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# More unforgettable moments.

5:56

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## **INSIDE DIL COUNTRY** THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EDMONTON OILERS



4 Freeze Frame

7 Roster 101 TY RATTIE

- 17 My Hometown
  - TOBIAS RIEDER
- 18 Rogers Place Maps
- 23 The SocOIL Scene
- 27 Rogers Place Events

Managing Editor: Ryan Frankson Contributing Writers: Paul Gazzola, Cait MacPhail, Jamie Umbach, Alyscia Warner, Oscar Klefbom Oilers Photographer: Andy Devlin Additional Photography: Marko Ditkun, Getty Images Design and Layout: Kurt Kowalchuk Printing: RR Donnelley

- Game Preview
- 32 Oilers Roster

31

37

- 33 Visitors Roster
- 34 Oilers Statistics
- 35 Visitors Statistics
  - NHL Standings
  - & Leaders
- 51 Hunter Spotlight

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## **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.

- 61 Off The Ice
- 63 Oil Kings Update
- 64 Oilers Schedule

77 OSCAR KLEFBOM

# GET THE FLU SHOT.

## Any time, any day, any Rexall.\*

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\*\*Subject to vaccine availability. By provincial legislation, pharmacists cannot administer a flu shot to children under a certain age. Ask your pharmacist for age restrictions.





You could be carrying the flu and not even know it. Help keep your hockey team flu-free.

## **PROTECT** YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES.

9.9 MIL	LIBN
CANADIANS GETTING THE FLU SHO	DT THIS YEAR*, RESULTS IN:
<b>H33,000</b> FLU CASES REDUCED*	<b>10,000</b> FLU-RELATED DOCTOR'S VISITS REDUCED#
2,800	197
EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS REDUCED#	FLU-RELATED DEATHS REDUCED#

\* influenza survey results published by Public Health Services and Canadian demographics information published by Stats Canada, accessed at https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/vaccine-uptake-results-2015-16-national-influenza-immunization-coverage-survey.html and https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/91-215-x/2012000/part-partie2-eng.htm

# 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-OReilly.pdf

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# 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 secondlargest city for the highly-anticipated event.



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# 630 CHED



## 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.



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

# Breakfast Anytime.

Timk



Sausage Biscuit | 500 Cals Hash Brown | 130 Cals Medium Coffee | 4 Cals

At participating restaurants. Menu items, restaurant and kitchen hours may vary by location. ©Tim Hortons, 2018.



# LEON

#### 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-yearold 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."

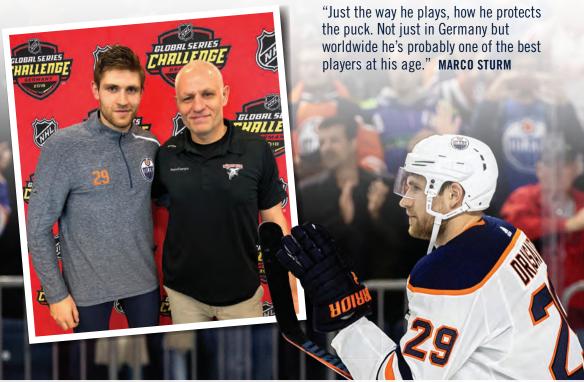
Franz Reindl, President of the German Ice Hockey Federation, beams with national pride when asked what Draisaitl's NHL success has meant to his homeland.

"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







## Sports equip kids for life.

Last year Jumpstart helped equip 30,000+ Edmonton-area kids. Jumpstart Ambassador Connor McDavid, Canadian Tire and the Oilers are proud to celebrate Jumpstart's efforts in Oil Country through Connor's Corner.



To help get a kid into the game, call 1-844 YES-PLAY

"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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## Germany

# 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.

Czechia

Austria

#### 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.

## OROGERS PLACE. MAIN CONCOURSE

### **BOBBY NICK'S GRILL**

DI

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.

## 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!

### **DRAUGHT**

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OILERS ATTACK TWICE 120

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ZAMBONI

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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.

## THE OILERS STORE

#### 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.

### MOTT'S CAESAR HOUSE

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

## ICE CAFÉ

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

PUBLIC CORRIDOR TO LRT

#### HIGH LEVEL NACHOS

BOX OFFICE

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.

