



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

The News & Observer

Nearing the NHL quarter pole, what is the Hurricanes' greatest position of need?

By: Justin Pelletier

With the NHL season approaching the end of its first gradable quarter, it's fair for onlookers to start pulling out the No. 2 pencils to fill in the test ovals — and perhaps fill out a holiday wish list while they're at it.

A torrent of injured defenders has made it nearly impossible to truly tell what the Carolina Hurricanes are in 2025-26, while simultaneously cranking the wheel of the in-season trade target rumor mill.

After Saturday night's 4-3 overtime loss to the Edmonton Oilers at Lenovo Center — the second of back-to-back games at home before a four-game road swing — the team's needs remain much the same as they did in Week 1.

If the Hurricanes' early-season trials and tribulations have done nothing else, they've perhaps prematurely outed Carolina as an organization with a glut of young defensive depth. If the Canes were hoping to mask that depth as a bargaining position for future trade talks or contract negotiations, the team's three dozen man games lost to injury on the blue line alone — and the team's subsequent success — have eradicated that line of thinking.

Saturday, the Canes started a third consecutive game with the same six defenders, their second-longest stretch of consecutive games with the same grouping this season. Shayne Gostisbehere again found the scoresheet, earning his 11th assist of the season, and the group acquitted itself well overall.

Ditto up front, where Eric Robinson and William Carrier each missed significant time with simultaneous, unrelated injuries. No problem: In stepped Bradley Nadeau. Veteran Mark Jankowski came out of the press box, and a stable of young forwards — like Felix Unger Sorem — awaits in Chicago, hoping to follow similar paths to those of Charles Alexis Legault, Joel Nystrom and Dominic Fensore.

Jankowski was back in the lineup Saturday after an injury to Jesperi Kotkaniemi on Friday, and Nadeau was back in the building, in case Seth Jarvis was unable to go after his injury scare against Vancouver.

On the scoring front, Robinson found the net, Carrier added an assist on a Jordan Staal goal, and Nik Ehlers continued his strong rebound to a slower start to the season with his fourth goal.

None of the above had an answer for the Oilers' big guns. Connor McDavid had a pair of goals and an assist on the OT winner. Leon Draisaitl had that game-winner and two assists.

Hurricanes goalies, by the numbers

But what do we make of the Hurricanes' goaltending to date?

Here are the raw numbers:

Frederik Andersen, prior to Saturday's game, had started nine times. He had a 3.00 goals-against average and an .892 save percentage. Among 31 NHL goalies with nine or more starts, Andersen was 19th in GAA, and 24th in save percentage.

Brandon Bussi has been a breath of fresh air in the early going, a surprising waiver wire success with four wins in five starts, a 2.60 GAA and an .898 save percentage.

And Pyotr Kochetkov, injured to begin the season, has been solid since his return. In four appearances — three starts — Kochetkov is 3-0 with a 1.92 GAA and a .908 save percentage.

The numbers are fine, for sure. A cumulative 2.88 team GAA is ninth best in the 32-team NHL, which is in line with a team also sitting ninth best in shots allowed per game.

But ninth best of 32 looks a lot better than ninth best of 16, and 16 is the number that matters more — it's how many playoff teams there will be, and a middle-of-the-road GAA isn't typically part of a recipe for playoff success.

In the NHL playoffs, the game gets tighter. Games with final scores like 6-3, 7-4 or even 4-3 are replaced by multiple 2-1 and 3-2 games. The teams with better cumulative defense and, yes, goaltending, advance. Those who struggle in tight, low-scoring games do not.

Through 18 games this season, the Hurricanes are scoring 3.71 goals per game, third best in the NHL, and that number is propped up by the team's opening six-game stretch — all wins — during which it scored four or more goals in each contest.

In the Hurricanes' 12 wins this season, they've scored four or more goals 11 times. The Canes' record in games in which they score fewer than four goals? 1-6.

A win is a win is a win, until the numbers turn on you.

It also doesn't help when the Hurricanes create their own problems. Friday, two glaring defensive lapses created untenable situations for Kochetkov. Saturday, Andersen gift-wrapped the Oilers' first goal with a direct pass to Jack Roslovic. (Nothing Andersen could do on McDavid's power-play goal, though, nor his second of the night in the third period.)

What could the Canes do?

The luxuries the Hurricanes have in this situation, though, are twofold: They have money, and they have time.

No one worth a shred of credibility can say for certain before (American) Thanksgiving which players on which teams will



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

for certain be available in any trade or sign-and-trade scenario, nor which teams will play ball at all. Even those teams currently sitting at the bottom of the league can point to the worst-to-Cup 2019 St. Louis Blues as a harbinger of what's possible.

But given the Canes' solid start to the season — they are, after all, sitting among the top five in the NHL standings — there is no urgency to make sudden moves. (And if someone in the front office did have a hair trigger, Carolina would likely already have a new defenseman in the rotation.)

The other factor to consider — eventually — is whether any possible moves actually make the team better. Acquiring the "top goalie from a team that isn't doing well" works well in fantasy sports dynasty leagues, but not so much when term, cap space and player proclivity are factors.

Of those extraneous factors, though, cap space is the least of the Canes' concerns. They are currently sitting on about

\$10 million, give or take, with only about \$5 million currently tied up in the goaltending position among the three who have played games this season to date.

The Hurricanes did go back to the waiver wire and reacquire Cayden Primeau from the Maple Leafs, an ultimate boomerang move, and that addresses one kind of depth.

There is nothing in the empirical data to directly suggest that Andersen, Kochetkov, Bussi or Primeau can't become the playoff goalie the Hurricanes need this season — Andersen and Kochetkov last season posted the second-best GAA in the NHL playoffs, for what that's worth, and some guy named Cam Ward caught lightning in a bottle at the right time in 2006.

But there's also nothing lost by exploring all of the team's best options, given its positive fiscal situation and now-apparent strength and depth elsewhere in the lineup.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

The Athletic

NHL weekend rankings: These teams are who we thought they were (maybe)

By: Sean McIndoe

The biggest story through the season's first month or so was that nobody knew anything.

OK, sure, there were a few teams that stuck to the script. The Colorado Avalanche were good. The Nashville Predators were bad. But in between, it was chaos. Teams nobody thought would be all that good were dominating. Teams we thought would be terrible were competitive, or better. And so many presumed contenders were struggling that you could barely hear the goal horns over the sounds of all the windows slamming shut.

It seemed to set up a wild season where you could just throw out the preseason projections entirely. But then, over the last few weeks, something changed. Not entirely, and there are still plenty of surprises playing out. But doesn't it feel like the hockey gods are trying hard to slam the brakes on this runaway season?

Bonus five: "They are who we thought they were" stories playing out

5. The Canadiens aren't unbeatable – After looking like the East's best team through the first dozen games, Montreal has lost five of six, including three straight in regulation in which they've been outscored 15-3. Injuries are a big factor, and every team faces some adversity eventually. But any early thoughts of the Canadiens running away from the rest of the Atlantic Division have faded.

4. The feel-good Penguins are struggling – They did get the win yesterday to split that European mini-series with the Predators, but it was just their second victory in their last seven. They're still in a playoff spot, but by only two points after building a nice early cushion. Is it time to restart the Sidney Crosby trade rumors? Of course not. We'll give them one more week on that.

3. The Lightning and Stars are still good – Remember when the Tampa Bay Lightning were 1-4-2 and looked like they were cooked? Never mind. They've won eight of 11 since, including beating the Panthers on Saturday despite missing half the roster. Meanwhile, the Dallas Stars are rolling again, winning five straight including their last two by a combined score of 12-1. Spoiler: One of these two teams is in this week's top five.

2. The Mammoth aren't the powerhouse we thought – More on that down below.

1. The Ducks come back to the pack – There wasn't a better story over the first month than the young gun Ducks. They weren't just winning, they were playing maybe the most exciting hockey of anyone in the league. But now they've lost three straight in regulation, including a shutout in Minnesota on Saturday. They're at home for the next six, so they've got

a chance to get it going again. But for now, they're back to looking like a young team coming out of a rebuild.

So there you go. It's mid-November, and everything makes sense again. Now to take a big sip of water and check on the Pacific.

Four straight wins for Kings, who move into first place in the Pacific Division.

— Eric Stephens (@icemancometh) November 16, 2025

Ah. Well. Nevertheless.

On to this week's rankings, where the toughest task was finding five teams I feel really good about to fill out the top five. (Spoiler alert: I could not.)

Road to the Cup

The five teams with the best chances of winning the Stanley Cup.

I'm still not really sure what to make of the Edmonton Oilers, who haven't won a game in regulation since October. But I do know that as long as they've got these two guys, they'll be at least vaguely terrifying at all times.

5. Vegas Golden Knights (8-4-6, +5 true goals differential*) – I'll just say it: This is a pure placeholder pick. I don't know what's up with the Knights right now, with five losses in six. But I know I don't trust the Kings, Kraken or Ducks ahead of them in the Pacific, and I'm not putting the Oilers here. There are plenty of teams with better records that you could make the case for here, but when in doubt, we tend to move slowly on big changes around here. So the Knights keep their spot for another week, even if they're not scaring anyone these days. Inertia for the win!

4. New Jersey Devils (13-4-1, +7) – The Jack Hughes injury is a brutal piece of news, with the star expected to miss eight weeks after undergoing surgery on his finger. The circumstances surrounding the situation remain mysterious; we know it was a "non-hockey" injury that happened at a team dinner, but not much more. Peter has more on who they'll lean on in Hughes' absence.

3. Dallas Stars (12-4-3, +9) – Well well, look who's back. We haven't seen them in the top five since the season's opening week, but they've certainly earned a return appearance. Losing Thomas Harley will hurt, and the power play can't run at 33 percent forever ... we think. But for now, they look a lot like the all-star team most of us had them pegged as heading into the season.

2. Carolina Hurricanes (12-5-1, +13) – They're trailing the Devils in the standings, but I've got them ahead partly because they didn't just lose their best player for two months and partly because I don't want them to beat me up. That said, man, the Metro is getting crowded.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

1. Colorado Avalanche (13-1-5, +33) – The thing with a guy like Cale Makar is that you only get so many opportunities to see a generationally great blueliner at the absolute height of his powers, so it was probably pretty exciting for him to get a chance to see Matthew Schaefer up close last night.

*Goals differential without counting shootout decisions like the NHL does for some reason.

Not ranked: Utah Mammoth – Let's look back three weeks, which isn't a long time unless you're an NHL team, in which case it can be forever.

Three weeks ago today, the Mammoth had just gone into Winnipeg earned a regulation win over the Jets in a Central Division statement game. It was their seventh straight win, with the last four all coming against division rivals. The win brought their record to 8-2-0, and they were sitting alone on top of the Central. Their +13 goals differential was the best in the conference by a mile. And while we didn't know it at the time, they were just a few days away from locking their best young player into a max-length extension.

In other words, it was all good. They crested to fifth spot in the Other Rankings. Everyone was on board. And yes, that includes me — the Mammoth hadn't cracked the top five yet, but I listed them in the top spot of a "stories I'm starting to buy" list. The long-term view we preach around here meant I still had Colorado and Winnipeg ahead of them, but even I had to admit it was getting tough to hold that ground.

And then ...

Their next game was an early-season showdown with the Oilers, which they lost to snap the win streak. No big deal, we all figured. But another loss followed, this one to the Lightning, and in hindsight it was the start of a slide back to the pack. In the eight games since I said I was buying, the Mammoth are just 2-5-1. Worse, both of those wins came against the Sabres, and one of those wasn't even in regulation. They lost to the Leafs. Nobody loses to the Leafs.

Today, their record sits at 10-7-1, good for fifth in the Central and 10 points back of the Avalanche for top spot. The goals differential is down to +3, behind even the Chicago Blackhawks. Things can change quickly in this league.

Let's be clear – there are a lot worse places a team can be than sitting comfortably over .500 while just one win away from a playoff spot. If anything, this current snapshot might have felt just about right if you'd seen it before the season. They're good, but hardly great. But it's that tale-of-two-seasons context that makes it feel significantly worse.

Maybe it shouldn't. The Mammoth came into the season as basically a coin flip to make the playoffs, according to Dom's model. At the height of the win streak, their odds were just short of 75 percent. Now they're down to about 65 percent, which still represents a decent chunk of progress. And unless you really believe in the Blackhawks keeping this up all season long, the playoff path in the Central actually looks better now than it did at the start of the season, thanks to the Wild and Blues struggling.

That's not to say that everything is rainbows; they need better goaltending, the power play isn't clicking and their leading scorer sure seems like he could be headed to the UFA market in the summer. But it shouldn't feel like a crisis. This CJ column from two weeks ago laid out the path

forward, and while the win-loss numbers have changed, most of the positivity still rings true.

The trajectory is still pointing up in Utah, even if the ceiling might not look quite as high as it did a few weeks ago.

The bottom five

The five teams headed towards dead last and the best lottery odds for Gavin McKenna (we think).

It was an ugly weekend for injuries, especially on blocked shots. Charlie McAvoy took the worst of it:

Charlie McAvoy leaves the game after taking a puck to the face pic.twitter.com/QlsNdINyOd

— Sportsnet (@Sportsnet) November 16, 2025

Nick Foligno took one in the hand and will miss a month. And Drew Doughty looks like he'll miss a few weeks after being hit in the ankle against Ottawa.

5. Buffalo Sabres (6-8-4, -14) – It was good to see Rasmus Dahlin back with the team over the weekend. Even better, he helped them to a big comeback win over the Red Wings, snapping a five-game losing streak. They're home for the next four, so if there's any hope of climbing back into the mix before Thanksgiving, this would be it.

