



# CAROLINA HURRICANES

## GAME PREVIEW

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### CAROLINA HURRICANES at FLORIDA PANTHERS

Sunday, Dec. 18, 5 p.m. ET  
BankAtlantic Center \* Sunrise, FL

**Hurricanes:** 10-18-5 (25 pts.)

**Panthers:** 17-9-6 (40 pts.)

*\* All statistics through NHL games of Dec. 16*

**TV:** No Carolina broadcast (Florida's broadcast will be available via NHL Center Ice, including in the Carolina 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](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 Raleigh Center Ice on Saturday following the team's practice. **Muller:** <http://carhur.com/c93>

#### TOMORROW'S GAME

Carolina visits the Florida Panthers on Sunday at the BankAtlantic Center for the second of six meetings between the teams in 2011-12 (5 p.m. ET, Hurricanes Radio Network). The Panthers won the first meeting, 3-1, at the RBC Center on Nov. 29. After Sunday's game, the Canes play four of their next five games at home.

#### HURRICANES STREAKS

**Jussi Jokinen** has assists and points in two straight games (0g, 2a)

#### HURRICANES MILESTONES AND FIRSTS RECENTLY ACHIEVED

**Jaroslav Spacek** scored his first Hurricanes goal, Dec. 15 vs. VAN

**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

#### CAROLINA NOTES

-- **Against the Southeast Division:** Carolina is 1-6-1 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 147-100-45-4 in 296 games against the Florida Panthers, Tampa Bay Lightning, Washington Capitals and Winnipeg franchise.

-- **On the Road:** The Hurricanes have earned points in two of their last three road games (1-1-1) and are 4-9-3 away from home this season. The Canes have scored a power play goal in three straight and five of their last six road games, and have 12 road power play goals this season (16 road games). Carolina has scored four of its six shorthanded goals on the road in 2011-12.

-- **Bowman Nets a Pair:** Canes winger **Drayson Bowman** scored two goals, his first two of 2011-12, on Thursday against Vancouver. The 22-year-old has scored in just two of his 36 career NHL games, both have been two-goal games. Bowman also scored twice in Carolina's 8-5 win at Tampa Bay on April 6, 2010.

-- **Shorthanded Leaders:** Carolina ranks second in the NHL with six shorthanded goals this season (through games of Dec. 16). 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. 16).

-- **Shot Blockers:** The Hurricanes rank third in the NHL with 504 blocked shots (15.3 per game), through games of Dec. 16 **Bryan Allen** is tied for 14th in the NHL with 69 blocked shots, **Jay Harrison** is tied for 34th with 55 and **Tim Gleason** is tied for 41st with 53 blocked shots (through games of Dec. 16).

#### COME FROM BEHIND WIN

Carolina's 4-3 win against Vancouver on Thursday (12/15) marked the first time the Hurricanes had come back from a two-goal deficit to win this season. Prior to Thursday's win, the only time Carolina had rallied from two goals down to earn a point was on Oct. 25 in a 3-2 shootout loss to the Ottawa Senators (Carolina trailed 2-0 in the third period).

#### POWER PLAY PRODUCTION

The Hurricanes have scored a power play goal in four straight games and are 5-for-18 (27.8%) on the man-advantage in that span. For the season, Carolina is 20-for-146 (13.7%) on the power play. The Canes are 8-4-3 when scoring a power play goal in 2011-12. **Alexei Ponikarovsky** leads the team with four power play goals.

## THE CAPTAIN HEATS UP

After totaling 10 points (4g, 6a) over the first 24 games of 2011-12, **Eric Staal** has 10 points (3g, 7a) over the last nine games. Staal ranks second on the Hurricanes in points (20) and second in assists (13). The Thunder Bay, Ont. native has led Carolina in scoring in three of the last four seasons.

## CAM WARD SAYS NO

Hurricanes goaltender **Cam Ward** ranks second in the NHL in saves (775) through games of Dec. 16. 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 6-3-3 this season when making 30-plus saves. He was 24-7-5 last season when making 30-plus saves.

## '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

-- 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.  
-- FOX Sports Carolinas will resume its coverage of the Hurricanes' 2011-12 season on Friday (12/23) when the team hosts the Ottawa Senators. 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](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:** 6-9-2

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

**CAROLINA ON THE POWER PLAY:** 20-of-146 (13.7%)

**CAROLINA SHORTHANDED:** 89-of-112 (79.5%)

## INJURIES

Defenseman, **Jay Harrison**, is day-to-day, upper body, missed 10 games  
Goaltender, **Brian Boucher**, is on injured reserve, lower body, missed 5 games  
Defenseman, **Joni Pitkanen**, out indefinitely, concussion, missed 4 games  
Forward, **Jeff Skinner**, out indefinitely, concussion, missed 3 games  
**2011-12 MAN GAMES LOST:** 41

## UPCOMING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	LOCATION	TIME
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.
Dec. 22	Thursday	Raleigh Center Ice	TBA
Dec. 23	Friday	RBC Center	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 24	Saturday	None	-

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

## HURRICANES vs. PANTHERS SERIES NOTES

-- Carolina leads all-time 48-31-13-1 (93), including 31-11-4 (46) at home and 17-20-9-1 (47) in South Florida.  
-- The teams meet six times in 2011-12: at CAR: Nov. 29, Feb. 25, March 21; at FLA: Dec. 18, 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 seven of the last nine 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 26-5-3 home record against Florida.  
-- CAR career point-per-game players vs. FLA: Jeff Skinner – seven points (3g, 4a) in six games.  
-- Cam Ward is 12-8-1, with a 3.05 GAA in 24 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.  
-- Jose Theodore is 17-12-3 with a 2.68 GAA and four shutouts in 34 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.