

THE WEEKLY HOCKEY GUIDE

NHL

GAMES TO WATCH

OCTOBER 12-18

2026

The matchups that deserve your screen.
The details that make them worth watching.

14 featured games | Results & score projections
U.S. viewing guide - all times Eastern
Updated October 14, 2026

YOUR WEEK IN HOCKEY

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A curated guide to 14 games from the full 50-game NHL week. Completed results and upcoming projections have distinct labels.

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5 completed games + 9 upcoming games. Matchup dates follow the North American schedule; all start times are ET.

OCTOBER 12-18, 2026

Week at a glance

The league has 50 games in this interval. This edition selects 14 for individual analysis: five completed results and nine upcoming matchups, checked on October 14 before Wednesday's games.

DATE	MATCHUP	START (ET)	RESULT / PROJECTION	PAGE
OCT 12	VGK @ MIN	8:00 PM	MIN 4 - VGK 2	05
OCT 13	TBL @ NYR	7:15 PM	NYR 4 - TBL 1	06
OCT 13	COL @ DAL	8:30 PM	COL 3 - DAL 2	07
OCT 13	EDM @ LAK	10:30 PM	EDM 4 - LAK 1	08
OCT 13	BOS @ SJS	11:00 PM	BOS 6 - SJS 3	09
OCT 14	MTL @ WSH	7:30 PM	WSH 3 - MTL 2	10
OCT 14	DAL @ COL	8:30 PM	COL 4 - DAL 3	11
OCT 15	NYR @ NJD	7:00 PM	NJD 3 - NYR 2	12
OCT 15	UTA @ EDM	9:00 PM	EDM 4 - UTA 2	13
OCT 16	PIT @ COL	9:00 PM	COL 4 - PIT 2	14
OCT 17	CAR @ WPG	3:30 PM	CAR 3 - WPG 2	15
OCT 17	NYI @ TOR	7:00 PM	TOR 4 - NYI 3	16
OCT 17	EDM @ UTA	10:00 PM	EDM 3 - UTA 2	17
OCT 18	CAR @ CGY	8:00 PM	CAR 3 - CGY 2	18

Rows for October 12-13 show final results. Rows for October 14-18 show original editorial score projections, not final scores. Start times remain scheduled times even for completed games.

THE EDITORIAL SELECTION

Why these 14 games?

TUESDAY SET THE BASELINE

October 13 put all 32 clubs in action across 16 staggered games. Our featured results retain a spread of viewing windows: Rangers-Lightning, Avalanche-Stars, Oilers-Kings and Bruins-Sharks. The aim is to explain why the games mattered while preserving the distinction between a known result and a forecast.

REMATCHES MAKE ADJUSTMENTS VISIBLE

Colorado-Dallas plays on consecutive nights, then Utah-Edmonton meets twice in three days. Those sequences are ideal for comparing entries, puck support and net-front coverage. The useful question is what changes in the second meeting, rather than whether the first final score can simply be repeated.

