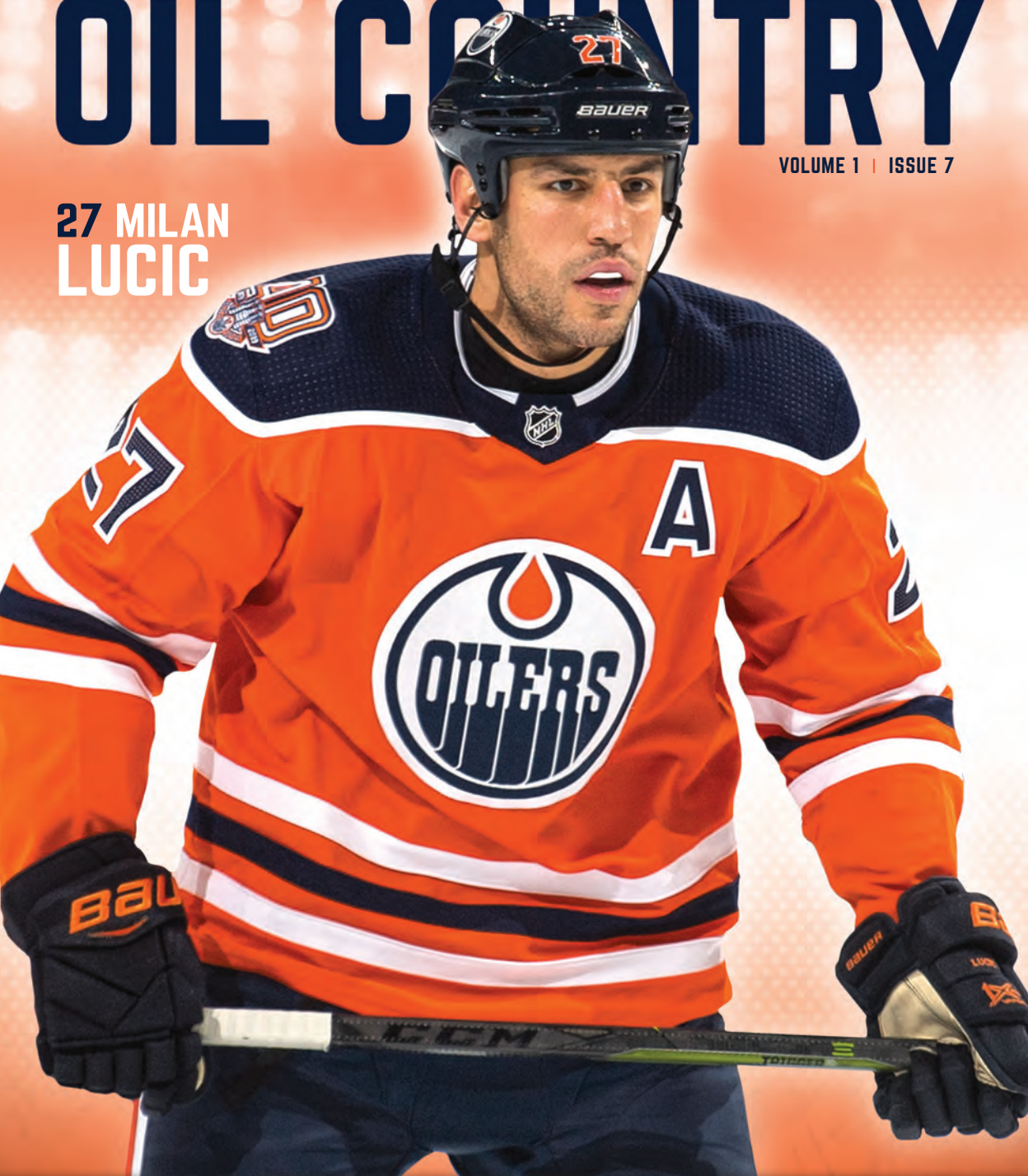


# OIL COUNTRY

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 7

27 MILAN  
LUCIC



**EDMONTON OILERS vs COLORADO AVALANCHE**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2018 |  ROGERS PLACE





# More unforgettable moments.



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# INSIDE OIL COUNTRY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EDMONTON OILERS



## 9 LEON THE LEADER

The impact Leon Draisaitl has had on the growth of hockey in Germany was on full display as the Oilers travelled to his hometown of Cologne for the NHL Global Series. The forward is regarded as a national hero by Germany's hockey leaders as he's blazed his trail to excel on the sport's grandest stage.

## 41 BACK IN OIL COUNTRY

Kyle Brodziak's career has come full circle as the veteran forward has returned to the Oilers, who selected him at the 2003 NHL Draft and with whom he played his first 175 NHL games. After stops in Minnesota and St. Louis, the native of St. Paul, Alberta is back with the team he grew up rooting for.

## 49 THE PLAYER PERSPECTIVE

Oilers defenceman Oscar Klefbom writes about how the NHL's popularity in his homeland of Sweden and other countries in Europe has surged over the last five years thanks to increased access for fans to stream games online and the inception of major events like the NHL Global Series.

## 53 READY TO ASSIST

Oilers Head Coach Todd McLellan has three new assistants on his staff for the 2018-19 season, as he's reunited with defensive specialist Trent Yawney, welcomed former Battle of Alberta foe Glen Gulutzan to his crew and provided Manny Viveiros an opportunity to make the jump from the WHL.

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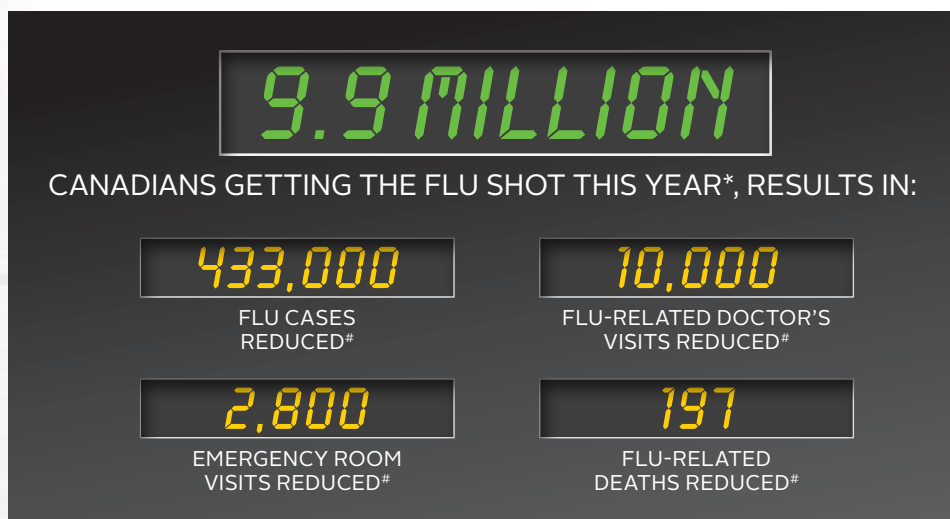
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# estimates based on O'Reilly, D., Blackhouse, G., Burns, et al. (2017). Economic analysis of pharmacist - administered influenza immunizations in Ontario. PATH Research Institute: OPEN. <https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/symp-2017/presentations/april25-2017/Concurrent-Session-D7-Daria-O'Reilly.pdf>





# FREEZE FRAME

It was a bitter-Swede start to the 2018-19 season for the Oilers as they had the opportunity to play in Gothenburg as part of the NHL Global Series, but unfortunately suffered a 5-2 defeat to the New Jersey Devils. Hundreds of Oilers fans traveled from near and far to Sweden's second-largest city for the highly-anticipated event.





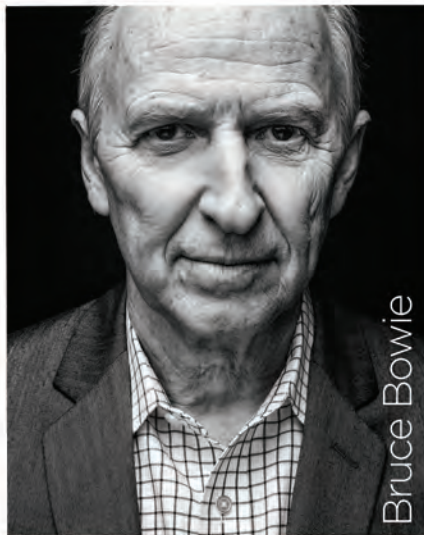




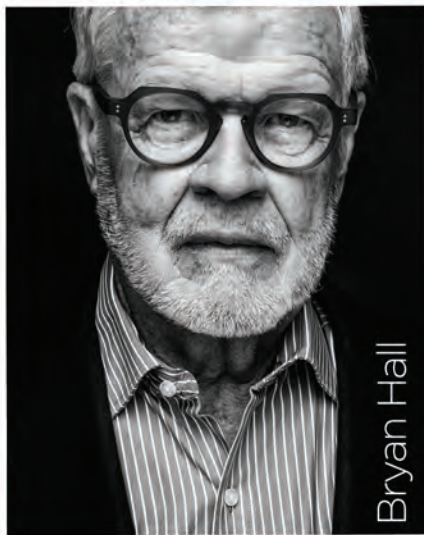
# 630 | CHED



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WEEKDAYS 5:30AM - 12:00PM  
Edmonton's News and Conversation Station



# ROSTER 101

## 8 TY RATTIE

**HOMETOWN:** Airdrie, AB

**NICKNAME:** T-Rat, Rats

**WERE YOU NAMED AFTER ANYONE?**

My grandpa was a big rodeo fan so my parents named me after bull rider Ty Murray.

**WHY DO YOU WEAR #8?** My first year wearing it was Bantam AAA with the Airdrie Xtreme and I've worn it every year since, except last year with Bakersfield I wore 39 because I loved Doug Weight.

**IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH ANYONE, DEAD OR ALIVE, WHO WOULD IT BE?**

Derek Jeter... I'm a massive baseball fan and I think he's the best leader in all of sports. I love the way he played.

**WHAT IS YOUR SECRET TALENT?**

When I was younger, I was pretty good at baseball. I had to make a decision between hockey and baseball when I was 14. I played for Team Alberta that summer and then decided to focus on hockey.

**HOW DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR OFF DAYS?**

I'm a big movie guy during the season and then in the summer I golf a lot.

**WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST HOCKEY MEMORY?**

Winning the 2013 WHL Championship in Edmonton with the Portland Winterhawks, and two years ago with the Carolina Hurricanes having my dad on the Fathers Trip.



## FAVOURITES

**SPORT OTHER THAN HOCKEY?** BASEBALL

**TV SHOW?** GAME OF THRONES

**MOVIE?** WARRIOR, THE GREAT GATSBY

**VACATION DESTINATION?** INVERMERE, BC

**EMOJI?** SMILEY FACE WITH TEETH

**HOME-COOKED MEAL?** RIBS MY DAD MAKES IN THE SLOW-COOKER

**ROAD CITY?** CALGARY... I GET TO SEE MY FAMILY AND FRIENDS





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# LEON LEADER

BY RYAN FRANKSON

IF THERE IS ONE DEFINING MOMENT IN LEON DRAISAITL'S HOCKEY CAREER TO DATE THAT ENCAPSULATED WHAT HE MEANS TO HIS COUNTRY, THE EDMONTON OILERS AND THE SPORT IN GENERAL, IT CAME JUST A FEW MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START OF OCTOBER 3'S NHL GLOBAL SERIES CHALLENGE GAME.

Not only did the proud German get to suit up with his NHL team in his home country, he had the pleasure of doing so in the city he grew up in and against the team he grew up with – the Kölner Haie, coached by his father and former Deutsche Eishockey Liga (DEL) player Peter Draisaitl.

He was, of course, in Edmonton's starting lineup, and when the PA announcer got to the final Oilers name, all he had to do was say "Leon..." and the 18,400 fans jam-packed into Lanxess Arena screamed "Draisaitl!" with enough volume and passion to give the orange and blue's Head Coach Todd McLellan chills.

"There are moments that happen in the game where your hair goes up on your neck and you know it's a very unique thing that's happening," the bench boss said of the unforgettable display of affection from the fans in Cologne. "For me, that was a moment. For Leon, for his dad, for his hometown. I felt it and I'm sure Leon felt it as well."

That hair-raising highlight and the game itself – which the Oilers won 4-3 in overtime against a valiant Haie squad – marked a full-circle culmination for Draisaitl that began during his childhood days in Cologne as he fell in love with the game of hockey.

*continued on page 10*





"I tried it all. I played soccer, I tried golf, I tried tennis, I tried ping-pong, I tried everything," Leon said of his athletic endeavours as a youngster. "But at the end of the day hockey was just my favourite. That's what I wanted to do."

With his mind made up, Draisaitl completed his 12 and 13-year-old seasons with his hometown U-16 Kölner Haie team before leaving to play in Mannheim for three years ahead of his big move to the Prince Albert Raiders of the Western Hockey League in 2012-13.

During those formative early-teen years, Leon also often skated with the team his father coached at the time, the Ravensburg Tower Stars of the German second division. That team featured Coaldale, AB native Ben Thomson, who took Draisaitl under his wing. Thomson wore 29 on his jersey, which Leon has adopted throughout his career.

"It's huge for the young kids," Leon's father Peter said of that mentorship and others like it. "To be around a hockey team early, you just get to know the automatics that come within in the locker room, how the coaches communicate and how the players communicate between each other. I think it helped a lot."

On the strength of a 105-point 2013-14 campaign with the Raiders and showings with the German national team at both the U-20 and senior levels, the Oilers made his NHL dream come

true when they selected him with the third-overall pick at the 2014 NHL Draft.

Having left home in his early teen years and then moving thousands of miles away to play in the WHL, Draisaitl was forced to grow up fast, and that curve was steepened even more so when he made the jump to the NHL as an 18-year-old rookie.

"He had to become a man sooner rather than later," his father said. "You don't hang around too long in the NHL if you don't do that. That was the transition between a teenager and developing him into an adult professional."

Draisaitl played 37 games for the Oilers in 2014-15 before he was assigned back to the WHL after a trade from Prince Albert to the Kelowna Rockets. He excelled in the Okanagan, earning MVP honours in both the WHL Final and Memorial Cup as the Rockets won the league title and finished second at the national championship tournament.

With that invaluable experience under his belt, Draisaitl appeared ready to become a full-time NHLer and has fulfilled that destiny with an exclamation point, accumulating 198 points over the last three seasons and leading the Oilers during the 2017 Stanley Cup Playoffs with 16 points in 13 games.



In addition to entering the conversation as one of the NHL's elite young talents, Draisaitl has emerged as the leader of the German men's national team, competing at the last four IIHF World Championship tournaments and also showing flashes of brilliance at the 2017 World Cup of Hockey, representing Deutschland as part of the surprising Team Europe squad.