4. San Jose Sharks (8-8-3, -6) – We made a big production of the Blackhawks escaping the bottom five last week, which led to a few Sharks fans wanting to know why they didn't deserve the same. It's a fair point, although two straight regulation losses to drop them back to .500 puts a bit of a dent in the argument. They're getting there, though.

3. Nashville Predators (6-10-4, -22) – The good news: After splitting two in Sweden, they get some time off before getting back to action on Saturday. The bad news: They get the Avalanche and the Panthers, so building some momentum won't be easy.

2. St. Louis Blues (6-9-4, -20) – Yep, it's getting to be about that time.

1. Calgary Flames (5-12-3, -18) – The week saw Dustin Wolf's first shutout of the season, although it took only 17 saves to blank the Sharks. The Flames lost their other two, but we'll find the positives where we can. Meanwhile, we're apparently going to do the Rasmus Andersson trade rumor all year long.

Not ranked: Washington Capitals – Are we getting worried? Saturday's shootout loss to the Devils was their fourth loss in five, and their eighth in the last ten. That's dropped them all the way down to fake .500 and 14th in the East.

And in maybe the weirdest story of their season so far, that's all happening despite Logan Thompson leading the league in both save percentage and goals-against average. Normally when a good team is struggling, you can just point at the goalie and say he needs to heat up. But in Washington, it may be the only part of their game that's really working right now. And it's not enough.

The offense just isn't holding up its end of the bargain. Alexander Ovechkin scored on Saturday, which is news because he's got only five on the year. (Sorry Caps fans, it doesn't look like the Halloween reverse jinx is going to work this time.) Connor McMichael has just six points after



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

pushing 60 last year. The power play is struggling. And obviously, the Pierre-Luc Dubois injury is a problem.

All that said, the season is hardly going down the drain. In fact, Dom's model still has them ranked in the top ten, and as favorites to make the playoffs. Part of that has to do with their five-on-five numbers, which remain solid. That's even true during this ten-game slump, as RMNB gets into here. Moral victories only get you so far, but at four points out of a playoff spot with games in hand, they haven't dug a hole they can't climb out of.

It's still a hole, though, and there's work to be done. They're at home for six of the next seven, although that stretch starts tonight against the suddenly rolling Kings, and also includes tough matchups like the Oilers, Lightning and Jets. It's not a make-or-break few weeks quite yet ... unless it goes badly. Which it might, if they can't get the offense going.

2026 Olympic hockey roster watch: One NHL player from every team making a case

By: Scott Powers, James Mirtle, Aaron Portzline, Max Bultman, Arpon Basu, Michael Russo, Jonas Siegel, Jeremy Rutherford, Kevin Kurz, Josh Yohe, Murat Ates, Shayna Goldman, Fluto Shinzawa, Eric Stephens, Matthew Fairburn, Daniel Nugent-Bowman, Mark Lazerus, Jesse Granger, Harman Dayal, Sean Gentile, Peter Baugh, Joe Rexrode, Thomas Drance, Julian McKenzie, Cory Lavalette, Vincent Z. Mercogliano

There are only 88 days until the puck drops for men's hockey at the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympics, and the clock is ticking for teams to finalize their rosters ahead of the Dec. 31 deadline.

With some NHLers already officially on teams, and other roster spots seemingly starting to be finalized behind the scenes, which players are making their cases to crack an Olympic roster with their early performances this season?

The Athletic asked its NHL staff for one from each team. Here's what they said.

Anaheim Ducks

Leo Carlsson, Team Sweden

Carlsson wasn't on Sweden's initial list of six, but now the bigger question is whether he'll be the No. 1 center for Tre Kronor. The 20-year-old just had his 11-game point streak end, but he's gone without a point only three times in his first 17 games and was tied for third in the NHL in scoring as of Friday. He's becoming a star, and the best-on-best Olympics will be a massive stage. Cutter Gauthier could be playing into Team USA consideration after his blazing start. — Eric Stephens

Boston Bruins

Morgan Geekie, Team Canada

Geekie has not been on Canada's radar. There are so many Canadian forwards deserving of spots. But since Jan. 1, Geekie has scored 36 goals. Only David Pastrnak (40) has more among NHL forwards. The native of Strathclair, Manitoba, is a late bloomer. But if Canada wants goal scorers, no Canadian has more than Geekie in 2025. — Fluto Shinzawa

Buffalo Sabres

Tage Thompson, Team USA

Rasmus Dahlin has already been named to Team Sweden. Of the rest of the Sabres, Thompson probably has the best shot at making a team. He played for Team USA at the World Championship and scored the game-winning goal in the gold medal game. He has 14 points in 17 games to start the season, but he's struggled defensively and hasn't been consistent. He's not a lock for Team USA, but he still has a shot to make a push for a spot. — Matthew Fairburn

Calgary Flames

Nazem Kadri, Team Canada

Kadri would need an incredible season to move the needle for Team Canada. But he's a veteran presence who leads his team in scoring, and he just had his best season goals-wise at the age of 34 last year. If nothing else, it'd be a fun story for the Stanley Cup champion who recently played his 1,000th game and called his shot to make the Canadian Olympic team in August. — Julian McKenzie

Carolina Hurricanes

Seth Jarvis, Team Canada

Jarvis was the surprise pick by Canada for last year's 4 Nations Face-Off, but that doesn't make him a lock for Milan-Cortina. With young players such as Macklin Celebrini and Connor Bedard making a push for the team, Jarvis will still need to prove he should be wearing the Maple Leaf in February. He's doing that so far, scoring at over a 50-goal pace and contributing as an all-situations mainstay for a Stanley Cup contender. — Cory Lavalette

Chicago Blackhawks

Connor Bedard, Team Canada

It was pretty clear Bedard needed a hot start if he had any chance of making Team Canada's Olympic team. He has certainly done that. He's scoring more goals. He's creating more for his linemates. He's playing better defense. He's even winning more faceoffs. Aside from putting together a larger sample, there isn't much more he can do to state his case. — Scott Powers

Colorado Avalanche

Mackenzie Blackwood, Team Canada

I'm not sure Blackwood perfectly fits the category of "making a case" to crack an Olympic roster, because he missed the



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

first month of the season after undergoing offseason surgery. But with Jordan Binnington, Adin Hill and Sam Montembeault all off to poor starts, he could easily force his way onto Team Canada's roster. Gabriel Landeskog was also an option here, as he could end up playing for Sweden, but he hasn't exactly "made a case" either, with only 6 points in 18 games. — Jesse Granger

Columbus Blue Jackets

Zach Werenski, Team USA

Werenski was a monumental player for Team USA at the 4 Nations, further cementing his status as one of the red, white and blue's pre-eminent international players. Along with Charlie McAvoy and the Hughes brothers, Werenski gives the Americans an incredibly talented blue line. His bona fides as a player who wants to play for his country are well established: Beyond 4 Nations, Werenski has played in three World Championships, two World Juniors and one World U17 Hockey Challenge. — Aaron Portzline

If the Americans are willing to move on from older vets such as Vincent Trocheck and Brock Nelson, Jason Robertson has a strong case as one of the more consistent producers in the league. Stacy Revere / Getty Images

Dallas Stars

Jason Robertson, Team USA

There are plenty of locks on the Dallas roster, including Thomas Harley after his 4 Nations fill-in performance in February. But Robertson has a compelling case. If the Americans are willing to move on from older vets such as Vincent Trocheck and Brock Nelson, Robertson has a strong case as one of the more consistent producers in the league, with 109, 80 and 80 points over the last three seasons. He has size, durability (hasn't missed a game in more than three seasons) and big-game experience. — Mark Lazerus

Detroit Red Wings

Dylan Larkin, Team USA

Frankly, Larkin's spot on Team USA was already all but assured after his outstanding performance at the 4 Nations, but his start to this season can only have cemented it. He's been one of the top scorers in the league, with 10 goals and 21 points through 17 games, and has done it while taking on tough matchups. The latter is more important to the way he'll be used on Team USA, and his shutdown effort against Connor McDavid earlier this season showed why. — Max Bultman

Edmonton Oilers

David Tomasek, Team Czechia

Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl have already been named to their countries' teams. Struggles from Evan Bouchard and Mattias Ekholm leave them with an uphill climb to crack crowded Canadian and Swedish blue lines. Stuart Skinner, Zach Hyman and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins are long shots to make Canada's roster for various reasons. That really leaves only Tomasek, a 29-year-old NHL rookie. Tomasek was a member of Czechia's World Championship win on home ice in 2024. — Daniel Nugent-Bowman

Florida Panthers

Brad Marchand, Team Canada

If there was ever any doubt about putting the 37-year-old back on Team Canada, Marchand has shattered that with his phenomenal start. With another 2 points Thursday, he has 20 in 16 games, putting him into a tie for 20th in NHL scoring with Sidney Crosby and Leon Draisaitl. Only three Canadians have scored more goals than Marchand's 11 so far this season, and his star turn during last year's Stanley Cup run was nearly Conn Smythe worthy. He's on the team. — James Mirtle

Los Angeles Kings

Drew Doughty, Team Canada

With Adrian Kempe (Sweden) and Kevin Fiala (Switzerland) already named to those initial rosters, the focus turns to Doughty and playing in his third Olympics at age 35. He's healthy after battling back from last season's ankle fracture and looking to make the team in a defense-focused shutdown role. Doughty isn't the only one, as Darcy Kuemper's consistent play this season has put him into Canada's goaltending mix. — Eric Stephens

Minnesota Wild

Matt Boldy, Team USA

When Boldy made the 4 Nations roster, many accused Wild GM Bill Guerin, who doubles as Team USA's GM, of nepotism. But the 24-year-old star-in-the-making had a solid tournament and is following it up with a strong start to this campaign, with nine goals and 18 points in 18 games. On a U.S. roster pool filled with quality wingers and stiff competition, Boldy is making the case as a no-brainer selection. — Michael Russo

Montreal Canadiens

Nick Suzuki, Team Canada

Team Canada general manager Doug Armstrong was at the Bell Centre twice in a span of a week. He surely had others to look at, but Suzuki was high on his watch list. Before games Thursday, Suzuki had 57 points in 43 games since the return from last season's 4 Nations, a tournament he was not selected for. That was third in the NHL, 3 points ahead of Connor McDavid. He can play center and wing, on the power play and the penalty kill. He has made it impossible for Armstrong not to take him. — Arpon Basu

Nashville Predators

Filip Forsberg, Team Sweden

This should be a formality, right? But unlike with teammates Roman Josi and Juuse Saros — Switzerland and Finland — Forsberg has not been officially named to the team. He continues to play at a high level at age 31, despite the Preds' offensive struggles overall, and should be a lock. Steven Stamkos (Canada) and Erik Haula (Finland) are hopefuls with less strong cases. — Joe Rexrode

New Jersey Devils

Luke Hughes, Team USA

The Devils already have five players named to their countries' preliminary rosters — Ondřej Palát (Czechia), Šimon Nemeč (Slovakia) and Nico Hischier, Timo Meier and



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

Jonas Siegenthaler (Switzerland) — and Jack Hughes (USA) and Jesper Bratt (Sweden) are all but locks. That leaves Luke Hughes and Brett Pesce as the only other Devils with outside shots. Luke Hughes hasn't been amazing to start the year, but he's still playing a career-high 22:56 and has 9 points in 17 games. — Peter Baugh

Matthew Schaefer is thriving while playing big minutes on Long Island. James Guillory / Imagn Images

New York Islanders

Matthew Schaefer, Team Canada

Having strong leaders and veterans tends to be prioritized in an international setting. But how about some game-changing skill? Schaefer is thriving while playing big minutes on Long Island, and that should be enough to earn some Olympic consideration. Maybe he isn't ready to play every game — but it would help to have him as an option as a No. 6 or 7. That opportunity would likely be a learning experience to help him prepare for becoming a Team Canada mainstay one day. — Shayna Goldman

New York Rangers

Adam Fox, Team USA

Fox took a lot of heat after an underwhelming performance at the 4 Nations, but it's hard to argue he hasn't been one of the league's six-best U.S.-born defensemen to begin this season. He ranks second on the Rangers and fourth among all NHL D with 15 points (three goals and 12 assists) and has been stout in a shutdown role with new partner Vladislav Gavrikov. His 3.0 defensive rating sits eighth overall, according to Hockey Stat Cards, highlighting his high-level impact in all facets. — Vincent Z. Mercogliano

Ottawa Senators

Jake Sanderson, Team USA

Sanderson's coming-out party occurred during the 4 Nations Face-Off, helping the United States reach the championship game against Canada before scoring in the final. His two-way play, size, skating ability and familiarity with Team USA's brass make his case the strongest of anyone on the Sens whose spot hasn't been cemented. Shane Pinto is an honorable mention after a strong start and helping the U.S. win the World Championship this summer. — Julian McKenzie

Philadelphia Flyers

Trevor Zegras, Team USA

Zegras might be reaching new career heights with the Flyers, contributing 19 points (6 goals, 13 assists) in 17 games. He's easily been the Flyers' most consistent offensive player, both at five-on-five and on the power play. Something that could help his Olympic consideration is his prowess in the shootout, where he's 16 for 24 in his career: the best mark of all time for anyone with more than 20 attempts. — Kevin Kurz