THE MIDWEEK AND WEEKEND WINDOWS

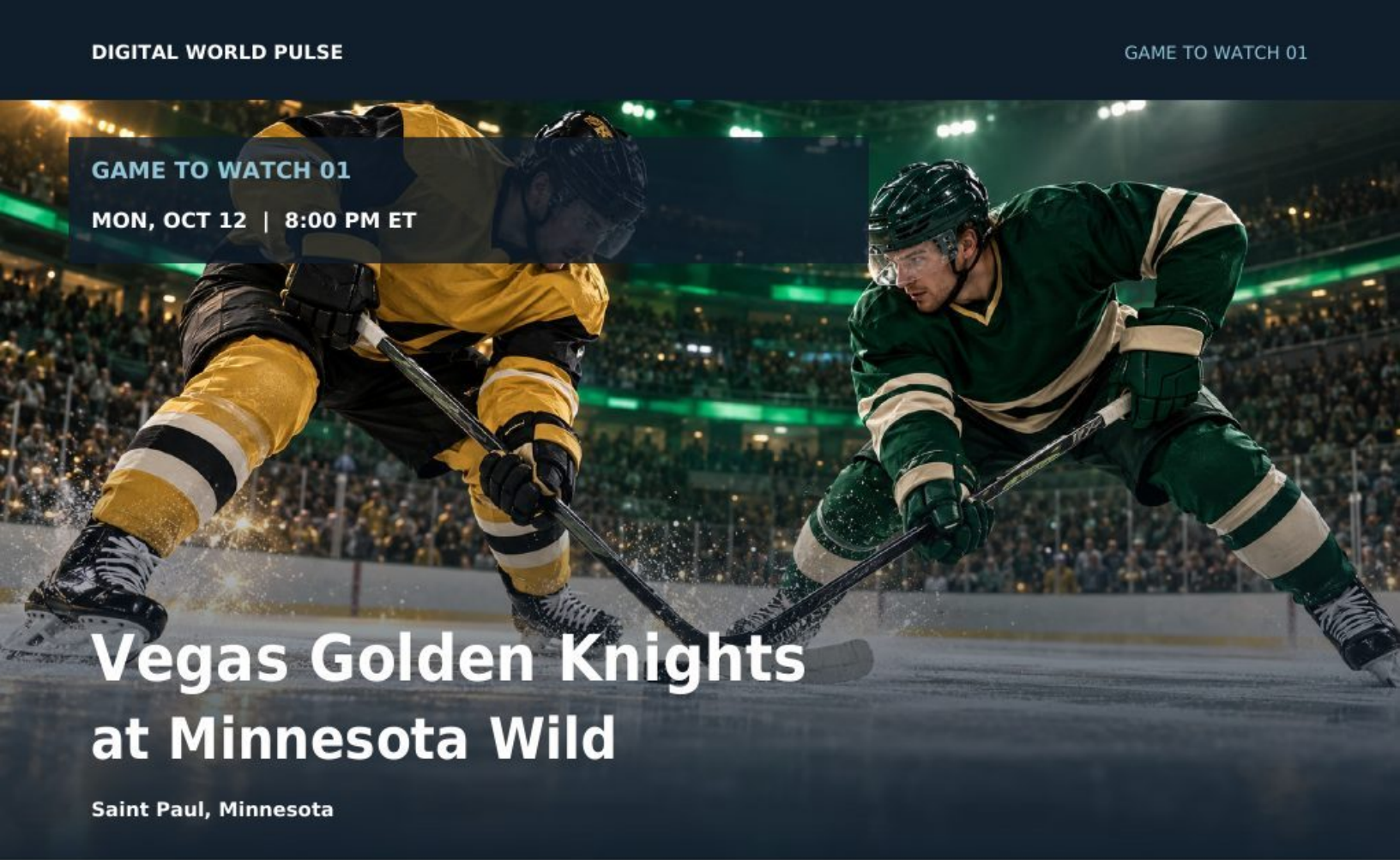
Wednesday has only two league games, making Montreal-Washington and Dallas-Colorado an easy doubleheader to follow. Thursday adds Rangers-Devils. Saturday includes an afternoon Carolina-Winnipeg window, Islanders-Toronto at 7 PM ET, and Edmonton-Utah at 10 PM ET. Sunday closes the selected list in Calgary.

HOW THE SCORES ARE CHOSEN

The nine future scorelines are modest editorial scenarios informed by game location, the verified week structure and plausible tactical outcomes. They are not model outputs or betting odds. The goalie matchup, confirmed personnel and new results can outweigh a small advance lean. No unannounced starter is presented as fact.

GAME TO WATCH 01

MON, OCT 12 | 8:00 PM ET



Vegas Golden Knights at Minnesota Wild

Saint Paul, Minnesota

FINAL RESULT

MIN 4 - VGK 2

COMPLETED

MINNESOTA WINS THE OPENING SPOTLIGHT

THE RESULT

Minnesota defeated Vegas 4-2. This is a completed result, and its place in the guide is to establish the week's starting point. A two-goal margin should not automatically be read as a comfortable night: hockey scores can widen late without describing how competitive every shift was.