"He's a special kid," said Marco Sturm, Head Coach and General Manager of the national team and a former NHL all-star who's recorded the most all-time NHL points among German players. Sturm had 487 points in 938 games. Draisaitl is already at 209 in 270.

"Just the way he plays, how he protects the puck. Not just in Germany but worldwide he's probably one of the best players at his age. I think there's more to come and we're very excited that he's a German and will play for us for the national team for a long time."

On August 16, 2017, Draisaitl signed an eight-year contract with the Oilers with an average annual value of \$8.5 million – much to the jubilation of his friends and family back home in Cologne.

"We follow him very closely," said Moritz Müller, defenceman and captain of the Kölner Haie, whom Draisaitl still skates with regularly during the off-season, since DEL training camps typically launch at the beginning of August.

"We saw him getting over there and we were hoping for him to do well. We all knew that he had the talent for it, but sometimes you need the right timing and everything. We're really happy that he had this breakout and played the way he did in his second year. After that, he became an NHL superstar and we're really proud that he made it like that."

Franz Reindl, President of the German Ice Hockey Federation, beams with national pride when asked what Draisaitl's NHL success has meant to his homeland.

"For us, it's a hero story," Reindl said. "He made all the youth programs in Germany, all the national teams and he was always a leader with each team. Now he has reached a really great position in Edmonton, in Canada, the motherland of hockey."

Not only has Draisaitl endeared himself to Oilers fans with his exceptional skill on the ice, he's also committed to making a lasting impact in his home away from home thanks to a recent charitable commitment.

On September 24, 2018, the now 22-year-old announced he will be donating \$1.2 million to local charities over the next eight years, with the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation matching at 50% for a total contribution of \$1.8 million.

*continued on page 13*



"Just the way he plays, how he protects the puck. Not just in Germany but worldwide he's probably one of the best players at his age." **MARCO STURM**







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"I want to give back to the Edmonton community, because it has given me so much," Draisaitl said. "As a player coming to this city and making it my home for most of the year, I find it very important to find a connection. I want to be part of building something in this city, and I'm very excited for this chance and look forward to starting."

As proud as his father Peter is of his on-ice accomplishments, it's displays of maturity and generosity like this significant charitable commitment that give him the greatest paternal satisfaction.

"This is what makes me proud the most as a father," he said, eyes illuminated. "Seeing Leon being a good person first and foremost is the most important thing."

Draisaitl may now be one of Oil Country's adopted sons in "the motherland of hockey" as Reindl so eloquently put it, but it's his continued connection with his home country and city that made last week's Oilers trip to Cologne so meaningful.

"I'm pretty emotionally connected to that city," said Draisaitl, who served as the team's tour guide during their four days in the German metropolis, picking restaurants for dinner and leading the squad on a sight-seeing adventure.

Family time was also a key component of the trip, whether that meant off-ice bonding with his Oilers brothers or hanging out at the Cologne practice facility with his dad and the team he trains with for the month of August.

"It's cool for everybody to have Leon around," said Ryan Jones, who played for the Oilers between 2010 and 2014 before heading to Germany, where he's been a mainstay with the Kölner Haie the last four seasons.

"These young guys see what he does on an off-ice regime that they can put into their own lives. He's a good guy, he's a phenomenal hockey player and he works hard. If you're around here for our camp, he's doing everything we do and then more, which says a lot. He didn't get to where he is on accident. There's skill but there's a lot of hard work and determination that goes into where he is."

The affection the Cologne squad has for Draisaitl is reciprocated by the Oilers forward, according to Müller.

"He's probably our number one fan boy in North America," the team captain laughed. "He watches every one of our games and right after every game he texts me. He's really into it. He's in love with this town and this club."

The one-time Oilers fan favourite Jones was featured opposite Draisaitl on banners displayed across Cologne promoting the Global Series Challenge game. Typically, the poster boys for German sports are soccer stars like Bastian Schweinsteiger or NBA legend Dirk Nowitzki, but Draisaitl's elevating stardom combined with the growing popularity of hockey have shifted Germany's sports landscape.

*continued on page 15*





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There's a collective dream within the hockey community in Germany that more kids will want to follow in the footsteps of players like Draisaitl, his Oilers teammate Tobias Rieder, Philipp Grubauer, Tom Kühnhackl, Korbinian Holzer and a few others trying to make a name for themselves on the North American circuit.

"When Leon and I and a couple other guys like Tom Kühnhackl and Philp Grubauer went over to play in the junior hockey leagues, you could tell the years after there were more and more Germans going over and trying their chance in that league," Rieder said. "For the really young guys, they really look up to the NHL players."

When Rieder returns to his hometown of Landshut in the off-season, he's impressed by the number of kids taking a greater interest in his sport.

"It's fun going back in the summer and seeing how excited the little kids get," he said, adding the majority of NHL jerseys he sees feature orange and blue with an oil drop. "It's getting better and better every summer I go back. You can tell there's more kids playing hockey. They're having fun with hockey and that's important to see."

Draisaitl is without a doubt the catalyst of this movement, with the national team's silver medal performance at the 2018 Winter Olympics also adding plenty of fuel to the fire.

"As the sport of hockey, we need those guys that go over and become superstars," said Müller, who was part of the Olympic squad. "When little kids play, they identify themselves with the best, and if you have one German who's one of the best, he's a great role model for the kids and the sport of hockey in Germany."

"It would be a scenario you would wish for that Leon can have a positive impact on kids," Peter Draisaitl echoed. "It is really, really tough in Germany for other sports because the soccer hype is so big it just kills every other sport. We had some success at the Olympics, so hopefully it will push the German hockey a step further."

Though the Oilers don't have any more games in Cologne on their schedule in the foreseeable future, you can bet the city and the entire country will continue to cheer just as loud for their native son as they did when they shook the walls of Lanxess Arena on Wednesday.

It's a perfect balance of love from both sides, according to the German Ice Hockey Federation president.

"He's a great kid. He loves hockey and he loves where he comes from," Reindl said. "He loves to play in Cologne and he loves to play for the German national team. We are really excited and thankful also that he's the kind of person you need for your program to show it's worth doing all the work to reach this goal." 📌



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# MY HOMETOWN

## TOBIAS RIEDER

LANDSHUT, GERMANY



### HOW DID YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARRIVE IN LANDSHUT?

There are a couple generations of Rieders who have lived there. It's a little hockey city with about 65,000 people. My dad was a goalie in the second division in Germany and now he's the bus driver of the hometown team. My mom works in the office at the arena doing ticket sales and other business duties. It's all about hockey in Landshut.

### WHAT IS YOUR LANDSHUT MINOR HOCKEY STORY?

I started skating there when I was three or four years old and then played all the way through the youth teams up to when I was 16 with the men's league in the second division. After that, I went to Kitchener in the OHL and I've been playing in North America ever since.

**FACT:** IN RIEDER'S FINAL SEASON OF U-16 YOUTH HOCKEY IN GERMANY IN 2007-08, HE LED HIS LANDSHUT TEAM WITH A WHOPPING 113 GOALS AND 177 TOTAL POINTS IN JUST 34 REGULAR SEASON GAMES.

### WHAT WAS YOUR MINOR HOCKEY HIGHLIGHT?

When I was around 13 and 14, we won back-to-back German championships which was a pretty big deal at the time. And then playing my first pro games as a 16-year-old was pretty cool.



### WHAT IS LANDSHUT'S MOST FAMOUS LANDMARK?

Trausnitz Castle and the Church of Saint Martin, which has the world's tallest brick tower. There's some really nice scenery there.

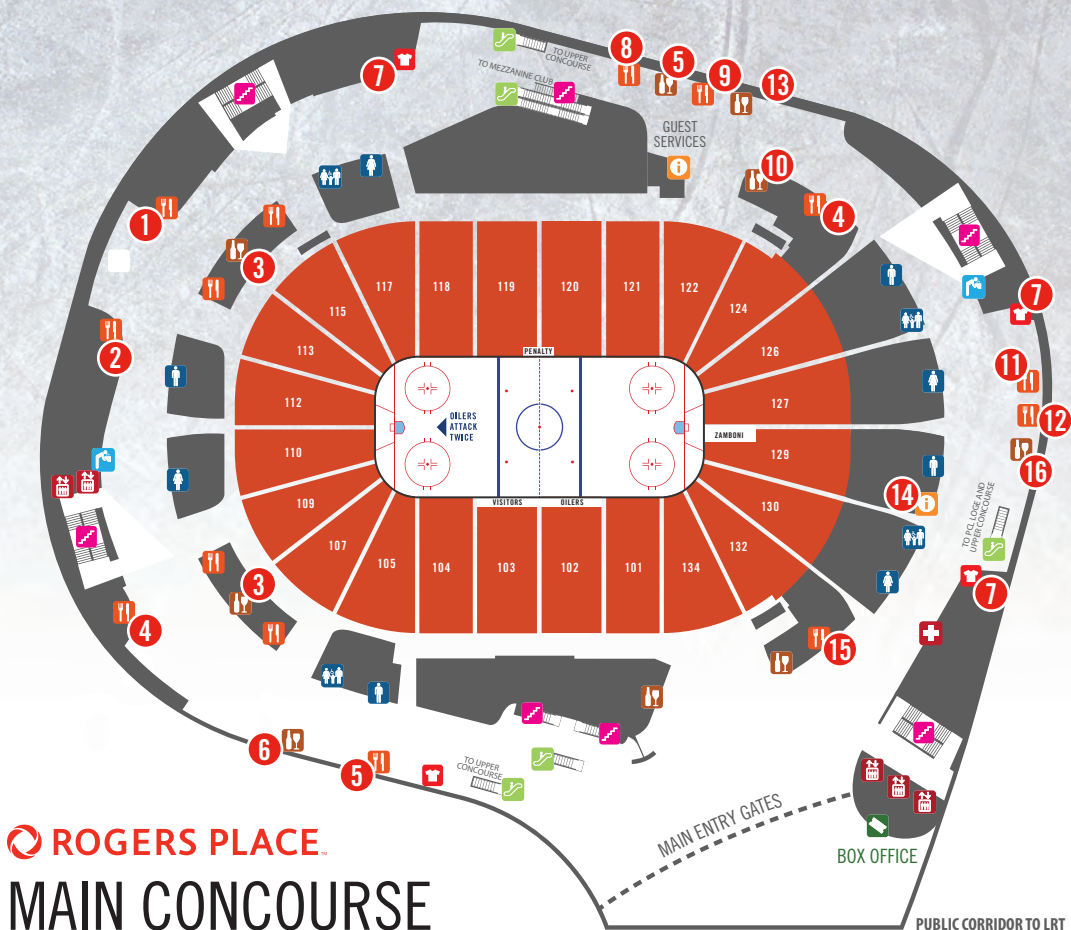
### WHAT DID YOU DO FOR FUN AS A CHILD?

Since soccer is so big in Germany, I played both hockey and soccer until I was about 13 or 14 years old and had to decide between the two. Even now, in my spare time back home, I play lots of soccer.

### DO YOU STILL SPEND ANY TIME THERE?

My parents live there and my older sister is studying law in Germany, so I go back every summer to see family and friends, and also do my off-season training.





## ROGERS PLACE. MAIN CONCOURSE

### 1 BOBBY NICK'S GRILL

Inspired by Bob Nicholson, this is our take on the gourmet burger and a must-try item.

### 2 104 AVE FOOD CO.

104 Ave Food Co. is a treat for the senses! Combining fan favourites options and delicious signature dishes, you're sure to find something for everyone.

### 3 MOLSON CANADIAN FAN DECK

Chef attended carving stations creates a unique and sophisticated experience. This upgraded food and beverage location let's guests know they are in for something special.

### 4 PIZZA 73

Not only does Pizza 73 have the most popular flavours of pizza but it also has a rotating monthly feature pizza that everyone needs to try!

### 5 DRAUGHT

Rogers Place has a wide selection of draught beer to choose.

### 6 LINK 72

Link 72 is an innovative take on a classic fan favourite. Our signature dogs have something for every fan.

### 7 THE OILERS STORE

### 8 ALBERTA SMOKED

To celebrate Alberta beef, our chefs pick the choicest local cuts, smoke them in house and hand carve them. Enjoy!

### 9 URBAN CURRY

Curry done the Rogers Place way. This modern take on Indian cuisine will offer guests a taste that is both unique and delicious.

### 10 MOTT'S CAESAR HOUSE

You can't mess with perfection and here we keep the Caesar classic.

### 11 ICE CAFÉ

Everyone has a sweet tooth and we want to tempt yours with our freshly baked warm cookies and edible cookie dough.

### 12 HIGH LEVEL NACHOS

As the name suggests, nacho fans will love this spot! Enjoy this arena favourite with a variety of premium toppings, including smoked brisket and pulled pork.

### 13 DRAUGHT

Rogers Place has a wide selection of draught beer to choose.

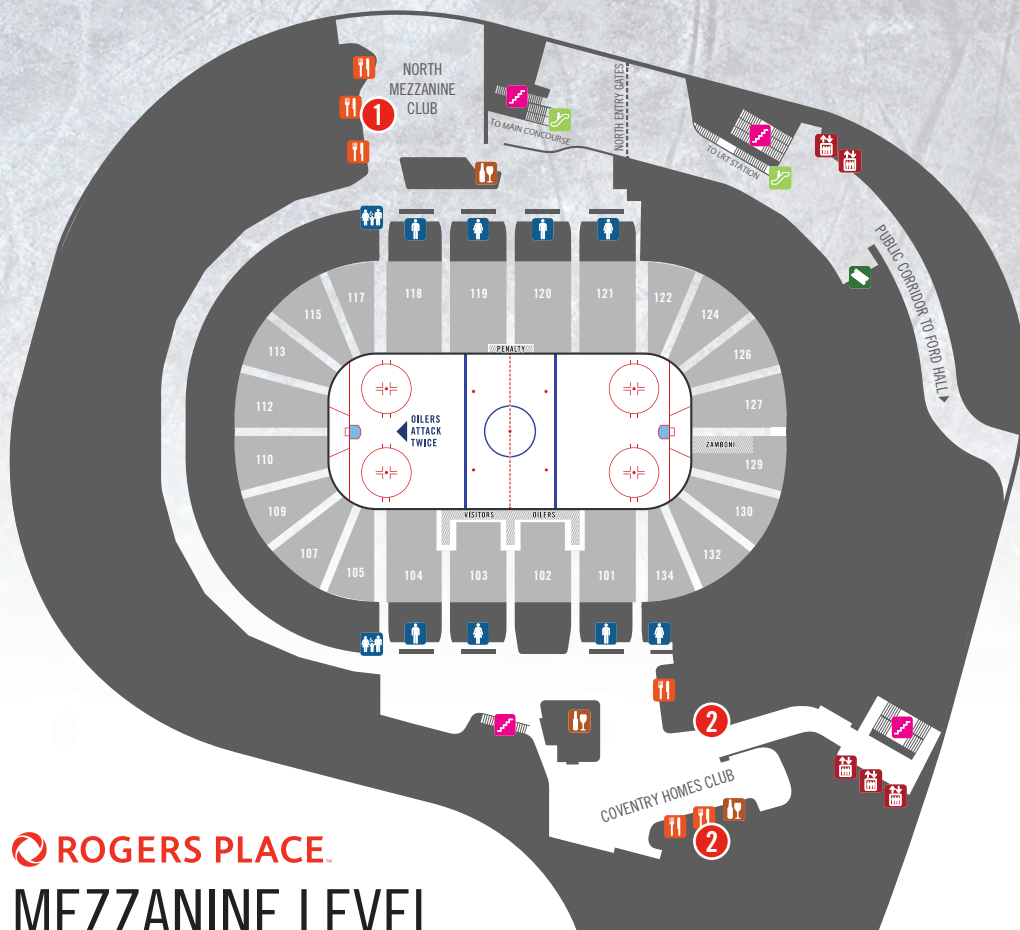
### 14 GUEST SERVICES

### 15 WHYTE AVE BISTRO

A high-quality spin on fan favourites where culinary innovation fuels the experience.