### B DRAUGHT

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

## 4 GUEST SERVICES

## B WHYTE AVE BISTRO

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

## B WRAPPED

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

## **O ROGERS PLACE** MEZZANINE LEVEL

## **MEZZANINE CLUBS**

Two unique clubs situated at either side of the ice, the North Mezzanine Club and the Coventry Homes Club, provide a lounge-like atmosphere complete with a private full-service bar and variety of culinary options.

NORTH MEZZANINE CLUB

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ZAMBONI

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COVENTRY HOMES CLUB

CAPITAL CITY MARKET

## RIVER CITY MARKET

Just like our favourite markets across Edmonton, the Mezz Club creates a market environment that provides quick, fresh, culinary variety. Three showcase bars featuring Molson products, signature cocktails and an elevated take on the classic Caesar round out the experience.

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## **O ROGERS PLACE** SCOTIABANK SUITES LEVEL

Located immediately above the lower bowl, Scotiabank Suites are the pinnacle in premium hosting.

## <mark>© rogers place.</mark> PCL LOGE LEVEL

BAR & CARVERY A destination where our chefs nick the choicest local cuts of

pick the choicest local cuts of meat and hand carve them for each guest.

#### **RIVER VALLEY GRILL**

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

## 8

2

#### 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.

1

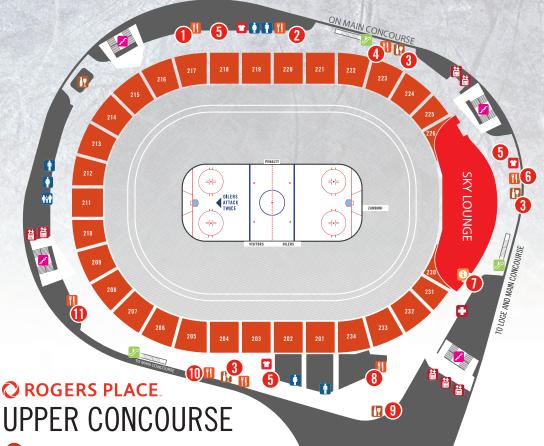
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*IHEATRE BOXES* 

SPORTSNET CLUE

99

3



#### 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!

#### WHITEMUD KITCHEN

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

3

2

DRAUGHT

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

#### 4

6

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

#### HERITAGE EATS

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

## **GUEST SERVICES**

### 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



8

#### ALBERTA SMOKED

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

### 🚺 🛛 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!

## **SKY LOUNGE**

In this trendy premium club guests enjoy a full-service bar, in-seat beverage service and all-inclusive food through a variety of culinary choices. Following the game, your experience will be extended as the curtain is drawn and the music is turned up to transform Sky Lounge into Edmonton's most unique nightspot.



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- An Edmonton Oilers jersey
- Scotia Hockey Club swag including customized player cards of your child!

Go to www.scotiabankskaters.com for full contest details.

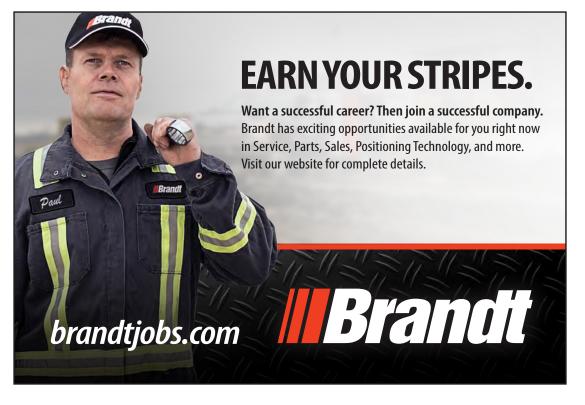
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## **STUDIO 99 NOW OPEN AT ROGERS PLACE**

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 will showcase 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 a game.

The space will also be the home of pre- and post-game live broadcasts 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 will be 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 will feature 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 and follow Studio99yeg on Instagram.

You can also contact Studio 99 directly via email rogersplacestudio99@aramark.ca or by phone at 780-664-0384.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT 🔿 ROGERS PLACE.