WHY THIS GAME MATTERED

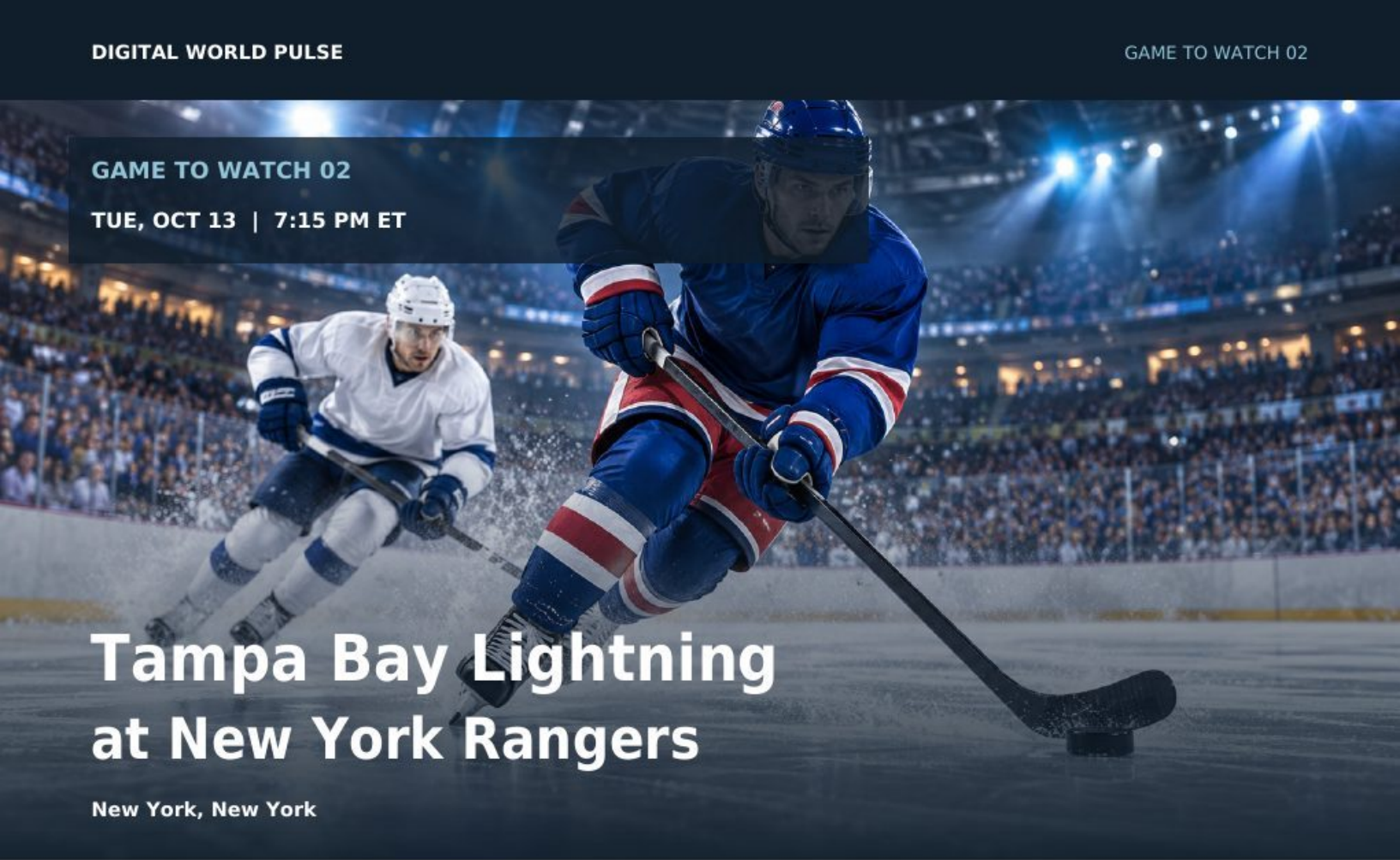
This pairing offered an early comparison of two Western Conference teams in a setting where puck recovery and net-front access matter. The viewing lens is the space between the faceoff dots: a team that turns a loose puck there into a second chance creates more danger than one collecting low-angle shots.