### 16 WRAPPED

Convenient and fresh options including salads, wraps, and fruit for everyone in the family.



## ROGERS PLACE. MEZZANINE LEVEL

### MEZZANINE CLUBS

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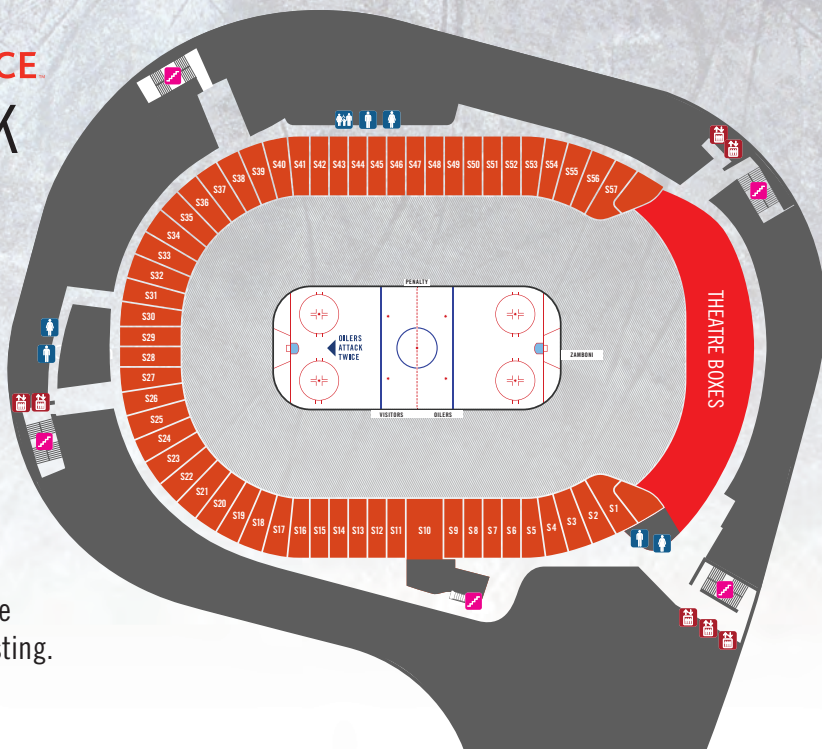
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# SCOTIABANK SUITES LEVEL

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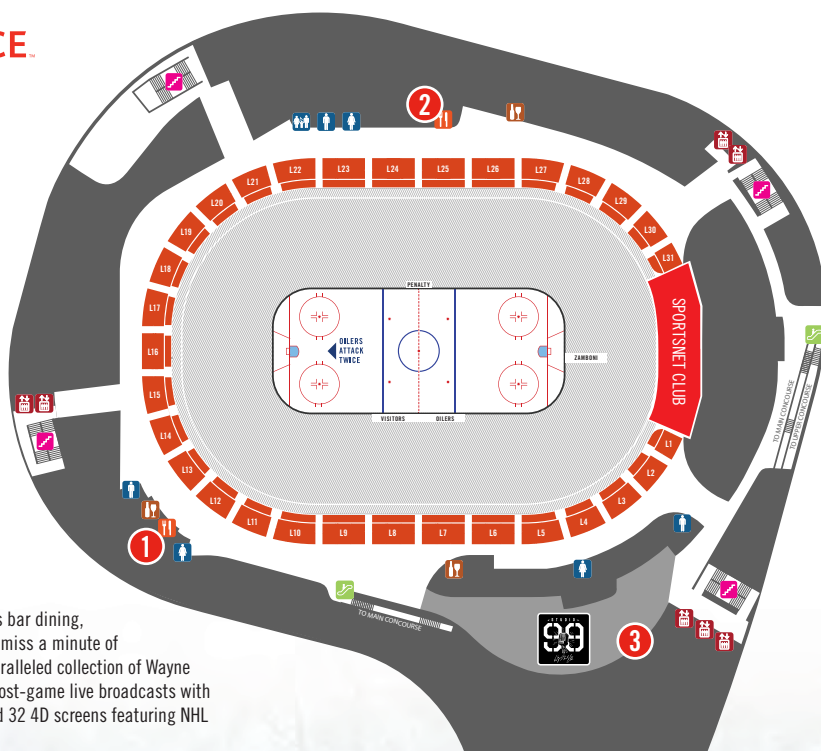


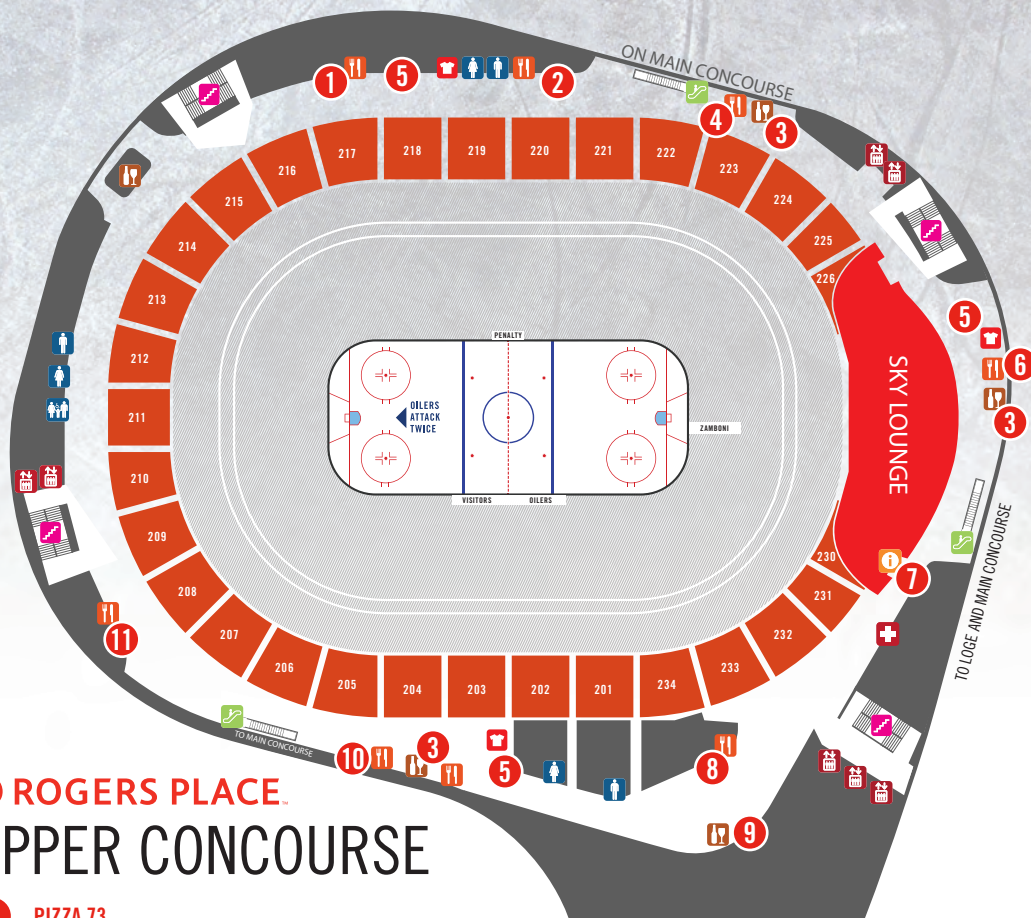
# PCL LOGE LEVEL

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**2 RIVER VALLEY GRILL**  
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**3 STUDIO 99**  
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## ROGERS PLACE UPPER CONCOURSE

### 1 PIZZA 73

Not only does Pizza 73 have the most popular flavours of pizza but it also has a rotating monthly feature pizza that everyone needs to try!

### 2 WHITEMUD KITCHEN

A high-quality spin on fan favourites where culinary innovation fuels the experience. Don't miss our perogy nachos.

### 3 DRAUGHT

Rogers Place has a wide selection of draught beer to choose.

### 4 ALBERTA CUTS

To celebrate Alberta beef, our chefs pick the choicest local cuts, smoke them in house and hand carve them. Enjoy!

### 5 THE OILERS STORE

### 6 HERITAGE EATS

From perogy nachos to pulled pork nachos, Heritage Eats features a variety of fan favourites.

### 7 GUEST SERVICES

### 8 JASPER AVE EATERY

We know fans like traditional game day food, but this concept is anything but general. It's an elevated approach to classic arena menu items. Hot dogs, hamburgers, ice-cream and everything in between are served fresh and fast.

### 9 BAR

### 10 ALBERTA SMOKED

To celebrate Alberta beef, our chefs pick the choicest local cuts, smoke them in house and hand carve them. Enjoy!

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Photo credit: Andy Devlin / Oilers Entertainment Group

# THE SOCIAL SCENE

With a new season on the horizon, the Oilers made sure to make the most of their summers. Whether it was tropical vacations, getting hitched, trips to Disneyland or intense training sessions, Oilers fans got a glimpse into the off-season lives of the players as they took to social media to document all their adventures. See what the boys got up to this summer with the first SocOIL Scene of 2018-19.







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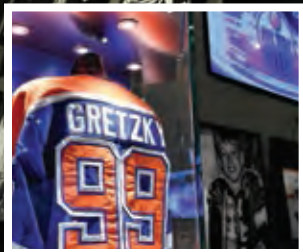
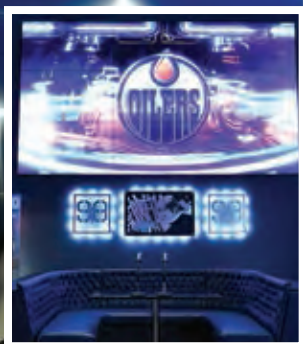
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<sup>^</sup>Ford is the best-selling line of SUVs in Canada, based on Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association statistical sales report up to year-end 2016-2017. ©2018 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

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# STUDIO 99 NOW OPEN AT ROGERS PLACE

STUDIO 99, THE NEWEST ELEVATED SPORTS BAR DINING EXPERIENCE FOR HOCKEY FANS IN ROGERS PLACE, LAUNCHED AT THE OILERS HOME OPENER ON THURSDAY, OCT. 18.

Reservations are now being accepted and fans can make their booking through Open Table.

Studio 99 showcases an unparalleled collection of Wayne Gretzky memorabilia, much of it never before displayed in public, creating the ultimate environment in which a hockey fan can enjoy a great meal and drink before, during or after an Oilers home game.

The space is also the home of pre- and post-game live broadcasts on the Oilers Radio Network with special guest appearances, alongside 32 4K televisions strategically placed throughout the venue to ensure fans never miss a moment of NHL action.

"Studio 99 is a destination for fans in Rogers Place," said Executive Vice President of Rogers Place Susan Darrington. "We're encouraging Oilers fans to start a new game day tradition. Come and enjoy your game day favourites in an exciting atmosphere and catch an earlier matchup on one of the 32 televisions, grab a snack during intermission and then meet up with friends for post-game drinks, while watching a live radio broadcast right in the same room."

The menu features some of Gretzky's favourite family dishes, as well as re-imagined sports bar classics. Multiple dining options will be available to fit the needs of all fans:

The Ninety Nine Buffet option allows guests to dine up to two hours before puck-drop, to enjoy all-you-can-eat for a price of \$45.

The Great One Game Night Bundle, which is offered for \$70, gives fans access to The Ninety Nine Buffet, along with a reserved table for the remainder of the game (including intermissions) to enjoy exclusive snacks as well as the opportunity to pre-order beverages.

"It is a great honour to have this new space in Rogers Place representing my time with the Edmonton Oilers," said Gretzky. "I have so many great memories with my teammates and the fans in Edmonton were an integral part of those experiences. It is fantastic to have a space where they are now able to share in some of those moments and create new ones."

All Studio 99 guests must hold a valid event day ticket.

For more information on Studio 99, please visit [RogersPlace.com/Studio99](http://RogersPlace.com/Studio99) and follow [Studio99eg](https://www.instagram.com/studio99eg) on Instagram.

Studio 99 will also be open for select concerts and other live events. Check the website and Instagram account for updates.

You can also contact Studio 99 directly via email [rogersplacestudio99@aramark.ca](mailto:rogersplacestudio99@aramark.ca) or by phone at 780-664-0384.

# UPCOMING EVENTS AT ROGERS PLACE™



**JIM GAFFIGAN**  
QUALITY TIME WORLD TOUR  
Friday, January 18  
@ 7:30PM



**DIERKS BENTLEY**  
BURNING MAN TOUR  
Thursday, January 24  
@ 7PM

With special guests Jon Pardi, Tenille Townes  
& Hot Country Knights



**HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS**  
FAN POWERED WORLD TOUR  
Saturday, January 26  
@ 2PM



**ARKELLS**  
RALLY CRY TOUR  
Thursday, January 31  
@ 7:30PM

With special guests Lord Huron



**PAUL BRANDT**  
THE JOURNEY TOUR 2019  
Saturday, February 2  
@ 7PM

With High Valley, special guest Jess Moskaluke  
& featuring Hunter Brothers



**JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE**  
THE MAN OF THE WOODS TOUR  
Sunday, November 6  
Monday, November 7  
@ 7:30PM



**CIRQUE DU SOLEIL: CRYSTAL**  
A BREAKTHROUGH ICE EXPERIENCE  
February 13-17  
EIGHT SHOW TIMES AVAILABLE



**LITTLE BIG TOWN**  
THE BREAKERS TOUR  
Sunday, February 24  
@ 7:30PM

With special guests Midland & Ashley McBryde



**LYNYRD SKYNYRD**  
LAST OF THE STREET SURVIVORS  
FAREWELL TOUR  
Tuesday, March 12  
@ 7:30PM

With special guest Randy Bachman

All tickets are available via [RogersPlace.com](http://RogersPlace.com),  
Ticketmaster and the Rogers Place Box Office.