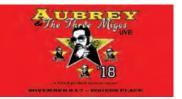
FOO FIGHTERS CONCRETE AND GOLD TOUR Monday, October 22 @ 7PM



JACK WHITE BOARDING HOUSE REACH WORLD TOUR Friday, November 2 @ 8PM



JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE THE MAN OF THE WOODS TOUR Sunday, November 4 Monday, November 5 @ 7:30PM



DRAKE AUBREY & THE THREE MIGOS TOUR Tuesday, November 6 Wednesday, November 7 @ 7PM



RUSSELL PETERS THE DEPORTED WORLD TOUR Friday, November 9 @ 8PM



FLEETWOOD MAC AN EVENING WITH FLEETWOOD MAC Saturday, November 10 @ 8PM



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



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



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

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

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

EDMONTONOILERS.COM I 27 I ROGERS PLACE 2018-19



# FREEZE FRAME

Darnell Nurse played the role of OT hero on Tuesday in Winnipeg as he scored the sudden-death game-winner to complete a remarkable 5-4 come-from-behind Oilers victory. Edmonton started the third period trailing the Jets 4-1, but goals from Ty Rattie, Connor McDavid and Jesse Puljujarvi sent the game to overtime, leading to Nurse's triumphant winner. It was the first time since October 2013 that the Oilers won a game in which they trailed by three or more goals through 40 minutes.

# GET GAME READY

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## GAME PREVIEW EDMONTON OILERS vs BOSTON BRUINS

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 18 | 2018 | ROGERS PLACE



AFTER STARTING THE 2018-19 SEASON WITH FOUR CONSECUTIVE ROAD GAMES, THE OILERS FINALLY MAKE THEIR ROGERS PLACE DEBUT TONIGHT AS THEY WELCOME THE BOSTON BRUINS. Edmonton enters the game with back-to-back victories thanks to a 2-1 win over the New York Rangers on Saturday followed by a dramatic 5-4 come-from-behind overtime triumph over the Winnipeg Jets on Tuesday. The two wins came after back-to-back defeats to start the season, as they dropped a 5-2 decision to the New Jersey Devils in the opener on Saturday, Oct. 6 from Gothenburg, Sweden as part of the NHL Global Series before bowing out 4-1 to the Bruins in Boston last Thursday in New England. Connor McDavid spotted the Oilers a 1-0 lead against the Bruins in their first matchup, but the home team came roaring back with four unanswered goals to win by three. Patrice Bergeron and Matt Grzelcyk each recorded two points for Boston in the victory.

## **PLAYERS TO WATCH**

**CONNOR MCDAVID** has picked up right where he left off last season when he captured his second consecutive Art Ross Trophy as the NHL's leading point producer. The Oilers captain set a new League record during Tuesday's 5-4 overtime win over Winnipeg, factoring in on nine consecutive goals to start the season. The previous record of seven was set by Adam Oates in 1986-87 with the Detroit Red Wings. McDavid produced four goals and five assists on Edmonton's first nine goals of the season, with the streak finally coming to an end on Darnell Nurse's sudden-death winner on Tuesday. The 21-year-old led all NHL scorers with 108 points in 2017-18. DAVID PASTRNAK has been lighting the lamp at a ridiculous pace to start the 2018-19 season, scoring seven of Boston's 22 goals in five games prior to their road trip opener against the Calgary Flames on Wednesday. The 22-yearold has excelled as the young sparkplug on the Bruins top line playing alongside veterans Patrice Bergeron and Brad Marchand, tallying 35 goals and 80 points during the 2017-18 campaign with 34 goals and 70 points one season prior. Pastrnak also amassed six goals and 20 points in 12 games during Boston's playoff run this past spring. The Czech Republic product was selected 25th overall at the 2014 NHL Draft.



