsing Dave Keon's 32-year-old, 10-game assist streak (11/17/79-12/7/79: 1g, 12a).

FAULK LEADS NHL ROOKIE BLUELINERS

Hurricanes defenseman **Justin Faulk** ranks first among NHL rookie blueliners in average ice time (22:47), goals (8) and power play goals (5), and is second with 18 points (through games of March 8). The 19-year-old netted the game-winning goal in overtime on Tuesday at Washington, and has four goals and seven points in his last 13 games. Faulk is tied for the Hurricanes lead with five power play goals.

AGAINST THE SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Carolina is 6-8-4 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 152-102-48-4 in 306 games against the Florida Panthers, Tampa Bay Lightning, Washington Capitals and Winnipeg franchise.

BROADCAST NOTES

- FOX Sports Carolinas continues its coverage of the Hurricanes' 2011-12 season on Saturday when the team visits the Tampa Bay Lightning and on Sunday when the team visits the Florida Panthers. 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: 17-13-6

CAROLINA ON THE ROAD: 8-14-9

CAROLINA ON THE POWER PLAY: 40-of-244 (16.4%)

CAROLINA SHORTHANDED: 155-of-199 (77.9%)

INJURIES

Defenseman, **Joni Pitkanen**, injured reserve, knee, missed 38 games

Forward, **Tuomo Ruutu**, day-to-day, upper body, missed 10 games

Forward, **Drayson Bowman**, day-to-day, illness, missed 2 game

2011-12 MAN GAMES LOST: 171

UPCOMING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	LOCATION	TIME
March 10	Saturday	Tampa Bay Times Forum	11:30 a.m.
March 11	Sunday	None	-
March 12	Monday	Chelsea Piers (NY)	11:30 a.m.
March 13	Tuesday	Madison Square Garden	11:30 a.m.
March 14	Wednesday	RBC Center	12:00 p.m.

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

HURRICANES vs. LIGHTNING SERIES NOTES

- Carolina leads all-time 47-36-16-1 (100), including 29-12-9-1 (51) at home and 18-24-7 (49) along the Gulf Coast.

- The teams meet six times in 2011-12: at CAR, Oct. 7 (5-1 loss), Nov. 1 (4-2 win), March 3 (4-3 OTL); at TB, Dec. 31 (5-2 loss), Jan. 12 (5-2 win), March 10
- The Hurricanes registered a 2-3-1 record in six contests against Tampa Bay in 2010-11. Carolina posted 1-2-0 home record and a 1-1-1 away mark.
- Carolina is 16-8-3 against the Lightning in the teams' last 27 meetings.
- Four of the last five meetings at RBC Center have been decided by two goals or more. Tampa Bay has won three of those four meetings.
- Neither club has recorded a shutout against each other since Feb. 1, 2007 (4-0 TB win).
- CAR career point-per-game players vs. TB: Jeff Skinner – nine points (6g, 3a) in nine games; Eric Staal – 60 points (29g, 31a) in 52 games.
- Cam Ward is 18-13-3, with a 3.02 GAA in 35 career appearances against Tampa Bay. Brian Boucher is 7-6-1, with a 2.76 GAA in 15 career appearances against the Lightning.
- TB career point-per-game players vs. CAR: Martin St. Louis – 76 points (35g, 41a) in 67 career games; Teddy Purcell – 13 points (5g, 8a) in 13 games.
- Dwayne Roloson is 6-7-0 with a 2.78 GAA in 16 career games against Carolina. Mathieu Garon is 3-3-0, 3.30 GAA with one shutout in six games against the Hurricanes.
- Hurricanes forward Jussi Jokinen and Lightning defenseman Mike Commodore have each played for both Tampa Bay and Carolina.

HURRICANES vs. PANTHERS SERIES NOTES

- Carolina leads all-time 48-31-15-1 (95), including 31-11-5 (47) 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 (3-2 SO loss), 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 nine of the last 11 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 26-6-4 home record against Florida.
- CAR career point-per-game players vs. FLA: Jeff Skinner – nine points (4g, 5a) in eight 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 2-1-1 with a 2.23 GAA in four games against the Panthers. Mike Murphy has not faced Florida.
- Jose Theodore is 19-12-3 with a 2.63 GAA and four shutouts in 36 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.