# FREEZE FRAME

November is Hockey Fights Cancer month across the NHL and the Oilers were active participants in the Tampa Bay Lightning's festivities last Tuesday, holding up signs during the pre-game ceremony with names of who they fight for. Edmonton's Hockey Fights Cancer night is coming up on Sunday, Nov. 18. Limited edition Oilers 40th anniversary toques will be available for \$20 in support of Kids with Cancer Society.







# GET GAME READY

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# GAME PREVIEW

## EDMONTON OILERS vs COLORADO AVALANCHE

SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 11 | 2018 | ROGERS PLACE



**THE OILERS RETURN TO HOME ICE AT ROGERS PLACE FOLLOWING A FOUR-GAME ROAD TRIP THAT TOOK THEM TO DETROIT, WASHINGTON D.C. AND BOTH FLORIDA CHECKPOINTS.** Tonight's game against the Colorado Avalanche is the first in a stretch that will see the Oilers play three of four on home ice, with the Montreal Canadiens next to visit on Tuesday. Edmonton has enjoyed a great deal of success against Colorado over the last two seasons, winning five of their six matchups and salvaging a single point in overtime with their lone defeat. Connor McDavid in particular ran roughshod over the Avalanche last season, scoring six goals with one assist in their three-game season series. Leon Draisaitl was also quite productive with five assists in addition to one goal. On the back end, Matt Benning was a point-per-game player with three helpers in the three meetings. Samuel Girard scored twice for the Avalanche during the season series, while Nathan MacKinnon and Mikko Rantanen combined for just one point.

### PLAYERS TO WATCH

**OSCAR KLEFBOM** is quietly putting together a solid start to the season on the Oilers blueline, leading the team in D scoring with eight assists through 15 games, tying for the team lead in plus-minus at +7 and ranking fifth in the NHL in time on ice with an average of 25:56 per game. The 25-year-old Swede emerged as a top-tier blueliner during the 2016-17 campaign, scoring 12 goals and 26 assists in 82 games, plus another two goals and three assists during the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Klefbom battled an injury last season and managed to persevere with five goals and 16 helpers in 66 games, but now that his health is back up to snuff, he looks to regain and even surpass his superb form from two years ago.

**MIKKO RANTANEN** may have been limited to a single point during Colorado's three-game season series with the Oilers last season, but those fortunes have a good chance of turning if the Finn keeps up the pace he's on in 2018-19. Through 15 games, Rantanen led the entire NHL in points with 24, including five goals and 19 assists. The 22-year-old was selected 10th overall by the Avalanche at the 2015 NHL Draft as he looks to continue to hold off that year's top pick, Connor McDavid, in the Art Ross Trophy race. After recording 38 points in 75 games as a rookie in 2016-17, Rantanen exploded last year as a sophomore with 29 goals and 55 assists for 84 points in 81 games including 35 points on the PP.





# ROSTER | OILERS

## FORWARDS

| #  | NAME                    | POS | SHOOTS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | DATE OF BIRTH | BIRTH PLACE            |
|----|-------------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|---------------|------------------------|
| 8  | TY RATTIE               | RW  | R      | 6' 0"  | 183    | FEB 5, 1993   | CALGARY, AB, CAN       |
| 16 | JUJHAR KHAIRA           | LW  | L      | 6' 4"  | 212    | AUG 13, 1994  | SURREY, BC, CAN        |
| 18 | RYAN STROME             | C   | R      | 6' 1"  | 194    | JUL 11, 1993  | MISSISSAUGA, ON, CAN   |
| 22 | TOBIAS RIEDER           | RW  | L      | 5' 11" | 186    | JAN 10, 1993  | LANDSHUT, DEU          |
| 27 | MILAN LUCIC (A)         | LW  | L      | 6' 3"  | 231    | JUN 7, 1988   | VANCOUVER, BC, CAN     |
| 28 | KYLE BRODZIAK           | C   | R      | 6' 2"  | 205    | MAY 25, 1984  | ST. PAUL, AB, CAN      |
| 29 | LEON DRAISAITL          | C   | L      | 6' 2"  | 208    | OCT 27, 1995  | COLOGNE, DEU           |
| 39 | ALEX CHIASSON           | RW  | R      | 6' 4"  | 208    | OCT 1, 1990   | MONTREAL, QC, CAN      |
| 44 | ZACK KASSIAN            | RW  | R      | 6' 3"  | 211    | JAN 24, 1991  | WINDSOR, ON, CAN       |
| 56 | KAILER YAMAMOTO         | RW  | R      | 5' 8"  | 153    | SEP 29, 1998  | SPOKANE, WA, USA       |
| 91 | DRAKE CAGGIULA          | LW  | L      | 5' 10" | 176    | JUN 20, 1994  | PICKERING, ON, CAN     |
| 93 | RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS (A) | C   | L      | 6' 0"  | 184    | APR 12, 1993  | BURNABY, BC, CAN       |
| 97 | CONNOR MCDAVID (C)      | C   | L      | 6' 1"  | 193    | JAN 13, 1997  | RICHMOND HILL, ON, CAN |
| 98 | JESSE PULJUJARVI        | RW  | R      | 6' 4"  | 201    | MAY 7, 1998   | ALVKARLEBY, SWE        |

## DEFENCE

| #  | NAME             | SHOOTS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | DATE OF BIRTH | BIRTH PLACE         |
|----|------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|---------------------|
| 2  | ANDREJ SEKERA    | L      | 6' 0"  | 200    | JUN 8, 1986   | BOJNICE, SVK        |
| 4  | KRIS RUSSELL     | L      | 5' 10" | 170    | MAY 2, 1987   | CAROLINE, AB, CAN   |
| 5  | KEVIN GRAVEL     | L      | 6' 4"  | 211    | MAR 6, 1992   | KINGSFORD, MI, USA  |
| 6  | ADAM LARSSON (A) | R      | 6' 3"  | 208    | NOV 12, 1992  | SKELLEFTEÅ, SWE     |
| 13 | JASON GARRISON   | L      | 6' 1"  | 218    | NOV 13, 1984  | WHITE ROCK, BC, CAN |
| 25 | DARNELL NURSE    | L      | 6' 4"  | 221    | FEB 4, 1995   | HAMILTON, ON, CAN   |
| 77 | OSCAR KLEFBOM    | L      | 6' 3"  | 216    | JUL 20, 1993  | KARLSTAD, SWE       |
| 83 | MATT BENNING     | R      | 6' 1"  | 203    | MAY 25, 1994  | EDMONTON, AB, CAN   |

## GOALTENDERS

| #  | NAME           | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | DATE OF BIRTH | BIRTH PLACE        |
|----|----------------|--------|--------|---------------|--------------------|
| 19 | MIKKO KOSKINEN | 6' 7"  | 202    | JUL 18, 1988  | VANTAA, FIN        |
| 33 | CAM TALBOT     | 6' 4"  | 196    | JUL 5, 1987   | CALEDONIA, ON, CAN |

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 Assistant General Manager.....Keith Gretzky  
 Vice President, Player Personnel.....Duane Sutter  
 Vice President, Player Development.....Scott Howson  
 Director of Salary Cap Management.....Bill Scott

Director of Player Personnel.....Bob Green  
 Head Coach.....Todd McLellan  
 Assistant Coach.....Glen Gulutzan  
 Assistant Coach.....Trent Yawney  
 Assistant Coach.....Manny Viveiros  
 Goaltending Coach.....Dustin Schwartz  
 Goaltending Development Coach.....Sylvain Rodrigue  
 Video Coach.....Jeremy Coupal  
 Skating Coach.....David Pelletier



## FORWARDS

| #  | NAME                  | POS | SHOOTS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | DATE OF BIRTH | BIRTH PLACE         |
|----|-----------------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|---------------|---------------------|
| 10 | SVEN ANDRIGHETTO      | RW  | L      | 5' 10" | 188    | MAR 21, 1993  | ZURICH, CHE         |
| 11 | MATT CALVERT          | LW  | L      | 5' 11" | 186    | DEC 24, 1989  | BRANDON, MB, CAN    |
| 13 | ALEXANDER KERFOOT     | C   | L      | 5' 10" | 175    | AUG 11, 1994  | VANCOUVER, BC, CAN  |
| 15 | SHELDON DRIES         | C   | L      | 5' 9"  | 185    | APR 23, 1994  | MACOMB, MI, USA     |
| 17 | TYSON JOST            | C   | L      | 5' 11" | 191    | MAR 14, 1998  | ST. ALBERT, AB, CAN |
| 22 | COLIN WILSON          | C   | L      | 6' 1"  | 221    | OCT 20, 1989  | GREENWICH, CT, USA  |
| 29 | NATHAN MACKINNON (A)  | C   | R      | 6' 0"  | 205    | SEP 1, 1995   | HALIFAX, NS, CAN    |
| 34 | CARL SODERBERG        | C   | L      | 6' 3"  | 210    | OCT 12, 1985  | MALMÖ, SWE          |
| 37 | J.T. COMPER           | LW  | R      | 6' 0"  | 193    | APR 8, 1995   | NORTHBROOK, IL, USA |
| 56 | MARKO DANO            | C   | L      | 5' 11" | 212    | NOV 30, 1994  | EISENSTADT, AUT     |
| 57 | GABRIEL BOURQUE       | LW  | L      | 5' 10" | 206    | SEP 23, 1990  | RIMOUSKI, QC, CAN   |
| 83 | MATT NIETO            | LW  | L      | 5' 11" | 190    | NOV 5, 1992   | LONG BEACH, CA, USA |
| 91 | VLADISLAV KAMENEV     | C   | L      | 6' 2"  | 194    | AUG 12, 1996  | ORSK, RUS           |
| 92 | GABRIEL LANDESKOG (C) | LW  | L      | 6' 1"  | 215    | NOV 23, 1992  | STOCKHOLM, SWE      |
| 96 | MIKKO RANTANEN        | RW  | L      | 6' 4"  | 215    | OCT 29, 1996  | NOUSIAINEN, FIN     |

## DEFENCE

| #  | NAME             | SHOOTS | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | DATE OF BIRTH | BIRTH PLACE             |
|----|------------------|--------|--------|--------|---------------|-------------------------|
| 4  | TYSON BARRIE     | R      | 5' 10" | 190    | JUL 26, 1991  | VICTORIA, BC, CAN       |
| 6  | ERIK JOHNSON (A) | R      | 6' 4"  | 225    | MAR 21, 1988  | BLOOMINGTON, MN, USA    |
| 12 | PATRIK NEMETH    | L      | 6' 3"  | 219    | FEB 8, 1992   | STOCKHOLM, SWE          |
| 16 | NIKITA ZADOROV   | L      | 6' 5"  | 230    | APR 16, 1995  | MOSCOW, RUS             |
| 18 | CONOR TIMMINS    | R      | 6' 2"  | 184    | SEP 18, 1998  | ST. CATHARINES, ON, CAN |
| 28 | IAN COLE         | L      | 6' 1"  | 219    | FEB 21, 1989  | ANN ARBOR, MI, USA      |
| 44 | MARK BARBERIO    | L      | 6' 1"  | 200    | MAR 23, 1990  | MONTREAL, QC, CAN       |
| 49 | SAMUEL GIRARD    | L      | 5' 10" | 162    | MAY 12, 1998  | ROBERVAL, QC, CAN       |

## GOALTENDERS

| #  | NAME             | HEIGHT | WEIGHT | DATE OF BIRTH | BIRTH PLACE    |
|----|------------------|--------|--------|---------------|----------------|
| 1  | SEMYON VARLAMOV  | 6' 2"  | 205    | APR 27, 1988  | SAMARA, RUS    |
| 31 | PHILIPP GRUBAUER | 6' 1"  | 191    | NOV 25, 1991  | ROSENHEIM, DEU |

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 Assistant Coach ..... Ray Bennett

Assistant Coach ..... Nolan Pratt  
 Goaltending Coach ..... Jussi Parkkila  
 Video Coach ..... Brett Heimlich  
 Development Consultant ..... Brett Clark  
 Development Consultant ..... Brian Willsie  
 Skating Coach ..... Tracy Tutton





# STATISTICS | OILERS

STATS AS OF NOV. 8, 2018

| PLAYER              | GP | G  | A  | P  | +/- | PIM | PPG | PPP | SHG | SHP | GWG | OTG | S  | S%   | FO%   |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|------|-------|
| CONNOR MCDAVID      | 15 | 10 | 12 | 22 | 3   | 2   | 5   | 9   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 53 | 18.9 | 47.3  |
| RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS | 15 | 3  | 14 | 17 | 6   | 2   | 1   | 7   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 50 | 6    | 45.95 |
| LEON DRAISAITL      | 15 | 9  | 7  | 16 | 1   | 4   | 3   | 7   | 0   | 0   | 2   | 1   | 37 | 24.3 | 51.22 |
| OSCAR KLEFBOM       | 15 | 0  | 8  | 8  | 7   | 2   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 49 | 0    | 0     |
| TOBIAS RIEDER       | 15 | 0  | 7  | 7  | 1   | 2   | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 31 | 0    | 33.33 |
| ALEX CHIASSON       | 9  | 6  | 0  | 6  | 7   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 14 | 42.9 | 0     |
| DRAKE CAGGIULA      | 11 | 5  | 0  | 5  | -4  | 6   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 23 | 21.7 | 0     |
| DARNELL NURSE       | 15 | 1  | 4  | 5  | -6  | 20  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 37 | 2.7  | 0     |
| ADAM LARSSON        | 15 | 0  | 5  | 5  | 5   | 14  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 18 | 0    | 0     |
| MILAN LUCIC         | 15 | 1  | 3  | 4  | -6  | 30  | 1   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 15 | 6.7  | 33.33 |
| KRIS RUSSELL        | 15 | 0  | 4  | 4  | -2  | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 12 | 0    | 0     |
| JUJHAR KHAIRA       | 14 | 0  | 4  | 4  | -2  | 9   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 9  | 0    | 45.83 |
| TY RATTIE           | 6  | 1  | 2  | 3  | 1   | 2   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 13 | 7.7  | 0     |
| KYLE BRODZIAK       | 14 | 2  | 0  | 2  | -7  | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 13 | 15.4 | 57.26 |
| KAILER YAMAMOTO     | 12 | 1  | 1  | 2  | -2  | 2   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 12 | 8.3  | 0     |
| MATT BENNING        | 11 | 0  | 2  | 2  | 0   | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 15 | 0    | 0     |
| RYAN STROME         | 15 | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0   | 12  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 26 | 3.8  | 47.67 |
| ZACK KASSIAN        | 12 | 1  | 0  | 1  | -4  | 7   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 10 | 10   | 0     |
| JESSE PULJUJARVI    | 10 | 1  | 0  | 1  | -4  | 6   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 15 | 6.7  | 66.67 |
| JASON GARRISON      | 9  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 0   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 8  | 12.5 | 0     |
| KEVIN GRAVEL        | 3  | 0  | 0  | 0  | -2  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1  | 0    | 0     |

| GOALTENDER     | GP | GS | W | L | T | OT | SA  | GA | GAA  | S   | SV%  | SO | MIN |
|----------------|----|----|---|---|---|----|-----|----|------|-----|------|----|-----|
| MIKKO KOSKINEN | 4  | 4  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0  | 128 | 11 | 2.76 | 117 | .914 | 1  | 239 |
| CAM TALBOT     | 11 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 1  | 316 | 32 | 2.93 | 284 | .899 | 0  | 656 |