THE USEFUL TAKEAWAY

For the next meeting, ask whether the same club can win those recovery battles again. Do not carry the 4-2 score forward as a forecast or infer a season-long defensive trend from one game. Goalie selection and the next opponent's pressure can change the picture quickly.

GAME TO WATCH 02

TUE, OCT 13 | 7:15 PM ET



Tampa Bay Lightning at New York Rangers

New York, New York

FINAL RESULT

NYR 4 - TBL 1

COMPLETED

THE RANGERS FINISH THE JOB AT HOME

THE RESULT

New York won 4-1, with two goals from Alexis Lafreniere. The final result supplies a clear reference point for Thursday's Rangers-Devils rivalry game. It records what happened on Tuesday; it does not justify inserting another 4-1 finish into the upcoming schedule.

THE VIEWING LESSON

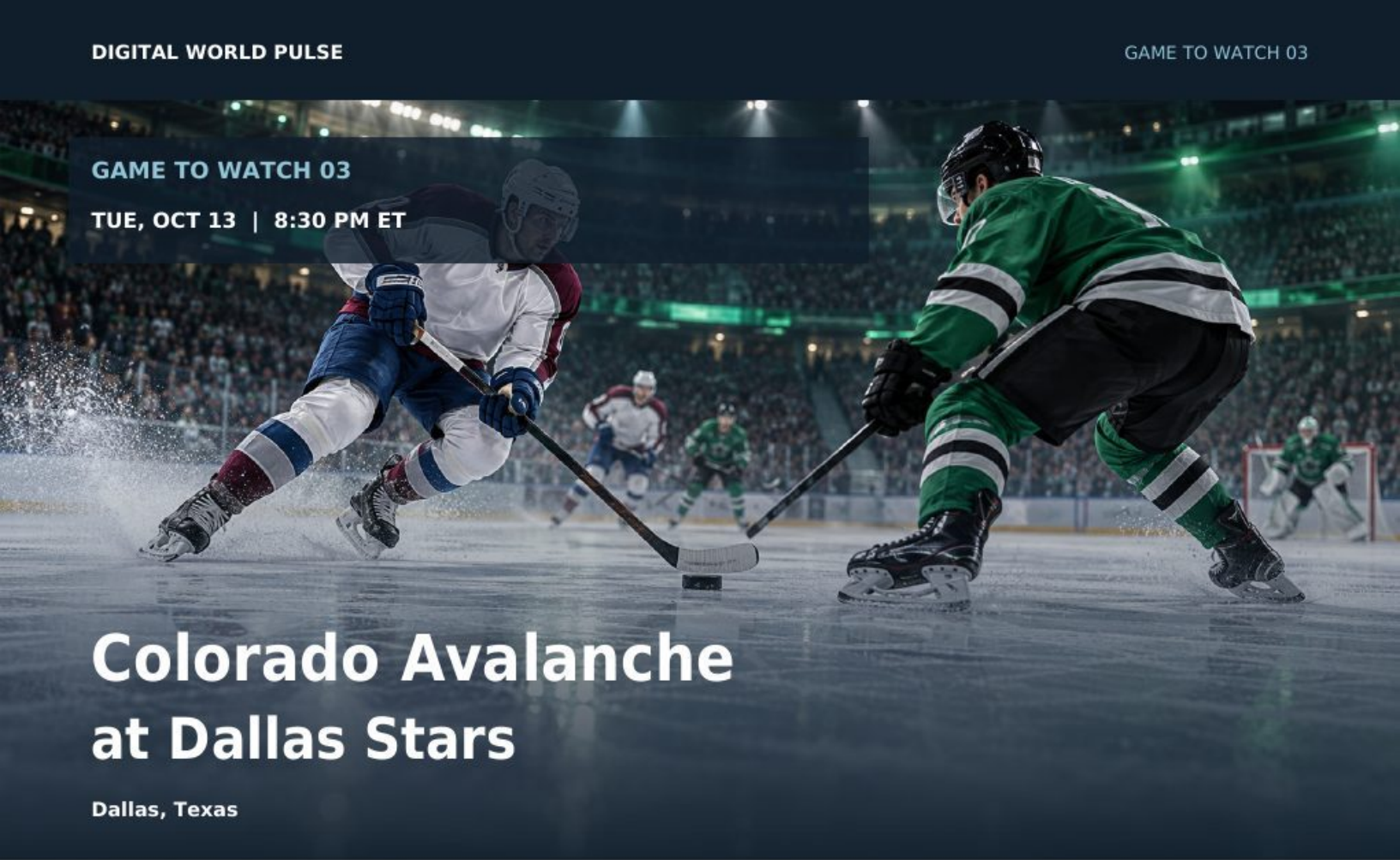
A three-goal victory can encourage a viewer to overlook the defensive work that makes an attacking play possible. Watch how a team exits its zone with support, instead of asking one skater to beat the forecheck alone. A clean first pass can turn defensive pressure into an open-ice chance.

