

OIL COUNTRY

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97 CONNOR
McDAVID



EDMONTON OILERS vs FLORIDA PANTHERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019 | ROGERS PLACE



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INSIDE OIL COUNTRY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EDMONTON OILERS



9 THE CHIASS

What a whirlwind seven-month stretch it's been for Alex Chiasson. The veteran forward went from hoisting the Stanley Cup with the Washington Capitals to becoming a free agent searching for his next destination to signing a PTO contract for Oilers training camp to emerging as one of the team's most pleasant surprises so far this season, setting a new career high for goals before the mid-mark of the campaign.

41 CEREBRAL

Dr. Dhiren Naidu dons a tremendous number of different figurative hats as a physician in Edmonton. In addition to serving as the Oilers Head Team Physician, Naidu has the same role with the Eskimos and Golden Bears football teams, is President of HealthPointe Medical Centre, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta, and is in the midst of monumental concussion research.

53 YEAR IN REVIEW

From Connor McDavid's magnificent second-half surge resulting in back-to-back Art Ross and Ted Lindsay honours, to selecting Evan Bouchard 10th overall at the NHL Draft, to starting the season in Germany and Sweden for the NHL Global Series, to four new coaches manning the bench, to first-half heroics from Alex Chiasson and Mikko Koskinen, there was no shortage of intriguing 2018 storylines in Oil Country.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 4 Freeze Frame | 31 Game Preview |
| 7 Roster 101 | 32 Oilers Roster |
| KYLE BRODZIAK | 33 Visitors Roster |
| 17 My Hometown | 34 Oilers Statistics |
| TOBIAS RIEDER | 35 Visitors Statistics |
| 18 Rogers Place Maps | 37 NHL Standings |
| 23 The SocOIL Scene | & Leaders |
| 27 Rogers Place Events | 51 Hunter Spotlight |

- | |
|---------------------|
| 60 Off The Ice |
| 63 Oil Kings Update |
| 64 Oilers Schedule |

28 KYLE BRODZIAK



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FREEZE FRAME

The Battle of Alberta was won in blue back on Sunday, Dec. 9 at Rogers Place as the Oilers donned their retro jerseys and defeated the rival Calgary Flames 1-0. Connor McDavid scored his 16th goal of the season, assisted by Leon Draisaitl and Alex Chiasson, while Mikko Koskinen turned aside all 24 shots he faced between the pipes.





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With Reid Wilkins

ROSTER 101



22 TOBIAS RIEDER

HOMETOWN: Landshut, Germany in the Bavaria region about an hour's drive away from Munich

NICKNAME: Tobi

WHY DO YOU WEAR #22? I wore it when I was a little kid, because my dad used to wear it, but when I came to North America it was always either taken or retired, so this is actually the first year I got to wear this number in the NHL.

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

WHAT IS YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION? Any of the gear I got when I was part of Team Europe at the World Cup.

WHAT IS YOUR SECRET TALENT? I'm a pretty good soccer player. I play a lot in the summer with my friends back home.

HOW DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR OFF DAYS? My girlfriend and I foster dogs, so it gets a little rowdy with them on off days.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST HOCKEY MEMORY? Scoring in my first NHL game on a pass from Shane Doan was something I'll never forget.



FAVOURITES

SPORT OTHER THAN HOCKEY? SOCCER

TV SHOW? TWO AND A HALF MEN

VACATION DESTINATION? ITALY

HOME-COOKED MEAL? SCHNITZEL

EMOJI? CRY-LAUGH

ROAD CITY? MONTREAL



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THE CHIASS

BY CAIT MACPHAIL

Fans are rarely privy to the exact ins and outs of player signings, contract negotiations, or trade formulations — whether it be exactly how they come to be or any close-calls or near-misses along the way.

Hockey insiders across broadcast networks can offer insight or a small window to a world fans clamor for a glimpse into. Look no further for proof than some of hockey's most influential pundits who command more than one million Twitter followers that hang on every character of every tweet about anything from the "inside".

These media personalities can supply the slivers that satiate an appetite for real-time, behind-the-scenes info, but in reality, these talks are held close to the chest on the sides of agents, players and teams for obvious reasons.

It's not just leading up to those loud signings on July 1 where this delicate process plays out. Dictating the future of any player takes time, diligence and forethought from many perspectives.

And as Alex Chiasson embarked on the second professional tryout (PTO) experience of his career this fall in Edmonton, he knew that process of patiently combing for the right fit is key, while also keeping in mind that once your blades hits the ice for that next opportunity, nothing is certain.

He is no stranger to this.

"You're taking two suitcases, a suit, a couple shirts, a backpack and off you go. But you're still not really sure where you're going to end up," said the forward.

continued on page 10



While the 28-year-old made earning a spot with the Oilers the priority, he was not blind to the realities of fighting for a contract this way. You're showcasing in one city, but others with interest can keep a keen eye. A year earlier, he was rolling into the Washington Capitals training camp under the same circumstances.

"Obviously you're trying out for one team, but you're also trying out for every other team in the NHL."

The Oilers announced on Sept. 10 that they had signed the Quebec native to a PTO. With a goal of rounding out their forward group, in addition to some off-season signings, the organization opted to bring in the versatile winger to compete for a contract. If he earned that, the next step would be vying for playing time against a mix of burgeoning prospects and other vets in the Oilers system.

So far, it's two big checkmarks for Chiasson in Edmonton – and with a pleasant influx of offence to boot.

The big winger's resumé came with a documented nose for the blue paint. His ability to go the net, jump on loose pucks and still have hands adept enough to finish in tight has largely been what's earned him his paycheques in the NHL. It's always a part of why, despite not signing more than a one-year contract for the last four seasons, he's continued to find a niche on an NHL team every season of his career.

The 6-foot-4 winger was selected 38th overall in the 2009 NHL Draft by the Dallas Stars. His customary post-draft interview

showed a very recognizable Chiasson, despite being just 18 at the time. With his new Stars cap affixed to his head, there's something else recognizable about him, and it's how he describes his own personal style of play.

"When I play physical, it's when I score goals. It's weird to say, but that's the way it is. I like to go to the net hard and play physical."

Fast-forward nearly a decade later to just his second game with the Oilers, who upgraded his PTO to a one-year deal signed on Oct. 2.

After watching the team's first five games from the press box as a healthy scratch while the Oilers forward group worked out its early-season identity, it took only a few periods in his second appearance to show why he earned his latest contract.

Chiasson shouldered a Pittsburgh defender to the ice in the corner, curled off the boards, fired a shot on net, shoved his way to the middle, gloved down his own rebound and, while falling, potted a beautiful wrister under that bar for one of the prettiest first goals you'll see a PTO-turned-depth-signing score with their new club.

The words of 18-year-old Chiasson on draft day were echoed in the replay of how his first Oilers goal developed. A physical play in the corner resulting in Chiasson netting one from the dirty area in front. It was nothing if not a calling card for the journeyman winger. He would go on to

score his second of the season in that same game and thus, Chiasson's tenure with the Oilers had begun.

His personal journey through the NHL is a unique one. Beyond his entry-level deal with Dallas, Chiasson has worked his way through five other clubs on successive one-year contracts. Rarer than that is a player who is not only on a fifth-consecutive one-year deal but one that has contributed consistently enough to stay at the NHL level throughout the entire process.

The forward seemingly filled a role every step of the way and his work ethic is well-documented.

Having coached him not only as a rookie in Dallas, but again during the forward's one-season stint with the Calgary Flames, there may not be anyone who knows this fact better than Oilers assistant coach Glen Gulutzan, who was key in Chiasson's recruitment to Edmonton.

"It was a continual dialogue throughout the summer," said Gulutzan about his off-season chats with Chiasson. "He's one of those guys... He does everything right. He comes to practice hard, he's a great pro. He's just one of those guys you need on your team that gives you real stability.

"Ultimately we were glad he chose to come here."

In so many words, Gulutzan described exactly why the Oilers were interested in adding Chiasson. They wanted to give him the opportunity to be the type of new-look role player the Oilers could use. In addition, his consistency as a five-on-five offensive contributor in a bottom-six role was not overlooked by an Oilers team who sought more scoring depth.

Being reunited with a trusted coach was on the list of pros for Chiasson in Edmonton.

"I trust his experience and his thoughts and value on different things," Chiasson said of Gulutzan.

"I think he knows the type of player I can be. It's been great to have him on my side so far. I know where I stand with him, he's pretty honest with me, at the same time, he's always helped me put myself in a position where I can be successful."

As days ticked off the calendar this past summer, Chiasson assessed his options. The Oilers weren't the only ones expressing interest, so some weighing and measuring had to be done.

"When (Oilers GM) Peter (Chiarelli) called, I looked at the guys on the team and where I could fit in," said Chiasson about when the Oilers first came knocking. "I believe in my ability and I thought this would be the best place for me to come and play."

continued on page 13





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Chiasson admits that, despite being in similar positions in past off-seasons, the process is often both arduous and stressful at times. Pushing your chips in on a PTO opportunity is a leap of faith, one Chiasson was comfortable taking in Edmonton. Still, waiting until September gave the forward some time to evaluate.

"It was kind of really late (to sign a PTO). I think, personally, in the way things happened this summer, I kind of waited until the end to see where could have been the best fit."

His shortened summer proved to be a crossroads for Chiasson — an off-season where his recent past and impending future collided in a big way. Chiasson was part of the 2018 Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals and on Sept. 2, he got his own day with hockey's Holy Grail. And like many NHLers do when it's their turn, he took the Cup back to where it all began for him in Quebec City.

An emotional journey was capped in the off-season with Chiasson parting ways with not only the Cup, but with the Capitals organization as well, who opted not to offer him another contract with some other negotiations taking priority given their cap situation.

Not seven days later, Chiasson was packing his bags and hopping on a flight to Edmonton for his next PTO opportunity.

He admits separating himself from the emotional turbulence of a Stanley Cup run and almost immediately having to turn the page was not easy, but he is no stranger to adapting. On potentially his fifth NHL club before turning 30, he was more so a pro at it.

Though it wouldn't be long for his past and present to collide again.

After giving Oilers management every reason to keep him in the lineup after his first few appearances, his third game saw his former teammates from Washington roll into town.

They brought with them Chiasson's Stanley Cup ring. Chiasson entered the visitors dressing room at Rogers Place following the Oilers pre-game skate donned in orange and blue, where, in a short and touching gesture, Capitals captain Alexander Ovechkin presented Chiasson with his sparkly hardware.

The former Cap said a few heartfelt words and exchanged some quick hugs and thank-yous with old teammates and emerged from the dressing room with the box clutched in his hand. Some local media asked him if he could show off his new token. Chiasson admitted his hand was still shaking as he placed the ring back on his right ring finger to show the camera.

