



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## GAME PREVIEW

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### CAROLINA HURRICANES vs. VANCOUVER CANUCKS

Thursday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m. ET

RBC Center \* Raleigh, NC

**Hurricanes:** 9-18-5 (23 pts.)

**Canucks:** 18-10-2 (38 pts.)

*\* All statistics through NHL games of Dec. 13*

**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](http://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 Wednesday following the team's practice. Please note that this availability took place prior to the announcement of the diagnoses of Joni Pitkanen's and Jeff Skinner's concussions. **Muller:** <http://carhur.com/c9b>

#### TOMORROW'S GAME

Carolina hosts the Vancouver Canucks on Thursday at the RBC Center for the only meeting between the teams in 2011-12 (7 p.m. ET, FOX Sports Carolinas HD, Hurricanes Radio Network). The Canucks won the only meeting in 2010-11, 5-1, on Oct. 17, 2010 in Vancouver. The Hurricanes play four of their next five games at home.

#### HURRICANES STREAKS

**Eric Staal** has points in four straight games (2g, 4a)

#### HURRICANES MILESTONES AND FIRSTS RECENTLY ACHIEVED

**Jussi Jokinen** earned his 200th career NHL assist, Dec. 13 at TOR

**Justin Faulk** scored his first career NHL/Hurricanes goal, Dec. 9 at WPG

**Jaroslav Spacek** made his Hurricanes debut and recorded his first Hurricanes point (assist), Dec. 9 at WPG

**Kirk Muller** earned his first career NHL/Hurricanes coaching win, Dec. 7 at EDM

#### CAROLINA NOTES

-- **Home Cooking:** Beginning with Thursday's game against the Vancouver Canucks, the Hurricanes play five of their final eight December games at the RBC Center. Carolina is 5-9-2 at home this season.

-- **Against the West:** The Hurricanes are 2-2-1 against the Western Conference thus far this season, including a 1-1-0 mark against the Northwest Division. Carolina won its last meeting against a Western Conference opponent, 5-3, at Edmonton on Dec. 7. The Canes posted a 10-6-2 record against Western Conference foes in 2010-11.

-- **The Captain Heats Up:** Hurricanes' captain **Eric Staal** has 10 points (3g, 7a) over his last eight games and is currently on a four-game point streak (12/6-12/13: 2g, 4a). Staal ranks second on the Hurricanes in points (20) and assists (13). The Thunder Bay, Ont. native has led Carolina in scoring in three of the last four seasons.

-- **Power Play Production:** The Hurricanes have scored a power play goal in three straight games and are 4-for-12 (33.3%) on the man-advantage in that span. For the season, Carolina is 19-for-140 (13.6%) on the power play. The Canes are 7-4-3 when scoring a power play goal in 2011-12. Alexei Ponikarovsky leads the team with four power play goals.

-- **Shorthanded Leaders:** Carolina is tied for the NHL lead with six shorthanded goals this season (through games of Dec. 13). The Hurricanes scored seven shorthanded goals in 82 games in 2010-11. **Brandon Sutter** and **Patrick Dwyer** are tied for third in the NHL with two shorthanded goals each (through games of Dec. 13).

-- **Shot Blockers:** The Hurricanes rank third in the NHL with 485 blocked shots (15.2 per game), through games of Dec. 13. **Bryan Allen** is tied for ninth in the NHL with 68 blocked shots and **Jay Harrison** is tied for 31st with 55 blocked shots (through games of Dec. 13).

-- **Blueline Offense:** On Dec. 7 at Edmonton, **Jamie McBain** scored a power play goal with assists from **Tomas Kaberle** and **Justin Faulk**. The goal marked the first time in franchise history that the Whalers/Hurricanes had a scoring play involving three defensemen (from Elias Sports Bureau).

#### CAM WARD SAYS NO

Hurricanes goaltender **Cam Ward** ranks second in the NHL in saves (742) through games of Dec. 13. The 27-year-old led the NHL and set a franchise record with 2,191 saves in 2010-11 (previous team record held by Sean Burke with 1,844 in 1995-96). Ward is 5-3-3 this season when making 30-plus saves. He was 24-7-5 last season when making 30-plus saves.

## BACK IN BLACK

The Hurricanes will wear their black jerseys for the eighth time in the 2011-12 season on Dec. 15 against the Canucks. Carolina is 1-4-2 this season when wearing its third jersey. The Hurricanes unveiled their alternate uniform in 2008-09, and have gone 29-16-5 all-time when wearing the third jersey.

## 'CANES CORNER CONTINUES DEC. 20

The popular radio show 'Canes Corner will hold its fourth of 10 shows for the 2011-12 season on Dec. 20 at Backyard Bistro with special guest Kirk Muller. Goaltender Cam Ward, alternate captain Brandon Sutter and defenseman Jay Harrison have joined 99.9 FM The Fan's Mike Maniscalco as guests in the first three editions of the show. Backyard Bistro is located directly across Trinity Rd. from the RBC Center at 1235 Hurricane Alley Way in Raleigh.

## BROADCAST NOTES

-- FOX Sports Carolinas continues its coverage of the Hurricanes' 2011-12 season on Thursday when the team hosts the Vancouver Canucks. 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](http://CanesPR.com) to provide local, visiting and national media with a variety of convenient resources to cover team. Please visit [CanesPR.com](http://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:** 5-9-2

**CAROLINA ON THE ROAD:** 4-9-3

**CAROLINA ON THE POWER PLAY:** 19-of-140 (13.6%)

**CAROLINA SHORTHANDED:** 88-of-111 (79.3%)

## INJURIES

Defenseman, **Jay Harrison**, is day-to-day, upper body, missed 9 games

Goaltender, **Brian Boucher**, is on injured reserve, lower body, missed 4 games

Defenseman, **Joni Pitkanen**, out indefinitely, concussion, missed 3 games

Forward, **Jeff Skinner**, out indefinitely, concussion, missed 2 games

**2011-12 MAN GAMES LOST:** 37

## UPCOMING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	LOCATION	TIME
Dec. 15	Thursday	RBC Center	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 16	Friday	RBC Center	TBA
Dec. 17	Saturday	Raleigh Center Ice	11:45 a.m.
Dec. 18	Sunday	Bank Atlantic Center	TBA
Dec. 19	Monday	RBC Center	TBA
Dec. 20	Tuesday	RBC Center	TBA
Dec. 21	Wednesday	RBC Center	10:30 a.m.

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

## HURRICANES vs. CANUCKS SERIES NOTES

-- Carolina trails all-time 24-27-12-1 (64), including 14-12-5 (31) at home and 10-15-7-1 (33) in Vancouver.

-- The teams meet just once in 2011-12: at CAR: Dec. 15.

-- The Canucks won the only meeting of 2010-11: a 5-1 win in Vancouver on Oct. 17, 2010.

-- Three of the last four meetings between the teams have been decided by two goals or more.

-- CAR point-per-game players vs. VAN: Eric Staal – six points (2g, 4a) in six games.

-- Cam Ward is 1-2-1 with a 3.47 GAA in four career appearances against Vancouver. Brian Boucher is 2-8-1 with a 3.91 GAA in 12 games against the Canucks. Mike Murphy has not faced Vancouver.

-- VAN point-per-game players vs. CAR: Mason Raymond – three points (2g, 1a) in three games.

-- Roberto Luongo is 10-13-4 with a 2.58 GAA and one shutout in 27 career appearances against Carolina. Cory Schneider is 1-0-0, with a 1.00 GAA in one appearance against the Hurricanes.

-- Vancouver's Andrew Alberts and Carolina's Bryan Allen have each played for both teams.