WHAT TO CARRY FORWARD

The next test is whether New York can create useful entries when a different opponent contests the neutral zone. For Tampa Bay, watch the spacing behind an attacking play: a turnover becomes much more costly when both defensemen or the supporting forward are committed too far ahead.

GAME TO WATCH 03

TUE, OCT 13 | 8:30 PM ET

A dynamic action shot from an NHL game between the Colorado Avalanche and the Dallas Stars. In the foreground, a Colorado player in a white jersey with blue and red accents is skating towards the left, stickhandling the puck. A Dallas player in a green jersey with white and black accents is skating towards the right, attempting to steal the puck. The background shows other players and a large, brightly lit arena filled with spectators.

Colorado Avalanche at Dallas Stars

Dallas, Texas

FINAL RESULT

COL 3 - DAL 2

COMPLETED

COLORADO TAKES THE FIRST HALF OF THE DOUBLE

THE RESULT

Colorado won 3-2, with Martin Necas scoring twice. The teams meet again the following night in Denver. This makes the first game a useful baseline: the rematch can reveal an adjustment in deployment or pressure without waiting weeks for another meeting.

THE MATCHUP TO REVISIT

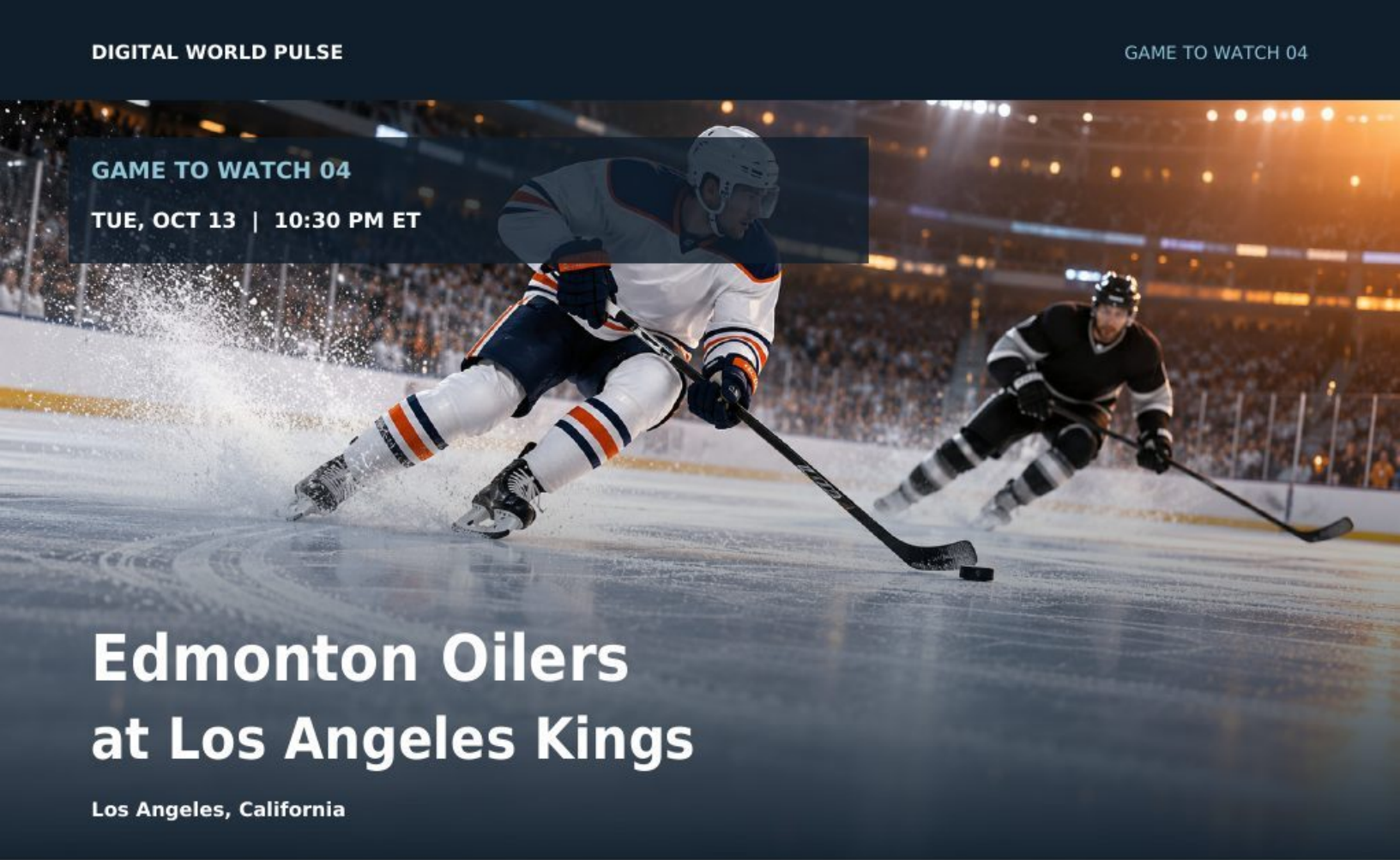
A narrow finish puts extra importance on the decision made before a scoring chance develops. A defender who steps forward at the wrong time can open a passing lane behind him; a forward who stays above the puck can close it. Watch those support positions rather than only the eventual shot.