Pittsburgh Penguins

Bryan Rust, Team USA

I was surprised Mike Sullivan didn't name Rust to the 4 Nations roster. After all, Rust is an accomplished big-game

player, a strong penalty killer and knows how to play with talented linemates, as evidenced by Sidney Crosby's preference for having him on his line. Rust isn't one of the 12 most talented American forwards, but he could make Team USA better. I suspected at the time Sullivan didn't want to be viewed as taking one of his favorites. Maybe he will reconsider now that he's coaching the Rangers. — Josh Yohe

San Jose Sharks

Macklin Celebrini, Team Canada

Would it really make sense for Team Canada to keep one of the top scorers in the NHL off its roster? Who cares whether Celebrini is only a few months removed from his 19th birthday? The second-year center is a full-fledged star and already the leader of the resurgent Sharks after being a Calder Trophy finalist as a rookie. The conversation should be about where he fits in Canada's lineup. — Eric Stephens

Seattle Kraken

Brandon Montour, Team Canada

Montour is Seattle's most valuable skater. The aggressive right-handed defender has helped the Kraken drive play, win his minutes and has racked up an impressive 9 points across 13 games played. Bolstering Montour's case further, he's a Cup winner with the Florida Panthers and is pretty clearly among the contenders for the second-most dynamic Canadian-born right-shot defenseman (along with Noah Dobson). Montour's form warrants strong consideration from Team Canada's brass. — Thomas Drance

St. Louis Blues

Philip Broberg, Team Sweden

The Blues have several players who could be on Olympic rosters: Jordan Binnington, Colton Parayko and Robert Thomas (Canada); Alexandre Texier (France); Dalibor Dvorsky (Slovakia); Pius Suter (Switzerland); and Broberg (Sweden). While it's been a difficult start to the season for a few of them, Broberg is making a strong case, becoming a quality shutdown defenseman. The Blues' GAA was 3.76 heading into Friday's game, and Broberg was the lone blueliner who had been on the ice for more five-on-five goals for than against. — Jeremy Rutherford

Tampa Bay Lightning

Brandon Hagel, Team Canada

Of the Lightning's core players, Hagel isn't a lock for Team Canada's roster, but he should be thanks to his all-around game and versatility. Hagel's a pain to play against, can help shut down opponents' best and contribute a lot of even-strength offense. That makes him a perfect fit for Canada's bottom six; he boosts the team's two-way game without costing it any offensive ability. — Shayna Goldman

Toronto Maple Leafs

Matthew Knies, Team USA

Knies' game is reaching new heights early in his third NHL season. He's dropping more than a point per game so far, thanks in large part to a boost in playmaking. He ranks among the top Americans in scoring league-wide. His time on ice for the Leafs has ticked up to over 20 minutes a night



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

and includes roles on both special-teams units as well as the top line (once again). Knies plays hard and with force. He's everything Team USA should want in Italy. — Jonas Siegel

Utah Mammoth

JJ Peterka, Team Germany

Logan Cooley and Clayton Keller are contenders for Team USA, but Peterka is a lock for Team Germany. Peterka has scored 13 points in 18 games and is coming off a 68-point season in 2024-25. Peterka, Leon Draisaitl and Tim Stütze will be Germany's three most important players. — Harman Dayal

Vancouver Canucks

Conor Garland, Team USA

Garland has been Vancouver's leading scorer, best play driver, best penalty killer and best all-around forward this season. The undersized, hardworking winger might be a dark horse to be invited to Milan, but Garland looks like a perfect depth fit as a play-driving, penalty-killing fourth-line player for an American team that ended up having only eight forwards it really trusted against Canada in the 4 Nations final. — Thomas Drance

Vegas Golden Knights

Akira Schmid, Team Switzerland

This was a tough one for the Golden Knights, as they have plenty of players who will be playing in the Olympics, but they've all been locks for their countries for quite some time. Schmid is likely a lock for Switzerland as well, but he's gotten a lot more playing time than expected because of Adin Hill's injury. He has filled in nicely for Vegas, helping the team earn points in eight of his nine appearances, making a solid case to be Switzerland's starter. — Jesse Granger

Washington Capitals

Tom Wilson, Team Canada

The legitimacy of Wilson's candidacy has been examined, re-examined and re-re-examined, but it's easy to understand; he's a physical force with more than enough skill, speed and intangibles to help it all hang together. We're talking about a multidimensional player and a sensible pick. — Sean Gentile

Winnipeg Jets

Mark Scheifele, Team Canada

Gabriel Vilardi and Cole Perfetti were on Team Canada's long list. Josh Morrissey is a lock. That leaves Scheifele, whose 18-point October catapulted him into legitimate Canadian candidacy after making it as far as a standby at the 4-Nations Face-Off. Scheifele has cooled off lately, playing his least effective hockey to start Winnipeg's most recent trip, but he has all of the offensive bona fides — and that includes a point-per-game playoff track record against top competition. — Murat Ates



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025



Preview: November 17 at Boston

By: Walt Ruff & Peter Dewar

BOSTON - The Carolina Hurricanes kick off a four-game road swing with a visit to the Boston Bruins on Monday.

When: Monday, Nov. 15

Puck Drop: 7:00 p.m. ET

Watch: FanDuel Sports Network South, FanDuel Sports Network App | [Learn More](#)

Listen: 99.9 The Fan, Hurricanes App

Canes Record: 12-5-1 (24 Points, 2nd - Metropolitan Division)

Canes Last Game: 4-3 OT Loss to the Edmonton Oilers on Saturday, Nov. 15

Bruins Record: 12-8-0 (24 Points, 1st - Atlantic Division)

Bruins Last Game: 3-2 Win over the Montreal Canadiens on Saturday, Nov. 15

Last Time Out...

The Canes erased multiple deficits in regulation, but couldn't complete the comeback in overtime as they fell 4-3 to the Edmonton Oilers on Saturday.

Eric Robinson scored in his 400th career game, while Jackson Blake (3gms), Nikolaj Ehlers (7gms), and Shayne Gostisbehere (3gms) each extended their point streaks.

Ghost's Goin' Strong...

Despite playing in just nine of Carolina's 18 games thus far, Shayne Gostisbehere paces the Canes' blue line in points (12) and co-leads the team in assists (11).

Entering tonight's tilt with points in three straight games since returning from injury on Nov. 11, Gostisbehere has logged five helpers amid the team's eight total goals scored in that span.

Across the league, Gostisbehere's 1.33 P/GP average leads all defensemen, despite being the only blueliner scoring at a point-per-game pace while skating fewer than 20 minutes per night.

In Net...

Prior to Saturday's overtime loss, the Canes had evenly distributed the workload in their three-man goalie rotation between Frederik Andersen, Brandon Bussi, and Pyotr Kochetkov since all three became healthy and available. Saturday would have been Bussi's turn, but instead the team elected to go with Andersen again, who had just started Tuesday against Washington.

With that in mind, the team will likely either go with Bussi or Kochetkov tonight.

Bussi's last appearance saw him backstop a 5-4 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs eight days ago. The 27-year-old stopped 16 of 20 shots to earn his fourth win in five career starts. Kochetkov won on Saturday night in Raleigh, improving to 3-0 with an overtime victory over the Vancouver Canucks.

On The Other Side...

Winners of eight of its last nine, Boston has skyrocketed to the top of the Atlantic Division standings.

Including a win over Carolina when the two teams met on Nov. 1 at TD Garden, David Pastrnak has continued to pave the way for the group, registering 13 points in those nine games and leading the team with 26 points in 20 contests this season.

In net, Jeremy Swayman has been stellar as of late, looking like a true ace amid a five-game winning streak.

Injury Updates...

Forward Jesperi Kotkaniemi left the game on Nov. 14 with a lower-body concern. Rod Brind'Amour said on Nov. 15 that the injury is not considered long-term.

Defenseman Charles Alexis Legault suffered a cut to his hand via a skate blade on Nov. 9 and underwent surgery to repair lacerated tendons on Nov. 10. He is expected to miss three to four months.

Defenseman Jalen Chatfield entered concussion protocol on Nov. 6 and was placed on injured reserve on Nov. 8.

Defenseman Jaccob Slavin (lower-body injury) will be "out for a while," as of Oct. 14. He was placed on IR on Oct. 21 and, as of Oct. 27, was "still a ways away" from returning.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

Recap: Canes Earn Point In OT Loss To Oilers

By: Walt Ruff & Peter Dewar

RALEIGH, N.C. - After coming back for an overtime victory 24 hours earlier, the Carolina Hurricanes couldn't replicate that magic on Saturday as they fell 4-3 to the Edmonton Oilers in the bonus period.

After "giving two goals" to the Oilers in the first 6:30 of action, the Hurricanes were able to climb back into the contest through Eric Robinson's fifth of the year at 15:39. The man playing his 400th career game finished off a lovely cross-ice passing play between Taylor Hall and Shayne Gostisbehere to get his club on the board.

It took fewer than two minutes of second-period play for Carolina to then completely erase the two-goal deficit, with Nikolaj Ehlers hammering a Jackson Blake feed into a yawning cage after goaltender Stuart Skinner had chased the play beyond the blue paint.

Connor McDavid's second of the night, a go-ahead goal at 5:46 of the third, spelled a bit of trouble for the Hurricanes. But Jordan Staal had an answer 59 seconds later, depositing the loose change after William Carrier drove to the net to knot things up once more and force a fourth frame.

Unfortunately for Carolina, McDavid and Leon Draisaitl needed just 19 seconds in overtime to combine for the game-winner, picking up their third point apiece and sending the Oilers home with the extra point.

Frederik Andersen's 10th start of the campaign featured 19 saves on 22 shots as he moved to 5-4-1 on the year.

Stats & Standouts

Forward Nikolaj Ehlers scored to extend his point streak to seven games (4G, 4A). Only three other Hurricanes in the last 15 years have recorded a point streak of at least seven games in their first season with the team: Brent Burns, Jake Guentzel and Seth Jarvis.

Forward Jackson Blake recorded an assist to stretch his point streak to three games. Blake has now notched three separate streaks of at least three games, and his 12 games

with a point are tied with Seth Jarvis for the second-most among Hurricanes this season.

Defenseman Shayne Gostisbehere registered an assist for the third straight game, notching five total helpers in that span. His 12th point in nine games, Gostisbehere's 1.33 P/GP average is tied with Cale Makar for the highest among NHL defensemen.

Forward Taylor Hall found the scoresheet for the second straight game and fourth time in his last five outings.

Forward Eric Robinson skated in his 400th NHL game on Saturday, marking the occasion with his fifth goal of the season.

They Said It...

Rod Brind'Amour after the loss...

"Terrible start... You just can't give them (two goals). It's the National Hockey League. You just can't give away goals. I think we gave two. Not a great penalty, and then Freddie would like to have (the second one) back. That was a mishandle. I give our guys a ton of credit for coming back. We had a great second period. (We) didn't get enough out of it, but then we came right back and tied it up. Considering what we're dealing with and the team we were playing there with the talent (they have), I give our guys a lot of credit."

Eric Robinson singing a similar tune...

"I think we played a great game. We battled back once, battled back again, and we played hard. It's just tough to come back like that. I felt like we weren't ready from the start."

Jordan Staal expressing his thoughts...

"They came out quick and we weren't ready. You could tell. We were kind of just on our heels a bit, and then we started getting into our game. This league is tough when you give a team two goals and try to get back into it. I thought we did a good job of getting back into it, making a game, and getting a point, but that start wasn't our best, and in the end, that probably cost us the game."

Projected Lineup: November 15 vs. Edmonton

Walt Ruff & Peter Dewar

2-3 minutes

RALEIGH, N.C. - Forward Seth Jarvis will be a game-time decision when the Carolina Hurricanes host the Edmonton Oilers on Saturday night.

The 23-year-old departed in the first period of last night's win over Vancouver with an eye injury and did not return. Rod Brind'Amour sounded optimistic about Jarvis' status moving forward, but his role in tonight's tilt will be determined following warmups.

Should Jarvis be unable to participate, Bradly Nadeau would be in line to draw in after being recalled earlier today. Nadeau scored his first NHL goal on Oct. 30 and has logged six games with Carolina this season.

Fellow forward Jesperi Kotkaniemi also left last night's game, albeit with an ankle concern, and will not play tonight. Mark Jankowski will slot into his spot between Taylor Hall and Eric Robinson. Brind'Amour said pre-game that he doesn't expect Kotkaniemi to be out of the lineup for too long.

Elsewhere among the forwards, Nikolaj Ehlers will put his six-game point streak on the line. After a quiet start to the



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

season, the summer signing has come alive in a major way, recording at least one point in 10 of the team's last 12 games. He's been a contributor at five-on-five alongside Logan Stankoven and Jackson Blake, as well as on the team's first power-play unit.

Forwards

Svechnikov - Aho - Jarvis/Nadeau

Ehlers - Stankoven - Blake

Carrier - Staal - Martinook

Hall - Jankowski - Robinson

Defense

Gostisbehere - Walker

Miller - Nystrom

Nikishin - Reilly

Starting Goaltender

Andersen

Injuries

Behind the cast of skaters, Frederik Andersen will seek his sixth win of the campaign as he makes his second start this week. The 36-year-old turned aside 24 of 27 shots in a loss to Washington on Tuesday.

Tonight's Projected Lineup...