## 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	С	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	С	R	6' 2"	205	MAY 25, 1984	ST. PAUL, AB, CAN
29	LEON DRAISAITL	С	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)	С	L	6' 0"	184	APR 12, 1993	BURNABY, BC, CAN
97	CONNOR MCDAVID (C)	С	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
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
75	EVAN BOUCHARD	R	6' 3"	194	OCT 20, 1999	OAKVILLE, 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	<b>BIRTH PLACE</b>
19	MIKKO KOSKINEN	6' 7"	202	JUL 18, 1988	VANTAA, FIN
33	CAM TALBOT	6' 4"	196	JUL 5, 1987	CALEDONIA, ON, CAN

Owner & Governor	Daryl A. Katz
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Vice Chair OEG / Alternate Governor	Kevin Lowe
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Sr. Vice President, Hockey Operations	Craig MacTavish
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Vice President, Player Development	Scott Howson
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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

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# **BRUINS | ROSTER**

## FORWARDS

#	NAME	POS	SHOOTS	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	BIRTH PLACE
10	ANDERS BJORK	LW	L	6'0"	186	AUG 5, 1996	MEQUON, WI, USA
14	CHRIS WAGNER	RW	R	6'0"	198	MAY 27, 1991	WALPOLE, MA, USA
17	RYAN DONATO	С	L	6'0"	181	APR 9, 1996	BOSTON, MA, USA
20	JOAKIM NORDSTROM	С	L	6'1"	189	FEB 25, 1992	STOCKHOLM, SWE
37	PATRICE BERGERON (A)	С	R	6'1"	195	JUL 24, 1985	ANCIENNE-LORETTE, QC, CAN
42	DAVID BACKES	RW	R	6' 3"	221	MAY 1, 1984	MINNEAPOLIS, MN, USA
43	DANTON HEINEN	С	L	6'1"	185	JUL 5, 1995	LANGLEY, BC, CAN
46	DAVID KREJCI (A)	С	R	6'0"	188	APR 28, 1986	STERNBERK, CZE
52	SEAN KURALY	С	L	6' 2"	213	JAN 20, 1993	DUBLIN, OH, USA
55	NOEL ACCIARI	С	R	5' 10"	208	DEC 1, 1991	JOHNSTON, RI, USA
63	BRAD MARCHAND	LW	L	5' 9"	181	MAY 11, 1988	HALIFAX, NS, CAN
74	JAKE DEBRUSK	LW	L	6' 0"	188	OCT 17, 1996	EDMONTON, AB, CAN
88	DAVID PASTRNAK	RW	R	6' 0"	188	MAY 25, 1996	HAVIROV, CZE

## DEFENCE

#	NAME	SHOOTS	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	BIRTH PLACE
25	BRANDON CARLO	R	6' 5"	208	NOV 26, 1996	COLORADO SPRINGS, CO, USA
27	JOHN MOORE	L	6' 2"	210	NOV 19, 1990	WINNETKA, IL, USA
33	ZDENO CHARA (C)	L	6' 9"	250	MAR 18, 1977	TRENCIN, SVK
44	STEVEN KAMPFER	R	5'11"	195	SEP 24, 1988	ANN ARBOR, MI, USA
47	TOREY KRUG	L	5' 9"	186	APR 12, 1991	LIVONIA, MI, USA
48	MATT GRZELCYK	L	5' 9"	174	JAN 5, 1994	CHARLESTOWN, MA, USA
73	CHARLIE MCAVOY	R	6' 0"	208	DEC 21, 1997	LONG BEACH, NY, USA
86	KEVAN MILLER	R	6' 2"	210	NOV 15, 1987	LOS ANGELES, CA, USA

## **GOALTENDERS**

#	NAME	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	DATE OF BIRTH	BIRTH PLACE
40	TUUKKA RASK	6' 3"	176	MAR 10, 1987	SAVONLINNA, FIN
41	JAROSLAV HALAK	5' 11"	183	MAY 13, 1985	BRATISLAVA, SVK

Owner & Governor	Jeremy M. Jacobs
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Assistant General Manager	Scott Bradley
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Director of Legal Affairs for Hockey Operat	ions Evan Gold
Player Development Coordinator	Jamie Langenbrunner

Goalkeeper Development Co	achMike Dunham
Director Of Hockey Operatio	ns/AnalyticsJeremy Rogalski
Head Coach	Bruce Cassidy
Assistant Coaches	Joe Sacco, Jay Pandolfo & Kevin Dean
Goaltending Coach	Bob Essensa
Video Coordinator	J.P. Buckley
Skating Consultant	Kim Brandvold

