



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 5, 2026

The News & Observer

Hurricanes fight past Flyers in overtime for first win of the season

Chip Alexander

After losing their first two games at home, the Carolina Hurricanes went on the road Saturday to earn their first victory of the new season.

Defenseman Shayne Gostisbehere's power-play goal at 2:51 of overtime gave the Canes a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers at Xfinity Mobile Arena. Sebastian Aho had two goals and an assist, and goalie Pyotr Kochetkov picked up his first victory in net since December 2025.

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The Canes trailed 2-1 in the third period Saturday against the Flyers, the team Carolina swept in four games in the second round of the playoffs last season. But Aho struck on the power play about five minutes into the period to tie the score, and the Canes killed off a Gostisbehere slashing penalty late in regulation and early in overtime.

Aho's first goal came on the first shift of the game, the center taking a pass from William Carrier from behind the net and beating goalie Joseph Woll with a quick strike. Carrier had been moved to the Aho line by Canes coach Rod Brind'Amour, and the forechecking of the winger and Andrei Svechnikov resulted in the Aho score from the slot.

The Canes fell behind the Caps 3-0 in the first period of Friday's game in Raleigh but had an immediate response in the team's first back-to-back of the season.

"I thought from start to finish we were good. We got to our game right away, first shift, which was nice," Brind'Amour said. "We had the bulk of the play. I liked that we had to stick with it and the power play came up big."

In overtime, the Flyers' Owent Tippett was called for slashing Aho at 1:35 of OT. Gostisbehere took a pass from Jackson Blake and unloaded from the top of the left circle as Svechnikov screened Woll.

"I was trying to put it there and thankfully it went in," Gostisbehere said. "It wasn't what we were trying to do ... but at the end of the day you've got to make some plays and put the puck in the net."

Tippett and Matvei Michkov each scored their first goals of the season – Tippett in the first period after a scramble in the slot after a loose puck and then Michkov in the second to give the Flyers the lead. Woll had 37 saves as the Flyers fell to 0-1-2.

"Today, we played our game the full 60-plus minutes, keep grinding, keep grinding," Aho said. "Our mentality was to play Hurricanes hockey today."

Kochetkov missed most of last season after surgery and had some rough moments in preseason games. But after Brandon Bussi started the first two games of the season, he was in net for the first time since December and faced 18 shots.

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Aho's first goal was the fastest in a game for the Canes since Kevin Dineen's score 10 seconds into the first period Dec. 3, 1990, for the Hartford Whalers at Montreal.

Also of note: Canes forward Jordan Martinook played his 800th career game, and the Canes won their first road game for the ninth straight season, matching the Flyers' NHL record.



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NORTH STATE JOURNAL

Hurricanes lack 'urgency' in 5-2 loss to Capitals

RALEIGH — The Hurricanes ran back nearly their entire lineup for this season following the franchise's second Stanley Cup, while the Capitals brought in reinforcements to try to close the gap in the Metropolitan Division.

For one night, the reinforcements won.

New Washington winger Alex Tuch scored twice in the first period, and the Capitals jumped out to an early three-goal lead en route to a 5-2 win over the Hurricanes on Friday at Lenovo Center.

"There's not a lot of positives out of that," Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "The start was not good. You get behind the eight ball with kind of a freebie. You can't give good teams three goals. I thought we gave two of those up tonight."

Tuch scored both his goals thanks to misplays by Carolina goalie Brandon Bussi (22 saves).

On the first, Bussi was pressured by Pierre-Luc Dubois while trying to play the puck behind the net. Dubois forced a turnover, sending the puck to the front of the goal. Tuch pounced and buried it into the vacant net at 6:33 of the first.

After Washington defenseman Cole Hutson scored on his fourth shot attempt of a prolonged sequence in the Carolina zone five minutes later to double the lead, Tuch benefited from another Bussi mistake.