Jalen Chatfield (Upper-Body Injury | No Timetable For Return)

Jesper Kotkaniemi (Lower-Body Injury | No Timetable For Return)

Charles Alexis Legault (Hand Injury | Out 3-4 Months From Nov. 11)

Jacob Slavin (Lower-Body Injury | "Out For A While" as of Oct. 14)

Scratches

Pyotr Kochetkov

PP1: Aho, Ehlers, Jarvis, and Svechnikov with Gostisbehere

PP2: Blake, Hall, and Stankoven with Miller and Walker



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Leon Draisaitl scores in OT to give Oilers 4-3 win against Hurricanes | AP News

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Leon Draisaitl scored 19 seconds into overtime to give the Edmonton Oilers a 4-3 win against the Carolina Hurricanes on Saturday night.

Connor McDavid scored twice, Jack Roslovic added a goal and Draisaitl had two assists for the Oilers. Stuart Skinner stopped 33 shots in Edmonton's third win in four games.

Eric Robinson, Nikolaj Ehlers and Jordan Staal scored for the Hurricanes, who lost for only the second time in seven games. Frederik Andersen made 19 saves.

Draisaitl scored on Edmonton's first rush of the extra period. It was the Hurricanes' first loss in five OT games this season.

Staal tied the score 3-3 at 6:45 of the third period, just 59 seconds after McDavid's second goal gave Edmonton a 3-2 lead. Staal was able to beat Skinner after Edmonton couldn't control the puck after knocking it loose from William Carrier's stick in front of the goal.

McDavid scored the go-ahead goal at 5:46 on a pass from Draisaitl that went through Carolina forward Jordan Martinook's legs. McDavid has an eight-game points streak.

After a slow start in his first season with Carolina, Ehlers has started to heat up. His goal at 1:41 of the second period tied the score 2-2. Ehlers, who left Winnipeg to sign a six-year, \$51 million free-agent deal in the offseason, didn't score a goal in the first 11 games. He has four in the past seven games and eight points (four goals, four assists) in eight games this month.

Roslovic, who scored 22 goals for the Hurricanes last season, gave the Oilers a 1-0 lead at 3:47 of the first period after Andersen misplayed the puck.

McDavid made Andrei Svechnikov pay for a cross-checking penalty with a power-play goal at 6:30 for a 2-0 lead.

The Hurricanes made it 2-1 on Robinson's goal at 15:39 after a beautiful feed from Shayne Gostisbehere, who has 11 assists in nine games this season.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025



Canucks' Filip Hronek pulled by concussion spotter vs. Hurricanes

By: Sportsnet Staff

Hronek was pulled by the concussion spotter after taking an elbow to the head from Hurricanes forward Andrei Svechnikov in the Canucks' zone.

There was no penalty called on the play.

The 28-year-old Czech D-man logged 24:26 of ice time in the game, which ended as a 4-3 Vancouver loss in overtime.

Hronek delivered three hits and blocked four shots in the contest.

Entering Friday's game, Hronek was averaging 24:34 of ice time on the Canucks' blueline, dishing out nine assists and registering an even rating.

Vancouver is back in action on Sunday against the Tampa Bay Lightning. The Canucks will hope that Hronek and fellow defenceman and captain Quinn Hughes are able to return to the ice as they look to snap a three-game losing streak.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025



SB NATION
CANES COUNTRY

Preview and Game Thread: Hurricanes at Bruins

By: Kyle Morton

The Carolina Hurricanes are back in action for a somewhat-rare Monday night showdown on the road against the Boston Bruins.

It's a rematch of a game that took place just over two weeks ago at the TD Garden that the Canes dropped 2-1 after falling behind by a pair and getting just the one tally on a bomb from Alexander Nikishin.

The Hurricanes come in after having their winning streak snapped in a 4-3 overtime loss to the Edmonton Oilers on Saturday. Fortunately, there will be no Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl to contend with tonight, but the Canes will still have their work cut out for them against David Pastrnak and a surprisingly strong Bruins squad.

Boston's prior win over Carolina was part of a seven-game winning streak the Bruins had snapped by Ottawa last week, but they bounced back with a win and now sit in first place in the Atlantic Division with a record of 12-8-0.

Former Hurricane Morgan Geekie paces Boston with 12 goals on the season, while Pastrnak leads in assists (15) and points (26).

Watch the Hurricanes with FanDuel Sports Network free for 30 days

First 5,000 using the code SBNFALL30 get a free month

After Frederik Andersen started Saturday's game against Edmonton, it seems likely that either Pyotr Kochetkov or Brandon Bussi will get the nod tonight, but we'll know more closer to puck drop.

Jalen Chatfield skated in Raleigh yesterday, according to Ryan Henkel of The Hockey News, a sign that his return to the lineup could be drawing closer.

The Canes recalled Dominick Fensore on Sunday to have an extra defenseman with them on the trip in the event of another injury.

Monday's game is the start of a four-game road trip and while there's no such thing as a must win in November while having a record of 12-5-1, it would certainly be nice for Carolina to avenge an earlier loss and get the trip started on a positive note.

Canes Fall in Overtime for first time, lose to Edmonton 4-3

By: Al Hood

The positive: the Canes got a total of three points off a back-to-back that had both games go into Overtime and saw two starters get injured. The negative: if they had taken better care of the puck they wouldn't have needed overtime either night and would have all four points.

After a game where both Seth Jarvis and Jesperi Kotkaniemi left due to injury—Jarvis was back out on the ice to face the Oilers. He was bruised but otherwise didn't show any ill effects from the injury. The Canes were once again without Jaccob Slavin and Jalen Chatfield, and had the daunting task of taking on the best duo in the NHL without their two best defensemen.

The first period got off to a very similar start to Friday Night's game, as mistakes led to the first two Oiler goals. In what had to feel good for him in his return to Raleigh, Jack Roslovic took advantage of a badly misplayed puck by Frederik Andersen, and shot it past his former teammate for

a quick 1-0 lead. He had plenty of experience going up against Andersen and he knew right where to place the shot. A few minutes later, Andrei Svechnikov took a cross-checking penalty to set up Oilers on the Power Play. Connor McDavid did McDavid things, taking the extra room to collect a loose puck that bounced off the end boards and shoot it at a ridiculous angle to get it past Andersen.

Anyone who has watched Edmonton this season knows that scoring goals hasn't been a problem for them, the problem has been keeping pucks out of their own net. Fresh off a comeback win on Friday, the Canes didn't get down and managed to build their own game. Late in the first Shayne Gostisbehere showed exactly why the Canes had missed him during his absence by once again whipping a pass over to Eric Robinson, who was able to snap it past Stuart Skinner to let the Canes get within a goal at 2-1 before the end of the first.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

Much like Friday, the Canes could argue they had played the better game but mistakes had them staring at a deficit at the first intermission. They remedied that in the second, seizing control and getting a tying goal early on thanks to a white-hot Nikolaj Ehlers. The goal was all hard work from the entire line, and it isn't a coincidence that Ehlers has started to light up since being moved to play with Logan Stankoven and Jackson Blake. The line worked to keep the puck in the offensive zone, and Blake set Ehlers up in the aftermath of some chaos and Skinner wasn't settled in the crease. He was able to whip a pass to Ehlers who scored.

The Canes overall dominated play in the second but only had that one goal to show for it, outshooting Edmonton 16-6 and looked like the fresher team despite having played the night before. Still, the Canes were unable to capitalize any more and went into the locker room tied at two.

Edmonton came out and started as a different team in the third, taking it to the Canes and forcing Andersen to make some really strong saves. It was only when McDavid again did McDavid things, and somehow beat the Canes down the ice despite multiple players being back in front of Andersen. His second of the night put the Oilers back on top 3-2, but the Canes reignited quickly and less than a minute later the Staal line got a Staal Score. The play was started with a

faceoff win and a strong pass out of the zone by Gostisbehere, then William Carrier just bullied his way to the goalie with a player on him. Carrier pushed a shot on net, Skinner was unable to corral it and it bounced to Staal who potted it, knotting the score a three.

The teams exchanged great chances for the rest of the period, and after dominating the second in shots, the Canes barely outshot the Oilers 9-8 in the third. Both goalies made great stops, but for the second night in a row the Canes found themselves in Overtime. In a three on three setting, the Oilers can roll out McDavid and Draisaitl to start, and all it took was 19 seconds for the latter to show off why he is an insane talent. After winning the faceoff, the Oilers didn't bother to take much time entering the zone, and Draisaitl just slapped one past Andersen to get the bonus point.

Saturday was the last game at home for the Canes until Thanksgiving. They won't get much of a chance to recoup as they ship up to Boston on Monday to try and get some revenge for an earlier loss, then bounce over to St. Paul, Winnipeg, and Buffalo. They won't get more than one day off until that return to Raleigh, so we'll see if any of the two missing defensemen will rejoin the team during the trek.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025



Canes' comeback attempt falls short in 4-3 overtime loss to Oilers

By: Connor VanDerMark

Who doesn't love extra hockey?

On the second night of a back-to-back, the Carolina Hurricanes found themselves heading into overtime for a second consecutive game.

It was a long, arduous climb to reach extra minutes. After falling behind 2-0 in the first seven minutes, the Canes (12-5-1) managed to tie it at two apiece at the beginning of the second period. Even when the Edmonton Oilers (9-7-4) took the lead in the third, center Jordan Staal tied it just 60 seconds later.

The whole line worked for that one
pic.twitter.com/HDb9oQx3GP

— Carolina Hurricanes (@Canes) November 16, 2025

It took all that fighting and more to earn an extra five minutes in a 3-on-3 format. The problem? Two of the three Oilers on the ice were centers Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl, two of the most talented players in the league.

It had taken the Canes 53 minutes to force overtime, but it took Draisaitl and McDavid just 19 seconds into the extra period to seal the Canes' coffin 4-3, with the latter finding the former at center ice, burying the puck in the back of the net.

LEOVERTIME #LetsGoOilers
pic.twitter.com/5sCZ33ZtZU

— Edmonton Oilers (@EdmontonOilers) November 16, 2025

"That's puck possession and the talent that they have," said head coach Rod Brind'Amour. "We could've done a better job; we sagged a little. But when you're playing against those guys, that's what they do to you."

Much like the rest of the league, the Canes had no answer for either superstar, as each recorded three points — two goals and an assist for McDavid and two assists and the game-winner for Draisaitl. The overtime goal gave Draisaitl the most game-winners in team history and gave McDavid his 16th point in the last eight games.

The Hurricanes couldn't get out of their own way as the first two Oilers' goals came from Carolina's own errors in the first period. The first came when netminder Frederik Andersen misplayed the puck, allowing center Jack Roslavic — a Carolina Hurricane just a year ago — to capitalize and score on his former team.

The second goal was built on a penalty from winger Andrei Svechnikov, giving Edmonton a free power play. It may have been their only power play of the night, but they made the most of their opportunity, leading to McDavid's first goal of the match.

"It's the National Hockey League, you can't just give away goals," Brind'Amour said. "I think we gave two [goals away]."

After the Canes' rocky start, they began to settle into the game, with winger Eric Robinson scoring late in the first period on a one-timer from defenseman Shayne Gostisbehere. Then, winger Nikolaj Ehlers kept the pressure when he came back to the ice, scoring in the first two minutes of the second period to even the score at 2-2 with the Oilers.

Even when McDavid netted his second goal of the game, Staal was gifted a wide-open net courtesy of a pass from left winger William Carrier. The Canes' fighting spirit was present all night, but it simply wasn't enough.

"We battled back once, battled back again, played hard," Robinson said. "It's just tough that the comeback fell away."

Hurricanes top line downs Canucks in 4-3 overtime victory

By: Daniel Susann

Center Sebastian Aho looks down the ice during the game versus the Toronto Maple Leafs at the Lenovo Center on Sunday, April 13, 2025. Aho scored the Hurricanes only goal. The Hurricanes lost to the Maple Leafs 4-1.

Center Sebastian Aho looks down the ice during the game versus the Toronto Maple Leafs at the Lenovo Center on Sunday, April 13, 2025. Aho scored the Hurricanes only goal. The Hurricanes lost to the Maple Leafs 4-1.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

The Canucks were a pesky opponent for the Hurricanes, hanging around despite producing considerably fewer chances.

The Carolina Hurricanes (12-5-0) peppered the net and produced solid chances at goal shift after shift, but the Vancouver Canucks (8-9-2) did all the dirty work to remain in the game. Blocking 29 shots, winning the hit margin and even picking up a short-handed goal, Vancouver stayed in the contest. Eventually, the Canes high-powered offense prevailed, with the top line leading the charge in a 4-3 overtime victory.

"We deserved it," said head coach Rod Brind'Amour. "We didn't always get what we deserved in this game, but we got what we deserved with the two points."

Overtime calls for a hero, especially for a team that deserves to win. Center Sebastian Aho stepped up to the plate in the open ice available with the 3-on-3 overtime format and fired a bullet into the Canucks net to win the game. Getting a chance late in overtime, the Fin did not disappoint.

"Most likely they're gonna get at least a chance," Aho said. "They end up getting one or two there and [goaltender Pyotr Kochetkov] makes a good save and goes on the way."

Also making his mark from the first-line, left winger Andrei Svechnikov had himself a night, contributing on each of the Hurricanes' regulation goals. Netting two pucks in the span of 54 seconds, he thrust the Canes into a favorable position in the second period with a 2-1 lead that they eventually squandered.

After the Canes blew their lead and were down with 10 minutes to play, Svechnikov once again made his mark, creating the play and assisting on the equalizer.

Svechnikov skated aggressively down low and attracted the defense, then fed the puck to defenseman Shayne Gostisbehere, who slung it to right winger Taylor Hall. Capitalizing on the chance, Hall fired it into the nylon.

"[Shane] is one of the best [passers] probably... great vision, sees the ice, no one sees it like that," Svechnikov said. "So obviously, great playmaker."