# STATISTICS | OILERS

STATS AS OF OCT. 17, 2018

PLAYER	GP	G	A	Р	+/-	PIM	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	GWG	OTG	S	<b>S%</b>	F0%
CONNOR MCDAVID	4	4	5	9	2	0	3	4	0	0	1	0	11	36.4	53.45
RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS	4	1	4	5	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	10	10	50
LEON DRAISAITL	4	1	4	5	-5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	20	55.41
DARNELL NURSE	4	1	2	3	-2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	14	7.1	0
MILAN LUCIC	4	1	1	2	-4	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	50	0
TY RATTIE	4	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	0
JESSE PULJUJARVI	4	1	0	1	-1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	16.7	100
OSCAR KLEFBOM	4	0	1	1	-1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0
KRIS RUSSELL	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
TOBIAS RIEDER	4	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	100
ADAM LARSSON	4	0	0	0	-1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
RYAN STROME	4	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	30.23
JUJHAR KHAIRA	4	0	0	0	-1	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	33.33
KAILER YAMAMOTO	4	0	0	0	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
KYLE BRODZIAK	3	0	0	0	-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	65.38
MATT BENNING	3	0	0	0	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
DRAKE CAGGIULA	3	0	0	0	-2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0
EVAN BOUCHARD	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
JASON GARRISON	2	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
ZACK KASSIAN	2	0	0	0	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GOALTENDER	GP	GS	W	L		т	т	SA	GA	GAA		5 S	۷%	SO	MIN
CAM TALBOT	4	4	2	2		0	0 1	14	12	3.01	102	)	895	0	239

## BRUINS | STATISTICS



									STATS	AS OF O	CT. 17, 2	2018		1	
PLAYER	GP	G	A	Р	+/-	PIM	PPG	PPP	SHG	SHP	GWG	OTG	S	<b>S%</b>	F0%
PATRICE BERGERON	5	5	6	11	5	2	1	4	1	1	1	0	14	35.7	60.36
BRAD MARCHAND	5	1	9	10	6	21	1	4	0	1	1	0	6	16.7	14.29
DAVID PASTRNAK	5	7	2	9	6	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	22	31.8	0
CHARLIE MCAVOY	5	1	4	5	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	25	0
DAVID KREJCI	5	0	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	54.84
JAKE DEBRUSK	5	2	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	12	16.7	25
ZDENO CHARA	5	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	9.1	0
SEAN KURALY	5	1	1	2	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	48
CHRIS WAGNER	4	1	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20	50
ANDERS BJORK	4	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	25	100
MATT GRZELCYK	5	0	2	2	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0
BRANDON CARLO	5	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
JOAKIM NORDSTROM	4	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	11.1	0
RYAN DONATO	4	1	0	1	-1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	20	0
KEVAN MILLER	5	0	1	1	6	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
DAVID BACKES	5	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	53.85
JOHN MOORE	5	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0
NOEL ACCIARI	5	0	0	0	-2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	51.72
DANTON HEINEN	4	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

GOALTENDER	GP	GS	W	L	т	OT	SA	GA	GAA	S	SV%	SO	MIN
JAROSLAV HALAK	3	2	2	0	0	0	76	3	1.18	73	.961	1	153
TUUKKA RASK	3	3	2	1	0	0	84	10	4.08	74	.881	0	148



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## **STANDINGS & LEADERS**



#### POINTS

1 A. MATTHEWS, TOR	16
2 M. RIELLY, TOR	13
3 S. AHO, CAR	12
4 J. TAVARES, TOR	11
5 P. BERGERON, BOS	11
00410	
GOALS	
1 A. MATTHEWS, TOR	10
	10 7
1 A. MATTHEWS, TOR	
1 A. MATTHEWS, TOR 2 D. PASTRNAK, BOS	7