What would be an impactful and emotional moment for any Cup champion had to have a short shelf life for Chiasson that day. In a few hours, he was set to go up against the same group he battled to a championship with just months before.

He didn't disappoint.

Chiasson broke over the Capitals blueline that night and fired a long-range wrister that beat Braden Holtby over the shoulder for this third goal in two games. The Oilers went on to beat the defending champs 4-1.

The media contingent converged on Chiasson's locker room stall after the game. He was hard-pressed to keep the smile off his face and was quick to describe just what kind of day he had.

"I don't think I've had a day with ups and downs like that in emotion," said Chiasson.

"It was super emotional for me to go back into that locker room and have Ovi hand me the ring... Going back home today, it was kind of awkward. Trying to move away from what had happened this morning and in the past and focus on the game, it couldn't have been a better outcome."

Chiasson isn't unfamiliar with having to "turn the page," as he describes it, and that night, as he spoke candidly about his day, it became clear the winger had taken an important step in separating the past and ingratiating himself in a new organization.

When talking about what kind of player the Oilers were getting in Chiasson, Gulutzan mentioned something specific that has become apparent during the forward's time in Edmonton.

"Once he feels comfortable in his surroundings, he's going to work really hard every day and he has the ability to score," said the Oilers assistant coach.

Chiasson has fit the bill exactly and with even a little more on the offensive side. In his first 20 games with the Oilers, he had tallied 11 goals, just two shy of his career-high with Dallas in 2013-14.

It wasn't just a familiarity with the player's skillset that piqued the Oilers interest. Chiasson was bringing in something that can't be charted via analytics.

"You can see it right away in him. He knows that it takes to win. He was a part of a team in Washington that transformed into a machine that won the cup. I think he understands the subtleties," said Gulutzan.

Chiasson also spoke to this sentiment when asked what he thought he could bring to a young team in Edmonton looking to get back to the post-season.

"I think that's one thing I have going for me," said Chiasson. "Being a part of that group last year, it takes every guy and every guy has to do their jobs to the best of their ability."

Chiasson scored a huge playoff goal for the Caps in Game 7 of their series against Pittsburgh, but he's well aware players in similar roles as his don't have to be filling the back of the net to be highly effective in the battleground of post-season play.

continued on page 15

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He recalls a recent situation in Edmonton that Oilers fans would remember vividly.

"When you're in the playoffs, in the second round, a Zack Kassian is important. I watched Kass play two years ago in the playoffs and he was a big difference for that team and that's what you have to realize," said Chiasson.

He often pauses when he speaks in interviews. It becomes apparent that he's simply processing the next well-thought-out answer. He's honest with an air of quiet confidence. It's the voice of a well-travelled journeyman of over 400 NHL games who finds his role and embraces it over and over again, one who has earned every opportunity he's been given, even when it comes with the pressure of proving your worth on the legs of a one-year commitment.

So far, he's done just that with the Oilers, endearing himself to not only the fans, but clearly coaching staff and management as well.

After taking the reins in mid-November, new Oilers Head Coach Ken Hitchcock had a few games to assess the roster in front of him. It took him less than a week to see what was to like about the player that is Alex Chiasson.

"He goes to the net, stays at the net and can score at the net. All of his goals are scored in close. Right now, Alex is one of the best on the team at that," said Hitchcock.

After a hard-fought divisional battle to open the team's December schedule with a win over Las Vegas during Hockey Night in Canada action, Chiasson sat down with Scott Oake and Louie DeBrusk post-game for a customary After Hours segment, usually reserved for a player that might be generating a little buzz at that moment.

Chiasson fit the bill, having been elevated to the Oilers top line with Leon Draisaitl and Connor McDavid for the few games previous after finding consistent scoring success in the early-going.

He discussed what was expected — a little bit about the past, a little bit about his present and, of course, a little bit about the nomadic nature of his career thus far. Despite what is behind

him and what could potentially be in front, Chiasson speaks like a man living in the moment.

"It feels like I'm getting rewarded for my play and my effort the last couple years," said Chiasson, as he watched some of his Oilers highlights on the screen in front of him.

"It's not always been easy for me as a player. I've changed a lot of teams, I've had to move around and I've gotten used to packing my luggage... But so far here, it's been good."

On pace to smash his career numbers offensively while quickly becoming a fan-favourite in Oil Country, the chase for "Chiasser" as he continues to prove, yet again, that he was worth taking a chance on. ♦



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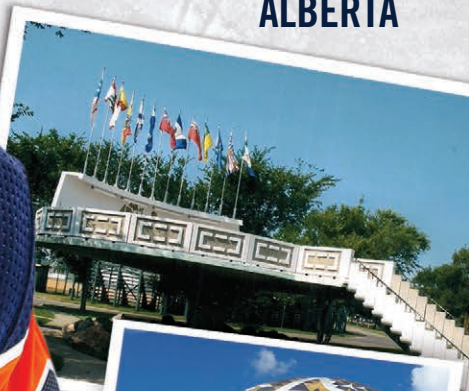


MY HOMETOWN



KYLE BRODZIAK

**ST. PAUL & VEGREVILLE
ALBERTA**



HOW DID YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARRIVE IN ST. PAUL & VEGREVILLE?

My grandparents on both my mom and dad's side were farmers just outside of St. Paul before both families moved into town. I lived in St. Paul until I was seven years old and then we moved to Vegreville. I definitely consider both my hometown.

WHAT IS YOUR ST. PAUL & VEGREVILLE MINOR HOCKEY STORY?

I played one or two years of minor hockey in St. Paul and the rest was in Vegreville until Bantam AAA when I played in Fort Saskatchewan, and then after that I went to Moose Jaw in the WHL.

FACT: BRODZIAK'S NHL CAREER HAS COME FULL CIRCLE AS HE WAS ORIGINALLY SELECTED BY THE OILERS IN THE SEVENTH ROUND OF THE 2003 NHL DRAFT AND PLAYED FIVE SEASONS WITH THE ORGANIZATION BEFORE GETTING TRADED TO MINNESOTA IN JUNE 2009.

WHAT WAS YOUR MINOR HOCKEY HIGHLIGHT?

I remember winning a couple of league championships in peewee and bantam when I was in Vegreville, so those were definitely big highlights at the time.

WHAT ARE ST. PAUL & VEGREVILLE'S MOST FAMOUS LANDMARKS?

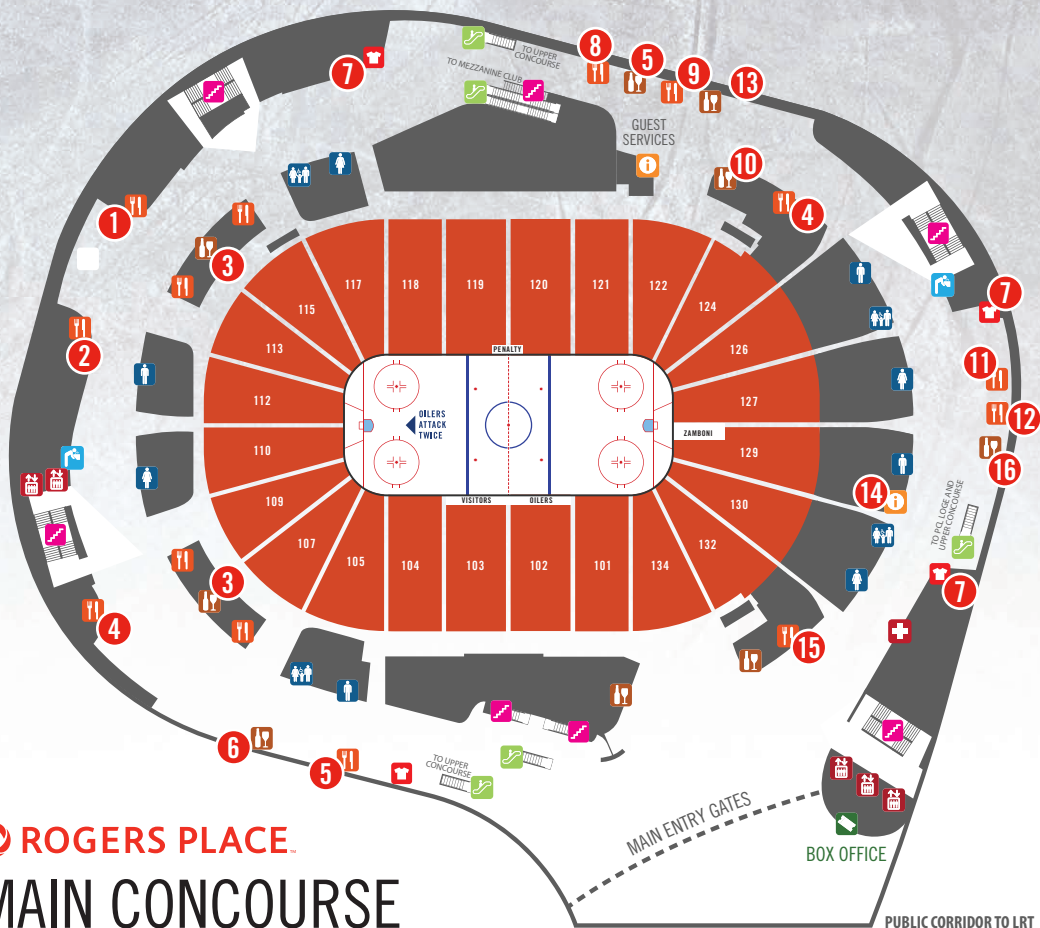
The UFO landing pad in St. Paul and the big pysanka (Easter egg) in Vegreville.

WHAT DID YOU DO FOR FUN AS A CHILD?

We played a lot of road hockey and a lot of hockey on the pond as well. I also golfed quite a bit with my buddies when we were kids.