A Tom Wilson point shot trickled through Bussi's pads, and Tuch crashed the net and forked the puck in for his second goal of the night and a 3-0 Washington lead at 14:23 of the opening period.

"We know the recipe and what works," Carolina defenseman Sean Walker said, "and I don't think we truly got to that yet."

The Capitals scored a power play goal early in the second period to stretch their lead to four, and then Carolina finally got its first goal of the season.

On the power play, Andrei Svechnikov had his one-timer blocked by Wilson, but the puck went right back to the Carolina winger. Svechnikov passed to Sebastian Aho on the flank, and he fired home the Hurricanes' first goal of the season at 16:50 of the middle frame — after 101:45 without a goal — to cut the lead to 4-1.

The relief, however, was short-lived as Ryan Leonard scored off the ensuing faceoff to reestablish Washington's four-goal lead, and Carolina was unable to mount a third period comeback.

"I don't want to make excuses, but I think just we need to have a little bit more urgency in our game," Hurricanes center Logan Stankoven said.

Carolina did manage to get its first 5-on-5 goal of the year midway through the third period when Stankoven redirected a K'Andre Miller point shot for his first goal of the season.

But the Hurricanes weren't satisfied with any moral victories.

"There wasn't a ton of positive tonight," captain Jordan Staal said. "We got outplayed and outmatched in our own building."

The loss marked the second time in Bussi's NHL career that he has been on the losing end of consecutive games — the other time being when he lost three straight in regulation in March of last season.

"We've got to be able to bail him out," Brind'Amour said. "Obviously, there were a couple he'd like to have back, but I don't even know if that would have mattered tonight."

Meanwhile, Capitals goalie Logan Thompson had a solid start to his season, making 31 saves for his second win in six career starts at Lenovo Center.

The turnaround is quick for the Hurricanes, who hopped on a plane after the game for Philadelphia to play the Flyers on Saturday for their third chance at win No. 1 of the 2026-27 season.

With Friday's loss, Carolina has failed to win either of its first two games for the first time since Brind'Amour took over as coach in 2018-19.

"I'd say we laid an egg in Game 2 and, fortunately, we play tomorrow," Staal said, "and we're looking to turn it around."

Notes: Charles Alexis Legault received a 10-minute misconduct and had 12 penalty minutes overall, the most in a game by a Carolina rookie defenseman since Roland McKeown had 17 PIMs on April 2, 2018. ... Svechnikov had a game-high six shots on goal. ... Stankoven won 3 of 13 faceoffs. ... Jesperi Kotkaniemi and Mike Reilly were healthy scratches for Carolina.



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Recap: Canes Chalk Up First Win In Philadelphia

Walt Ruff & Peter Dewar

PHILADELPHIA - Shayne Gostisbehere lit the lamp 2:51 into overtime to lift the Carolina Hurricanes to a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers at Xfinity Mobile Arena on Saturday.

[GAME SUMMARY](#) | [BOX SCORE](#) | [BUY TICKETS](#)

Coming off a pair of "lethargic" performances on home ice, the Canes wasted little time taking their first lead of the season on a Sebastian Aho shot from the slot just 10 seconds in. That goal marked the return of a far more familiar brand of hockey from the Hurricanes than what was displayed in the first two outings, but the advantage lasted just until the middle section of the frame when the Flyers found an equalizer.

Philadelphia then jumped in front during the second period, converting on a scramble sequence in front of Carolina's cage.

Despite the score, Rod Brind'Amour's group continued to dictate play and more than doubled the Flyers' chances. In the third period, the levee finally broke once again, as Aho doubled his output for the evening, this time converting on the power play.

In the closing minutes of regulation, a penalty to Gostisbehere could have proved costly as the shorthanded stint bled into overtime. But shortly after the Canes' kill came through, the special teams pendulum swung the other way as Owen Tippett sat for slashing Aho. That opened the window for Gostisbehere to hammer home a one-timer and cement Carolina's first victory of the young season.