#### ASSISTS

1	M. RIELLY, TOR	10
2	B. MARCHAND, BOS	9
3	S. AHO, CAR	8
4	M. RANTANEN, COL	8
5	E. MALKIN, PIT	8

#### **PENALTY MINUTES**

1	B. MARCHAND, BOS	21
2	T. MYERS, WPG	18
3	F. HRONEK, DET	18
4	W. SIMMONDS, PHI	16
5	T. BERTUZZI, DET	15

#### **ROOKIE POINTS**

1	E. PETTERSSON, VAN
2	M. LAJOIE, OTT
3	B. TKACHUK, OTT
4	H. JOKIHARJU, CHI
5	M. COMTOIS, ANA

#### **GOALS AGAINST AVG.**

1	R. LUONGO, FLA	0.00
2	L. ULLMARK, BUF	0.00
3	L. BROSSOIT, WPG	1.00
4	K. KINKAID, NJD	1.00
5	J. HALAK, BOS	1.18

#### SAVE %

1	R. LUONGO, FLA	1.000
2	L. ULLMARK, BUF	1.000
3	L. BROSSOIT, WPG	.977
4	K. KINKAID, NJD	.961
5	J. HALAK, BOS	.961

#### GOALTENDER WINS

1	K. KINKAID, NJD
2	F. ANDERSEN, TOR
3	A. NILSSON, VAN
4	P. RINNE, NSH
5	S. VARLAMOV, COL

WESTERN	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	HOME	AWAY	S/0	L10	STRK
NASHVILLE	6	5	1	0	10	5	19	12	+7	3-1-0	2-0-0	0-0	5-1-0	W3
ANAHEIM	6	4	1	1	9	3	17	14	+3	1-0-1	3-1-0	1-1	4-1-1	W1
CHICAGO	5	3	0	2	8	3	22	21	+1	1-0-1	2-0-1	0-0	3-0-2	W1
VANCOUVER	6	4	2	0	8	4	22	19	+3	1-0-0	3-2-0	0-0	4-2-0	W3
COLORADO	6	3	1	2	8	3	21	15	+6	2-0-1	1-1-1	0-1	3-1-2	0T2
WINNIPEG	6	3	2	1	7	3	15	16	-1	2-0-1	1-2-0	0-0	3-2-1	0T1
CALGARY	5	3	2	0	6	3	18	16	+2	1-0-0	2-2-0	0-0	3-2-0	W1
DALLAS	6	3	3	0	6	3	18	18	0	3-1-0	0-2-0	0-0	3-3-0	L2
MINNESOTA	6	2	2	2	6	2	14	19	-5	2-0-2	0-2-0	0-1	2-2-2	W1
VEGAS	7	3	4	0	6	2	15	20	-5	1-1-0	2-3-0	1-0	3-4-0	W2
SAN JOSE	6	2	3	1	5	2	17	19	-2	0-1-0	2-2-1	0-0	2-3-1	L1
LOS ANGELES	6	2	3	1	5	2	12	16	-4	1-0-1	1-3-0	0-0	2-3-1	L2
EDMONTON	4	2	2	0	4	2	10	14	-4	0-0-0	2-2-0	0-0	2-2-0	W2
ST. LOUIS	5	1	2	2	4	1	15	20	-5	1-2-1	0-0-1	0-0	1-2-2	L1
ARIZONA	5	1	4	0	2	0	4	11	-7	0-2-0	1-2-0	1-0	1-4-0	L2

2018-19 WESTERN CONFERENCE

#### 2018-19 EASTERN CONFERENCE

EASTERN	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	ROW	GF	GA	DIFF	HOME	AWAY	S/0	L10	STRK
TORONTO	7	6	1	0	12	6	33	23	+10	2-1-0	4-0-0	0-0	6-1-0	W5
CAROLINA	7	4	2	1	9	4	25	22	+3	2-0-1	2-2-0	0-0	4-2-1	L2
NEW JERSEY	4	4	0	0	8	4	17	4	+13	4-0-0	0-0-0	0-0	4-0-0	W4
BOSTON	5	4	1	0	8	4	22	13	+9	3-0-0	1-1-0	0-0	4-1-0	W4
MONTRÉAL	5	3	1	1	7	2	18	13	+5	2-1-0	1-0-1	1-0	3-1-1	W2
OTTAWA	6	3	2	1	7	3	24	22	+2	2-1-1	1-1-0	0-0	3-2-1	W2
TAMPA BAY	4	3	1	0	6	2	15	9	+6	3-1-0	0-0-0	1-0	3-1-0	W2
COLUMBUS	5	3	2	0	6	3	16	19	-3	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-0	3-2-0	L1
PITTSBURGH	5	2	1	2	6	2	17	20	-3	2-1-1	0-0-1	0-1	2-1-2	0T2
BUFFALO	6	3	3	0	6	3	12	17	-5	2-2-0	1-1-0	0-0	3-3-0	L1
PHILADELPHIA	6	3	3	0	6	2	22	25	-3	1-2-0	2-1-0	1-0	3-3-0	W1
WASHINGTON	5	2	2	1	5	2	20	19	+1	2-1-0	0-1-1	0-0	2-2-1	L2
NY ISLANDERS	4	2	2	0	4	2	11	10	+1	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-0	2-2-0	L1
NY RANGERS	6	2	4	0	4	1	15	20	-5	2-2-0	0-2-0	1-0	2-4-0	W1
FLORIDA	4	0	2	2	2	0	12	16	-4	0-2-0	0-0-2	0-2	0-2-2	0T1
DETROIT	6	0	4	2	2	0	14	30	-16	0-1-1	0-3-1	0-1	0-4-2	L3