# AVALANCHE | STATISTICS



STATS AS OF NOV. 8, 2018

| PLAYER            | GP | G  | A  | P  | +/- | PIM | PPG | PPP | SHG | SHP | GWG | OTG | S  | S%   | FO%   |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|------|-------|
| MIKKO RANTANEN    | 15 | 5  | 19 | 24 | 8   | 14  | 2   | 5   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 33 | 15.2 | 40    |
| NATHAN MACKINNON  | 15 | 11 | 11 | 22 | 6   | 12  | 1   | 6   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 68 | 16.2 | 38.78 |
| GABRIEL LANDESKOG | 15 | 11 | 7  | 18 | 9   | 8   | 4   | 6   | 0   | 0   | 4   | 0   | 43 | 25.6 | 55.56 |
| TYSON BARRIE      | 15 | 0  | 11 | 11 | 9   | 4   | 0   | 5   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 30 | 0    | 0     |
| ALEXANDER KERFOOT | 15 | 2  | 8  | 10 | -3  | 12  | 0   | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 26 | 7.7  | 59.74 |
| CARL SODERBERG    | 15 | 5  | 3  | 8  | 0   | 4   | 2   | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 31 | 16.1 | 43.38 |
| COLIN WILSON      | 15 | 4  | 3  | 7  | -2  | 2   | 2   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 27 | 14.8 | 35    |
| SAMUEL GIRARD     | 15 | 1  | 5  | 6  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 16 | 6.3  | 0     |
| ERIK JOHNSON      | 15 | 0  | 6  | 6  | 2   | 9   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 33 | 0    | 0     |
| IAN COLE          | 15 | 1  | 4  | 5  | 5   | 32  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 17 | 5.9  | 0     |
| J.T. COMPHER      | 5  | 3  | 1  | 4  | 0   | 6   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 10 | 30   | 54.9  |
| MATT NIETO        | 15 | 2  | 1  | 3  | -5  | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 0   | 18 | 11.1 | 50    |
| SHELDON DRIES     | 7  | 2  | 1  | 3  | 2   | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 13 | 15.4 | 20    |
| MATT CALVERT      | 15 | 1  | 2  | 3  | -3  | 15  | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 23 | 4.3  | 43.75 |
| GABRIEL BOURQUE   | 14 | 0  | 3  | 3  | 3   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 7  | 0    | 40    |
| NIKITA ZADOROV    | 15 | 1  | 1  | 2  | 2   | 19  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 16 | 6.3  | 0     |
| TYSON JOST        | 11 | 1  | 1  | 2  | -2  | 4   | 1   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 9  | 11.1 | 28.33 |
| VLADISLAV KAMENEV | 10 | 1  | 1  | 2  | 0   | 4   | 0   | 0   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 0   | 8  | 12.5 | 50    |
| SVEN ANDRIGHETTO  | 6  | 1  | 0  | 1  | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 12 | 8.3  | 33.33 |
| MARK BARBERIO     | 4  | 1  | 0  | 1  | -5  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 2  | 50   | 0     |
| PATRIK NEMETH     | 11 | 0  | 1  | 1  | 0   | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 6  | 0    | 0     |
| MARKO DANO        | 6  | 0  | 0  | 0  | -1  | 7   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 3  | 0    | 0     |

| GOALTENDER       | GP | GS | W | L | T | OT | SA  | GA | GAA  | S   | SV%  | SO | MIN |
|------------------|----|----|---|---|---|----|-----|----|------|-----|------|----|-----|
| SEMYON VARLAMOV  | 10 | 10 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2  | 332 | 22 | 2.21 | 310 | .934 | 0  | 599 |
| PHILIPP GRUBAUER | 5  | 5  | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1  | 168 | 18 | 3.55 | 150 | .893 | 0  | 304 |



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# STANDINGS & LEADERS



## POINTS

|   |                   |    |
|---|-------------------|----|
| 1 | M. RANTANEN, COL  | 24 |
| 2 | C. MCDAVID, EDM   | 22 |
| 3 | M. MACKINNON, COL | 22 |
| 4 | P. BERGERON, BOS  | 20 |
| 5 | E. MALKIN, PIT    | 20 |

## GOALS

|   |                   |    |
|---|-------------------|----|
| 1 | A. OVECHKIN, WSH  | 12 |
| 2 | D. PASTRNAK, BOS  | 12 |
| 3 | M. MACKINNON, COL | 11 |
| 4 | P. KANE, CHI      | 11 |
| 5 | G. LANDESKOG, COL | 11 |

## ASSISTS

|   |                        |    |
|---|------------------------|----|
| 1 | M. RANTANEN, COL       | 19 |
| 2 | T. CHABOT, OTT         | 16 |
| 3 | B. BURNS, SJS          | 15 |
| 4 | R. NUGENT-HOPKINS, EDM | 14 |
| 5 | M. MARNER, TOR         | 14 |

## PENALTY MINUTES

|   |                    |    |
|---|--------------------|----|
| 1 | B. MARCHAND, BOS   | 46 |
| 2 | C. MCLEOD, NYR     | 32 |
| 3 | I. COLE, COL       | 32 |
| 4 | M. LUCIC, EDM      | 30 |
| 5 | E. GUDBRANSON, VAN | 29 |

## ROOKIE POINTS

|   |                    |    |
|---|--------------------|----|
| 1 | E. PETTERSSON, VAN | 16 |
| 2 | B. HOWDEN, NYR     | 9  |
| 3 | C. WHITE, OTT      | 9  |
| 4 | M. LAJOIE, OTT     | 8  |
| 5 | H. JOKIHARJU, CHI  | 8  |

## GOALS AGAINST AVG.

|   |                     |      |
|---|---------------------|------|
| 1 | J. HALAK, BOS       | 1.45 |
| 2 | P. RINNE, NSH       | 1.55 |
| 3 | T. GREISS, NYR      | 1.98 |
| 4 | A. VASILEVSKIY, TBL | 1.98 |
| 5 | A. RAANTA, ARI      | 2.10 |

## SAVE %

|   |                     |      |
|---|---------------------|------|
| 1 | J. HALAK, BOS       | .952 |
| 2 | P. RINNE, NSH       | .949 |
| 3 | T. GREISS, NYR      | .940 |
| 4 | R. MILLER, ANA      | .936 |
| 5 | A. VASILEVSKIY, TBL | .935 |

## GOALTENDER WINS

|   |                     |   |
|---|---------------------|---|
| 1 | A. VASILEVSKIY, TBL | 8 |
| 2 | F. ANDERSEN, TOR    | 8 |
| 3 | M. JONES, SJS       | 7 |
| 4 | P. RINNE, NSH       | 6 |
| 5 | D. DUBNYK, MIN      | 6 |

## 2018-19 WESTERN CONFERENCE

| CENTRAL       | GP | W  | L | OT | PTS | ROW | GF | GA | DIFF | HOME  | AWAY  | S/O | L10 STRK  |
|---------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|----|----|------|-------|-------|-----|-----------|
| 1 NASHVILLE   | 15 | 12 | 3 | 0  | 24  | 12  | 51 | 31 | +20  | 5-3-0 | 7-0-0 | 0-0 | 8-2-0 W4  |
| 2 MINNESOTA   | 14 | 8  | 4 | 2  | 18  | 8   | 43 | 40 | +3   | 5-0-2 | 3-4-0 | 0-1 | 7-3-0 L1  |
| 3 WINNIPEG    | 14 | 8  | 5 | 1  | 17  | 8   | 41 | 38 | +3   | 5-2-1 | 3-3-0 | 0-0 | 6-3-1 L1  |
| PACIFIC       | GP | W  | L | OT | PTS | ROW | GF | GA | DIFF | HOME  | AWAY  | S/O | L10 STRK  |
| 1 SAN JOSE    | 15 | 8  | 4 | 3  | 19  | 8   | 50 | 46 | +4   | 4-2-1 | 4-2-2 | 0-2 | 6-2-2 W2  |
| 2 CALGARY     | 16 | 9  | 6 | 1  | 19  | 9   | 54 | 53 | +1   | 4-2-1 | 5-4-0 | 0-1 | 5-4-1 L1  |
| 3 VANCOUVER   | 16 | 9  | 6 | 1  | 19  | 8   | 49 | 53 | -4   | 5-2-0 | 4-4-1 | 1-1 | 5-4-1 OT1 |
| WILD CARD     | GP | W  | L | OT | PTS | ROW | GF | GA | DIFF | HOME  | AWAY  | S/O | L10 STRK  |
| 1 DALLAS      | 15 | 8  | 6 | 1  | 17  | 8   | 42 | 40 | +2   | 5-2-0 | 3-4-1 | 0-0 | 5-4-1 L1  |
| 2 EDMONTON    | 15 | 8  | 6 | 1  | 17  | 8   | 44 | 46 | -2   | 3-2-1 | 5-4-0 | 0-0 | 5-4-1 L2  |
| 3 COLORADO    | 15 | 7  | 5 | 3  | 17  | 7   | 53 | 44 | +9   | 3-2-1 | 4-3-2 | 0-1 | 4-4-2 L1  |
| 4 ANAHEIM     | 17 | 7  | 7 | 3  | 17  | 6   | 41 | 48 | -7   | 4-2-3 | 3-5-0 | 1-2 | 2-6-2 W1  |
| 5 CHICAGO     | 15 | 6  | 6 | 3  | 15  | 6   | 46 | 56 | -10  | 3-2-2 | 3-4-1 | 0-0 | 3-6-1 L3  |
| 6 ARIZONA     | 13 | 7  | 6 | 0  | 14  | 6   | 37 | 29 | +8   | 4-3-0 | 3-3-0 | 1-0 | 6-4-0 L1  |
| 7 ST. LOUIS   | 13 | 5  | 5 | 3  | 13  | 5   | 46 | 48 | -2   | 4-4-1 | 1-1-2 | 0-0 | 4-4-2 W1  |
| 8 VEGAS       | 15 | 6  | 8 | 1  | 13  | 5   | 34 | 42 | -8   | 4-2-1 | 2-6-0 | 1-1 | 5-4-1 L1  |
| 9 LOS ANGELES | 14 | 5  | 8 | 1  | 11  | 5   | 32 | 46 | -14  | 4-3-1 | 1-5-0 | 0-0 | 3-7-0 W2  |

## 2018-19 EASTERN CONFERENCE

| METROPOLITAN   | GP | W  | L | OT | PTS | ROW | GF | GA | DIFF | HOME  | AWAY  | S/O | L10 STRK  |
|----------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|----|----|------|-------|-------|-----|-----------|
| 1 NY ISLANDERS | 14 | 8  | 4 | 2  | 18  | 7   | 45 | 34 | +11  | 3-1-2 | 5-3-0 | 1-1 | 6-2-2 OT1 |
| 2 WASHINGTON   | 14 | 7  | 4 | 3  | 17  | 6   | 52 | 50 | +2   | 5-1-2 | 2-3-1 | 1-1 | 5-3-2 W2  |
| 3 COLUMBUS     | 15 | 8  | 6 | 1  | 17  | 8   | 50 | 52 | -2   | 4-4-0 | 4-2-1 | 0-0 | 5-4-1 W1  |
| ATLANTIC       | GP | W  | L | OT | PTS | ROW | GF | GA | DIFF | HOME  | AWAY  | S/O | L10 STRK  |
| 1 TAMPA BAY    | 15 | 11 | 3 | 1  | 23  | 10  | 55 | 40 | +15  | 6-2-0 | 5-1-1 | 1-0 | 7-2-1 W   |
| 2 TORONTO      | 15 | 10 | 5 | 0  | 20  | 10  | 51 | 40 | +11  | 4-5-0 | 6-0-0 | 0-0 | 6-4-0 W2  |
| 3 BOSTON       | 14 | 8  | 4 | 2  | 18  | 8   | 39 | 31 | +8   | 5-1-0 | 3-3-2 | 0-0 | 5-3-2 W1  |
| WILD CARD      | GP | W  | L | OT | PTS | ROW | GF | GA | DIFF | HOME  | AWAY  | S/O | L10 STRK  |
| 1 MONTRÉAL     | 15 | 8  | 5 | 2  | 18  | 6   | 48 | 45 | +3   | 5-3-0 | 3-2-2 | 2-0 | 5-4-1 L1  |
| 2 BUFFALO      | 15 | 7  | 6 | 2  | 16  | 7   | 43 | 44 | -1   | 4-2-1 | 3-4-1 | 0-0 | 4-4-2 L1  |
| 3 PITTSBURGH   | 14 | 6  | 5 | 3  | 15  | 6   | 47 | 47 | 0    | 2-4-1 | 4-1-2 | 0-2 | 4-4-2 L3  |
| 4 PHILADELPHIA | 15 | 7  | 7 | 1  | 15  | 6   | 48 | 56 | -8   | 2-4-0 | 5-3-1 | 1-0 | 5-4-1 W1  |
| 5 OTTAWA       | 15 | 6  | 6 | 3  | 15  | 6   | 52 | 62 | -10  | 5-2-2 | 1-4-1 | 0-0 | 4-4-2 W1  |
| 6 NY RANGERS   | 15 | 7  | 7 | 1  | 15  | 4   | 43 | 47 | -4   | 5-3-0 | 2-4-1 | 3-0 | 6-3-1 W4  |
| 7 CAROLINA     | 15 | 6  | 7 | 2  | 14  | 5   | 40 | 45 | -5   | 3-3-1 | 3-4-1 | 1-0 | 2-7-1 L2  |
| 8 NEW JERSEY   | 13 | 6  | 6 | 1  | 13  | 6   | 42 | 43 | -1   | 5-1-1 | 1-5-0 | 0-0 | 3-6-1 L1  |
| 9 DETROIT      | 15 | 5  | 8 | 2  | 12  | 4   | 40 | 55 | -15  | 3-4-1 | 2-4-1 | 1-1 | 5-5-0 W1  |
| 10 FLORIDA     | 11 | 3  | 5 | 3  | 9   | 2   | 34 | 41 | -7   | 0-3-1 | 3-2-2 | 1-2 | 3-5-2 W1  |



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# BRODZIAK

## BACK IN OIL COUNTRY

BY PAUL GAZZOLA

KYLE BRODZIAK FEELS IT EVERY MORNING.