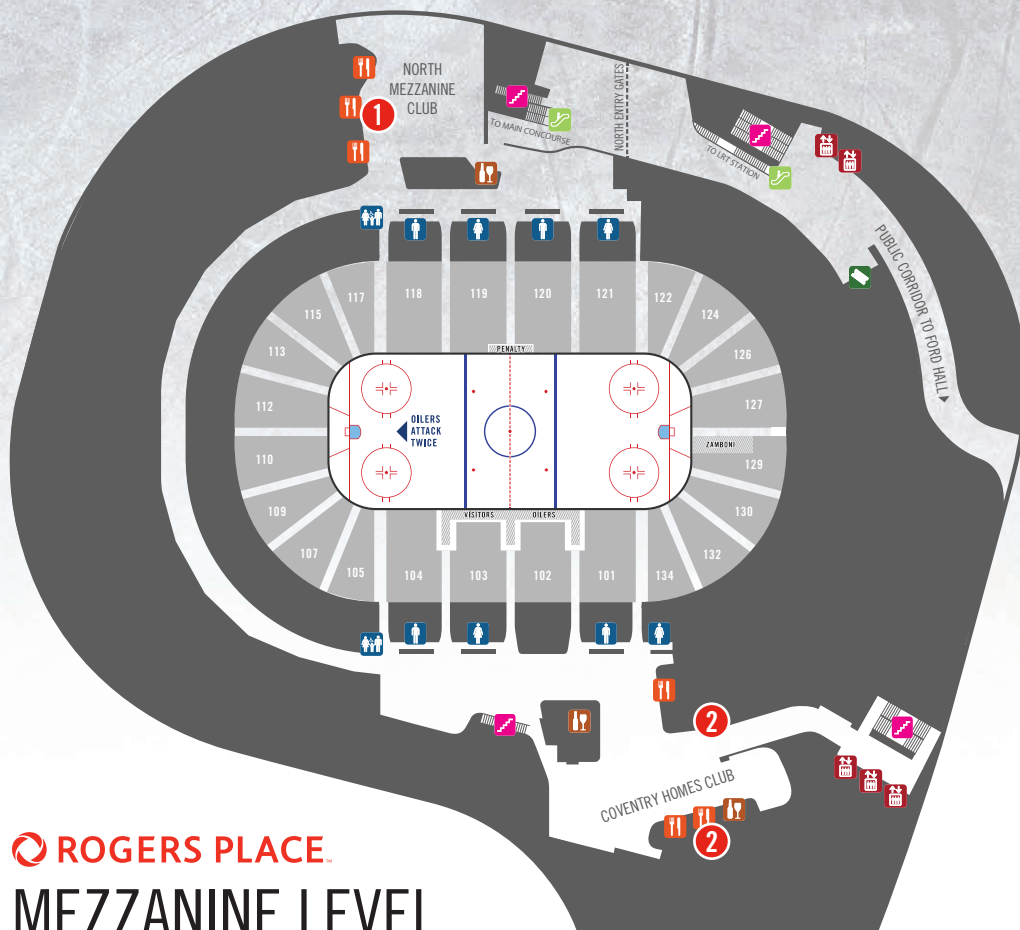
DO YOU STILL SPEND ANY TIME THERE?

I still have lot of family in St. Paul like my grandparents and a few aunts, uncles and cousins, and my mom is still in Vegreville so we visit her a lot.



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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

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2 RIVER CITY MARKET

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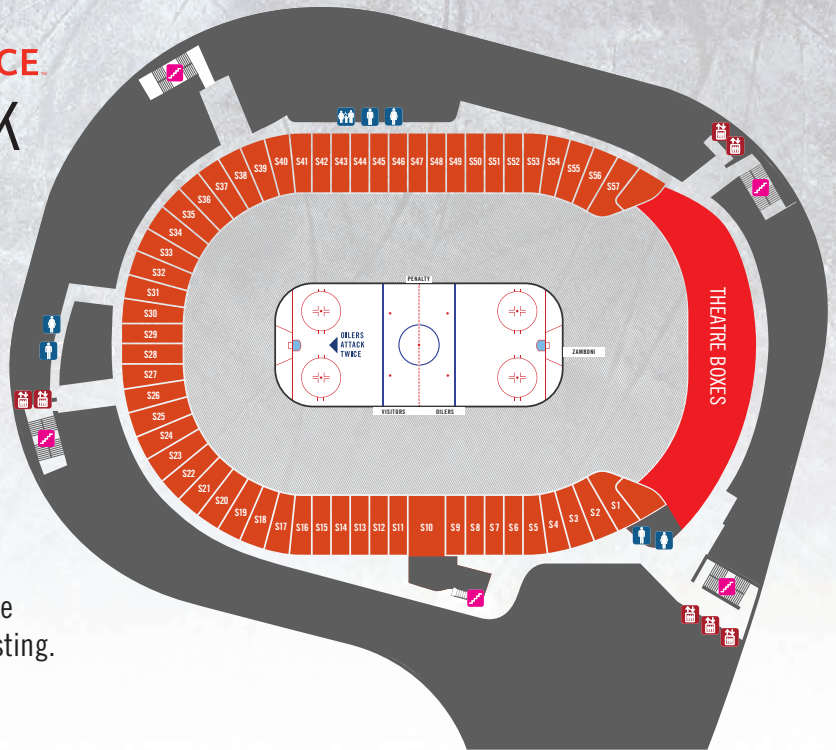
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PCL LOGE LEVEL

1 BAR & CARVERY

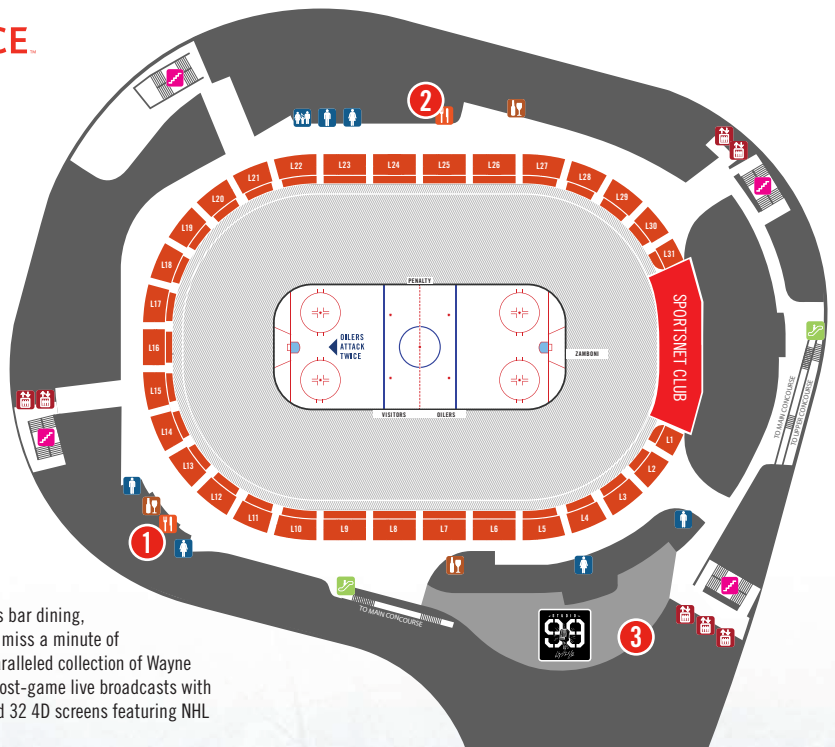
A destination where our chefs pick the choicest local cuts of meat and hand carve them for each guest.

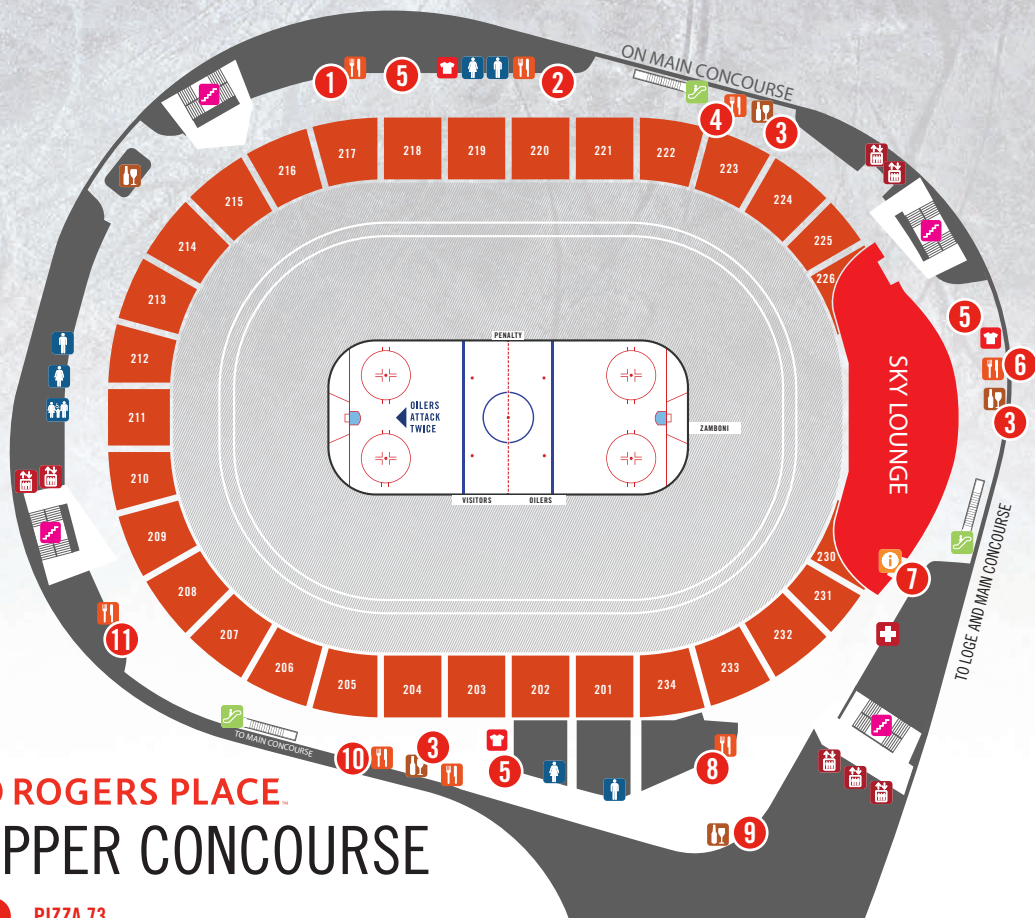
2 RIVER VALLEY GRILL

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

3 STUDIO 99

Located inside Rogers Place, Studio 99 offers elevated sports bar dining, buffet style to ensure you don't miss a minute of the game. Showcasing an unparalleled collection of Wayne Gretzky memorabilia, pre and post-game live broadcasts with special guest appearances, and 32 4D screens featuring NHL game night action.