Carolina allowed the Canucks to stay in the game. Two of Vancouver's three goals were conceded after odd plays in the Canes end. For the first, Gostisbehere's skates got tied up, bringing him to the ice, which created a breakaway chance for Vancouver. Canucks forward Max Sasson shot it past Kochetkov to take an early lead, despite the Canes seemingly dominating.

The second Canucks goal came after Sean Walker tried to leave the puck behind himself for a teammate to take in the middle of the ice at his own blue line, but Canucks forward Elias Pettersson swooped in to steal the puck and fired it past Kochetkov.

Despite struggles in their own end, the Canes did enough to beat a Canucks squad that hung around but did not dictate play.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

Sports Illustrated

NHL Best Bets Today (Predictions for Oilers-Sabres, Hurricanes-Bruins, Mammoth-Ducks)

By: Ryan Gilbert

The NHL has six games on the docket on Monday night after a busy weekend.

The Edmonton Oilers visit the Buffalo Sabres in one of the earlier games, while the Anaheim Ducks host the Utah Mammoth in the lone 10 p.m. et game of the slate.

My best bets for Monday night are looking at a high-scoring game in Buffalo, the Bruins as home underdogs, and the Mammoth on the road.

Let's get right into the best bets – and their odds at the best betting sites – for Monday, Nov. 17.

Odds via DraftKings Sportsbook

Oilers vs. Sabres OVER 6.5 (-122)

The Oilers and Sabres are both coming off high-scoring overtime victories on Saturday night.

Buffalo salvaged a win on its four-game road trip, coming back to take down the Red Wings 5-4. Meanwhile, Edmonton earned the 4-3 win in Carolina after blowing an early 2-0 lead.

The first game back home after a long road trip is always a tough one, especially so when you have Connor McDavid coming to town. The Sabres have allowed 21 goals in their last four games, and the Oilers should be able to put up their half of this 6.5 total.

Then we rely on the Sabres to score a few themselves, which they're more than capable of doing.

The over is 11-8-1 in Edmonton's games and 10-6-2 in Buffalo's. Those trends will continue tonight.

Bruins (+150) vs. Hurricanes

No one thought that the Bruins would be sitting atop the Atlantic Division at any point this season, let alone after a 3-6-0 start. Since then, however, Boston is 9-2-0, with both losses coming in Ottawa.

The B's continue to get a bit disrespected in the odds, and I think that's the case here.

The Hurricanes will be playing their third game in four nights, and sixth in 10 days. They haven't been as dominant as usual this season, and the Bruins are the type of team that can take advantage of that.

Boston could very well be without Charlie McAvoy after he took a puck to the face on Saturday night, but I still like the Bruins at this +150 price at home.

Mammoth (-118) at Ducks

The Mammoth are only 5-6 on the road this season, a far cry from their 5-1-1 record at home, but this is a schedule spot that may be in their favor. Utah had two days off after a Friday night loss, giving it plenty of time to reset for this one.

On the flip side, the Ducks are coming home from a three-game road trip that ended in Minnesota on Saturday night. This will be their seventh game in 12 days, with travel in between all of them.

Anaheim's underlying metrics haven't been strong this season, with the ninth-lowest expected goals share at 5-on-5 (47.69%), per Natural Stat Trick, while Utah ranks eighth at 53.2%.

These teams are on a similar trajectory and should be fun to watch for years to come, but the Mammoth have the edge tonight.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

The Hockey News

Hurricanes Split Weekend Overtimes Against Western Conference Canadians

By: Ryan Henkel

Hurricanes split overtime thrillers, but costly turnovers and injuries loom large before an upcoming road trip.

The Carolina Hurricanes faced two Western Conference Canadian teams on back-to-back nights at Lenovo Center and saw matching 4-3 overtime finals in each.

However, while they were on the positive side of the first one against the Vancouver Canucks on Friday, they found themselves alternatively on the wrong side of it on Saturday against the Edmonton Oilers.

Here are five observations from the weekend:

1. Nikolaj Ehlers Heating Up

There isn't a Carolina Hurricane that's playing better than Nikolaj Ehlers right now.

The Danish winger has been on a tear, currently on a seven-game point streak with four goals and eight points.

He's also found some strong chemistry with Logan Stankoven and Jackson Blake on the Canes' second line.

The three are controlling north of 65% of the 5v5 chances when they're on the ice and around 80% of the high-danger chances.

"I think we've found a little chemistry," Brind'Amour said. "He's a unique player. I don't know what the right fit is sometimes, but with Stanks and Blaker, they seem to really be on the same page and all of their skillsets are very unique. So far, it's working."

Ehlers' skating is really a sight to behold and he's able to either use his speed to move past defenders or make sharp cuts to weave in and out or to buy time and space.

He's been good since he's gotten to Carolina, but he's really been taking it to another level as of late.

2. Self-Inflicted Wounds

In both games, the Canes were easily the better team overall.

They dominated possession, hemmed in the other team and really looked like they should have been the winners of each.

However, the Hurricanes also did themselves no favor in either game.

In both games, the Canes had brutal turnovers and took bad penalties that directly led to goals against. This league is too good to be giving goals away and while they got away with it Friday, it ultimately cost them on Saturday.

3. Injury Scares and Woes

The Canes lost two players in Friday's game: Seth Jarvis and Jesperi Kotkaniemi.

While Jarvis was able to return on Saturday, Kotkaniemi is now sidelined with an injury to his left ankle.

The Hurricanes next embark on a four-game road trip and coach Rod Brind'Amour isn't sure if they'll have any reinforcements on the way while they're out of town.

Kotkaniemi was in a walking boot on Saturday and his timeline remains up in the air.

However, Jalen Chatfield did skate on Sunday morning before the team's flight, so perhaps he could be an option at some point in the coming week.

4. OT Strategy

The Canes went with the same starting trio in both Friday and Saturday's overtime contests: Jordan Staal, Shayne Gostisbehere and Sean Walker and in both games, the three found themselves on the defensive immediately.

On Friday, it led to a nearly three minute shift in their own zone, but the Canucks just didn't have the firepower to do anything with the opportunity before Carolina finally grabbed possession back, with Sebastian Aho ultimately winning it.

On Saturday, however, it resulted in the immediate ending of the game.

Rod Brind'Amour has always gone with a more conservative approach to overtime, starting with his best faceoff player and two defensemen, but when Staal doesn't win the draw, things can get squirrely quickly.

The issue with those three being out there to start on Saturday is that none of them can really keep up with either of Connor McDavid or Leon Draisaitl. I mean, no one really can in the league, but you'd at least have more of a fighting chance putting out a few of your more talented skaters IMO.

5. Shayne Gostisbehere Back Up To Speed

After a tough return against the Washington Capitals, Shayne Gostisbehere had two of his best games of the season in back-to-back nights.

The 32-year-old blueliner racked up four assists over the weekend and was just a force all over the ice, with 14 shot attempts and eight shots on goal in 49:04 of ice time.

Gostisbehere controlled nearly 65% of the chances when he was out on the ice at 5v5 and had an 11-3 edge in high-danger chance creation.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

"He's a really talented player and a really special defenseman," said Eric Robinson, who scored off of a primary assist by Gostisbehere. "When you get a shift out in the o-zone with him, he's probably going to find you so you have to be ready."

The American blueliner is now up to 12 points in nine games this season.

'Our Start Probably Cost Us The Game': Rod Brind'Amour, Jordan Staal, Eric Robinson On Overtime Loss To Oilers

By: Ryan Henkel

Brind'Amour, Staal and Robinson dissect the Oilers' quick overtime strike, a tough start, and their resilient comeback.

The Carolina Hurricanes fell 4-3 in overtime Saturday night at Lenovo Center at the hands of the Edmonton Oilers.

It was a reverse of Friday's luck as the Canes still battled back to grab a point, but they never got their chance in the extra frame as Leon Draisaitl ended it in only 19 seconds.

After the game, Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour along with captain Jordan Staal and forward Eric Robinson spoke with the media. Here's what they had to say:

Rod Brind'Amour

On overtime: Puck possession and when you have the talent that they have. We could have done a better job, we sagged a little, but it's one thing to say it when you're playing against those guys, it's what they do to you.

On the start: Terrible start. You just can't give them goals. It's the National Hockey League. You can't just give away goals and I think we gave two. Not a great penalty and then obviously Freddie would like to have that first one back. That was a mishandle. I give our guys a ton of credit for coming back. We had a great second period, didn't get enough out of it, but then we came right back and tied it up. Considering what we're dealing with and the team we were playing there with that talent, I give our guys a lot of credit.

On Will Carrier: He was great. He was the reason we got the one point tonight in my opinion. That was almost an individual effort to take it to the net like that. It's too bad we didn't get the other one.

On when he knew Seth Jarvis was going to be able to go: After warmups. He just said, 'I'm good.' That was good. I mean, obviously not having him would have been another top player out so I was glad he was able to go.

On if he expects any of the injured players to travel with the team on its upcoming road trip: I don't know. I don't even want to say anymore. I was hopeful for a long time with some injuries and it's just not happening. I don't know.

On Nikolaj Ehlers: I think we've found a little chemistry. He's a unique player. I don't know what the right fit is sometimes,

but with Stanks and Blaker, they seem to really be on the same page and all of their skillsets are very unique. So far, it's working.

Jordan Staal

On the game: I thought we were fine. Obviously we still gave up too many goals. It's hard to win games when you give up four, but there was some good play and some good opportunities. That's a good team.

On Edmonton's potent overtime trio: Yeah, that was a good goal by them.

On his line: I thought we were okay. We had some good shifts. I still think we have to do a better job defending. Thought we gave up too many. We could do better in that department. I think overall, the game was kind of back and forth. Two good teams. We came up short 3-on-3.

On the start: They came out quick and we weren't ready. You could tell we were just on our heels a bit. We started getting to our game, but this league is tough when you give a team two goals. I thought we did a good job getting back into it and making it a game and getting a point, but that start wasn't our best. In the end, it probably cost us the game.

On Will Carrier: Will's been good. He's solid and hard to take the puck off of. On my goal, I obviously didn't do a whole lot. He did a great job of bringing it to the net and dragging guys on his back. I was obviously to put in the garbage, but he's been really good and steady for us. Physical. Good to have him in the lineup again.

Eric Robinson

On the game: I think we played a great game. We battled back once, battled back again. Played hard. It's just tough to come back like that. Felt like we maybe weren't ready from the start.

On facing two of the best players in the world off of a back-to-back: It's hard, but that's just the way the league is. Teams play back-to-back all the time. Like I said, I felt that the effort was good.

On Shayne Gostisbehere: He's a really talented player and a really special defenseman. When you get a shift out in the o-zone with him, he's probably going to find you so you have to be ready.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

Seth Jarvis Game-Time Decision Against Edmonton; Jesperi Kotkaniemi Out

By: Ryan Henkel

Jarvis's status uncertain after eye injury; Kotkaniemi sidelined with ankle issue, impacting Hurricanes' lineup depth against potent Oilers offense.

After a bit of a scare on Friday night, Carolina Hurricanes forward Seth Jarvis will be a game-time decision tonight against the Edmonton Oilers according to Canes coach Rod Brind'Amour.

The Canes' leading scorer took a friendly high stick to the eye last night early in the first period and would not return.

However, Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour sounded positive on the injury following the game and Jarvis was even seen on press level during the remainder of the game.

Already dealing with a beat up group, it would be a big blow to the Hurricanes if Jarvis (10g, 16pts) can't go.

Jesperi Kotkaniemi on the other hand will definitely not play on Saturday as he deals with a lower-body injury, specifically an injury to his ankle.

The Finnish centerman left Friday's game in the second period after blocking a shot off of his ankle.

"I don't think it will be too serious," Brind'Amour said Saturday afternoon. "His ankle is a little swollen, but doesn't look like there was much damage. Shouldn't be long."

Kotkaniemi has two goals and five points this year centering the team's fourth line and was fifth on the team in hits with 26.

Andrei Svechnikov Will Not Face Supplemental Discipline Following Elbow Of Canucks Filip Hronek

By: Ryan Henkel

Svechnikov avoids supplemental discipline after his elbow connects with Hronek's head. The league cites Hronek's movement for the controversial collision.

It's been reported that Carolina Hurricanes forward Andrei Svechnikov will not face any supplemental discipline stemming from Friday night's game against the Vancouver Canucks.

Late in the third period, Svechnikov caught Canucks defenseman Filip Hronek in the head with an elbow as he went to hit the blueliner along the boards. No penalty was called on the play and Hronek was pulled by concussion spotters.

Hurricanes win 4-3 in overtime over Canucks, injuries piling up

Filip Hronek has left the game after this elbow from Andrei Svechnikov 😞

x.comGino Hard (@GinoHard_) on X Filip Hronek has left the game after this elbow from Andrei Svechnikov 😞

According to reporter Rick Dhaliwal, it was deemed that "the movement of Hronek as he is moving the puck substantially contributed to the hit to the head."

In the video, you can clearly see that as Hronek goes to rim the puck up the boards, his body lowers at the same time Svechnikov is trying to lay the hit.

The Russian forward looks to be lining up a shoulder check to drive the blueliner hard into the boards, however that shift in position leads to an unfortunate outcome.

Svechnikov, 25, is a physical and big (6-foot-3, 200-pound) power forward and stands well above the smaller Hronek (6-foot), which also probably contributed to the hit to the head.