In net for Carolina, Pyotr Kochetkov made his first regular-season appearance since Dec. 20, 2025. Earning the win, he turned aside 16 of 18 shots between the pipes.

Stats & Standouts

Sebastian Aho's game-starting goal tied Kevin Dineen (0:10 on Dec. 3, 1990 @ MTL) for the second-fastest goal to start a game in franchise history. Of note, it also tied Dineen for the fastest goal to start a road game.

With the strike, Aho passed Eric Staal (49) for the most game-opening goals in franchise history. Aho also became the sixth Finnish player to score 50 game openers.

Aho recorded his 47th career multi-goal game and matched Ron Francis for the second-most in Hurricanes franchise history. Eric Staal (49) tops the list.

Andrei Svechnikov has assisted all three of Aho's goals this season.

Shayne Gostisbehere scored the eighth overtime goal of his career, tying Dustin Byfuglien and Charlie McAvoy for the second-most all-time by a U.S.-born defenseman. Only Seth Jones (12) has more.

Carolina went 2-for-4 on the power play; three of its five goals on the year have come via the man advantage.

They Said It...

Rod Brind'Amour giving his evaluation of the game...

"From start to finish, I thought we were good. Especially (given) that we played last night and that didn't go the way that we wanted it to. But I thought we got to our game right away. First shift, which was nice. Then, we had the bulk of the play. I just like that we had the (ability) to stick with it. Our power play came up big. Our penalty kill was great. That's what it needed to do tonight, but I liked the whole process."

Shayne Gostisbehere discussing his team finally getting in the win column...

"The first two games weren't what we do. It wasn't the way we play. We just got back to that a little bit tonight. Obviously, there are some smaller things to clean up, but obviously (it was), a good outcome."

Sebastian Aho on the team's power play sparking its offense...

"Obviously there's a pre-scout; you try and look a little bit at what they're going to do, what their tendencies are, but I've always said it comes down to execution, the passes and the shots. There's always plays that you think you're going to run, but it's hockey, you know? You've got to play hockey, and there's a reason why you're on the power play. Fly, for example, on that pass in the slot for me- it was elite. Happy to be good in that department too."

Pyotr Kochetkov describing how he felt after playing his first regular season game in over nine months...

"Not bad. It was a good start for us. The second period was not so good for me. I'm very happy the guys just continued to play well. Give credit to the Flyers goalie, (Joseph) Woll. He did unbelievable today. I'm very happy we won today."

What's Next?

The Canes will fly back to Raleigh immediately post-game. They'll be off on Sunday and return to practice on Monday, before flying to Montreal to face the Canadiens in a Tuesday night matchup.



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AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurricanes beat the Flyers 3-2 in OT for their first win as Aho scores 2

Anthony San Filippo

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Sebastian Aho scored a pair of goals and assisted on Shayne Gostisbehere's overtime winner as the Carolina Hurricanes beat the Philadelphia Flyers 3-2 on Saturday night.

Gostisbehere, a former Flyer, scored on the power play, firing a slap shot past Philadelphia goalie Joseph Woll 2:51 into the extra period.

Aho scored 10 seconds into the game on a pass from behind the net by William Carrier. He tied the score 2-2 in the third period with a power-play goal on a one-timer from Nikolai Ehlers. Pyotr Kochetkov had 16 saves.

The win was the Hurricanes' first of the season after the Stanley Cup champions opened with a pair of losses, but it also matched an NHL record. It was the ninth consecutive season the Hurricanes have won their road opener, tying a mark set by the Flyers from 1980 through 1988. Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour became the first coach to win nine consecutive road openers.

Philadelphia dropped its third straight game to start the season for the first time since the 2014-15 season.

Owen Tippett and Matvei Michkov scored for the Flyers. They were the first goals scored by Flyers forwards this season.

Woll made 37 saves for the Flyers, who have been outshot 122-62 combined in their first three games.

