



CAROLINA HURRICANES 4, VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS 5

Stanley Cup Finals Game One
Post Game Notes – June 2, 2026
Attendance: 18738



CAROLINA HURRICANES SCORING NOTES

Per	Time	Goal Scorer	Assists	STR	Score
1	0:25	Nikolaj Ehlers (5)	Jacob Slavin (3), Jalen Chatfield (5)	EV	1-0 CAR
1	12:08	Nikolaj Ehlers (6)	Jalen Chatfield (6)	EV	2-0 CAR
2	12:42	Jordan Staal (3)	K'Andre Miller (9)	EV	3-3
3	11:19	Shayne Gostisbehere (3)	<i>unassisted</i>	EV	4-4

-- **Shayne Gostisbehere** has recorded a point four-straight skates (5/25-6/2; 3g, 2a)

-- **Nikolaj Ehlers** has recorded points in three-straight games (5/27-6/2: 2g, 3a)

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS SCORING NOTES

Per	Time	Goal Scorer	Assists	STR	Score
1	13:28	Shea Theodore (5)	Brayden McNabb (4), Cole Smith (3)	EV	2-1 CAR
2	0:30	Ivan Barbashev (6)	Jack Eichel (17), Brayden McNabb (5)	EV	2-2
2	4:35	William Karlsson (2)	Mitch Marner (15), Brett Howden (3)	EV	3-2 VGK
3	1:21	Brett Howden (11)	Shea Theodore (8), Brayden McNabb (6)	EV	4-3 VGK
3	16:36	Thomas Hertl (4)	Colton Sissons (5), Shea Theodore (9)	EV	5-4 VGK

OPENING UP

Tonight's game is the first time in Stanley Cup Final history – in any game – that there has been a goal in the opening 30 seconds of both the first and second period.

BLUELINERS IN THE POINTS

Game 1 has set a new benchmark for most combined points by defensemen in Game 1 of a Stanley Cup Final.

FLY EHLERS FLY

Nikolaj Ehlers opened the scoring 25 seconds into the first period off feeds from **Jacob Slavin** and **Jalen Chatfield**, then added a second first-period goal at the 12:08 mark once again assisted by **Jalen Chatfield**. His goal is the third-fastest Stanley Cup Final-opening goal in history. The only ones faster: Sid Smith with the 1951 Maple Leafs (0:15 vs. MTL) and Reggie Leach with the 1976 Flyers (0:21 at MTL). Overall, Nikolaj Ehlers scored the 10th goal ever in the opening 25 seconds of any Stanley Cup Final game. It was the fastest since Fernando Pisani tallied for the Oilers 16 seconds into Game 5 of the 2006 Final – played at the same building in Carolina. Ehlers became the second player on record (since 1997-98) to score on the first shot on goal to open a Stanley Cup Final. The only other instance was Game 1 of the 2007 Stanley Cup Final (Mike Fisher at 1:38). 25 seconds tied Erik Cole (0:25 in Game 6 of 2002 CSF) for the second-fastest game-opening playoff goal in Hurricanes/Whalers history, behind Warren Foegele (0:17 in Game 4 of 2019 R1). Ehlers (12:08) scored the fastest two goals by one player from the start of a Stanley Cup Final in more than 35 years. Overall, Ehlers' tallies were the fifth-fastest two goals by one player to start a Stanley Cup Final, behind Dick Duff (1:08 in 1963 w/ TOR), (Al MacInnis 8:33 in 1989 w/ CGY), Reg Noble (11:00 in 1918 w/ TAN) and Pit Martin (12:07 in 1973 w/ CHI). Ehlers' goals tonight give him points in three-straight games (5/27-6/2, 2g, 3a) marking his longest career playoff point streak. His first period performance signals his second career multi-goal playoff period (5/15/25 vs. DAL, 2g, 3rd) and fifth-career multi-goal playoff game. His 11 points (6g, 5a) through 13 games marks his career high for points and goals in a single postseason.

CHAT-EGORY FIVE

Jalen Chatfield provided an assist on both of **Nikolaj Ehlers'** first period goals to mark his first career multi-point playoff period and second career multi-point playoff game (2a vs. MTL, 2026 ECF Game 2). Chatfield (0-2—2) became the 10th defenseman in NHL history to record multiple points in the opening period of a Stanley Cup Final, and second in the past 33 years following Chris Pronger (0-2—2 in 2010 w/ PHI). The blueliner has tallied a playoff career high seven points (1g, 6a) in 14 games so far this postseason.

OH CAPTAIN! MY CAPTAIN!