ROGERS PLACE UPPER CONCOURSE

1 PIZZA 73

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2 WHITEMUD KITCHEN

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3 DRAUGHT

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

4 ALBERTA CUTS

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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

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9 BAR

10 ALBERTA SMOKED

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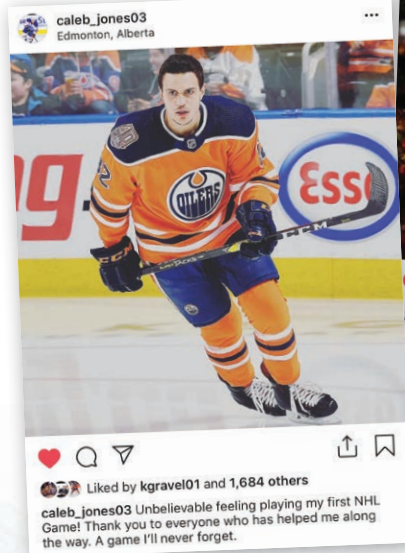
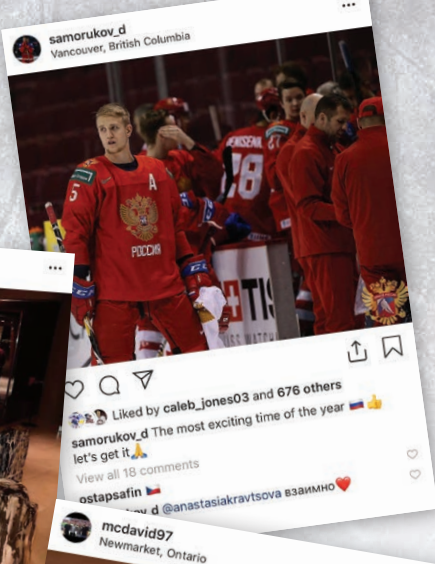
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THE SOCIAL SCENE

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As 2018 came to a close, the Oilers spent a lot of time on the ice with a busy December schedule but were able to enjoy some activities off it as well, with many of the guys finding time to make the most of their holiday season. From trips to the World Junior Championship, to ringing in a new year and reflecting on the one that was, Oilers players and prospects kept us up to date on social media throughout the festive few weeks.



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A man and a woman are shown in a romantic pose, floating in the air. The man is wearing a white shirt with handwritten text and the woman is wearing a blue and white outfit. They are surrounded by a blue, crystalline, icy environment with light rays. The woman is holding the man's face, and they are looking at each other. The background is a deep blue with white light rays and ice-like structures.

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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

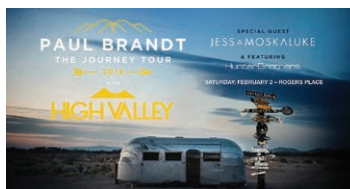


HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS
FAN POWERED WORLD TOUR
Saturday, January 26
@ 2PM



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
Wednesday, February 6
Thursday, February 7
@ 7:30PM



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THE BREAKERS TOUR
Sunday, February 24
@ 7:30PM

With special guests Midland & Ashley McBryde



SNOOP DOGG
SNOOP DOGG & FRIENDS TOUR
Wednesday, February 20
@ 8:00PM

Featuring Bone Thugs-N-Harmony,
Warren G, Kurupt & Luniz

All tickets are available via RogersPlace.com,
Ticketmaster and the Rogers Place Box Office.

FREEZE FRAME

Have you hugged your goalie lately? Captain Connor sure did following Sunday's game in Anaheim as Cam Talbot turned aside all 39 shots he faced during Edmonton's 4-0 shutout over the Ducks. McDavid, Jesse Puljujarvi, Kyle Brodziak and Leon Draisaitl scored, while Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Caleb Jones each had two assists.





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GAME PREVIEW

EDMONTON OILERS vs FLORIDA PANTHERS

THURSDAY | DECEMBER 10 | 2019 | ROGERS PLACE



THE OILERS WILL PLAY SIX OF THEIR NEXT SEVEN GAMES HEADING INTO THE ALL-STAR BREAK and bye week on home ice at Rogers Place starting with tonight's tilt against the Florida Panthers. Edmonton is coming off a four-game Pacific Division road trip that saw them post victories over the Arizona Coyotes and Anaheim Ducks, as well as defeats against the Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks. Florida, meanwhile, starts a four-game all-Canadian swing tonight still searching for their first win of 2019. One of the Panthers wins in 2018 came in their first meeting of the season with the Oilers in Florida on Nov. 8 as Vincent Trocheck and Mike Hoffman each had two-point games in a 4-1 decision. Leon Draisaitl scored Edmonton's lone goal in the defeat, which snapped a nine-game home losing streak for the Panthers. The Oilers are 18-12-3 all-time against the Panthers including a 7-4-0 record in their last 11 meetings. Connor McDavid scored five points in two games against Florida during the 2017-18 campaign.

PLAYERS TO WATCH

RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS hit a milestone achieved by only 21 other players on Tuesday as he played his 500th game with the Oilers. The team's first-overall pick from the 2011 NHL Draft has tallied 133 goals and 219 assists in those 500 games and could pass former teammate Jordan Eberle (507), Finnish legend Esa Tikkanen (522) and Hall of Famer Paul Coffey (532) to move into 19th spot by the end of the 2018-19 campaign. Nugent-Hopkins celebrated the milestone by setting up Milan Lucic's goal in San Jose, bringing the centreman up to 25 helpers and 39 points in 43 games. Nugent-Hopkins is on pace to surpass his career high of 56 points from 2013-14 and 2014-15.

MIKE HOFFMAN has been Florida's most potent goal-scorer this season, leading the team with 20 tallies in his first season with the Panthers. The left-winger was selected in the fifth round by the Ottawa Senators in 2009 and spent four productive seasons with the NHL club, scoring at least 22 goals and 48 points in each of those campaigns. Hoffman was traded twice on the same day last June when the Senators dealt him to the San Jose Sharks who then flipped him to the Panthers. Hoffman is well on his way to smashing his career-best goal total of 29 from the 2015-16 season. He scored in back-to-back games to start 2019 before getting shut out in Pittsburgh on Tuesday.



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
22	TOBIAS RIEDER	RW	L	5' 11"	186	JAN 10, 1993	LANDSHUT, DEU
23	RYAN SPOONER	C	L	5' 11"	191	JAN 30, 1992	OTTAWA, ON, CAN
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
45	JOSEPH GAMBARDILLA	C	L	5' 10"	196	DEC 1, 1993	STATEN ISLAND, NY, USA
56	KAILER YAMAMOTO	RW	R	5' 8"	153	SEP 29, 1998	SPOKANE, WA, USA
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
15	ALEXANDER PETROVIC	R	6' 4"	216	MAR 3, 1992	EDMONTON, AB, CAN
25	DARNELL NURSE	L	6' 4"	221	FEB 4, 1995	HAMILTON, ON, CAN
26	BRANDON MANNING	L	6' 1"	205	JUN 4, 1990	PRINCE GEORGE, BC, CAN
77	OSCAR KLEFBOM	L	6' 3"	216	JUL 20, 1993	KARLSTAD, SWE
82	CALEB JONES	L	6' 1"	194	6 JUN 1997	ARLINGTON, TX, USA
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.....Ken Hitchcock
 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
7	COLTON SCEVIOUR	C	R	6' 0"	192	APR 20, 1989	RED DEER, AB, CAN
8	JAYCE HAWRYLUK	C	R	5' 11"	196	JAN 1, 1996	YORKTON, SK, CAN
11	JONATHAN HUBERDEAU (A)	LW	L	6' 1"	200	JUN 4, 1993	SAINT-JEROME, QC, CAN
16	ALEKSANDER BARKOV (C)	C	L	6' 3"	213	SEP 2, 1995	TAMPERE, FIN
17	DEREK MACKENZIE	C	L	5' 11"	177	JUN 11, 1981	SUDBURY, ON, CAN
18	MICHEAL HALEY	C	L	5' 11"	205	MAR 30, 1986	GUELPH, ON, CAN
21	VINCENT TROCHECK (A)	C	R	5' 10"	186	JUL 11, 1993	PITTSBURGH, PA, USA
22	TROY BROUWER	RW	R	6' 3"	213	AUG 17, 1985	VANCOUVER, BC, CAN
27	NICK BJUGSTAD	C	R	6' 6"	215	JUL 17, 1992	MINNEAPOLIS, MN, USA
62	DENIS MALGIN	C	R	5' 9"	177	JAN 18, 1997	OLTEN, CHE
63	EVGENII DADONOV	RW	L	5' 11"	185	MAR 12, 1989	CHELYABINSK, RUS
68	MIKE HOFFMAN	LW	L	6' 0"	180	NOV 24, 1989	KITCHENER, ON, CAN
72	FRANK VATRANO	C	L	5' 9"	201	MAR 14, 1994	EAST LONGMEADOW, MA, USA
90	JARED MCCANN	C	L	6' 1"	185	MAY 31, 1996	STRATFORD, ON, CAN
91	JUHO LAMMIKKO	RW	L	6' 2"	191	JAN 29, 1996	NOORMARKKU, FIN
95	HENRIK BORGSTROM	C	L	6' 3"	190	AUG 6, 1997	HELSINKI, FIN

DEFENCE

#	NAME	SHOOTS	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	BIRTH PLACE
3	KEITH YANDLE (A)	L	6' 1"	191	SEP 9, 1986	BOSTON, MA, USA
5	AARON EKBLAD (A)	R	6' 4"	220	FEB 7, 1996	WINDSOR, ON, CAN
6	CHRIS WIDEMAN	R	5' 10"	183	JAN 7, 1990	ST. LOUIS, MO, USA
13	MARK PYSYK	R	6' 1"	200	JAN 11, 1992	SHERWOOD PARK, AB, CAN
19	MIKE MATHESON	L	6' 2"	193	FEB 27, 1994	POINTE-CLAIRE, QC, CAN
52	MACKENZIE WEEGAR	R	6' 0"	200	JAN 7, 1994	OTTAWA, ON, CAN
55	BOGDAN KISELEVICH	L	6' 0"	202	FEB 14, 1990	CHEREPOVETS, RUS

GOALTENDERS

#	NAME	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	BIRTH PLACE
1	ROBERTO LUONGO	6' 3"	215	APR 4, 1979	MONTREAL, QC, CAN
34	JAMES REIMER	6' 2"	220	MAR 15, 1988	MORWEENA, MB, CAN

Owner & Governor..... Vincent J. Viola
 President of Hockey Operations and GM..... Dale Tallon
 Senior Advisor to the President of Hockey Ops..... Chris Pronger
 Director of Hockey Operations..... Braden Birch
 Director of Player Personnel..... Bryan McCabe
 Special Advisor to the General Manager..... Tom Rowe
 Special Advisor..... Peter Mahovlich
 Manager of Player Development..... Mike Ryan

Head Coach..... Bob Boughner
 Associate Coach..... Jack Capuano
 Assistant Coach..... Paul McFarland
 Assistant Coach, Video..... Ben Cooper
 Goaltending Coach..... Robb Tallas
 Strength & Conditioning Coach..... Tommy Powers
 Skills and Skating Coach..... Paul Vincent