A tougher division awaits as the Philadelphia Flyers aim to prove last season was no fluke

The Carolina Hurricanes now face a new challenge: playing as reigning Stanley Cup champion

Metropolitan Division is a free-for-all behind defending champion Carolina at the top

The game was the first meeting between Carolina and Philadelphia since the Hurricanes swept the Flyers in the Eastern Conference semifinals last season.



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Carolina visits Montreal after Aho's 2-goal game

The Associated Press

Carolina Hurricanes (1-1-1, in the Metropolitan Division) vs. Montreal Canadiens (1-0-1, in the Atlantic Division)

Montreal, Quebec; Tuesday, 7 p.m. EDT

LINE: Hurricanes -118, Canadiens -102; over/under is 6.5

BOTTOM LINE: The Carolina Hurricanes visit the Montreal Canadiens after Sebastian Aho scored two goals in the Hurricanes' 3-2 overtime win against the Philadelphia Flyers.

Montreal had a 48-24-10 record overall and a 26-19-4 record at home last season. The Canadiens scored 56 power-play goals last season on 242 chances for a 23.1% success rate.

Carolina had a 53-22-7 record overall and a 32-12-6 record on the road last season. The Hurricanes had a 24.9% power play success rate last season, scoring 60 goals on 241 chances.

INJURIES: Canadiens: Alexandre Carrier: day to day (undisclosed), Oliver Kapanen: day to day (lower-body), Kaiden Guhle: out (groin).

Hurricanes: None listed.



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LINKS

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SportScan

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

1224905 Carolina Hurricanes

Hurricanes fight past Flyers in overtime for first win of the season

Chip Alexander

4-5 minutes 04/10/2026

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News Observer LOADED: 10.05.2026



CAROLINA HURRICANES

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1224983 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Canucks' standards on the rise after 2-2 start: 'We've still got better'

Iain MacIntyre

VANCOUVER – Anyone who bet the Vancouver Canucks to be 2-2 — four games in six nights, three of them against projected Stanley Cup contenders — would have made money on the over.

The Canucks have looked overmatched at times, but not overwhelmed. And they've found ways to dig in and compete, like they did Sunday when they were pressing for a tying goal at the end but lost 3-2 to the formidable Vegas Golden Knights after being outshot 26-11 through two periods.

The game at Rogers Arena started less than 24 hours after the Canucks powered through a difficult first half and pulled away from the Calgary Flames for a 4-1 win.

Considering the Canucks were by far the worst team in the National Hockey League last season, you might think going 2-2 in a difficult opening week would have Vancouver players feeling pretty good. But Sunday, they weren't.

"I think you nailed it," centre Max Sasson said. "I think from the outside, yeah, people are probably saying that. But in here, as I've said, there's a lot of belief. We think we're a good NHL hockey team that isn't an easy out by any means. And obviously, our schedule, we're playing the best teams in the league. I think this was a very winnable game. You know, if we have probably a better start, don't take too many of these penalties, I think we're going to give ourselves a chance to win every night."

"For us, it's not really about what anyone expects of us," veteran winger Drew O'Connor said. "We go into every game and we want to win, and that's our expectation. That's our mentality going into every game. It was a close one tonight and we played hard, but I think our starts, especially, have to be a little bit better to give ourselves a better chance."

Much more than their systems, coaching and management staff, and roster have changed since last season. So have the Canucks' standards.

For the first time this season, Vancouver actually led at the first intermission on a power-play goal from Paul Cotter, the former New Jersey Devils' fourth-liner who scored his fourth goal in four games for the Canucks on a redirect from Filip Hronek at 18:28.

Fed momentum by early Canuck penalties to Jamie Oleksiak and Aatu Raty, Vegas outshot Vancouver 12-6 in the first period, then 14-5 in the second as Brendan Gallagher and Tom Willander took more penalties for the home team.

And yet, the Canucks were still even at 2-2 after rookie Jonathan Lekkerimäki snatched a tying goal at 17:54 of the middle frame, shooting from a sharp angle between Knights goalie Adin Hill's arm and torso.