Not the caffeine from a cup of coffee or the piercing temperature of an early autumn sunrise in Alberta.

Rather, during his quiet daily commute to Rogers Place, the Vegreville, AB, native realizes, suddenly, that he's home playing for the franchise that drafted him.

"It's a special feeling," the free-agent signing said in the Oilers dressing room, sitting in his stall as Tobias Rieder eavesdropped to his left. "I'm still in Edmonton and playing hockey here."

It's a surreal sentiment. One that the tenured veteran of 13 National Hockey League seasons and 847 game appearances still hasn't grasped completely.

"Playing the first home game a couple nights ago, I was actually kind of nervous for an exhibition game, which is something that doesn't usually happen," Brodziak admitted, referring to the Oilers 6-0 pre-season win over the Vancouver Canucks on Sept. 25.

The Oilers depth centre inked a contract with the organization on July 1, for both personal and professional reasons.

*continued on page 42*





“The potential I feel for the lineup is very high... Whatever situation presents itself, I feel I can help out with that aspect of it.”

“One, for myself and my family,” Brodziak said of his decision to come back to the orange and blue. “We have a lot of family and friends around and we value that part of that life. To be able to stick around close with our young boys close to home, it’s pretty important to us.”

The second factors in the complexion of Edmonton’s roster. Brodziak sees promise in the Oilers nucleus, led by back-to-back Art Ross Trophy winner Connor McDavid and supported by a cast that includes Leon Draisaitl, Darnell Nurse, Cam Talbot and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins.

“The potential for the team is what excites me the most,” he continued. “Last year was a down year but if you look at the roster and the players that the Oilers have, the potential for something special to happen is exciting for me, personally.”

Drafted by the Oilers in the seventh round (214th overall) at the 2003 NHL Draft, Brodziak played 175 games in Oilers silks before being traded to the Minnesota Wild along with a sixth-

round pick on June 27, 2009, by then-general manager Steve Tambellini. Edmonton received 2009 fourth- and fifth-round selections as part of the transaction.

Since the trade, the 6-foot-2, 209-pound centre paved a lengthy career for himself. The forward became a serviceable piece with many situational capabilities during his time with the Wild and St. Louis Blues – where he spent the last three seasons of his career.

The decision to come back to Alberta’s capital now, nine years and 672 career NHL games later, just made sense.

“When I got traded away from Edmonton to go to Minnesota, looking back on it, it was a pretty good opportunity to establish myself as an everyday NHL player,” Brodziak, who’s tallied 123 goals and 287 points in his career, said. “My game has grown in a lot of different areas over that time. Individually I’ve grown and as a person, I’ve grown.”



"The timing to come back here seems like a pretty good fit."

Brodziak said he feels comfortable slotting in as a depth middleman, able to kill penalties, win faceoffs and provide guidance in the room. He'll do so with a sense of belief that he can help this roster get back on track. "The potential I feel for the lineup is very high," he said. "Whatever situation presents itself, I feel I can help out with that aspect of it."

Oilers Head Coach Todd McLellan holds his new forward in high regard. On the ice, Brodziak doesn't dazzle the way McDavid and Draisaitl do, but he is hard on the puck and maintains invested in helping the club in any way on every shift.

"That unspectacular detail stuff wins games and gets you to the playoffs," McLellan, alluding to Brodziak's skill shorthanded and in the faceoff dot, said. "Eventually, if those types of situations come up and if every player is unspectacular and just gets his job done, you have a chance

to win and play long. It doesn't have to be the end-to-end rush and the beautiful goal that gets you a win all the time.

"Kyle has the ability to do those things."

Alberta will always be home to Brodziak but there's always an adjustment period when joining a new team. It takes time understanding the team dynamic and how players communicate with one another on or off the ice.

*continued on page 45*



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"It takes a while to learn the group and where you fit in the group," Brodziak said. "Learn what makes guys tick and how guys respond in different situations."

But Brodziak got ahead of the curve, skating at Rogers Place alongside his new teammates a few weeks ahead of Oilers training camp. At the informal skates, Brodziak had the luxury of getting to know his new peers before hitting the ground running overseas in Sweden, where the Oilers opened the 2018-19 season.

"You're coming into a new locker room where you're meeting 20 – or even more – new guys," Brodziak said. "There's different systems in place, you're meeting a new coaching staff but you just take it a day at a time and trust that things will come along the way they should."

McLellan sympathizes with Brodziak but is challenging his new veteran presence already. The coach wants to see the 34-year-old establish some leadership in the lineup and within the Oilers dressing room.

"We're looking to see if he can take charge of a line," McLellan said. "If he's picking up our language and our concepts and the pace of the game. He's still a new player in our organization – he's been in the League for years – but he's still figuring things out."

Once the Oilers pre-season commenced, McLellan made Brodziak a fixture of the fourth line, doling the skater out with a rotating cast featuring Zack Kassian, Drake Caggiula and Alex Chiasson.

Kassian envisions the unit being able to contain the puck and administer pressure in the offensive zone, breaking teams down with a relentless cycle.

"We're both big and can skate," Kassian said of his new linemate. "We should be able to grind teams down low, hold onto pucks down low and chip in offensively. I'm trying to get to know Brodziak as much as I can. Try to improve and create chemistry every day."

Caggiula agrees, believing the fourth line will be able to blend speed, defence and a dogged forecheck.

"The three of us have a similar mindset in the way we play," Caggiula, who's looking to build off his 13-goal season last year, said. "We want to get in on forechecks and be hard to play against on both ends of the rink. Try to be responsible and play with that upbeat tempo and hard forechecking game."

Brodziak maintained a 50 percent faceoff rating in his five pre-season outings with the Oil on North American soil, while mustering some familiarity with his mates.

*continued on page 47*





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"Everything that I was hoping for – now that it's real and I've had some time to let it sink in – has been amazing."



In the dressing room, it's a different endeavor.

"It's an interesting dynamic in training camp because as a coaching staff, you've got an eye on the veteran players," McLellan said. "You're trying to get them ready and trying to get them to be at a high level when the season starts. Yet, you're keeping an eye on the younger players to see if they can even do it. It wasn't long ago when you were the young guy asking, 'Can I get to the next game?' and now you're the older guy saying, 'Can I get ready for the next game, the next season?'"

"I'm assuming in Kyle's first stint here as a young player when he initially put the jersey on, there was somebody in that locker room, somebody that he looked to or kept an eye on that he emulated.

"Now, he's doing that for others."

With his head pointing forward and his eyes in focus, Brodziak, still sitting in his stall, puts things into perspective.

Summer is over but the Brodziak clan isn't packing up and leaving for another city. He's met his Oilers teammates and skated with them. He's experienced Edmonton's Rogers Place and the elation of playing in Oil Country again.

At this moment, what he still finds unbelievable in his morning commute – being home alongside his family with the orange and blue – is a reality.

"Everything that I was hoping for – now that it's real and I've had some time to let it sink in – has been amazing," said Brodziak. ♦





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# THE PLAYER PERSPECTIVE: GROWTH OF THE NHL IN SWEDEN

BY OSCAR KLEFBOM

If someone asked me when I was younger, “where would you dream to see yourself playing in a couple years?” it was not in the NHL, it was with Färjestad of the Swedish Hockey League in my hometown. That was the deal.

But the older you got, the more you learned about the NHL, the big league overseas. It was so far away but then when you start getting older and playing with the national team and getting more information about what’s happening overseas, you start figuring out, “that’s where I want to be, that’s where I want to end up.”

I saw a lot of NHL highlights, but back in the day you couldn’t really stay up all night just to watch game and then go to school.

I don’t think I watched a full NHL game until I came to Edmonton and Calgary to play at World Juniors seven years ago.

I probably would have watched a lot more if I had the opportunity to stream games like you can today.

If we would have gone to Sweden with the Oilers even five years ago, Connor wouldn’t be nearly as big as he is today.

It’s crazy to see how big of an impact social media has had and how easy it is to see highlights and games online.

It’s crazy how fast the NHL has exploded in Sweden. It’s really exciting. 🍷





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## HUNTER SPOTLIGHT

Our lovable lynx went international as Hunter was part of the Oilers contingent that traveled to Germany and Sweden for the NHL Global Series! Hunter hit the town in Cologne, visiting the city's most famous landmarks, sporting some German attire and even bumping into Oilers forward Milan Lucic. Then, it was off to Gothenburg to celebrate the start of the season as he was the life of the party at open practice before teaming up with his New Jersey counterpart NJ Devil at the big game.

Book Hunter for your next event at [EdmontonOilers.com/Hunter!](http://EdmontonOilers.com/Hunter!)



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# READY TO

# ASSIST

BY JAMIE UMBACH, PAUL GAZZOLA & CAIT MACPHAIL

AN OLD FOE TURNED FRIEND, THE DON OF DEFENCEMEN, AND A MAN WITH UNTAPPED POTENTIAL.

All in all, there will be a different dynamic behind the bench for the Oilers alongside Head Coach Todd McLellan this 2018-19 NHL season.

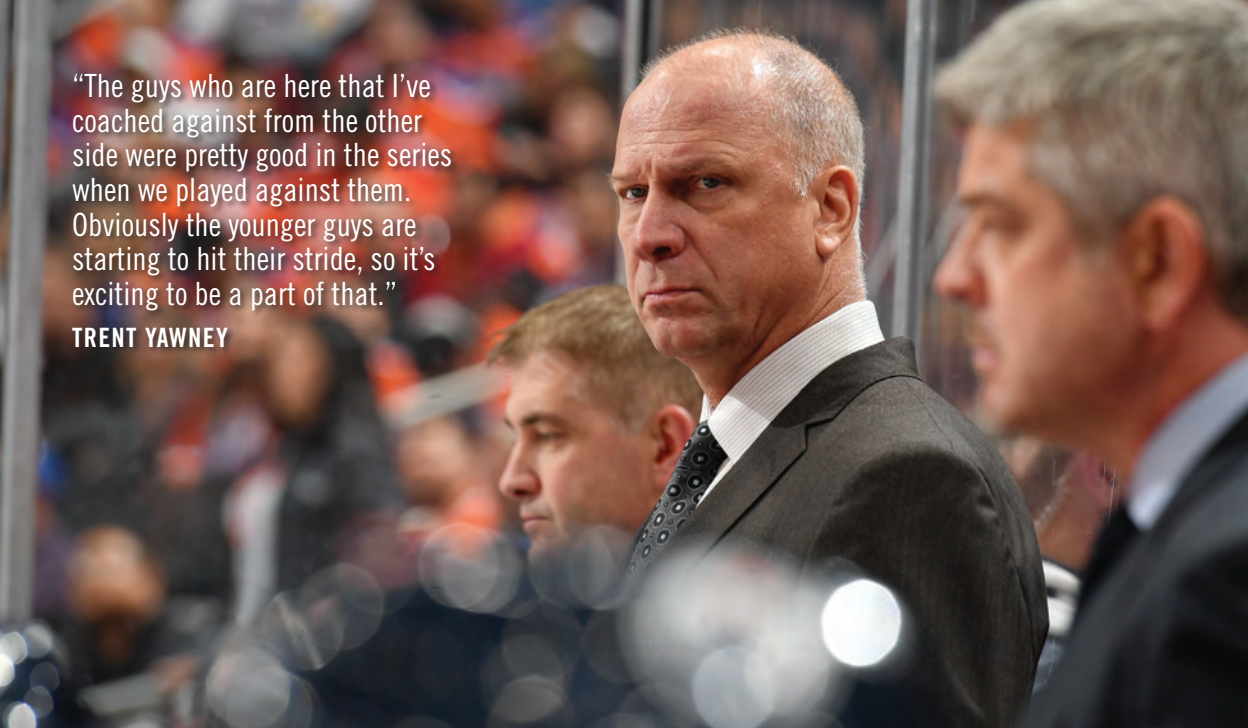
New assistant coaches Glen Gulutzan, Trent Yawney and Manny Viverios arrive in Edmonton with their own unique skillsets and fresh opinions for on an Oilers team that fell short of the playoffs last campaign.

*continued on page 54*



“The guys who are here that I’ve coached against from the other side were pretty good in the series when we played against them. Obviously the younger guys are starting to hit their stride, so it’s exciting to be a part of that.”

**TRENT YAWNEY**



Despite the trio all approaching the new season with their own individual roles scattered through the defence, forwards and special teams, Oilers President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Peter Chiarelli brought them in with a team-first focus in mind.

“We targeted these three individuals for their specific talents, experience and compatible personalities,” Chiarelli said back in May. “We talked a lot about the group and not so much on the individuals. We went at this methodically and we were happy to get these three guys.”

For Yawney, a former assistant in Anaheim with the Ducks for four seasons, it’s preach what you practice.

That practice is solid defending.

“In the word defenceman is the word defence,” Yawney said. “You have to be able to contribute offensively and be up in the play, but you also have to defend on your side of the red line in this league to be successful.”

The 52-year-old from Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan is no stranger to the Oilers after multiple seasons helping guide the Ducks, and there’s no obscurity around what his role is behind the bench – boss of the blueliners.

“Sometimes all you need is repetition and some refining to get your game in order, so I’m hoping to be able to establish a foundation in all of the defenceman within the parameters of the team, allowing them to be themselves while providing the necessary components needed to compete in the NHL,” Yawney said.

“They all possess that, but there’s certain areas that I think I’ll be able to help them with and move them forward.”

If he wasn’t familiar before, Yawney got the full introduction in a seven-game series against the Oilers during the 2017 Stanley Cup Playoffs when the Ducks edged the Oilers in Game 7 of the second round with a 2-1 win.

“Any time a series goes seven games it can go either way, but there’s a lot of great pieces here and being able to be a part of the Oilers organization and have the chance to win is exciting for any coach,” Yawney said. “The guys who are here that I’ve coached against from the other side were pretty good in the series when we played against them. Obviously the younger guys are starting to hit their stride, so it’s exciting to be a part of that.”