STATISTICS | OILERS

STATS AS OF JAN. 9, 2019

PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	GWG	OTG	S	S%	FO%
CONNOR MCDAVID	42	24	39	63	4	14	6	20	0	0	7	1	142	16.9	46.03
LEON DRAISAITL	43	23	29	52	1	18	6	16	0	0	4	2	113	20.4	50.28
RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS	43	14	25	39	-8	12	4	15	1	2	1	0	112	12.5	44.39
ALEX CHIASSON	34	17	4	21	4	16	6	7	1	1	0	0	53	32.1	38.46
DARNELL NURSE	43	5	15	20	-11	38	1	5	0	0	1	1	104	4.8	0
OSCAR KLEFBOM	31	3	12	15	1	8	1	6	0	0	2	1	93	3.2	0
JUJHAR KHAIRA	39	2	11	13	-3	32	0	0	0	1	0	0	33	6.1	41.89
ADAM LARSSON	43	1	11	12	-5	26	0	0	0	1	0	0	57	1.8	0
MILAN LUCIC	43	2	7	9	-9	55	1	3	0	0	0	0	42	4.8	44.44
MATT BENNING	35	1	7	8	1	19	0	1	0	1	0	0	47	2.1	0
KRIS RUSSELL	33	1	7	8	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	3.4	0
JESSE PULJUJARVI	32	4	3	7	-10	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	10.5	66.67
TY RATTIE	27	2	5	7	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	46	4.3	33.33
TOBIAS RIEDER	30	0	7	7	-4	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	53	0	27.27
KYLE BRODZIAK	41	4	2	6	-13	8	0	0	1	1	1	0	39	10.3	51.62
ZACK KASSIAN	40	2	3	5	-8	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	3.9	0
CALEB JONES	11	1	3	4	-5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7.7	0
RYAN SPOONER	21	2	1	3	-6	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	23	8.7	47.46
KAILER YAMAMOTO	13	1	1	2	-2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	12	8.3	0
KEVIN GRAVEL	26	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	0
ALEXANDER PETROVIC	5	0	1	1	-5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
BRANDON MANNING	3	0	0	0	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
JOSEPH GAMBARDILLA	3	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

GOALTENDER	GP	GS	W	L	T	OT	SA	GA	GAA	S	SV%	SO	MIN
MIKKO KOSKINEN	23	21	12	8	0	1	643	56	2.72	587	.913	3	1,236
CAM TALBOT	24	22	8	12	0	2	681	71	3.20	610	.896	1	1,334

PANTHERS | STATISTICS



STATS AS OF JAN. 9, 2019

PLAYER	GP	G	A	P	+/-	PIM	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	GWG	OTG	S	S%	FO%
JONATHAN HUBERDEAU	41	11	35	46	-16	14	4	19	0	0	2	0	96	11.5	50
ALEKSANDER BARKOV	41	17	26	43	-13	2	7	16	0	0	3	2	107	15.9	52.89
MIKE HOFFMAN	41	20	18	38	-15	14	10	21	0	0	3	2	137	14.6	28
EVGENII DADONOV	41	17	19	36	-8	2	6	11	0	0	3	0	120	14.2	50
KEITH YANDLE	41	6	29	35	-12	18	5	22	0	0	1	0	105	5.7	0
FRANK VATRANO	40	11	6	17	-6	26	1	5	0	0	1	0	98	11.2	37.93
AARON EKBLAD	41	8	9	17	0	21	4	5	0	0	0	0	101	7.9	0
JARED MCCANN	40	7	10	17	-11	14	1	3	1	1	1	0	68	10.3	46.26
MIKE MATHESON	39	2	13	15	-19	26	0	5	0	0	0	0	69	2.9	0
VINCENT TROCHECK	18	3	11	14	-4	26	1	8	0	0	0	0	50	6	53.92
TROY BROUWER	40	7	3	10	-11	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	15.6	38.89
NICK BJUGSTAD	27	4	6	10	-1	16	0	2	0	0	1	0	45	8.9	51.08
DENIS MALGIN	27	4	5	9	-2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	10.3	37.93
COLTON SCEVIOUR	37	3	6	9	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	77	3.9	36
MACKENZIE WEEGAR	38	1	6	7	-6	46	0	1	0	0	0	0	52	1.9	100
JUHO LAMMIKKO	37	0	6	6	-7	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	35	0	43.61
BOGDAN KISELEVICH	28	0	6	6	-2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0
MARK PYSYK	30	0	5	5	-2	6	0	0	0	1	0	0	28	0	0
HENRIK BORGSTROM	11	3	1	4	-3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	17	17.6	45.52
JAYCE HAWRYLUK	11	3	0	3	1	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	42.9	0
MICHEAL HALEY	18	1	2	3	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	6.3	50
DEREK MACKENZIE	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66.67
CHRIS WIDEMAN	1	0	0	0	-1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

GOALTENDER	GP	GS	W	L	T	OT	SA	GA	GAA	S	SV%	SO	MIN
JAMES REIMER	24	17	8	7	0	4	606	63	3.18	543	.896	0	1,188
ROBERTO LUONGO	21	21	8	9	0	1	566	61	3.37	505	.892	1	1,085

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POINTS

1 N. KUCHEROV, TBL	71
2 M. RANTANEN, COL	66
3 N. MACKINNON, COL	65
4 J. GAUDREAU, CGY	64
5 C. MCDAVID, EDM	63

GOALS

1 A. OVECHKIN, WSH	30
2 J. SKINNER, BUF	29
3 G. LANDESKOG, COL	27
4 J. TAVARES, TOR	27
5 J. GAUDREAU, CGY	26

ASSISTS

1 N. KUCHEROV, TBL	50
2 B. WHEELER, WPG	48
3 M. RANTANEN, COL	47
4 B. BURNS, SJS	41
5 N. MACKINNON, COL	40

PENALTY MINUTES

1 D. ROUSSEL, VAN	90
2 B. MARCHAND, BOS	80
3 E. KANE, SJS	79
4 Z. KASSIAN, EDM	76
5 S. BENNETT, CGY	70

ROOKIE POINTS

1 E. PETTERSSON, VAN	42
2 C. WHITE, OTT	25
3 R. DAHLIN, BUF	21
4 J. KOTKANIEMI, MTL	20
5 M. HEISKANEN, DAL	20

GOALS AGAINST AVG.

1 R. LEHNER, NYI	2.18
2 J. CAMPBELL, LAK	2.21
3 P. RINNE, NSH	2.23
4 C. MCELHINNEY, TOR	2.25
5 J. HALAK, BOS	2.36

SAVE %

1 J. CAMPBELL, LAK	.930
2 R. LEHNER, NYI	.927
3 J. HALAK, BOS	.926
4 L. ULLMARK, BUF	.924
5 C. DESMITH, PIT	.924

GOALTENDER WINS

1 M. FLEURY, VGK	25
2 F. ANDERSEN, TOR	20
3 M. JONES, SJS	19
4 C. HELLEBUYCK, WPG	19
5 S. SOBROVSKY, CBJ	18

2018-19 WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	HOME	AWAY	S/O	L10 STRK
1 WINNIPEG	42	27	13	2	56	26	146	120	+26	15-6-2	12-7-0	1-1	6-4-0 W2
2 NASHVILLE	44	26	15	3	55	25	135	109	+26	15-7-0	11-8-3	1-1	4-5-1 W2
3 DALLAS	44	23	17	4	50	23	119	117	+2	14-5-2	9-12-2	0-0	6-3-1 W1
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	HOME	AWAY	S/O	L10 STRK
1 CALGARY	44	27	13	4	58	27	157	126	+31	12-4-4	15-9-0	0-2	5-3-2 W2
2 VEGAS	46	27	15	4	58	26	140	121	+19	15-3-3	12-12-1	1-1	8-0-2 W
3 SAN JOSE	45	25	13	7	57	25	160	138	+22	15-4-4	10-9-3	0-3	6-2-2 W4
WILD CARD	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	HOME	AWAY	S/O	L10 STRK
1 COLORADO	43	20	15	8	48	20	148	136	+12	9-6-5	11-9-3	0-1	2-6-2 L1
2 MINNESOTA	42	21	18	3	45	21	119	118	+1	10-7-3	11-11-0	0-1	4-5-1 L1
3 ANAHEIM	43	19	17	7	45	16	104	127	-23	10-6-7	9-11-0	3-2	2-6-2 L2
4 VANCOUVER	45	20	21	4	44	19	128	143	-15	9-9-1	11-12-3	1-2	5-5-0 L2
5 EDMONTON	43	20	20	3	43	19	120	138	-18	10-9-1	10-11-2	1-0	2-8-0 L1
6 ARIZONA	42	18	21	3	39	16	108	118	-10	8-12-2	10-9-1	2-1	4-5-1 W1
7 CHICAGO	45	16	22	7	39	16	131	163	-32	8-10-4	8-12-3	0-1	6-3-1 L1
8 ST. LOUIS	41	17	20	4	38	17	114	132	-18	10-13-2	7-7-2	0-1	5-5-0 L1
9 LOS ANGELES	44	17	24	3	37	16	99	130	-31	10-12-1	7-12-2	1-0	6-4-0 L1

2018-19 EASTERN CONFERENCE

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	HOME	AWAY	S/O	L10 STRK
1 WASHINGTON	42	26	12	4	56	23	149	124	+25	13-6-2	13-6-2	3-1	6-3-1 W2
2 PITTSBURGH	43	24	13	6	54	23	152	123	+29	13-8-2	11-5-4	1-2	9-1-0 W1
3 COLUMBUS	42	24	15	3	51	24	135	130	+5	11-8-2	13-7-1	0-1	7-3-0 L1
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	HOME	AWAY	S/O	L10 STRK
1 TAMPA BAY	43	33	8	2	68	30	180	124	+56	18-4-0	15-4-2	3-0	8-1-1 W1
2 TORONTO	42	27	13	2	56	27	152	117	+35	13-8-1	14-5-1	0-0	6-3-1 L1
3 BOSTON	43	25	14	4	54	24	126	110	+16	16-5-0	9-9-4	1-0	8-2-0 W5
WILD CARD	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	HOME	AWAY	S/O	L10 STRK
1 BUFFALO	43	23	14	6	52	20	125	121	+4	14-5-3	9-9-3	3-1	4-5-1 W1
2 MONTRÉAL	44	23	16	5	51	21	134	135	-1	11-9-2	12-7-3	2-0	6-4-0 W1
3 NY ISLANDERS	41	23	14	4	50	21	124	111	+13	10-6-3	13-8-1	2-3	8-2-0 L1
4 CAROLINA	42	20	17	5	45	19	112	121	-9	11-7-4	9-10-1	1-2	6-4-0 W5
5 FLORIDA	41	17	17	7	41	15	131	147	-16	8-6-5	9-11-2	2-3	5-4-1 L1
6 NY RANGERS	42	17	18	7	41	12	116	145	-29	11-5-5	6-13-2	5-2	3-5-2 L4
7 NEW JERSEY	42	16	19	7	39	15	123	142	-19	11-4-4	5-15-3	1-2	5-5-0 L2
8 DETROIT	45	16	22	7	39	14	126	154	-28	9-12-4	7-10-3	2-5	2-6-2 L2
9 PHILADELPHIA	43	15	22	6	36	13	119	156	-37	7-10-3	8-12-3	2-0	1-7-2 L2
10 OTTAWA	43	15	23	5	35	15	136	172	-36	11-9-4	4-14-1	0-0	1-8-1 L2



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CEREBRAL

BY PAUL GAZZOLA

Dr. Dhiren Naidu is in a meeting room on the seventh floor of HYS Centre. He stares through clear-framed glasses, buttoned up in a sky-blue dress shirt with small red paisley patterns under a grey tweed blazer.