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252

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# BRUDZIAK 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.

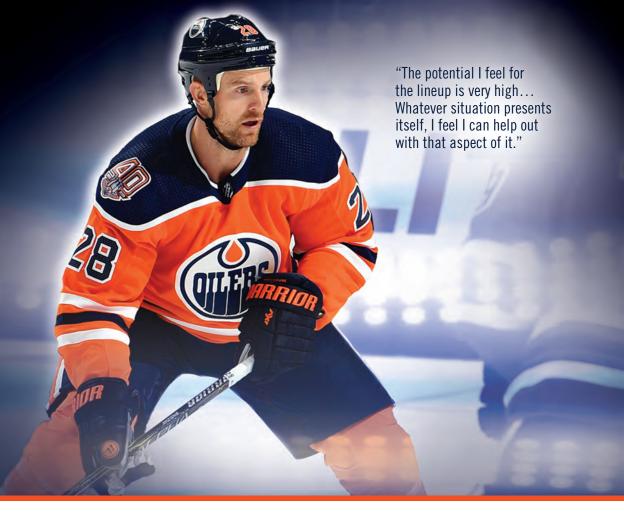
Rather, during his quiet daily commute to Rogers Place, the Vegreville, AB, native realizes, suddenly, that he's home playing for the franchise that drafted him.

"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



"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-toback 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 sixthround 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. ▲

#### Around here, Around here, bond with family folks don't bond with family over a gravola bar.

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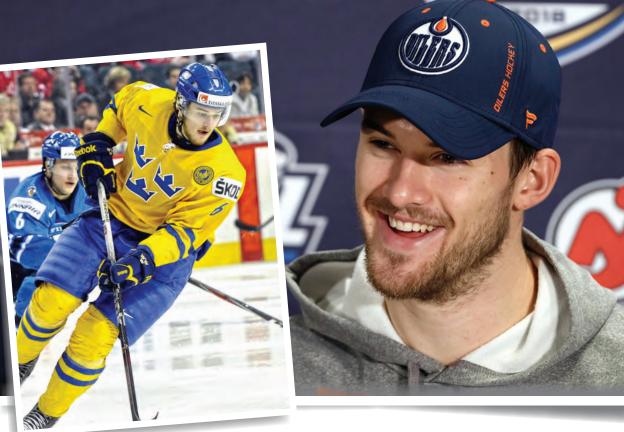
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## THE PLAYER PERSPECTIVE: GROWTH OF THE NHL IN SWEDEN

#### 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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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**!





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BY JAMIE UMBACH, PAUL GAZZOLA & CAIT MACPHAIL

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

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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 NHLstandout 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 -1 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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"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," Viverios 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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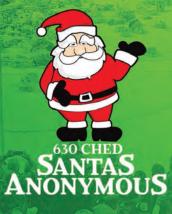




61 | ROGERS PLACE 2018-19



IN SUPPORT OF





## HOT START HAS OIL KINGS POISED FOR SUCCESS

#### **BY ALYSCIA WARNER**

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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 Il 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



#### 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

PHI - Philadelphia

PIT - Pittsburgh

SJS - San Jose

STL - St. Louis

TBL - Tampa Bay

VAN - Vancouver

VGK - Las Vegas

WPG - Winnipeg

WSH - Washington

TOR - Toronto

OTT - Ottawa

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