But the Canucks gave the goal back on the next shift when a couple of defensive-zone turnovers by Liam O'hgrehn and puck-watching by defenceman Elias Pettersson (and others) allowed the Knights to generate a fourth-line winning goal by Marc Gattcomb at 18:28.

"Whether you're scored on or you get a goal, that's the opportunity to take control of the game and get momentum back," Canucks coach Manny Malhotra said of the pivotal moment. "So, it's been talked about, it's been addressed. Just like the start of our game, you have to be ready to go. Much the same right after a goal: you have to be ready to put your best game forward."

After splitting home-and-away games against the Edmonton Oilers last week, the rebuilding Canucks will see more Stanley Cup contenders on a six-game eastern road trip that starts Thursday against the champion Carolina Hurricanes and ends against other recent winners in the Florida Panthers and Tampa Bay Lightning.

Malhotra, the rookie head coach, said his team is improving.

"We're definitely seeing progress in different areas of the game," he told reporters. "I think we addressed it today a little bit better than the first few games, just in terms of our start. (But) obviously, in the first period, if you give a team like that, with that potent a power play, opportunities to touch pucks and feel good about themselves... they drove a lot of the play. But the fact that we stuck with it and came out of the period 1-0 up was a good start for us."

So was the opening week.

"Well, for a team that everybody in the world has said is going to be last in the league, I'm pretty happy with how we've been doing," Cotter said. "We have a great group. I've said it 10 times, but (we have) a very ego-less group. We have a mix of older, younger guys and guys in between, and a lot of skill. And when you have a room that's that close and willing to get better together, it can take you so far. We've battled."

After getting Saturday's game off to rest, and perhaps get some goaltending therapy after the two-game free-for-all against the Oilers ended with an aggregate score of 14-13 for Edmonton, Canucks starter Kevin Lankinen was excellent on Sunday.

A quiet leader, Lankinen made a pile of strong stops among his 25 saves to keep Vancouver close.

Of course, he's not satisfied with .500, either.

"No, not at all," he said. "I think we've got something good cooking here. Of course, it's not perfect. It's not complete yet. But we're building a new system, building a new culture, and we're showing some glimpses of that. Now we've just got to keep showing that every single night — you know, 60 minutes, and sometimes even more than that. We gave them a good push today, but I think we've still got better

"We believe in our own structure, we believe in our system. Most of the nights, it's not going to be perfect. But the most important thing is what we have here: the commitment or belief in our own abilities and the system and what we've got going on here. I have a really good feeling about this team."

ICE CHIPS – Winger Jake DeBrusk missed both weekend games due to illness, which brought Raty into the lineup on the fourth line and allowed Cotter to move to the second unit as Malhotra added Marco Rossi to Elias Pettersson's first line... Pettersson's assist on Cotter's goal gave the centre points in all four games so far... Cotter went 8-2 on faceoffs, Sasson led the Canucks with four blocked shots, while Rossi registered five hits... Defenceman Hronek has five points in four games, but Zeev Buium has zero.

HOW THEY LINED UP

Forwards

Rossi-Pettersson-Karlsson

O'hgrehn-Cotter-Boeser

Sasson-Lekkerimäki

O'Connor-Raty-Gallagher

Defencemen

Buium-Hronek

Oleksiak-Willander

Pettersson (Jr)-Schenn

Goalie

Lankinen

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Sportsnet.ca / Flames' disconnected play sets painful tone for first year of rebuild

Eric Francis

SEATTLE – It's easy to take potshots, pointing out Igor Shesterkin's offensive output matched that of the Calgary Flames until Morgan Frost scored late Sunday.

A goal and an assist for the Rangers goalie so far this season, three goals for the Flames.

Fact is, no one should be surprised the Flames have just one goal in each of their three losses, as scoring was always destined to be the Flames' biggest issue this season.

They finished last in goals last season.

Given the leading scorers erased since then, they'll obviously finish last again this year.