In this setting, he's President of HealthPointe Medical Centre Dr. Naidu, who heads a physiotherapy and rehabilitation facility that provides treatment to patients with neck, back, knee, shoulder and joint pain, as well as soft-tissue issues and concussions.

It's a recovery centre possibly similar to the one he found himself in when he was 19 and had just torn his ACL, undergoing his own rehabilitation and, at that time, discovering an interest in sports medicine. It was enough to prompt his entrance into the University of Saskatchewan's medical program then continue his education in Edmonton by undergoing his specialty, physical medicine and rehab, at the University of Alberta.

continued on page 42





When he's not here tending to his patients, one might find Dr. Naidu, the University of Alberta Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, hosting lectures about the musculoskeletal block at the U of A during the months of December and January. If not heading a seminar on campus, he could be somewhere conducting research – another one of his duties as a prof at the university.

If the lab lights are off, one might catch sight of Edmonton Eskimos Head Team Physician Dr. Naidu at Commonwealth Stadium or Golden Bears Football Team Physician Dr. Naidu at Foote Field. Not only does he diagnose Canadian Football League players and university athletes, but he sits as the Research Chair of the CFL and is a member of the League's Health and Safety Medical Advisory Board.

At 41 of 41 home games, Oilers Head Team Physician Dr. Naidu can be found sitting in the stands among Oil Country's faithful. He cannot, due to National Hockey League rules, be more than 50 feet from the playing surface because in the event that an injury occurs on the ice, the doc must be close to the action. This Dr. Naidu is also part of the NHL Team Physician Society and acts as an NHL Protective Equipment subcommittee member.

Wherever he finds himself, from medical centres to sidelines, ice rinks or seminars, Dr. Naidu takes great pride in his profession and strives to provide cutting-edge rehab and research to the Oilers, Eskimos, Golden Bears and the world of collision sports.

"My role, when I get a player and they're hurt, is to diagnose and make up a treatment plan for them," Naidu, entering his 11th season as the head physician with the Oilers franchise, said.

"Whether it's Connor McDavid or whether it's a junior player or call-up player, my role is exactly the same: it's to diagnose."

But Dr. Naidu, cerebral in every sense of the word, also puts his head towards research into concussion diagnosis, prevention and treatment, sharing his discoveries with both the athletes he medicates and the scientific community he's working to advance.

Like the team on the ice, there's a team off it.

Dr. Naidu leads a group of specialists and therapists dedicated to ensuring the safety of Oilers players are the top priority. The healers collaborate when injuries are suspected or arise and communicate endlessly on game days. The Oilers Head Physician would be remiss if he didn't acknowledge his colleagues and the collaborative efforts they exert to administer proper diagnosis and treatment on a nightly basis.

"We'll have a total of two sport medicine docs at each game," Naidu, explaining the workflow of an Oilers match, began.

That could be Oilers Team Physicians Dr. David C. Reid, Dr. Jeff Robinson, Dr. Michael Wagner or Dr. John Clarke.

Robinson began his tenure with the Oilers in 2008. He, like Naidu, Clarke and Reid, serves as a physician with the Eskimos. He had also previously been involved as a doctor with many former Edmonton-area baseball teams including the Edmonton Trappers, Cracker Cats and Capitals.

If not Robinson working on a game night, it could be Dr. Wagner, a sports medicine and family physician with a particular interest in working with high-performance athletes.



From Ireland, Dr. Clarke is a retired family physician that still practices sports medicine and had formerly worked with the University of Golden Bears hockey program.

Then there's orthopedic consultant Dr. Reid, who started as a surgical consultant with the Oilers in 1988 and became a member of the medical staff in 1989. He was a physiotherapist before taking sports medicine and was the Oilers Head Physician before Naidu became part of the medical staff. Reid welcomed Naidu to the team in the 2005-06 season after Naidu worked the '04-05 NHL lockout with the American Hockey League's Edmonton Roadrunners.

"We really have docs that complement each other's skillsets," said Naidu. "My specialty is different than Dr. Robinson's. I'll have an expertise in certain areas and they will and we make sure we run things by each other."

The two sports medicine physicians present at Rogers Place on game nights will maintain communication with the rest of the medical team during games. Head Athletic Therapist T.D. Forss, Assistant Athletic Therapist Chris Davie and Massage Therapist Stephen Lines are wired with the physicians by radio, communicating constantly if an on-ice mishap occurs or is noticed.

"Our radios are attached to all the docs and to all the therapists," Naidu continued. "So, if T.D. is on the bench and he's like, 'Hey, you know what, I think this person might need you. Meet me in the dressing room,' then we'll go to the dressing room."

One physician watches the game from inside the Oilers Dressing Room to be near medical equipment. The dressing room doc will

observe with four separate camera screens available, assisting in the inspection of certain collisions. Some are broadcast angles and others are in-house views.

"If I'm in the stands, and I say, 'Hey, Dr. Wagner, can you take a look, I didn't see this play. I think the player might have hit their shoulders into the board.' So, he'll go to the computer and say, 'Yeah, you're right Dhiren, or no, it was their stick.' We have four different camera angles that we can look at as docs," Naidu elaborated.

If an injury happens during the game, Naidu and the medical team will assess the skater right at that moment. The doctors are the first people a player sees after fans watch them will their way to the bench then retreat to the dressing room. Depending on the severity of the injury, support specialists are also present on game days to provide additional assistants. Emergency meds and orthopedic surgery consultants ready to step in should cardiac, airway or bone breaks and fractures occur.

At intermission, Dr. Naidu and the physicians will converge in the Oilers medical room. It's a quiet retreat for the players during a hectic 60 minutes of action. Some of the players find solace in the med ward before returning to the ice.

"We really try to make the medical room very peaceful," Naidu said. "There are no coaches in there, there are no media in there, there's no pressure. When you come to the medical room – whether you're minus-three in a game or you have three goals – we treat you the same way."

continued on page 45

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After the game, skaters with active afflictions will be screened by the physicians and therapists. The night ends after the last hurting player has been assessed.

Early in his tenure with the Oilers, Naidu learned how important the team within the team is. He has no shortage of stories with his colleagues, from treating injuries to winning championships to joining special event medical staffs.

Like when Jarret Stoll was playing for the Roadrunners and had been cut on his calf, causing a gruesome injury that needed attention from every physician and trainer in the vicinity.

"There are some injuries where we definitely need all hands on," Naidu said, recalling the instance. "He was freaking out. He thought he was losing his leg and in that case, you've got to be pretty quick to rule out whether it's an artery that's bleeding, which is limb-threatening, or if it's just a cut. Luckily that was his and we cleaned it up and we settled him down."

Naidu was a member of the Esks medical team in 2005 when the organization won the Grey Cup, and Forss was the Head Athletic Therapist. That same season, Naidu, alongside Dr. Reid and Dr. Clarke, were in Carolina for the Stanley Cup Final.

"I thought, 'Oh jeez, we won a Grey Cup and then now we're in the Final. It's going to be like this every year!'" said Naidu.

Two years ago, Naidu and Forss worked with Team North America at the World Cup of Hockey and just a few months ago, they travelled with the Oilers to Europe for the NHL Global Series.

Through all his years practicing sports medicine with the Roadrunners, Eskimos, Golden Bears or Oilers, Naidu can't help but praise the team within the team.

"I think just as the players are on a team, the medical staff is on a team. We make sure we're always communicating and we want to make sure players don't get confused with what we're saying. That's our team."

But when Dr. Naidu isn't with his respective sports teams, he's leading an innovative research one.

As an associate professor at the University of Alberta, he questioned whether his lectures and seminars on concussions were resonating with the athletes attending them. Whether or not his audience was absorbing the information and whether or not that information was being put to use when those same athletes were affected by a concussion.

Naidu teamed up with a few U of A professors and graduate students to begin research on the unknowns of the injury because of the lack of scientific literature available. Research into the awareness, the attitudes, the rehabilitation and the recognition of concussions in competitors.

"I wondered, on all the concussion presentation we do, whether we're actually getting the message across to athletes," Naidu, explaining an early study, started.

"We took all the athletes including pro hockey, junior hockey, CFL and university athletes, and what we did was an educational presentation. We did a questionnaire before, a short one – like 15 questions – and one after. What we found was the athletes thought you needed to be hit in the head to have a concussion."

Concussions don't solely stem from head contact, Naidu explained. That misconception by the athletes, along with the belief that an MRI is needed to diagnose a concussion, set the research stage.

"That was an eye-opener," Naidu said. "So, now we have to change the way we teach people to make sure they know that yeah, you can get hit shoulder to shoulder and if your neck whips around, you can still have a concussion."

The findings from the study altered concussion diagnosis protocols.

"It actually changed the way the baseline assessments are done now, which is kind of neat," said fellow University of Alberta Associate Professor and the Oilers designated neuropsychologist Dr. Martin Mrazik, who's conducted extensive research as a partner of Naidu's.

"Because of the interview effects, they tend to minimize how many issues they may be having. But if you have them just fill out a self-report questionnaire, they tend to endorse a few more symptoms."

Naidu, Mrazik and their research team then concentrated on athletes' attitudes towards concussion. What do they know and how did they learn it? Do they understand the symptoms, are they willing to report them and what are the reasons for why they wouldn't? Comparisons were made between junior athletes and pros, with some telling conclusions uncovered, deepening the pool of peer-reviewed publications.

"We said, 'OK, who knows more about concussion?'" said Naidu. "We felt that for the most part, the pro athletes knew more but the junior and university kids still knew quite a bit. Everybody kind of knew it wasn't good to have a concussion and they knew the symptoms but the junior athletes said that they would ignore their symptoms and play more."