Jordan Staal evened the score in the second period off an assist from **K'Andre Miller**. His tally marked his fourth career Stanley Cup Final point (3g, 1a) and first since 2009 (Game 6 vs DET). Staal has tallied 79 points (41g, 38a) in 176 career playoff games, leading the Hurricanes/Whalers franchise in postseason games played (103, tied with **Sebastian Aho**) fourth in points (43, tied with **Jacob Slavin** and **Eric Staal**) and sixth in goals (18, tied with **Rod Brind'Amour**). Jordan Staal, 37, became the third Hurricanes/Whalers skater to score a goal in the Stanley Cup Final at age 37 or older, following Ron Francis (age 39 in Game 1 of 2002 SCF; 1 total) and Mark Recchi (age 38 in Game 2 & 4 in 2006 SCF; 2 total). Jordan Staal's goal tonight came nearly 17 years after his last tally in the Stanley Cup Final (Game 6 in 2009 w/ PIT, a span of 16 years, 358 days). That is the longest span from one Stanley Cup Final goal to the next, breaking the previous mark by just four days – it was held by his brother, Eric Staal, who also achieved the feat with a goal vs. Vegas (16 years, 354 days; Game 5 in 2006 w/ CAR to Game 1 in 2023 w/ FLA).

GHOST MODE

Shayne Gostisbehere scored a goal in the third period to mark points in four-straight skates (5/25-6/2; 3g, 2a), signaling his longest career postseason point streak. The 33-year-old defenseman has totaled seven points (3g, 4a) in 14 games this postseason. His three goals in the 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs equal his career high for most goals in a single postseason, equalling 2024-25.

100 FOR SLAVIN

Jacob Slavin recorded an assist on **Nikolaj Ehlers'** first period goal while skating in his 100th career playoff game tonight and first in a Stanley Cup Finals. The alternate captain has recorded 43 points (9g, 34a) though 100 playoff games played so far. The 2026 Gold Medalist is the third player in Hurricanes/Whalers playoff history to reach 100 career skates (Sebastian Aho and Jordan Staal – 103). His assist tonight moves him tied for fourth with **Jordan and Eric Staal** in Hurricanes/Whalers franchise history for most playoff points (43). His 34 career playoff assists rank second in Hurricanes/Whalers playoff history.

THE FIGHT WITH THE KNIGHTS

The Hurricanes are facing the Golden Knights in the 2026 Stanley Cup Final, marking the first time the clubs face each other in the postseason and the 68th unique Stanley Cup Final matchup. Both teams have a 1-1 series record in the Stanley Cup Final and both teams have won their most recent appearance (CAR in 2006, VGK in 2023). Carolina (12-1 in 13 GP) became the first team to reach the Stanley Cup Final with fewer than two losses since 1987 when all four rounds went best-of-seven. The Hurricanes posted a 0-2 regular season record against Vegas this season with their last matchup on October 28, 2025. Three currently rostered Hurricanes have played in the Stanley Cup Final previously, Jesperi Kotkaniemi (MTL in 2021), Jordan Staal (PIT in 2008 and 2009) and William Carrier (VGK in 2023), with Staal (2009) and Carrier being the only ones to hoist the Cup.

GAME ONE

The Hurricanes are now 20-20 all-time in Game 1 of a best-of-seven series, including a 14-9 record at home. Carolina holds a 14-6 series record when taking a 1-0 lead, and 7-12 record when trailing 1-0.

LOADING UP LENOVO

The Carolina Hurricanes stretched their sellout streak to 166 consecutive regular-season and playoff games tonight. With the opening of the new View Bar on the 300 level, seating capacity is now 18,547. The Hurricanes' last non-sellout at home came on 2/21/23, when a crowd of 18,142 watched the team post a 4-1 win vs. STL – a game that came two days after the team hosted 56,961 fans at Carter-Finley Stadium for the 2023 Stadium Series.

SPECIAL TEAMS

- Carolina was 0-for-2 on the power play tonight and are 7-58 (12.1%) on the man advantage this postseason. The Hurricanes were 3-for-3 on the penalty kill and are 52-56 (92.9%) on the kill this postseason.
- Vegas was 0-for-3 on the power play tonight and are 11-49 (22.4%) on the man advantage this postseason. The Golden Knights were 2-for-2 on the penalty kill and are 44-50 (88.0%) on the kill this postseason.

SHOTS BY PERIOD

TEAMS	1st	2nd	3rd	OT	Total
Vegas	4	11	8	-	23
Carolina	12	4	11	-	27