But what's glaring about the Flames' 0-3 start this season is the number of goals surrendered.

Outscored an unfathomable 16-3 so far, Sunday's 6-1 loss in Seattle underscored just how far away this team is from playing the type of cohesive, tight-checking defence that gives them their only chance to keep games close through this rebuild.

Goaltending and defence were supposed to be the Flames' strengths.

And while there is an understanding amongst Calgary's educated fan base that progress over the next handful of years isn't measured in wins and losses, the fashion in which they lose still matters.

So far, the start has been unacceptable.

By any standards.

Sitting minus-13 in goal differential three games in (against non-playoff teams to boot) sets a horrific tone on a season that's shaping to be even more painful than Flames fans expected in Year 1 of their rebuild.

"I don't know if this is going to sound crazy, I don't even think we played that bad tonight," said the Flames' lone goal-scorer, Morgan Frost, underscoring just how egregious the defensive breakdowns were in a game the Flames were behind 3-0 just seven minutes in.

"I feel like when we're making a mistake, we're giving up a breakaway. It's frustrating right now. We've got to tighten it up.

"We've obviously got to play better defensively, and I think if we're gonna win games, that's how we're gonna win games."

Winning must feel like a big IF right now.

In a room full of youngsters who desperately wanted to build confidence by getting off to a good start, their only hope was via low-scoring, close-checking affairs.

Disconnected is the word coach Ryan Huska used to describe how his team keeps finding itself in this position, as a handful of defensive miscues or missed assignments wound up behind Dustin Wolf.

Sure, their franchise goalie needed to be much, much sharper in each of his two outings.

But pinning this on him is not fair.

That said, he's definitely part of the problem.

A column for another day.

32 Thoughts: The Podcast

32 Thoughts: The Podcast

Hockey fans already know the name, but this is not the blog. From Sportsnet, 32 Thoughts: The Podcast with NHL Insider Elliotte Friedman

and Kyle Bukauskas is a weekly deep dive into the biggest news and interviews from the hockey world.

Latest episode

Devoid of leading scorers Nazem Kadri, Blake Coleman, MacKenzie Weegar and Rasmus Andersson from last year's popgun offence, this year's forward group knows the pressure to produce for the first time in their careers is immense.

With that comes a tendency to cheat defensively to make a play, which has led to some of the miscues that seem to compound before every goal against.

"You've got some new people that are trying to find their way a little bit and they're trying to do a little bit too much at times," said Huska.

"We're dealing with some adversity right now."

Are they ever.

"It feels like when one goes in against us we just end up giving up a couple," said Joel Farabee, whose 500th NHL game took a nasty turn just two minutes in when Berkly Catton sparked a three-goal burst in the first seven minutes.

"We haven't given up much in our D-zone, it's just the rush chances against where there's maybe a bit of confusion with some new guys, and things like that."

Excruciating growing pains.

We could go through all six goals, but the reality is almost every one of them came off the rush, and saw a defenceman burned by a missed read or misstep.

They were certainly torched as a group, with the last line of defence failing to make enough big stops to limit an opportunistic Seattle squad that actually had one less high-danger chance than the Flames (14-13 according to Natural Stat Trick).

The Flames outshot Seattle too (33-27), which means nothing.

The post-game flight home must have been deathly silent – not just because of their latest embarrassing result, but because of what many fear lies ahead Thursday when the league's most dangerous offence – Colorado - visits.

Sportsnet.ca LOADED: 10.05.2026



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1224985 Websites

Sportsnet.ca / Sunday Overreactions: Canucks' Pettersson boosting trade value

Michael Amato

It's a phrase we haven't uttered very often over the past two seasons. But it was justified Thursday night, when Pettersson ripped a one-timer off a cross-ice pass for his second power-play goal of the season. He's up to four points in three games and is showing glimpses of the player that was once one of the most promising young centres in the NHL. Even when he didn't find the scoresheet Saturday night, Pettersson still threw eight hits, drew a penalty and rung one of the post. He was everywhere.