Yawney looks to translate his role in the development of NHL-standout defenceman – including Duncan Keith and Brent Seabrook from his earlier years coaching in Chicago, and Sami Vatanen with the Ducks – to the Oilers when he takes the reins of a blueline corps that includes Darnell Nurse, Oscar Klefbom, Adam Larsson and a number of the organization’s younger D prospects like 2018 first-rounder Evan Bouchard.

“A defenceman has to have a foundation to work from because you can’t just be all offence and not have any defence or hang back and not jump up in the play,” he said. “You have to help them with play around their own net, how to close in on players, using their sticks – I think I can help in that area.”

“If their game does go off the rails, they can get their game back in one game as opposed to five or six as it’s always going back to their foundation and what they’ve built, starting with the kinds of things that are little details that maybe don’t necessarily show up on the scoresheet but are very important for defenceman to have success.”

The 17-year coaching veteran re-joins McLellan in Edmonton after three seasons together behind the bench with the San Jose Sharks from 2008-11, with a stop in Chicago as head coach of the Blackhawks from 2005-07 and five seasons leading the Norfolk Admirals in the American Hockey League.

"I'm real excited to be working with Todd again and the rest of the staff," Yawney said. "I'm excited about the staff and have a lot of respect for the Oilers after being on the other side many times."

Looking down the Oilers bench, if the famous Calgary Flames train ride from Montreal to Ottawa during the 2016-17 season is any indication of the effect Gulutzan can have on his players, it's a profound one.

Unimpressed with his squad's recent five-game losing streak on an East Coast road trip and deciding to have all the alcoholic beverages from the carts removed, it soured the taste in the players' mouths – until Gulutzan had a change of heart.

"Just in my gut, sitting there as we were driving for the first 10-15 minutes, the whole thing didn't feel right," Gulutzan said at the time. "I wanted to move forward, not backward. The lady came to me later and she said, 'Well, that changed the mood in that cart.'"

Gulutzan is not a psychic and didn't need to inspect a palm to sense the spirit of his team. His mood reversal evidently had the same effect on his squad.

From Feb. 21 to March 13, 2017, Edmonton's provincial rivals were unstoppable, winning 10 consecutive outings and catapulting themselves into a playoff position, all stemming from Gulutzan's train-ride audible.

"I think the players that have played for me would say that is my strength: just being in-tune with the locker room," Gulutzan said.

The native of The Pas, Manitoba, traveled up the Highway 2 from Calgary to tap into the beat of the Oilers locker room this season.

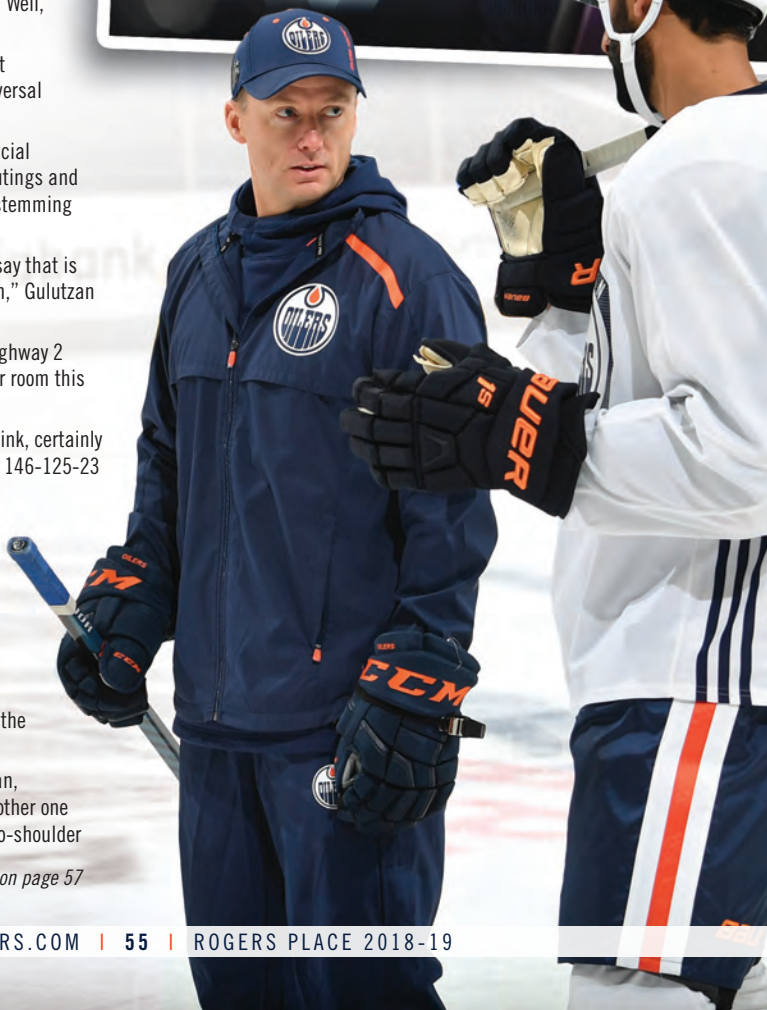
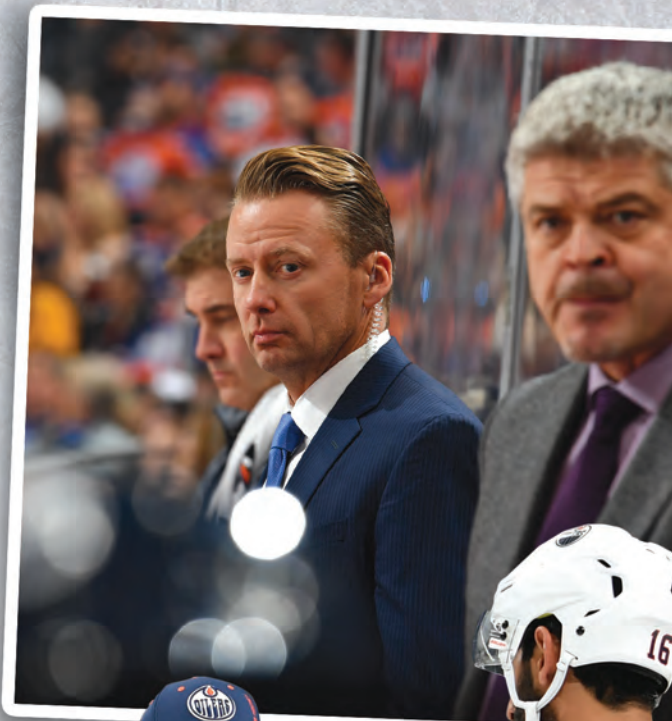
"Trying to have a good pulse in the locker room, I think, certainly is one of my strengths," said Gulutzan, who owns a 146-125-23 record as an NHL head coach.

"Knowing whether it's having a day off or whatever the guys need. Just being in rhythm with the team. That's kind of the way I've always coached."

Assistant coaches, of course, have different responsibilities than the bench boss. That much Gulutzan is aware of after spending time as an assistant with the Vancouver Canucks and then as the head coach of the Dallas Stars and Flames.

"One comes with a lot more pressure," said Gulutzan, undoubtedly referring to the head coach role. "The other one comes with a lot more contact and more shoulder-to-shoulder with the guys."

*continued on page 57*







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"You're never as in-tune with the locker room as the equipment guys or the medical guys (as an assistant coach) but you're probably at the next level. You get a little bit more insight, you get to talk to the guys a little bit more with their guards down. You see how they're doing and feeling. That's the way I see it transpiring here."

McLellan has been friends with Gulutzan for many years and believes he brings a wealth of knowledge with him to the position.

"He understands what it's like to be a head coach, especially in Canada, western Canada and in particular, Alberta," said McLellan. "That's a strong asset for us to have. He brings an upbeat personality and a good hockey mind."

Not only that but as opposition of the Oilers for the past few seasons, Gulutzan, along with Yawney, can provide information McLellan surely finds valuable.

"I'm sure they're going to pick my brain on the Calgary-Edmonton thing," quipped Gulutzan. "And just helping Todd in any way, shape or form about maybe seeing strengths or weaknesses in some players. Maybe myself and even Yawns (Trent Yawney), we can see some of that stuff and hopefully pull out the better parts of all the players to get it on the table."

"Those things don't come by easy. You have to facilitate them. I know some of the guys there in Edmonton, I know it's a great group. I'm just looking forward to helping out."

Last but certainly not least, if you're a fan of full-circle stories, Viveiros' journey through the ranks of the hockey world that has seen him land back within the Oilers organization is one to take note of.

Born and raised in St. Albert, originally drafted by the Edmonton Oilers in the sixth round in 1984 and now, 34 years later, the former Swift Current Broncos bench boss is one of the club's new assistant coaches.

Despite never suiting up for the Oilers in the NHL, Viveiros feels fortunate his path has guided him back to his hometown, a place his heart has never really left.

"It really is a homecoming, to say the least," said the former Prince Albert Raiders WHL star.

Viveiros and his family have spent large chunks of time overseas spanning 20 years as his playing and coaching career saw him make stops in Germany, Austria and for a short time, Italy. But they always kept an eye on home.

"When my family and I have been abroad, we always tuned in to watch the Oilers as much as possible. We've always kept our place in St. Albert and we're really looking forward to this opportunity."

For Viveiros, specifically, the theme of untapped NHL potential drew the eyes of the Oilers organization when vetting assistant coach candidates to round out their staff. While Gulutzan and Yawney have each spent a number of years behind an NHL bench, Viveiros gets his first look.

*continued on page 59*



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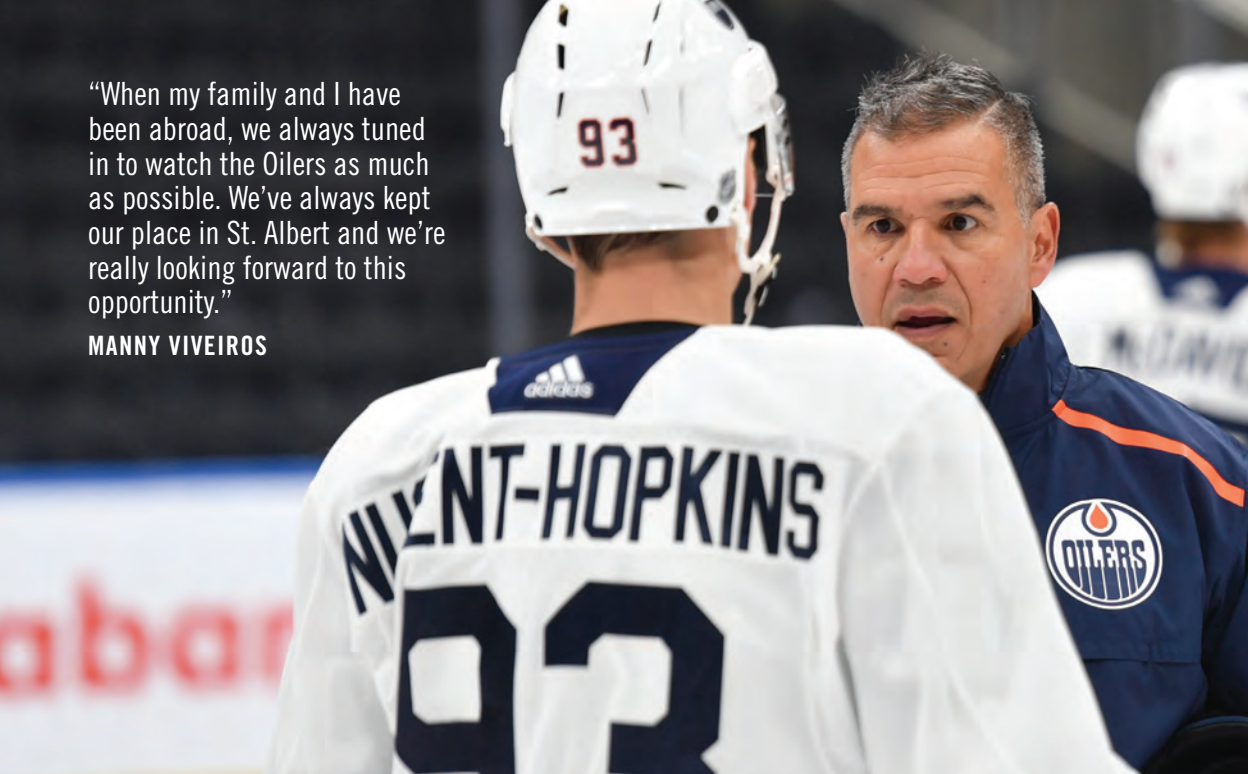
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“When my family and I have been abroad, we always tuned in to watch the Oilers as much as possible. We’ve always kept our place in St. Albert and we’re really looking forward to this opportunity.”

**MANNY VIVEIROS**



“He’s an up-and-coming coach. He has a talent level that hasn’t been tapped yet,” said Todd McLellan, referring to Viveiros’ successes at varying levels of hockey.

The Oilers felt more than comfortable offering him his first opportunity to bring his skills to the NHL, and Viveiros sees it as an ideal way to get his feet wet.

“I’m a rookie. It’s an opportunity to get acclimatized to the NHL. I’m going to rely heavily on the other coaches, absorb everything and ask a million questions,” he said.

Viveiros brings 11 years of experience with him — most recently with the Swift Current Broncos as he guided the group to a 2018 WHL Championship and subsequent trip to the Memorial Cup. The Broncos dominated their way to a 48-17-7 regular-season record, finishing second in the Eastern Conference, and boasted a League-best 29.4 power play percentage.

The three new hires offer the Oilers what they feel is a wide breadth of experience, varying skill-sets and unique intangibles. Viveiros may be the “rookie” of the bunch, but he knows both the challenge and opportunity that lies ahead with helping guide the group.

“I truly believe that last year was a bump in the road, so to speak, and a lot of things went wrong for that team,” Viveiros said. “But what really sold me on coming to Edmonton, is that this team truly is close. I believe that.”

Where Viveiros can lend his biggest voice in tandem with the entire coaching staff is special teams, where the Oilers are

undoubtedly looking to improve after their power play and penalty kill numbers saw a significant drop-off in 2017-18.

“He’s got a very strong power-play sense and results with his European teams as well as his junior teams,” said McLellan. “We’ll obviously lean in that direction with his skill-set.”

To start the season, McLellan said the coaching staff will opt for a three-man bench with himself, Gulutzan and Yawney conducting operations at ice level and Viveiros viewing from the press box, later joining the bench for the third period. McLellan added the possibility of a permanent four-man bench remains an option down the road.

Righting the ship when it comes to the man-advantage and disadvantage will be a team effort for the coaches, with Yawney looking to strengthen the Oilers penalty kill after helping guide the Ducks to a top-10 efficiency percentage in four straight seasons.