While I don't believe Svechnikov was attempting to hit the defenseman in the head by any means, I also still feel that the onus is on the Hurricanes forward to avoid a situation where he is driving himself that high through an opposing player.

Headshots are a big problem in today's game and are seemingly routinely ignored by the Department of Player Safety, which has long infuriated fans.

While I would have been okay with some sort of discipline being handed out to Svechnikov, I also don't agree with the sentiment that Svechnikov was trying to injure Hronek.

Over the span of his eight year career, Svechnikov has only been fined once by the DOPS, a \$5,000 fine in 2021 for kneeing Philadelphia Flyers forward Scott Laughton.

He plays a physical game, but he's by no means a dirty player looking to injure his opponents. It's simply an unfortunate outcome in a fast, physical game.

Hurricanes GM Eric Tulsky Provides Update On Hurricanes Star Defenseman Jaccob Slavin

By: Ryan Henkel

GM Eric Tulsky reveals star defenseman Jaccob Slavin is progressing in rehab, prioritizing a healthy return.

We've gotten a new update on Carolina Hurricanes defenseman Jaccob Slavin.

On Friday, Hurricanes General Manager Eric Tulsky joined Scott Laughtlin and Gord Stellick on SiriusXM NHL Network



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

Radio to discuss a variety of topics, one of which being Slavin's current status.

Hurricanes win 4-3 over Canucks in overtime; handful of injury updates

"He's working through his rehab and it's sort of week-by-week," Tulsy said. "He's making progress. We are trying to play it conservatively and make sure we don't have another setback. It just takes some time and you want to make sure you're doing it the right way and positioning yourself to have a good stretch run and into the playoffs. So we're going through that time right now, where he's building things up and making sure he's ready to play and making sure when he gets back, he's good to go."

Slavin, 31, has missed the team's last 16 games after sustaining a lower-body injury in just the second game of the season for Carolina (Oct. 11).

It's the longest stretch of time the star blueliner has missed in his NHL career and it's certainly a tough absence for the Hurricanes to have to deal with.

"He's an incredible player and a huge loss for us, especially with the way we pressure," Tulsy said. "Having someone back there who can cover and just clean stuff up and you just

know it'll be okay when he's there. That's a huge plus for a team and we're missing it right now, for sure."

Slavin is just one of 10 players to have missed time so far this season though in what has been a cursed start to the year for the Hurricanes.

Every game, it seems like someone else is going down or getting injured, but still, the team has done an excellent job of sticking with it and has a 12-5-0 record (the fourth best in the league) despite it all.

"I think we've had about three team's shares of injuries," Tulsy said. "It's certainly been a start. We've had 10 or 11 different defensemen play for us so far, we've had three or four out at a time. It's been a lot, but this group has been incredibly resilient. They've been playing really hard night after night. We always do. It's one of the great things under Rod [Brind'Amour] that this team gives its all every single game and that's enough to make you competitive in this league."

Slavin could still be a bit of a ways away, but it's promising to hear that he's progressing. He's still a frequent sight in the team's locker room too and spirits seem high for the defenseman, so hopefully it won't be too much longer before he's back out on the ice.

LINKS

<https://www.newsobserver.com/sports/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/article312908408.html>
<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6813242/2025/11/17/nhl-weekend-rankings-mammoth-capitals/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6808576/2025/11/15/winter-olympics-2026-hockey-rosters-nhl/>
<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/preview-november-17-at-boston>
<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/recap-can-es-earn-point-in-ot-loss-to-oilers>
<https://www.nhl.com/hurricanes/news/projected-lineup-november-15-vs-edmonton>
<https://apnews.com/article/oilers-hurricanes-score-74fcee7b267e215f91b5c072738593d1>
<https://www.sportsnet.ca/nhl/article/canucks-filip-hronek-pulled-by-concussion-spotter-vs-hurricanes/>
<https://www.canescountry.com/general/52218/carolina-hurricanes-boston-bruins-nhl-game-preview52218>
<https://www.canescountry.com/2010-11-carolina-hurricanes-game-recaps/52197/canes-fall-in-overtime-for-first-time-lose-to-edmonton-4-3>
<https://technicianonline.com/151860/sports/canes-comeback-attempt-falls-short-in-4-3-overtime-loss-to-oilers/>
<https://technicianonline.com/151847/sports/hurricanes-top-line-downs-canucks-in-4-3-overtime-victory/>
<https://www.si.com/betting/nhl-best-bets-today-predictions-for-oilers-sabres-hurricanes-bruins-mammoth-ducks>
<https://thehockeynews.com/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/latest-news/hurricanes-split-weekend-overtimes-against-western-conference-canadians>
<https://thehockeynews.com/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/game-day/our-start-probably-cost-us-the-game-rod-brind-amour-jordan-staal-eric-robinson-on-overtime-loss-to-oilers>
<https://thehockeynews.com/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/latest-news/seth-jarvis-game-time-decision-against-edmonton-jesper-kotkaniemi-out>
<https://thehockeynews.com/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/latest-news/andrei-svechnikov-will-not-face-supplemental-discipline-following-elbow-of-canucks-filip-hronek>
<https://thehockeynews.com/nhl/carolina-hurricanes/latest-news/hurricanes-gm-eric-tulsy-provides-update-on-hurricanes-star-defenseman-jacob-slavin>



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

SportScan

Articles from outlets covering the Hurricanes' upcoming opponents and league-wide news

1368414 Carolina Hurricanes

Nearing the NHL quarter pole, what is the Hurricanes' greatest position of need?

Justin Pelletier 11-13 minutes 16/11/2025

With the NHL season approaching the end of its first gradable quarter, it's fair for onlookers to start pulling out the No. 2 pencils to fill in the test ovals — and perhaps fill out a holiday wish list while they're at it.

A torrent of injured defenders has made it nearly impossible to truly tell what the Carolina Hurricanes are in 2025-26, while simultaneously cranking the wheel of the in-season trade target rumor mill.

After Saturday night's 4-3 overtime loss to the Edmonton Oilers at Lenovo Center — the second of back-to-back games at home before a four-game road swing — the team's needs remain much the same as they did in Week 1.

If the Hurricanes' early-season trials and tribulations have done nothing else, they've perhaps prematurely outed Carolina as an organization with a glut of young defensive depth. If the Canes were hoping to mask that depth as a bargaining position for future trade talks or contract negotiations, the team's three dozen man games lost to injury on the blue line alone — and the team's subsequent success — have eradicated that line of thinking.

Saturday, the Canes started a third consecutive game with the same six defenders, their second-longest stretch of consecutive games with the same grouping this season. Shayne Gostisbehere again found the scoresheet, earning his 11th assist of the season, and the group acquitted itself well overall.

Ditto up front, where Eric Robinson and William Carrier each missed significant time with simultaneous, unrelated injuries. No problem: In stepped Bradley Nadeau. Veteran Mark Jankowski came out of the press box, and a stable of young forwards — like Felix Unger Sorem — awaits in Chicago, hoping to follow similar paths to those of Charles Alexis Legault, Joel Nystrom and Dominic Fensore.

Jankowski was back in the lineup Saturday after an injury to Jesperi Kotkaniemi on Friday, and Nadeau was back in the building, in case Seth Jarvis was unable to go after his injury scare against Vancouver.

On the scoring front, Robinson found the net, Carrier added an assist on a Jordan Staal goal, and Nik Ehlers continued his strong rebound to a slower start to the season with his fourth goal.

None of the above had an answer for the Oilers' big guns. Connor McDavid had a pair of goals and an assist on the OT winner. Leon Draisaitl had that game-winner and two assists.

Hurricanes goalies, by the numbers

But what do we make of the Hurricanes' goaltending to date?

Here are the raw numbers:

Frederik Andersen, prior to Saturday's game, had started nine times. He had a 3.00 goals-against average and an .892 save percentage. Among 31 NHL goalies with nine or more starts, Andersen was 19th in GAA, and 24th in save percentage.

Brandon Bussi has been a breath of fresh air in the early going, a surprising waiver wire success with four wins in five starts, a 2.60 GAA and an .898 save percentage.

And Pyotr Kochetkov, injured to begin the season, has been solid since his return. In four appearances — three starts — Kochetkov is 3-0 with a 1.92 GAA and a .908 save percentage.

The numbers are fine, for sure. A cumulative 2.88 team GAA is ninth best in the 32-team NHL, which is in line with a team also sitting ninth best in shots allowed per game.

But ninth best of 32 looks a lot better than ninth best of 16, and 16 is the number that matters more — it's how many playoff teams there will be, and a middle-of-the-road GAA isn't typically part of a recipe for playoff success.

In the NHL playoffs, the game gets tighter. Games with final scores like 6-3, 7-4 or even 4-3 are replaced by multiple 2-1 and 3-2 games. The teams with better cumulative defense and, yes, goaltending, advance. Those who struggle in tight, low-scoring games do not.

Through 18 games this season, the Hurricanes are scoring 3.71 goals per game, third best in the NHL, and that number is propped up by the team's opening six-game stretch — all wins — during which it scored four or more goals in each contest.

In the Hurricanes' 12 wins this season, they've scored four or more goals 11 times. The Canes' record in games in which they score fewer than four goals? 1-6.

A win is a win is a win, until the numbers turn on you.

It also doesn't help when the Hurricanes create their own problems. Friday, two glaring defensive lapses created untenable situations for Kochetkov. Saturday, Andersen gift-wrapped the Oilers' first goal with a direct pass to Jack Roslovic. (Nothing Andersen could do on McDavid's power-play goal, though, nor his second of the night in the third period.)

What could the Canes do?

The luxuries the Hurricanes have in this situation, though, are twofold: They have money, and they have time.

No one worth a shred of credibility can say for certain before (American) Thanksgiving which players on which teams will for certain be available in any trade or sign-and-trade scenario, nor which teams will play ball at all. Even those teams currently sitting at the bottom of the league can point to the worst-to-Cup 2019 St. Louis Blues as a harbinger of what's possible.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

But given the Canes' solid start to the season — they are, after all, sitting among the top five in the NHL standings — there is no urgency to make sudden moves. (And if someone in the front office did have a hair trigger, Carolina would likely already have a new defenseman in the rotation.)

The other factor to consider — eventually — is whether any possible moves actually make the team better. Acquiring the “top goalie from a team that isn't doing well” works well in fantasy sports dynasty leagues, but not so much when term, cap space and player proclivity are factors.

Of those extraneous factors, though, cap space is the least of the Canes' concerns. They are currently sitting on about \$10 million, give or take, with only about \$5 million currently tied up in the goaltending position among the three who have played games this season to date.

The Hurricanes did go back to the waiver wire and reacquire Cayden Primeau from the Maple Leafs, an ultimate boomerang move, and that addresses one kind of depth.

There is nothing in the empirical data to directly suggest that Andersen, Kochetkov, Bussi or Primeau can't become the playoff goalie the Hurricanes need this season — Andersen and Kochetkov last season posted the second-best GAA in the NHL playoffs, for what that's worth, and some guy named Cam Ward caught lightning in a bottle at the right time in 2006.

But there's also nothing lost by exploring all of the team's best options, given its positive fiscal situation and now-apparent strength and depth elsewhere in the lineup.

News Observer LOADED: 11.17.2025

1368488 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Sunday overreactions: Canucks rebuild long overdue

Michael Amato

Jim Rutherford has never been one to mince words.

The Vancouver Canucks president of hockey operations made it clear this week he has no interest in rebuilding, despite a large portion of the fanbase screaming for just that — and you can understand why. The Canucks have taken up residence in the mushy middle for the better part of the past decade, reaching the post-season only twice. Both of those appearances, which included a bubble run in the middle of the pandemic, felt more like anomalies than the start of a journey in the right direction.

Make no mistake — this Canucks team is playing hard. But the roster just may not be talented or healthy enough to do anything more than compete for a playoff spot.

It's time for Canucks to rebuild

A rebuild would likely bring at least a few years of pain, though the reward could be worthwhile. There are examples left and right this season of how good things can be when you come out on the other side — Macklin Celebrini, Connor Bedard and Leo Carlsson look like future faces of the league and their respective teams are turning things around rapidly. Those three should be enough evidence for any team who's not a lock for the playoffs to seriously consider selling.

Then there's the matter of Quinn Hughes. Vancouver's best player by a mile will be a free agent after next season and without a contract extension this summer, the Canucks will face a difficult choice. Rutherford also noted there's no plans for a rebuild even if Hughes leaves, yet there may be no better way to kickstart one. If the Canucks

trade Hughes because he won't commit, they could get a haul in return that would no doubt include a handful of prized picks and prospects.

There's still time for Vancouver to turn its season around, but you have to ask some hard questions. Even in a best-case scenario, what is the Canucks' ceiling this season? It feels like the answer is just squeaking into the playoffs and a longshot to do any kind of damage while there. Sounds like a situation where a rebuild makes a lot of sense.

Overreaction? No

If the Canucks do decide to rebuild, it could be the perfect season to do so, as a number of teams still have needs they couldn't fill in the summer. The 2026 draft is also loaded with high-end talent at the top, which includes Gavin McKenna, the likely first-overall pick and a potential franchise-changing player. If I was a middling team this year, I'd try to accumulate as many lottery tickets as possible to try to land McKenna.

Let's also keep in mind with a rising cap, contracts will be easier to move. Teams that previously had to pass on a player because of his cap hit may be more willing to take on larger deals now, which means plenty of teams will be open for business, which could lead to bidding wars.