The study found that 50 percent of junior athletes felt they needed treatment after experiencing a concussion whereas 100 percent of professional athletes would seek it.

"It either tells us a couple things: that they don't know or they're teenagers and teenagers just make bad decisions... or is this the fact that they just want to make it to the next level and they don't want to show they're hurt, whereas pros are there?"

"The one thing that we found, though, is if athletes had had concussions in all three levels – whether it was junior, university or pros – then they were quite knowledgeable and they were more cautious. They learned more about it and they respected it more."

It was another analysis which yielded attention within the sports medicine community, proving that not all the information and education shared was being retained.

continued on page 47



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"That was published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine and was a pretty important article because it really showed that what we're doing is giving athletes a lot of information," said Mrazik, the lead author of the study. "But we have to be much more interactive and have to look at their attitudes and understand what leads athletes to report symptoms and why they would not report symptoms."

Another examination looked at the King-Devick Test, a sideline concussion assessment tool used in football. In 2015, the National Football League spearheaded a multisport conference in London, UK, inviting Naidu and Mrazik to a meeting with representatives from the NCAA, NHL, World Rugby, International Ice Hockey Federation, jockeys and many more.

"Jockeys fall off horses 15 times a year, so they have lots of concussion problems," said Naidu.

While at the symposium, the King-Devick Test was heralded as an effective diagnosis method, simple enough for youth sports coaches and parents to use on their own players and children.

Naidu and Mrazik were apprehensive. Backed by the NFL Head and Spine Committee, the Oilers head physician was the lead author in exploring the test's applicability in concussion identification.

"It showed us that the King-Devick Test is useful but it's not one where you should buy off the street and say your kid has a concussion," said Naidu. "I think it was responsible in that way."

In October, Naidu chaired a similar forum featuring many of the same representatives from the previous NFL-led convention. This time, the CFL took the lead in facilitating the meeting. Discussions were had on concussion innovations and advances, as well as mental health and its connection to the injury, which is where much of the research is heading.

"I think there's something to be said about the genetic part of concussion," said Naidu, noting that there is research being done. "We shifted a little bit of the meeting to also look at pre-existing conditions or family history of conditions. We called those 'concussion modifiers' so if you have a history of learning disability, ADHD, migraine headaches, depression or anxiety then your concussions are probably a little bit different because you already have something going on in the brain."

Since 2012, Naidu and Mrazik merged to produce 16 peer-reviewed publications. They've helped unearth new insight and information in the sports medicine community, particularly regarding concussion prevention, treatment and diagnosis. Many of it within football but not necessarily exclusive to it.



"When we first started asking questions about what can we do in the field of concussions, there was a lot of unknowns about better ways to educate athletes, better ways to assess athletes and those type of things," said Mrazik.

"That was kind of our main goal: how can we do this better? We've come up with some pretty interesting outcomes."

Dr. Naidu's neurons fire at a higher rate.

It's the only explanation for someone that holds so many titles, from president to head physician to associate professor to research chair to committee member and lead author.

Like the neuron, the brain unit dedicated to transmitting information to other parts of the body, Naidu operates in a similar manner. He shares his research, treatment and diagnoses to the athletes and medical professionals he's surrounded by and is constantly moving, seeking a deeper perspective or discovery.

"The team's been very good at supporting any research we want to do or any state-of-the-art conferences we want to go to," Naidu, reflecting on his time with the Oilers, said. "That's helped me learn as a physician and obviously helps our athletes."

The central nerve stimulating the doctor is his wife, Allison, and six children. Three daughters and three sons - four hockey stars, a baller and dancer - all better off because of the work of their father. There's no stopping Naidu's impulse, as he's wired to advance concussion education, assessment, treatment and prevention.

"The thing about Dhiren is that he's an incredible person to work with because he's very smart but he's very humble," said Mrazik. "For me, I'm very fortunate to work with such a good thinker and good people person like that."

"When I look back, I'm very pleased that our affiliation and our work together has really contributed to the concussion literature and to the science behind it, and earned the respect, I think, in different professional sports." 📌



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HUNTER SPOTLIGHT

The holiday season was non-stop fun for Hunter as he kicked things off with a family skate at Rogers Place, channeled his inner Hunter Claus to deliver pizzas to lucky fans, participated in the team's annual hospital visits by entertaining families at Ronald McDonald House and sported his best tux on New Year's Eve to ring in 2019!

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2018

IN REVIEW

2018 WAS QUITE THE CALENDAR YEAR, WITH NO SHORTAGE OF OILERS STORYLINES.

From Connor McDavid's 2017-18 late-season surge to some key off-season additions making an early impact in the current campaign, we take a look back at some of the biggest stories from the Oilers Hockey Club over the 365-day period.

continued on page 54



THE SURGE

BY MARC CIAMPA

The second-half surge of Connor McDavid to go from 13 points out of the scoring race at the end of October and tied for 43rd in League scoring to ultimately win the Art Ross Trophy six points clear of second place was an incredible Oilers story for 2018.

McDavid was tied for 10th at the NHL All-Star break with 15 goals and 54 points through 49 games, a full 10 points back of Tampa Bay's Nikita Kucherov. In the 33 games after the break, he had 26 goals and 54 points to reach 108 and take the scoring title with 18 points more than Kucherov over that span.

The Oilers captain, who also won the Ted Lindsay Award as voted by his peers as the best player in the NHL, became only the second to win the Art Ross Trophy twice by the age of 21. The other? Wayne Gretzky.

"That's really special," McDavid stated of joining Gretzky in the achievement. "It's probably one of the (only) things that I've done where I just kind of say, 'wow.'"

McDavid's second-half performance made everybody say 'wow.' Projected over an entire season, his 26 goals and 54 points in 33 games would be 64 goals and 134 points. The last time anyone in the NHL had more than 134 points in a season was 1995-96 when Mario Lemieux had 160 and while McDavid didn't achieve it over the full campaign, to sustain it for as long as he did was truly special.

Perhaps McDavid's defining moment last season was a game against Kucherov's Lightning. It was game 51 of the season, on Feb. 5. McDavid scored four goals and added a helper for a five-point night in a big 6-2 win. He vaulted himself from 13th in League scoring to third, narrowing a significant gap on his Tampa Bay target.

"This game is all about confidence and how you're feeling out there," McDavid said a day after the game. "At some point, you start feeling good and finding ways to produce."

McDavid scored 13 goals and added 8 assists for 21 points in just 14 games in that month of February along with a 22.4% shooting percentage. Unsustainable, right? As March would prove, it was indeed very sustainable as it went at a 24.5% clip that month.

Number 97 scored 13 times in 16 games in March and finished with 28 points. On March 24, in a two-goal performance against the Los Angeles Kings, he finally overtook Kucherov for top spot in the scoring race. Kucherov had held onto first since December 12.

"I don't really know what it is," he said when asked about his second-half surge. "Maybe a little bit of luck. The team (was) playing better. All of that goes into it. If the team is playing well, individual success happens."

EVAN ALMIGHTY

BY PAUL GAZZOLA

2018 IN REVIEW

Evan Bouchard didn't levitate up an ultralight beam on the American Airlines Center stage when he ceremoniously enrobed in an Oilers sweater as a member of the organization but it did feel as though the Hockey Gods were on Edmonton's side.

The Oilers 2018 first-round selection, chosen 10th overall, was a divine acquisition for a squad seeking a right-shooting, outlet-passing, offensive defenceman at a time when those types of players are heavily sought after and rarely acquired.

When Oilers President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Peter Chiarelli found himself speaking into the microphone on the NHL Draft stage with an abundance of right-shooting defenders still available, he knew which would be his chosen one.

Alas, Evan Almighty.

"There was a need there and there was a lot of defencemen that were available throughout that first round, more than usual," said Chiarelli following Day 1 of the 2018 Draft. "He's one of the guys we coveted."

The GM detailed the characteristics the Oakville, ON, product wielded not long after making the decision to call his name. The 6-foot-3, 194-pound defenceman received some high praise from Chiarelli.

"He's physically big, he's got a very good shot, he's a terrific passer and his hockey sense is terrific," said Chiarelli. "He had a terrific year and he's got a bomb of a shot. We had him really high."

As the off-season neared an end and Bouchard made his way to Edmonton to get his first taste of NHL camps and tryouts, the defender did begin to levitate – at times rising as the best player on the ice.

Bouchard showed his ability to thread long-distance breakout passes and clap bombs from the point at Oilers Development Camp. When Rookie Camp commenced, it was clear that the 19-year-old was ahead of the curve in his cohort. It was enough to warrant an invite to Oilers Main Camp.

He stayed with the Oilers for two months to open the regular season, travelling on the Oilers European trip for the Global Series against the New Jersey Devils. He would suit up in seven National Hockey League games, and wouldn't be re-assigned to the London Knights without getting his first NHL goal puck, achieving it against the defending Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals.

The future Oilers blueliner took the assignment in stride. He rejoined his Knights to be their bonafide leader then was named to Team Canada's World Junior roster for the prestigious U-20 tournament.

"Of course, everyone that gets sent down is a little bit upset but you just need to think of the positives," said Bouchard. "I got a few games in and I learned a lot from that experience every day. I know what the coaches expect of me, I know what to work on."

continued on page 57





NEW DYNAMIC

BY JAMIE UMBACH

A new season brought a new dynamic behind the bench with a blend of experience and potential for the Oilers in 2018.

New assistant coaches Glen Gulutzan and Trent Yawney, both former NHL head coaches, brought their wealth of coaching expertise in player management and defence to a new setting in Edmonton.

Manny Viveiros, experienced in his own right as a player and a coach in Europe and in the Western Hockey League with the Swift Current Broncos, arrived relatively unproven but has come full circle to coach in his hometown as his first stint in the big leagues.

Add in the November appointment of another Edmonton product and the NHL's third-winningest coach all-time in Head Coach Ken Hitchcock, and you've got an entirely different Oilers bench staff this campaign.

"We targeted these three individuals for their specific talents, experience and compatible personalities," Oilers President of Hockey Operations and GM Peter Chiarelli said back in May of the assistant appointments. "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."

Yawney, who served as an assistant with the Anaheim Ducks for four seasons from 2014-18, had no misunderstandings prior to his move to Edmonton about his role developing an Oilers defensive core that includes the likes Oscar Klefbom, Darnell Nurse, and up-and-coming prospects like Evan Bouchard.

"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 following his hiring.

"Obviously the younger guys are starting to hit their stride, so it's exciting to be a part of that."