“Another pair of eyes is always good no matter what part of the game it is,” Yawney said. “Glen had a good penalty kill in Vancouver when he was an assistant there and Manny’s power play in Swift Current has been strong these past few seasons. It’ll be a collective thing and maybe I’ll see some things on the power play we can implement, and I think Glen and Manny will do the same on the penalty kill.”

Todd’s new trio is comprised of three unique coaches with impressive resumes who will attempt to work unison with the bench boss to guide the Oilers back to the post-season and beyond. ♦





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## OFF THE ICE

The last six months have been jam-packed with community events throughout Oil Country, including Cam Talbot and Fernando Pisani heading to Lloydminster for the ATCO Oilers Hockey Clinic in May, Oilers Entertainment Group staff and Hunter participating in the Edmonton Pride Parade in June, Bob Nicholson spearheading OEG's second annual Habitat For Humanity effort in July, Kyle Brodziak making a special guest appearance at Rogers Oilers Hockey School in August, Connor McDavid teaming up with the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation to support Canadian Tire Jumpstart in September and the Oilers Ladies visiting local schools for Read-In Week in October.





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# HOT START HAS OIL KINGS POISED FOR SUCCESS

BY ALYSCIA WARNER

Excitement hasn't been this high since they won the Memorial Cup as Canadian Hockey League champions in 2014, but the buzz is palpable surrounding the Edmonton Oil Kings.

The team got off to its best start in modern franchise history when the puck dropped on the 2018-19 Western Hockey League campaign, starting with an unprecedented five straight wins out of the gate as they surged up the league standings and confidence hit an all-time high.

There has been lots to be optimistic about, beginning with the team naming its leadership group ahead of the start of the season, headlined by captain and Columbus Blue Jackets prospect, forward Trey Fix-Wolansky.

What the 5-foot-7 Fix-Wolansky lacks in height, he more than makes up for in heart as the 19-year-old, hometown Edmonton product comes off a team-leading 89-point campaign in 2017-18 which included 32 goals – and he's picked up right where he left off on the stat sheet. A persistent playmaker, he's had a huge hand in helping the Oil Kings off to their ferocious start to the season.

In addition to plenty of excitement surrounding the players, former Tampa Bay Lightning assistant coach Brad Lauer steps in for his first season behind the Oil Kings bench as head coach, with newcomer Luke Pierce

joining him in the role of assistant coach. Newly minted president of hockey operations and general manager Kirt Hill is also a fresh face to the Oil Kings front office after serving as an amateur scout for the Chicago Blackhawks.

The Oil Kings saw their early season success rewarded by being featured in the CHL Top 10 Rankings as one of the top teams out of the 60 based across all of Canada and parts of the United States.

The action on the ice this season will be supplemented with special fan giveaways slated for October 27 on Superhero Night and November 17 on Wizards & Witches Night. The annual Teddy Bear Toss game on December 8 will once again see thousands of teddy bears rain down on the ice when the Oil Kings score their first goal of the game.

The history of star players like Mark Pysyk, Griffin Reinhart, Curtis Lazar and Tristan Jarry won't be forgotten, but the thrill of up-and-coming current talent like Fix-Wolansky, Matthew Robertson, Jake Neighbours and Vladimir Alistrov can't be missed.

Whether you've been a dedicated fan of the team for the past 11 years, or you're about to make up your mind to come be a part of your very first Oil Kings game, one thing is certain – it's a good time to be a fan of the Edmonton Oil Kings! ♦





# 2018-19 SEASON SCHEDULE

| SUN                  | MON                  | TUE                  | WED | THU                  | FRI | SAT                  |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----|----------------------|-----|----------------------|
|                      |                      |                      |     |                      |     | 1                    |
| 2                    | 3                    | 4                    | 5   | 6                    | 7   | 8                    |
| 9                    | 10                   | 11                   | 12  | 13                   | 14  | 15                   |
| 16                   | 17<br>CGY<br>7:00 pm | 18<br>VAN<br>8:00 pm | 19  | 20<br>WPG<br>7:00 pm | 21  | 22                   |
| 23<br>WPG<br>6:00 pm | 24                   | 25<br>VAN<br>7:30 pm | 26  | 27<br>ARI<br>7:00 pm | 28  | 29<br>CGY<br>1:00 pm |
| 30                   |                      |                      |     |                      |     |                      |

| SUN                         | MON | TUE                          | WED | THU                         | FRI | SAT                               |
|-----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|
|                             | 1   | 2                            | 3   | 4                           | 5   | 6<br>NJ<br>11:00 am<br>COTRENDORS |
| 7                           | 8   | 9                            | 10  | 11<br>SNOL<br>5:00 pm       | 12  | 13<br>SNW<br>NYR<br>11:00 am      |
| 14                          | 15  | 16<br>SNOL<br>WPG<br>6:00 pm | 17  | 18<br>SNL<br>BOS<br>7:00 pm | 19  | 20<br>HNIC<br>NSH<br>8:00 pm      |
| 21                          | 22  | 23<br>SNT<br>PIT<br>7:00 pm  | 24  | 25<br>SNT<br>WSH<br>7:00 pm | 26  | 27<br>SNW<br>NSH<br>1:00 pm       |
| 28<br>SNT<br>CHI<br>4:00 pm | 29  | 30<br>SNOL<br>MIN<br>7:00 pm | 31  |                             |     |                                   |

| SUN                         | MON                        | TUE                         | WED | THU                         | FRI                         | SAT                          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
|                             |                            |                             |     | 1<br>SNW<br>CHI<br>7:00 pm  |                             | 3<br>DET<br>5:00 pm          |
| 4                           | 5<br>SNW<br>WSH<br>5:00 pm | 6<br>SNW<br>TBL<br>5:30 pm  | 7   | 8<br>SNW<br>FLA<br>5:00 pm  | 9                           | 10                           |
| 11<br>SNT<br>COL<br>7:30 pm | 12                         | 13<br>SNW<br>MTL<br>7:00 pm | 14  | 15                          | 16                          | 17<br>HNIC<br>CGY<br>8:00 pm |
| 18<br>SNW<br>VGK<br>6:00 pm | 19                         | 20<br>SNW<br>SJS<br>8:30 pm | 21  | 22                          | 23<br>SNW<br>ANA<br>2:00 pm | 24                           |
| 25<br>SNW<br>LAK<br>8:30 pm | 26                         | 27<br>SNW<br>DAL<br>7:00 pm | 28  | 29<br>SNW<br>LAK<br>7:00 pm | 30                          |                              |

| SUN                         | MON                         | TUE                         | WED                 | THU                         | FRI                         | SAT                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
|                             |                             |                             |                     |                             |                             | 1<br>HNIC<br>VGK<br>8:00 pm  |
| 2                           | 3<br>SNW<br>DAL<br>6:30 pm  | 4                           | 5<br>STL<br>6:00 pm | 6                           | 7<br>SNW<br>MIN<br>7:00 pm  | 8                            |
| 9<br>SNW<br>CGY<br>7:00 pm  | 10                          | 11<br>SNW<br>COL<br>7:00 pm | 12                  | 13<br>SNW<br>WPG<br>6:00 pm | 14<br>SNW<br>PHI<br>7:00 pm | 15                           |
| 16<br>SNW<br>VAN<br>8:00 pm | 17                          | 18<br>SNT<br>STL<br>7:00 pm | 19                  | 20                          | 21                          | 22<br>HNIC<br>TBL<br>8:00 pm |
| 23                          | 24<br>SNW<br>WPG<br>7:00 pm | 25                          | 26                  | 27<br>SNT<br>VAN<br>7:00 pm | 28                          | 29<br>SNW<br>SJS<br>2:00 pm  |
| 30                          |                             |                             |                     |                             |                             |                              |

| SUN                         | MON                         | TUE                         | WED                         | THU                         | FRI | SAT                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
|                             |                             | 1                           | 2<br>SNT<br>ARI<br>7:30 pm  | 3                           | 4   | 5<br>HNIC<br>LAK<br>8:00 pm  |
| 6<br>ANA<br>6:00 pm         | 7                           | 8<br>SNW<br>SJS<br>8:30 pm  | 9                           | 10<br>SNW<br>FLA<br>7:00 pm | 11  | 12<br>HNIC<br>ARI<br>8:00 pm |
| 13                          | 14<br>SNW<br>BUF<br>7:00 pm | 15                          | 16<br>SNW<br>VAN<br>8:00 pm | 17                          | 18  | 19<br>HNIC<br>CGY<br>8:00 pm |
| 20<br>SNT<br>CAR<br>7:30 pm | 21                          | 22<br>SNT<br>DET<br>7:00 pm | 23                          | 24                          | 25  | 26                           |
| 27                          | 28                          | 29                          | 30                          | 31                          |     |                              |

| SUN                        | MON                         | TUE                         | WED                         | THU                         | FRI                         | SAT                          |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
|                            |                             |                             |                             |                             | 1                           | 2<br>SN<br>PHI<br>11:00 am   |
| 3<br>SN<br>MTL<br>12:00 pm | 4                           | 5<br>SNW<br>CHI<br>7:00 pm  | 6                           | 7<br>SNW<br>MIN<br>6:00 pm  | 8                           | 9<br>HNIC<br>SJS<br>5:00 pm  |
| 10                         | 11                          | 12                          | 13<br>SNT<br>PIT<br>6:00 pm | 14                          | 15<br>SNW<br>CAR<br>5:30 pm | 16<br>HNIC<br>NYI<br>5:00 pm |
| 17                         | 18                          | 19<br>SNW<br>ARI<br>7:00 pm | 20                          | 21<br>SNW<br>NYI<br>7:00 pm | 22                          | 23<br>HNIC<br>ANA<br>8:00 pm |
| 24                         | 25<br>SNW<br>NSH<br>6:00 pm | 26                          | 27<br>SNT<br>TOR<br>5:00 pm | 28<br>SNW<br>OTT<br>5:30 pm |                             |                              |

| SUN                         | MON                         | TUE                         | WED                         | THU                         | FRI | SAT                          |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
|                             |                             |                             |                             |                             | 1   | 2<br>SNW<br>CBJ<br>11:00 am  |
| 3                           | 4<br>SNT<br>BUF<br>5:00 pm  | 5                           | 6                           | 7<br>SNW<br>VAN<br>7:00 pm  | 8   | 9<br>HNIC<br>TOR<br>5:00 pm  |
| 10                          | 11<br>SNW<br>NYR<br>7:00 pm | 12                          | 13<br>SNT<br>NJD<br>7:30 pm | 14                          | 15  | 16<br>HNIC<br>ARI<br>8:00 pm |
| 17<br>SNW<br>VGK<br>8:00 pm | 18                          | 19<br>SNT<br>STL<br>6:00 pm | 20                          | 21<br>SNT<br>CBJ<br>7:00 pm | 22  | 23<br>SNW<br>OTT<br>2:00 pm  |
| 24                          | 25                          | 26<br>SNW<br>LAK<br>7:00 pm | 27                          | 28<br>SNW<br>DAL<br>7:00 pm | 29  | 30<br>HNIC<br>ANA<br>8:00 pm |
| 31                          |                             |                             |                             |                             |     |                              |

| SUN | MON                        | TUE                        | WED | THU                        | FRI | SAT                         |
|-----|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
|     | 1<br>SNT<br>VGK<br>8:00 pm | 2<br>SNW<br>COL<br>7:00 pm | 3   | 4<br>SNW<br>SJS<br>7:00 pm | 5   | 6<br>HNIC<br>CGY<br>8:00 pm |
| 7   | 8                          | 9                          | 10  | 11                         | 12  | 13                          |
| 14  | 15                         | 16                         | 17  | 18                         | 19  | 20                          |
| 21  | 22                         | 23                         | 24  | 25                         | 26  | 27                          |
| 28  | 29                         | 30                         |     |                            |     |                             |

## ABBREVIATIONS

- ANA - Anaheim
- ARI - Arizona
- BOS - Boston
- BUF - Buffalo
- CAR - Carolina
- CBJ - Columbus
- CGY - Calgary
- CHI - Chicago
- COL - Colorado
- DAL - Dallas
- DET - Detroit
- FLA - Florida
- LAK - Los Angeles
- MIN - Minnesota
- MTL - Montreal
- NJD - New Jersey
- NSH - Nashville
- NYI - NY Islanders
- NYR - NY Rangers
- OTT - Ottawa
- PHI - Philadelphia
- PIT - Pittsburgh
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- VAN - Vancouver
- VGK - Las Vegas
- WPG - Winnipeg
- WSH - Washington

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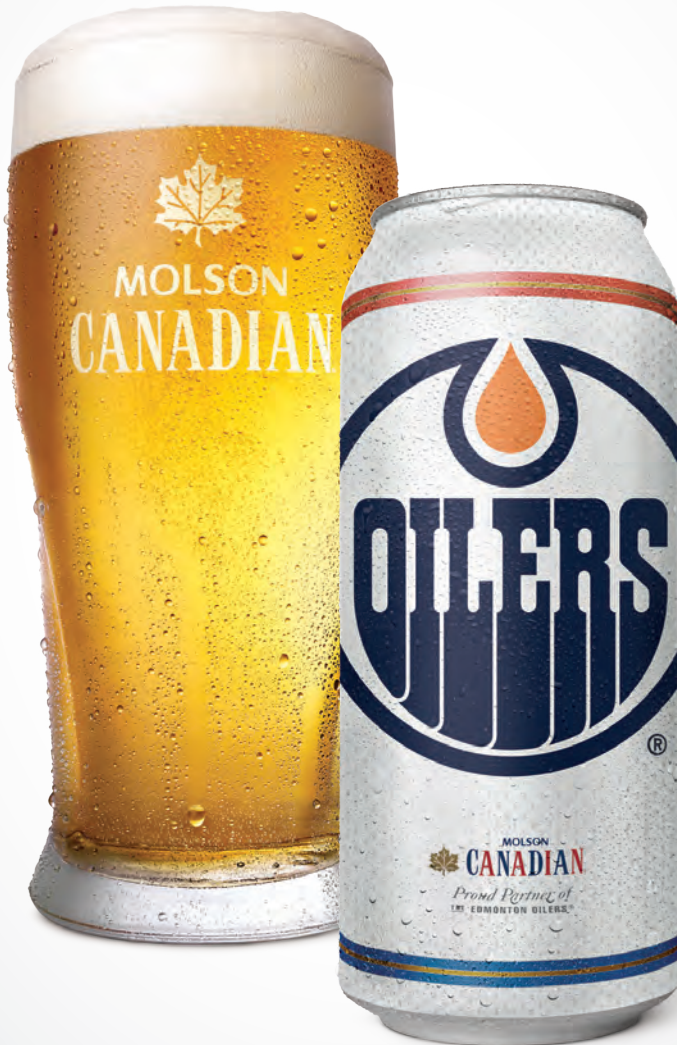


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