The Canucks also boast a handful of prospects that could form a good base like Braeden Cootes, Tom Willander and Jonathan Lekkerimaki. Perhaps none of those end up being elite talents, but adding a potential future top-five pick if they do indeed rebuild could give the Canucks a nice core to start anew. Players like centre Elias Pettersson and Brock Boeser would also still be young enough in a few years to be key contributors on a re-shaped roster if they opt to stick around.

I don't think it's any organization's first choice to rebuild, but you can only spin your wheels for so long. This Canucks squad has a chance to rip the band-aid off and go down a different path. It would be challenging to navigate, but at least there would be a light at the end of the tunnel.

Senators are the team to beat in the Atlantic

After a bit of a slow start, the Senators now have points in seven of eight games and have climbed into a tie for second place in the Atlantic Division. What's been most impressive about the Senators' run is that they've done almost all of it without Brady Tkachuk. The captain has missed all but three games, yet the Sens are still thriving and feel like a team that's taken a pretty significant step this year, going from happy to get in last season to real division contender now. There are few teams in the East that can match Ottawa's depth down the middle with Tim Stutzle, Dylan Cozens and Shane Pinto. Montreal and Detroit have cooled off, Tampa and Florida have had middling starts and it remains to be seen how much staying power the surprising Bruins have. The Maple Leafs continue to be a mess. The door is open for the Sens to capture the division.

Overreaction? Yes

One thing that could ultimately cost the Sens as the season goes on is their goaltending. Linus Ullmark is off to a rough start and it's a minor miracle Ottawa is sitting at 9-6-4, given he's provided them with a rough save percentage of .874. The veteran also ranks 71st among 73 qualified goalies in goals saved above expected with minus-7.9. I would trust Jeremy Swayman, Andrei Vasilevskiy and Sergei Bobrovsky far more to stabilize their respective team's creases.

The Sens are still a playoff team every day of the week even with below-average goaltending because they're that talented, but I don't think they can win the division if Ullmark keeps playing like this.

Andrew Brunette will be the first coach fired

It's right around the time of year where some coach's seats start to get hot and Andrew Brunette's must be pretty close to scalding right now. The Nashville Predators have lost eight of their past 10 games and sit second-last in the Western Conference, only ahead of the Calgary



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

Flames. Expectations were high for the Preds last season, but they won just 30 games and missed the playoffs. Brunette is now in his third season in Nashville and the team's record has been trending in the wrong direction for well over a year now. If this continues, it's hard to imagine Barry Trotz not making a change soon.

Overreaction? No

Nashville is one of the few teams struggling that had expectations coming into the season. I don't think anyone is too surprised to see the Flames where they are, so that's why someone like Ryan Huska is probably safe. You could argue that Jim Montgomery should be in a similarly precarious position as Brunette, but he only joined the St. Louis Blues partway through last season. If the Maple Leafs don't stabilize themselves in the next couple of weeks, Craig Berube could also be in trouble. But for now, Brunette seems to be the one that should be most desperate to turn things around.

There's also two strong, experienced candidates waiting for their next opportunity. Peter Laviolette and Peter DeBoer have a reputation for turning things around quickly, so Trotz could consider one of them sooner than later if he thinks there's still time to save Nashville's season. The Predators really need some consistent results soon, or Brunette could be the first domino to fall.

Where would the Maple Leafs be without John Tavares? It's a scary thought if you're a Leafs fan. Despite turning 35 in September, Tavares is off to the races with 11 goals and 24 points, putting him on pace for a career season. He also has a long history of representing Canada, so one would think he should be on the radar of GM Doug Armstrong as someone that could really help the team in February.

Overreaction? Yes

Among all Canadian forwards right now, Tavares ranks fifth in points, second in even-strength points, tied for fifth in goals and first in faceoff percentage among players that have taken at least 250 draws. Those stats are hard to ignore and even if he'd probably be a winger on Canada, you could use Tavares to take key faceoffs here and there. With Macklin Celebrini, Connor Bedard, Nick Suzuki, Mark Scheifele, Bo Horvat and Wyatt Johnston likely ahead of Tavares in the pecking order, though, it's still going to be an uphill climb for him to make the team. Tavares definitely should be in the middle of every Team Canada roster discussion with the way he's playing, but ultimately, I don't think he'll crack the squad.

Blackhawks have found a franchise goalie in Spencer Knight

When the Florida Panthers traded for Seth Jones last March, the deal was almost universally praised. Florida got a missing piece for its blue line and Jones immediately became a key contributor on a team that won its second straight Stanley Cup. Chicago, though, got a decent return itself, with the main piece being 24-year-old Spencer Knight. The Blackhawks netminder is having a breakout season, starting 7-3-3 with a .924 save percentage and, outside of Connor Bedard, he's probably the biggest reason for his team's turnaround. Knight sure looks every bit like a franchise goaltender in the making.

Overreaction? No

While it is dangerous to anoint a goalie too soon, Knight is starting to build up a decent sample size for himself. He's now played well over 100 games and has a very respectable career .907 save percentage, while some of his other metrics this season show how high his ceiling could be. In addition to ranking second in save percentage among goalies with at least eight starts, Knight currently leads the NHL in goals saved above expected with 12.9 and sits second in total saves. With those numbers, Knight's \$5.8 million AAV for the next three seasons suddenly looks very friendly and at 24 he could be on the perfect timeline to grow with Bedard and the rest of Chicago's talented young core. The Blackhawks appear to have made out just fine in the Jones trade themselves.

Avalanche will cruise to the Presidents' Trophy

We're well over a month into the season and the Colorado Avalanche still only have one regulation loss to their name. That's impressive given the parity we see on a nightly basis in the NHL.

Nathan MacKinnon is virtually unstoppable right now, notching 13 points in his past four games and leading the league in scoring. The Avs also carry a plus-28 goal differential while no other team is better than plus-14. They're clearly the class of the league at this point, and they aren't showing any signs of slowing down. Who would be surprised if they claim the Presidents' Trophy come April?

Overreaction? – No

This Avalanche team looks even more formidable than recent seasons as problems have seemingly turned to strengths. Scott Wedgewood has been excellent filling in for an injured Mackenzie Blackwood to start the season, giving the Avs two quality options between the pipes. Colorado squandered a bunch of points in the early part of last season because its goaltending wasn't up to par, but it's suddenly a real catalyst for the squad.

The Avalanche also don't appear to be missing Mikko Rantanen at all. Martin Necas has fit in swimmingly on MacKinnon's wing and they used the cap savings from the Rantanen deal to help bring in Brock Nelson, who improves their centre depth and balances out the forward group. Colorado also has its emotional leader back in Gabriel Landeskog, which has given the lineup a huge boost. And if that wasn't enough, we can't forget about Cale Makar, who leads their defence and is arguably a top-five player in the league.

The Avs look like one of the fastest teams in the NHL and it's helped them race up the standings and bank a bunch of points early on. There's a really good chance they'll still be standing on top of the mountain after Game 82.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 11.17.2025

1368489 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Sunday overreactions: Canucks rebuild long overdue

Michael Amato

Jim Rutherford has never been one to mince words.

The Vancouver Canucks president of hockey operations made it clear this week he has no interest in rebuilding, despite a large portion of the fanbase screaming for just that — and you can understand why. The Canucks have taken up residence in the mushy middle for the better part of the past decade, reaching the post-season only twice. Both of those appearances, which included a bubble run in the middle of the pandemic, felt more like anomalies than the start of a journey in the right direction.

Make no mistake — this Canucks team is playing hard. But the roster just may not be talented or healthy enough to do anything more than compete for a playoff spot.

It's time for Canucks to rebuild

A rebuild would likely bring at least a few years of pain, though the reward could be worthwhile. There are examples left and right this season of how good things can be when you come out on the other side — Macklin Celebrini, Connor Bedard and Leo Carlsson look like future



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

faces of the league and their respective teams are turning things around rapidly. Those three should be enough evidence for any team who's not a lock for the playoffs to seriously consider selling.

Then there's the matter of Quinn Hughes. Vancouver's best player by a mile will be a free agent after next season and without a contract extension this summer, the Canucks will face a difficult choice. Rutherford also noted there's no plans for a rebuild even if Hughes leaves, yet there may be no better way to kickstart one. If the Canucks trade Hughes because he won't commit, they could get a haul in return that would no doubt include a handful of prized picks and prospects.

There's still time for Vancouver to turn its season around, but you have to ask some hard questions. Even in a best-case scenario, what is the Canucks' ceiling this season? It feels like the answer is just squeaking into the playoffs and a longshot to do any kind of damage while there. Sounds like a situation where a rebuild makes a lot of sense.

Overreaction? No

If the Canucks do decide to rebuild, it could be the perfect season to do so, as a number of teams still have needs they couldn't fill in the summer. The 2026 draft is also loaded with high-end talent at the top, which includes Gavin McKenna, the likely first-overall pick and a potential franchise-changing player. If I was a middling team this year, I'd try to accumulate as many lottery tickets as possible to try to land McKenna.

Let's also keep in mind with a rising cap, contracts will be easier to move. Teams that previously had to pass on a player because of his cap hit may be more willing to take on larger deals now, which means plenty of teams will be open for business, which could lead to bidding wars.

The Canucks also boast a handful of prospects that could form a good base like Braeden Cootes, Tom Willander and Jonathan Lekkerimaki. Perhaps none of those end up being elite talents, but adding a potential future top-five pick if they do indeed rebuild could give the Canucks a nice core to start anew. Players like centre Elias Pettersson and Brock Boeser would also still be young enough in a few years to be key contributors on a re-shaped roster if they opt to stick around.

I don't think it's any organization's first choice to rebuild, but you can only spin your wheels for so long. This Canucks squad has a chance to rip the band-aid off and go down a different path. It would be challenging to navigate, but at least there would be a light at the end of the tunnel.

Senators are the team to beat in the Atlantic

After a bit of a slow start, the Senators now have points in seven of eight games and have climbed into a tie for second place in the Atlantic Division. What's been most impressive about the Senators' run is that they've done almost all of it without Brady Tkachuk. The captain has missed all but three games, yet the Sens are still thriving and feel like a team that's taken a pretty significant step this year, going from happy to get in last season to real division contender now. There are few teams in the East that can match Ottawa's depth down the middle with Tim Stutzle, Dylan Cozens and Shane Pinto. Montreal and Detroit have cooled off, Tampa and Florida have had middling starts and it remains to be seen how much staying power the surprising Bruins have. The Maple Leafs continue to be a mess. The door is open for the Sens to capture the division.

Overreaction? Yes

One thing that could ultimately cost the Sens as the season goes on is their goaltending. Linus Ullmark is off to a rough start and it's a minor miracle Ottawa is sitting at 9-6-4, given he's provided them with a rough save percentage of .874. The veteran also ranks 71st among 73 qualified goalies in goals saved above expected with minus-7.9. I would trust Jeremy Swayman, Andrei Vasilevskiy and Sergei Bobrovsky far more to stabilize their respective team's creases.

The Sens are still a playoff team every day of the week even with below-average goaltending because they're that talented, but I don't think they can win the division if Ullmark keeps playing like this.

Andrew Brunette will be the first coach fired

It's right around the time of year where some coach's seats start to get hot and Andrew Brunette's must be pretty close to scalding right now. The Nashville Predators have lost eight of their past 10 games and sit second-last in the Western Conference, only ahead of the Calgary Flames. Expectations were high for the Preds last season, but they won just 30 games and missed the playoffs. Brunette is now in his third season in Nashville and the team's record has been trending in the wrong direction for well over a year now. If this continues, it's hard to imagine Barry Trotz not making a change soon.

Overreaction? No

Nashville is one of the few teams struggling that had expectations coming into the season. I don't think anyone is too surprised to see the Flames where they are, so that's why someone like Ryan Huska is probably safe. You could argue that Jim Montgomery should be in a similarly precarious position as Brunette, but he only joined the St. Louis Blues partway through last season. If the Maple Leafs don't stabilize themselves in the next couple of weeks, Craig Berube could also be in trouble. But for now, Brunette seems to be the one that should be most desperate to turn things around.

There's also two strong, experienced candidates waiting for their next opportunity. Peter Laviolette and Peter DeBoer have a reputation for turning things around quickly, so Trotz could consider one of them sooner than later if he thinks there's still time to save Nashville's season. The Predators really need some consistent results soon, or Brunette could be the first domino to fall.

Where would the Maple Leafs be without John Tavares? It's a scary thought if you're a Leafs fan. Despite turning 35 in September, Tavares is off to the races with 11 goals and 24 points, putting him on pace for a career season. He also has a long history of representing Canada, so one would think he should be on the radar of GM Doug Armstrong as someone that could really help the team in February.

Overreaction? Yes

Among all Canadian forwards right now, Tavares ranks fifth in points, second in even-strength points, tied for fifth in goals and first in faceoff percentage among players that have taken at least 250 draws. Those stats are hard to ignore and even if he'd probably be a winger on Canada, you could use Tavares to take key faceoffs here and there. With Macklin Celebrini, Connor Bedard, Nick Suzuki, Mark Scheifele, Bo Horvat and Wyatt Johnston likely ahead of Tavares in the pecking order, though, it's still going to be an uphill climb for him to make the team. Tavares definitely should be in the middle of every Team Canada roster discussion with the way he's playing, but ultimately, I don't think he'll crack the squad.

Blackhawks have found a franchise goalie in Spencer Knight

When the Florida Panthers traded for Seth Jones last March, the deal was almost universally praised. Florida got a missing piece for its blue line and Jones immediately became a key contributor on a team that won its second straight Stanley Cup. Chicago, though, got a decent return itself, with the main piece being 24-year-old Spencer Knight. The Blackhawks netminder is having a breakout season, starting 7-3-3 with a .924 save percentage and, outside of Connor Bedard, he's probably the biggest reason for his team's turnaround. Knight sure looks every bit like a franchise goaltender in the making.