Many thought that player was lost forever. Pettersson topped 100 points only a few years ago, but he's been nowhere close to that level since. The 27-year-old recorded 45 and 51 points respectively over the past two seasons, while going a combined minus-40 over that stretch. Pettersson's confidence appeared to be shot, and any hope the rebuilding Vancouver Canucks had of moving him for future assets seemed lost. With this impressive start to the campaign, though, maybe Pettersson's play will intrigue a desperate team enough to make the Canucks an offer at some point.

Canucks may be able to trade Pettersson if he continues to impress

It was never going to be easy to move Pettersson's contract, though it was virtually impossible once his play started to dip. Now his \$11.6-million cap hit doesn't look so bad after the financial explosion we saw across the league this summer. Pettersson doesn't even necessarily have to get back to that 100-point level to be moved, as there is a huge shortage of supply and a massive demand when it comes to centres. If Pettersson can get into that 60-70 point range and be strong defensively, he could have a market again around the league.

Overreaction? – No

One thing the Canucks have going for them if they want to move Pettersson is that they would be one of the few teams willing to take draft picks and prospects back in a trade because of their rebuild. We've heard this already with the Columbus Blue Jackets and Kirill Marchenko, as well as the Winnipeg Jets and Connor Hellebuyck. Both teams wanted impact players in return who could help their teams right away. Most contending squads wouldn't be willing to give up a key contributor off their roster, so the fact that Vancouver would likely be open to future assets in a Pettersson return helps its cause as a trade partner.

Pettersson's AAV could still be an issue with several years left to go on the deal, but if the Canucks could eat a bit of the money or take a bad contract back in return, it should make facilitating a trade easier. Vancouver has nearly \$16 million of cap space to work with, so it's certainly doable. With all that said, it's still going to take Pettersson maintaining his strong play for a substantial amount of time before other teams start showing any serious interest. There's a long way to go, but maybe there's a team out there that's willing to make the Canucks a decent offer for Pettersson by the deadline. It certainly doesn't seem as impossible as it once did.

Poor goaltending could derail Oilers season

It's only been a few games, but the concerns are already mounting in the Edmonton Oilers crease. Six goals went past Tristan Jarry on opening night as the Oilers lost to an inspired Canucks squad, who finished 32nd last season and figure to be right around the league's basement again this year. Edmonton got a second crack at the Canucks two days later, and Devon Levi had a worse outing than Jarry, allowing seven to tickle the twine. It took the Oilers 14 goals in two games just to secure one victory. That's not sustainable.

Despite Jarry struggling mightily in 2025-26 after arriving in Edmonton, the Oilers again chose to only look for a Band-Aid solution this past off-season. Frederik Andersen is a fine option when he's available, but as we know, that's rare. He hasn't appeared in more than 35 games since 2021-22, and Andersen is already on the shelf with an ailment. Levi is a good bet, and he had a much stronger outing Saturday, though he's

largely unproven and would be considered a long shot to carry the load between the pipes. It's very possible the Oilers are again searching for answers in net as this season wears on.

Overreaction? – No

Edmonton's biggest move this off-season wasn't on the ice, as they are banking on new head coach Mike Babcock to provide a huge lift to this group. Although if night one was any indication, there's really no coach who can compensate for shaky goaltending. That begs the question: Why again did the Oilers not address the position to a greater extent this summer? Yes, they did add two goalies, but neither give you a reasonable amount of confidence that Jarry wouldn't once again end up seeing the majority of the playing time.

The Toronto Maple Leafs moved two goalies this summer, including Joseph Woll, who has good career numbers and could probably be counted on as at least a 1B. Sergei Bobrovsky, a two-time Cup and Vezina winner who is a future Hall of Famer, also hit the market. Then there's Connor Hellebuyck, who demanded a trade months ago and is still sitting at home. Granted, some of these things may be out of the Oilers' control, like whether Bobrovsky had interest in Edmonton or if Hellebuyck would even waive his no-move clause for a Canadian team. But it certainly does feel like solidifying the goaltending hasn't been as big of a priority as it should be in Edmonton.