Gulutzan swapped Alberta rivals Calgary for Edmonton to tap into the beat of the Oilers locker room, something that's become a bit of a skill for the Hudson Bay, Saskatchewan native over his 19 years of professional coaching experience.

"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. "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."

"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."

An untapped Viveiros, who won the WHL Championship with the Broncos in 2018 managing a league-best 29.8 percent power play, continues to operate making decisions by community alongside his coaching counterparts.

"We approach it as a group, we always have," Viveiros said. "The success or the failure of it lies at all of our feet."

THE GLOBAL GAME

BY RYAN FRANKSON

2018 IN REVIEW

Oil Country went international in October as the Oilers were selected to participate in the NHL Global Series that included an exhibition game in Cologne, Germany followed by the regular season opener in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Following their training camp and standard pre-season schedule that included tune-up games against familiar Pacific Division opponents like Calgary and Vancouver, the Oilers boarded a massive charter jet and flew more than 7,000 kilometres to Cologne for their final exhibition affair against the Deutsche Eishockey Liga's Kölner Haie.

Leading up to the game on Oct. 3, the Oilers scheduled several off-ice activities like team dinners, a visit to the city's famous cathedral and a downtown tour that concluded with a boat trip along the Rhine River – all led primarily by Cologne's native son Leon Draisaitl.

"I'm pretty emotionally connected to that city," Draisaitl said during an afternoon stroll with his teammates down one of Cologne's many cobblestone streets.

That emotional connection was on full display during the team's four days in Germany as Draisaitl and fellow German teammate Tobi Rieder had a chance to catch up with some of their friends from the national program who play for the Kölner Haie. The DEL squad also featured an even deeper tie for Leon as his father Peter is the head coach.

The Cologne portion of the Global Series trip reached its culmination with the exhibition match in front of a sold-out crowd of 18,400 at Lanxess Arena – the largest hockey venue outside of North America.

Of course, both Draisaitl and Rieder were in Edmonton's starting lineup, and when the announcer finally arrived at the last player on his list, all he had to do was say "Leon..." and the fans replied "DRAISAITL!" in boisterous unison.

The hair-raising, spine-chilling moment of gratitude towards the hometown hero paved the way for an exciting hockey game as Draisaitl set up Rieder for the opening goal and the Oilers ultimately battled their way to a 4-3 overtime victory.

"The fans were unbelievable," said Oilers captain Connor McDavid, reflecting on the ever-present chanting, singing and cheering from the capacity assortment of locals and tourists.

With some valuable team bonding and one last pre-season win in the books, the Oilers flew north to Gothenburg to begin preparations for the real deal – their first game of the 2018-19 campaign against the New Jersey Devils on Oct. 6.

Draisaitl and Rieder were the go-to guys in Cologne, but the attention shifted to a pair of Swedish blueliners as Oscar Klefbom and Adam Larsson had the unique opportunity to show their teammates around the second-largest city in their home country.

The trip home provided the Swedes with an opportunity to reflect on their childhoods and how their dreams of playing in the NHL

developed much later in life than those of present-day young hockey players in their homeland who have on-demand access to the game's grandest stage thanks to social media.

"When you're a kid, you're kind of looking up to the local hockey players," said Larsson, who grew up in Skellefteå in northern Sweden. "The NHL is getting more popular over here the last couple of years. Nowadays, it's so much easier to watch highlights and games."

Another healthy mix of more than 12,000 hockey fans from near and far packed Gothenburg's Scandinavium for Saturday's main event as the Oilers and Devils looked to open their respective seasons on a positive note.

A power-play goal from Milan Lucic drew the Oilers even with the Devils 1-1 through 20 minutes, but New Jersey scored twice more in the second and third periods to claim a 5-2 victory, with Draisaitl delivering Edmonton's other tally.

"I would have liked to have won this one," said Klefbom, who had many friends and family members in attendance from his nearby hometown of Karlstad. "It's really special for me and Larsson, obviously."

Looking back on the week in Europe, the Oilers certainly would have preferred to secure a victory in the season opener; however, they still played a meaningful role in the growth of the NHL on the world stage.

As NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said during the Global Series, "the buzz that a National Hockey League team and a National Hockey League game can create can do a lot for the sport."



continued on page 59

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FIRST-HALF HEROES

BY CAIT MACPHAIL

This past off-season saw the Oilers make a couple of key additions to bolster their roster heading into the new campaign. As the 2018 calendar concluded, we took a closer look at two of those acquisitions that have shone particularly bright for the Oilers in the front half of the season.

The first of which came in the form of a free-agent signing on May 1 when the Oilers agreed to terms with Finnish goaltender Mikko Koskinen on a one-year deal. It's no doubt the Oilers were taking a leap of faith on the 29-year-old KHL all-star netminder that had yet to prove himself at the NHL level.

Drafted 31st overall in 2009 by the New York Islanders, Koskinen made just four NHL starts on the Island before returning to Europe. After solidifying his status overseas over the past seven years, he felt he was ready to make the jump back over the pond.

The 6-foot-7 puck-stopper was brought in to not only help lighten starter Cam Talbot's heavy workload but to create some crease competition and hopefully challenge for more than the conventional 20-25 starts most NHL backups get.

It's been so far, so good for the soft-spoken Finn, who, in his first 19 starts for the Oilers, compiled an 11-6-1 record, including three shutouts in his first seven starts on Rogers Place ice.

While his future remains unknown at the moment while in the midst of a one-year contract, the Oilers can be satisfied in knowing that the NHL potential they saw in Koskinen has paid dividends to start 2018-19.

While the Oilers off-season activity started with Koskinen's signing, it more-or-less ended with the signing of forward Alex Chiasson to a one-year deal on Oct. 3 after he attended training camp on a professional tryout basis.

After a whirlwind off-season that started after he captured the Stanley Cup with the Washington Capitals in June, Chiasson found himself in familiar, albeit uncomfortable, territory when he was left without a contract after the Caps decided to part ways with the veteran winger after their Cup run. His one-year stint in Washington was also the result of a PTO opportunity.

After fielding interest from a few different clubs over the summer, Chiasson weighed and measured his options and ultimately decided on a PTO in Edmonton, stating he felt he fit best amongst their existing forward group.

The Oilers knew what they were getting in Chiasson after he earned a contract out of training camp — a gritty, veteran depth forward who had the ability to chip in offensively around the blue paint and was heralded by Oilers assistant coach Glen Gulutzan, a former bench boss of Chiasson's in Dallas and Calgary, as a guy who “does everything right” and “knows how to win”.

What the club didn't know was that after sitting out the first five games as a healthy scratch, Chiasson would burst out of the gates with a two-goal performance vs. Pittsburgh in just his second appearance and refused to look back.

In his first 31 games in an Oilers uniform, he has tallied 16 goals and four assists — zooming past his career-high total in goals when he recorded 13 in 79 games for Dallas in 2013-14.

Chiasson has flashed his work ethic along with an ability to consistently finish close to the net as he made his case for one of the most pleasant surprises of the Oilers season through the first half of 2018-19. ♦

OFF THE ICE

The holiday season is always the busiest and most important time of the year for the Oilers to give back to the community and 2018 was certainly no exception. The festivities began on Dec. 14 with Shirts Off Our Backs presented by Rogers in support of the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton as fans purchased raffle tickets for a chance to win a jersey hand-delivered by a player. Oilers coaches and staff volunteered at Hope Mission's annual Tegler Family Banquet on Dec. 19, the team hosted its annual Inner City High luncheon on Dec. 20, and a busy week concluded on Dec. 21 with the annual player hospital visits. Finally, the annual McCauley Cup shinny game between members of the Edmonton Police Service and youth from the McCauley neighbourhood was played on Dec. 28, including guest appearances from Leon Draisaitl, Head Coach Ken Hitchcock, Assistant Coach Manny Viveiros and Oilers alumnus Al Hamilton.







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NIGHT

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PLAYOFF HOCKEY ON PACE TO RETURN TO EDMONTON

BY ALYSCIA WARNER

After a thrilling first half of the Western Hockey League season, the Edmonton Oil Kings are poised to give their fans something to cheer about in March and beyond as they look to achieve a berth in the playoffs for the first time since 2016.

The 2014 Memorial Cup champions enjoyed the sweet taste of success with players like Curtis Lazar, Griffin Reinhart and Tristan Jarry, but soon thereafter endured the downside that typically follows a championship run in major junior hockey.

But a few seasons of trials, challenges and high draft picks are now paying dividends for the Oil Kings, who found themselves six games above .500 (18-12-4-2) with a tie for the Central Division lead at the holiday break.

It's been a complete team effort when it comes to the success of the squad, who have received not only team-leading but league-leading production from their captain Trey Fix-Wolansky, but also a showing of depth through all four lines of forwards, the entire defence corps and in goal, from rookies and veterans alike.

As they look to maintain their steady push to the post-season, a number of exciting theme nights at Rogers Place will accompany what's expected to be an appealing slate of matchups for the club.

The Oil Kings will take part in the second annual WHL Suits Up with Don Cherry to Promote Organ Donation on Saturday, Jan. 19 at 1:30pm MT against the Calgary Hitmen. In addition providing an ever-enticing Battle of Alberta between the two teams, the game will serve as a way to build awareness for the Kidney Foundation of Canada. During the game, the Oil Kings will sport Don Cherry-inspired special edition jerseys which are sure to score a thumbs-up from all those who see them.

The Oil Kings will then host their annual Pink at the Rink game vs. the Moose Jaw Warriors on Friday, Jan. 25 at 7pm MT, where they will once again help to garner awareness and raise funds for another worthwhile cause – the fight against cancer.

Not to be outdone, the ever-popular Star Wars Night returns to Rogers Place on Monday, Feb. 18 (Family Day) when the Oil Kings take on the Medicine Hat Tigers at 2pm MT in a game where they also wear special edition jerseys, in which proceeds from a silent auction for the jerseys will go to support cancer research.

As any team knows, the months of January and February oftentimes prove to be the catalyst of the season – so come on out and support the Oil Kings as they continue their surge towards the WHL playoffs. 🍀



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 CGY 7:00 pm	18 VAN 8:00 pm	19	20 WPG 7:00 pm	21	22
23 WPG 6:00 pm	24	25 VAN 7:30 pm	26	27 ARI 7:00 pm	28	29 CGY 1:00 pm
30						

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 SNT VGK 8:00 pm	2 SNW COL 7:00 pm	3	4 SNW SJS 7:00 pm	5	6 HNIC CGY 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
- SJS - San Jose
- STL - St. Louis
- TBL - Tampa Bay
- TOR - Toronto
- VAN - Vancouver
- VGK - Las Vegas
- WPG - Winnipeg
- WSH - Washington

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