Overreaction? No

While it is dangerous to anoint a goalie too soon, Knight is starting to build up a decent sample size for himself. He's now played well over 100



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

games and has a very respectable career .907 save percentage, while some of his other metrics this season show how high his ceiling could be. In addition to ranking second in save percentage among goalies with at least eight starts, Knight currently leads the NHL in goals saved above expected with 12.9 and sits second in total saves. With those numbers, Knight's \$5.8 million AAV for the next three seasons suddenly looks very friendly and at 24 he could be on the perfect timeline to grow with Bedard and the rest of Chicago's talented young core. The Blackhawks appear to have made out just fine in the Jones trade themselves.

Avalanche will cruise to the Presidents' Trophy

We're well over a month into the season and the Colorado Avalanche still only have one regulation loss to their name. That's impressive given the parity we see on a nightly basis in the NHL.

Nathan MacKinnon is virtually unstoppable right now, notching 13 points in his past four games and leading the league in scoring. The Avs also carry a plus-28 goal differential while no other team is better than plus-14. They're clearly the class of the league at this point, and they aren't showing any signs of slowing down. Who would be surprised if they claim the Presidents' Trophy come April?

Overreaction? – No

This Avalanche team looks even more formidable than recent seasons as problems have seemingly turned to strengths. Scott Wedgewood has been excellent filling in for an injured Mackenzie Blackwood to start the season, giving the Avs two quality options between the pipes. Colorado squandered a bunch of points in the early part of last season because its goaltending wasn't up to par, but it's suddenly a real catalyst for the squad.

The Avalanche also don't appear to be missing Mikko Rantanen at all. Martin Necas has fit in swimmingly on MacKinnon's wing and they used the cap savings from the Rantanen deal to help bring in Brock Nelson, who improves their centre depth and balances out the forward group. Colorado also has its emotional leader back in Gabriel Landeskog, which has given the lineup a huge boost. And if that wasn't enough, we can't forget about Cale Makar, who leads their defence and is arguably a top-five player in the league.

The Avs look like one of the fastest teams in the NHL and it's helped them race up the standings and bank a bunch of points early on. There's a really good chance they'll still be standing on top of the mountain after Game 82.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 11.17.2025

1368490 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Joseph Woll's solid return can't save 'unconfident' Maple Leafs

Luke Fox

That, at once, is both the most encouraging and devastating aspect of their five-game winless skid (0-4-1).

The last time this hockey team only mustered one standings point over a five-game stretch, they weren't putting forth an honest effort.

That was six Novembers ago. Those supremely talented 2019 Leafs were coasting; they were fine with their coach being fired.

So, we wonder — in the immediate aftermath of another blown lead and another regulation loss — if this stretch of L's, this downturn of confidence, may feel like a regular-season low point of the can't-miss-playoffs Leafs era?

"Whenever you're in something that's challenging, it's all-consuming, and it can feel that way. But there's a lot of belief with our team — and that's powerful," said Morgan Rielly, the longest-tenured Leaf, following Saturday's 3-2 loss to the upstart Chicago Blackhawks.

"I know for a fact the compete level, the desire is there. And, you know, at times it might be too much. So, you start squeezing the stick, you start overthinking things, because you just want to do the thing and win the game."

The grind is real right now in Leafland, where six regulation wins through 19 games has the franchise on pace to miss the post-season for the first time since it strategically tanked to draft Auston Matthews.

The grind is physical: Defenceman Brandon Carlo (lower body) was added Saturday to an injured list that already includes Matthews, Chris Tanev, Scott Laughton, and Anthony Stolarz.

The grind is mental: At United Center, the Maple Leafs built a 2-1 lead on the strength of some refreshingly elongated offensive-zone shifts and earned a 19-9 edge in high-danger chances. But when a depth defenceman got danced and a dangerous stick couldn't get tied up, the lead vanished in the third.

Hardly a calling card of what is supposed to be the better, more veteran group. The coughed-up leads are surprising to coach Craig Berube because Toronto was so solid at locking away two points last season.

"We're just a little bit unconfident, I'd say, right now," Berube said. "But got to get through that, because we got the leads, and we have an opportunity to close this game out, win it. And we get a power play in the third, and we don't do anything with it either."

What can Berube do to coach some confidence back into his room?

"That's a good question," he replied. "I mean, I got to motivate them the best way I can. And maybe it's a kick in the ass. But maybe it's positive reinforcement, too."

He's choosing Door No. 2, which speaks to his group's fragile state.

Berube is forgiving rookie Easton Cowan for a panicky puck-over-glass penalty in crunch time. He's resisting the urge to point out that his most dangerous weapon hasn't hit a net in two games. Or that poor Philippe Myers — reduced to 8:47 of work in this one — has been a disaster since signing his two-year contract extension.

The grind is also emotional, and the Leafs wanted this one for their goaltender, Joseph Woll. Number 60 returned to NHL action after a nearly six-month break between starts.

"We're competitors, and all we care about is winning. And the frustration mounts. It builds. You know, confidence dwindles away, so you got to manufacture it at times. And you take positives here and there," said a sage Jake McCabe.

"A positive for me tonight was seeing 60 back in there. I thought he did a phenomenal job. I just told him it was super good seeing him back in there and grinding and battling, and he was composed all night. He played great with the puck. So, that gives me a lot of joy, just seeing him doing his thing out there. It was awesome."

Woll stopped 29 of 32 pucks fired his way. He struck that comforting balance between calm and aggressive. He looked like a real NHL goalie, even if his insides were swirling.

"A mix of probably every different emotion. Little nervous, little excited. But just being out there on that sheet was pretty cool," Woll said.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

"Felt pretty solid, and felt like I was moving well, seeing the puck well."

The Maple Leafs have been shaken to the point where they must accentuate the positives. Their first periods have been better lately. Their goaltender has returned and looks sharp. And their urgency is intact if, at times, misplaced.

"I mean, we're working hard. I don't think the lost games as of late is defining us as a team. I mean, we're right there. It's just kind of frustrating, but hopefully it ends soon," said Nick Robertson, who has put up nine points in his past nine games.

"I just think we needed a little bit of luck, and we're going through adversity right now. But it brings teams together, right? You know, we're in the thick of it, and we got to work together to get out of it."

Together the Maple Leafs will blow off some steam Saturday night in Chicago. The injured guys made the trip, too. A big players-only dinner. An extra night away from the noise of Toronto — to bond, to vent, to hopefully turn the tide.

"Challenges like this, if you're able to deal with them appropriately," Rielly noted, "they can end up being positives down the road."

It's an unpredictable league, and the standings are as messy as some of the neutral-zone play that unfolded Saturday in Chicago.

Perhaps the Leafs will look back on this five-game funk as rock bottom.

"Stay positive. I mean, there's nothing else we can do," Robertson said.

"I mean, you're not gonna sit here and be sorry for ourselves. We got to come in and compete in the next game and work hard — and that's what we're doing. I mean, our competitiveness is there, our will to win is there."

Serious question about this group, which is trying now: Is that enough?

Fox's Fast Five

- Wayne Gretzky extolled the virtues of third-year Bedard on a recent TNT broadcast, noting that he should have the attention of Hockey Canada's decision-makers.

"He's playing his way onto Team Canada," the Great One proclaimed.

Bedard heard the endorsement.

"Nice of him. Probably the biggest figure in hockey history. So, if he's talking about you, that's obviously a good thing," a humbled Bedard told reporters at morning skate. "Feels good that he likes what he sees out of me."

- As explosive as Bedard has been this season, he has yet to light it up against the Leafs.

The star has no goals and just one assist in five games versus Toronto.

On this night, Woll & Co. snuffed out Bedard's nine-game point streak and four-game goal streak. Bedard also took a tripping penalty and won just 20 per cent of his draws.

"I feel like every year they start the first 10, 15 games (slow), and the whole city's kinda panicked," Bedard said of Toronto. "They're a good team."

Teuvo Teräväinen, on the other hand, had himself a moment...

- Fun moment this morning during Jeff Blashill's scrum. (Watch at the two-minute mark below.)

The Blackhawks coach was in the middle of answering a question about Ilya Mikheyev when the Dexys Midnight Runners' 1982 banger "Come On Eileen" began blasting from the visitors' room.

Blashill lost his train of thought and caught a groove, bobbing his head.

"I used to dance to this in college. I would, like, jump up and down. This is bringing back unreal memories."

- The David Kämpf bidding war is over, and the fourth-line centre is cashing in to the tune of \$1.1 million for one year in Vancouver. (Montreal also made a pitch, Elliotte Friedman reports.)

That makes the player whole for this season, since he already cashed \$1.33 million in a signing bonus from Toronto. The player is betting on himself to earn a raise in 2026-27 and claws back a decent chunk of the additional \$2.4 million he walked away from in Toronto.

In the meantime, Kämpf keeps his NHL career afloat and showcases himself for an Olympic bid.

- Ex-Leaf and human yard sale Tyler Bertuzzi missed his second game this season and is dealing with an undisclosed injury. His knack around the net (nine goals) was missed. So was his yapping.

"It's funny where he sits on the bench. He's always in a spot where he can chirp the other team," Frank Nazar said. "He makes me laugh and lightens the mood."

Bertuzzi made sure to hang around the hallway to share some laughs with Leafs bestie Max Domi following the game.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 11.17.2025

1368491 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / op players find form as Oilers scratch and claw their way to OT win

Mark Spector

"The crazy thing is, we know exactly what it looks like. We just got to, to a man, we've got to do it." — Jake Walman, on the Edmonton Oilers trying to find their game.

If, like us, you're the type of person who looks on the bright side, then you'd say that a team playing as average as the Edmonton Oilers finding itself within two points of the Pacific Division lead after Game No. 20 will likely be OK.

They should be fine when everyone gets back healthy and starts playing well, but for now...

"We're just scrapping and clawing our way through the first quarter here, and we're getting points on the board," acknowledged captain Connor McDavid after Saturday's 4-3 overtime win at Carolina. "That's all that matters."

Slowly, elements of the Oilers' game that they have relied on for their success over recent seasons is showing up.

Despite long stretches controlled by the Hurricanes, Edmonton never trailed. They started strong, then bent without breaking, a trait every good team has somewhere in its toolbox. And special teams — a trademark of the best Oilers teams — were perfect, with the penalty kill going two-for-two and the power play going one-for-one.

The goaltending was exceptional, with Stuart Skinner playing a reliable, positional game, taking good care of his rebounds while stopping 33 of 36 'Canes shots. And of course, the hallmark of any successful Oilers team: Edmonton's best players were superior to Carolina's top players, with Connor McDavid (2-1-3) feeding Leon Draisaitl (1-2-3) for the



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • November 17, 2025

overtime snipe that sends Edmonton to Buffalo with a 2-1 record on this elongated, seven-game roadie.

"They force you to mistakes, and we made a few of them," admitted head coach Kris Knoblauch. "The difference tonight, why we were able to get the two points, was that our best players were our best players. (Evan) Bouchard played a heck of a game. Obviously, Leon and Connor did too. And having (Zach) Hyman back."

So the post-Troy Stecher Era began with a 4-3 overtime win, ho hum for a team with just four regulation wins in its first 20 games this season — and five in overtime.

"It would be nice if we had an easy one once in a while," Knoblauch said.

"We're definitely scratching and clawing," added Skinner. "I feel like every game I play we go into overtime."

Zach Is Back

It's a significant loss, playing the first 19 games this season without the Oilers' best right winger. So it becomes a significant gain when Zach Hyman finally makes his return, playing 23:10, throwing a game-high 11 hits while adding an assist and a couple of excellent scoring chances against Carolina.

"It's just great to see him honestly, good to see him playing," McDavid said. "It was a significant injury, and I got to see him firsthand, working his way back. It wasn't always easy — it never is. Sometimes people forget the human side of it. It's an emotional thing to go through a significant injury like that, and to see him back and playing, healthy and moving really well, it's definitely uplifting for our group."

In a 2-2 game, Knoblauch united McDavid, Draisaitl and Hyman in Period 3 — and they were dominant.

Just having No. 18 on McDavid's right side makes the Oilers look more like the Oilers, an addition that helps both inside the room and on the ice.

"He brings so much positive energy and vibes," Draisaitl said. "He's such a wonderful human being, we're just happy to have him back. He hasn't played in six months, and you can see what he brings tonight."

Hyman played like a guy trying to make an impression on the Team Canada brass. He'll have about six weeks to play his way on that roster, and a few more games like this one won't hurt.

"We weren't exactly sure what we'd get from him, being his first game, but he looked like what we're used to," said Knoblauch, who ran Hyman out there for 20 shifts in his first game since dislocating his wrist on May 27 against Dallas. "Eleven hits — he said after the game he was just picking up right where he left off in the playoffs."

"He said, 'I told you, my legs are feeling great.' so I played him 20-plus minutes. Not an easy task for a guy hasn't played for several months."

OIL SPILLS — The Oilers have just one regulation win in their first 12 road games this season ... The final shots read 36-23, the ninth straight game in which Carolina has outshot their opponent ... Trent Frederic (no points, no shifts) played a team-low 7:08 Saturday ... Jack Roslovic had a goal and an assist. He has 6-8-14 in 18 games this season, and is looking like a fantastic pick-up by GM Stan Bowman.