Maple Leafs will regret trading Knies

It would be fair to say the reaction to the Matthew Knies-Kirill Marchenko trade in Toronto was mixed. Most Maple Leafs fans were excited to get a player of Marchenko's calibre, but were puzzled as to why Knies' name constantly surfaced in trade rumours through two management regimes. Knies is still just 23 years of age, on a very friendly long-term contract and has a unique skill set that's hard to find around the league. That skill set was on full display in Knies' first game with the Columbus Blue Jackets, as the rugged forward scored twice and added an assist during an opening-night win. It's the kind of game-changing talent that could make the Leafs regret this trade someday.

Overreaction? – Yes

One stellar game from Knies shouldn't define this trade, and Marchenko is already building chemistry with Auston Matthews that should only continue to grow over time. If those two can form a solid duo that helps the Leafs secure Matthews to a long-term extension, that alone will make the trade a win. The only reason Toronto would regret this trade is if a centre or top defenceman comes available where they could've used Knies as their biggest trade chip. Those players rarely become an option via a trade or free agency, so upgrading the group with Marchenko today was still a shrewd move. Hindsight is 20/20, and there's always a chance a trade could not pan out, but Toronto's logic with the Knies trade here was sound.

Panthers are in trouble after Barkov's injury

Not again. After missing all of last season with a torn ACL suffered in training camp, Aleksander Barkov went down in only the second contest for the Florida Panthers and will miss at least 10 games on LTIR. Things really snowballed in a bad way last season for the Panthers after Barkov went down, as injuries and inconsistency led to the team missing the post-season after back-to-back Stanley Cups. There's no doubt Barkov is the team's most important player, as his 200-foot game is unrivalled in the NHL and Florida's captain can be used in any situation. In a tough Atlantic Division, there's a real danger it could be *deja vu* for the Panthers this season and that their playoff chances have taken a massive hit.

Overreaction? – Yes

Barkov is obviously a massive loss for the Panthers, but they shouldn't be as vulnerable as they were last year. Keep in mind, Florida was also without Matthew Tkachuk until January last season, and it was coming off three straight Cup Final appearances. The Panthers had played a ton of hockey over that span and were clearly feeling it, making it tougher to overcome key injuries. In 2026-27, the Panthers are returning from a long summer rested and recharged and have added Brady Tkachuk, so they should be in better shape to hold the fort down until Barkov returns. Plus, there is optimism this ailment isn't season-ending for Barkov. Hopefully he should be back at some point to help them with a playoff push.



CAROLINA HURRICANES

NEWS CLIPPINGS • October 5, 2026

As far as debuts go, it's hard to have a better one than Nick Robertson did this week with the Pittsburgh Penguins. Robertson scored twice in his first regular-season game in a Pens jersey, taking advantage of playing on the top line with Sidney Crosby. That's not a bad place to be if you want to pad your stats. Nobody ever questioned Robertson's shot in Toronto, it was more the consistency that kept him from cementing a place in the top six and getting more ice time. Pittsburgh isn't as logjammed with high-end talent as the Maple Leafs were, so Robertson has a real chance to stay up there this season. And if he plays with Crosby, the sky is the limit. He's never even scored 20 goals before, but could 25 be in sight in a full campaign next to Crosby?

Overreaction? – No

We've seen Crosby drag plenty of okay players to respectable seasons before, and if you have some skill and savvy as Chris Kunitz did, you can really thrive. Robertson definitely has an excellent shot, and you can bet Crosby is going to find him in prime scoring areas if he can get open. Plus, Robertson played 15:02 on opening night after never averaging more than 12:40 during his time in Toronto. It's clear the Pens want to give him a real look at the top of the lineup, and if Robertson can just work his way into some consistent power-play time as well, 25 shouldn't be out of reach.

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