WHY THE REMATCH IS DIFFERENT

A one-goal result leaves room for a different winner with very little change in performance. Home ice switches, recovery time is short, and the actual goalie assignments can differ. The 3-2 score is a verified result here; Wednesday's page contains a separate editorial estimate.

GAME TO WATCH 04

TUE, OCT 13 | 10:30 PM ET



Edmonton Oilers at Los Angeles Kings

Los Angeles, California

FINAL RESULT

EDM 4 - LAK 1

COMPLETED

EDMONTON CONTROLS THE LATE WINDOW

THE RESULT

Edmonton won 4-1. Connor McDavid contributed a goal and three assists. That performance supplies a concrete reason to follow the Oilers through the week, especially with two upcoming meetings against Utah. It should not be turned into a promise of another four-point night.

WHY IT WAS A WATCH GAME

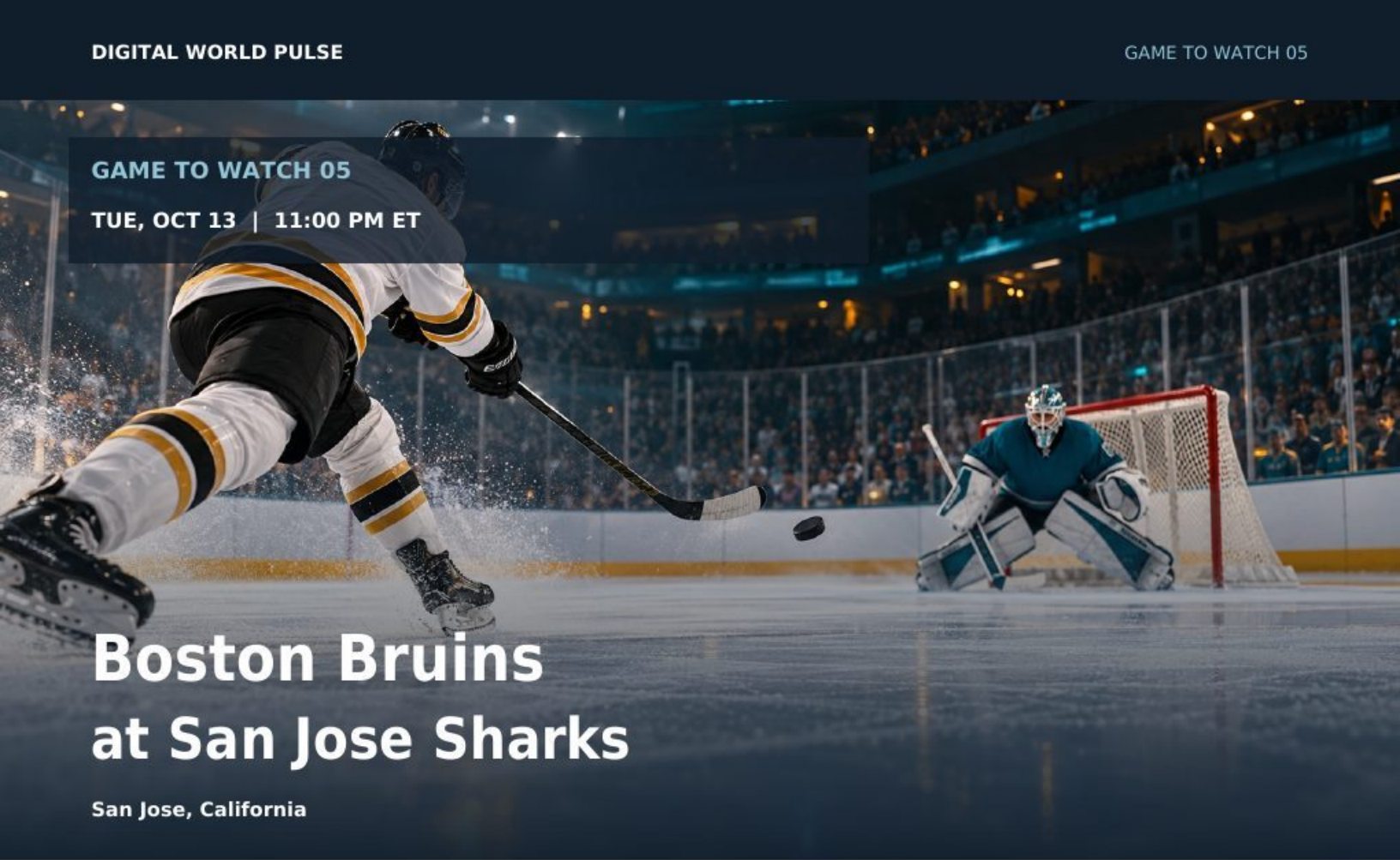
An elite puck carrier forces a defender to choose between giving up space and stepping forward. The most revealing moment often happens before the rush reaches the offensive zone: can the defending forwards slow the first pass, or does the carrier arrive with speed and several options?

THE NEXT CHALLENGE

Utah can change that problem by making the Oilers restart possessions and by keeping a forward behind an aggressive pinch. Edmonton's next opponent still has to protect the middle of the ice. A 4-1 final tells us the outcome; it cannot substitute for checking the upcoming lineup and goalie.

GAME TO WATCH 05

TUE, OCT 13 | 11:00 PM ET

A dynamic action shot from an NHL game. A Boston Bruins player, wearing a white jersey with black and gold accents, is in the foreground, leaning forward and shooting a puck with his stick. In the background, a San Jose Sharks goalie in a teal and white uniform is positioned in front of the goal, ready to block the shot. The arena is filled with spectators, and the ice surface is visible.

Boston Bruins at San Jose Sharks

San Jose, California

FINAL RESULT

BOS 6 - SJS 3

COMPLETED

BOSTON WINS THE LAST GAME OF FROZEN FRENZY

THE RESULT

Boston beat San Jose 6-3, with Fraser Minten scoring twice. The game closed Tuesday's staggered national viewing window. Nine combined goals make this a useful contrast with the week's tighter results, but one high-scoring game does not establish a new scoring baseline.

THE VIEWING LESSON

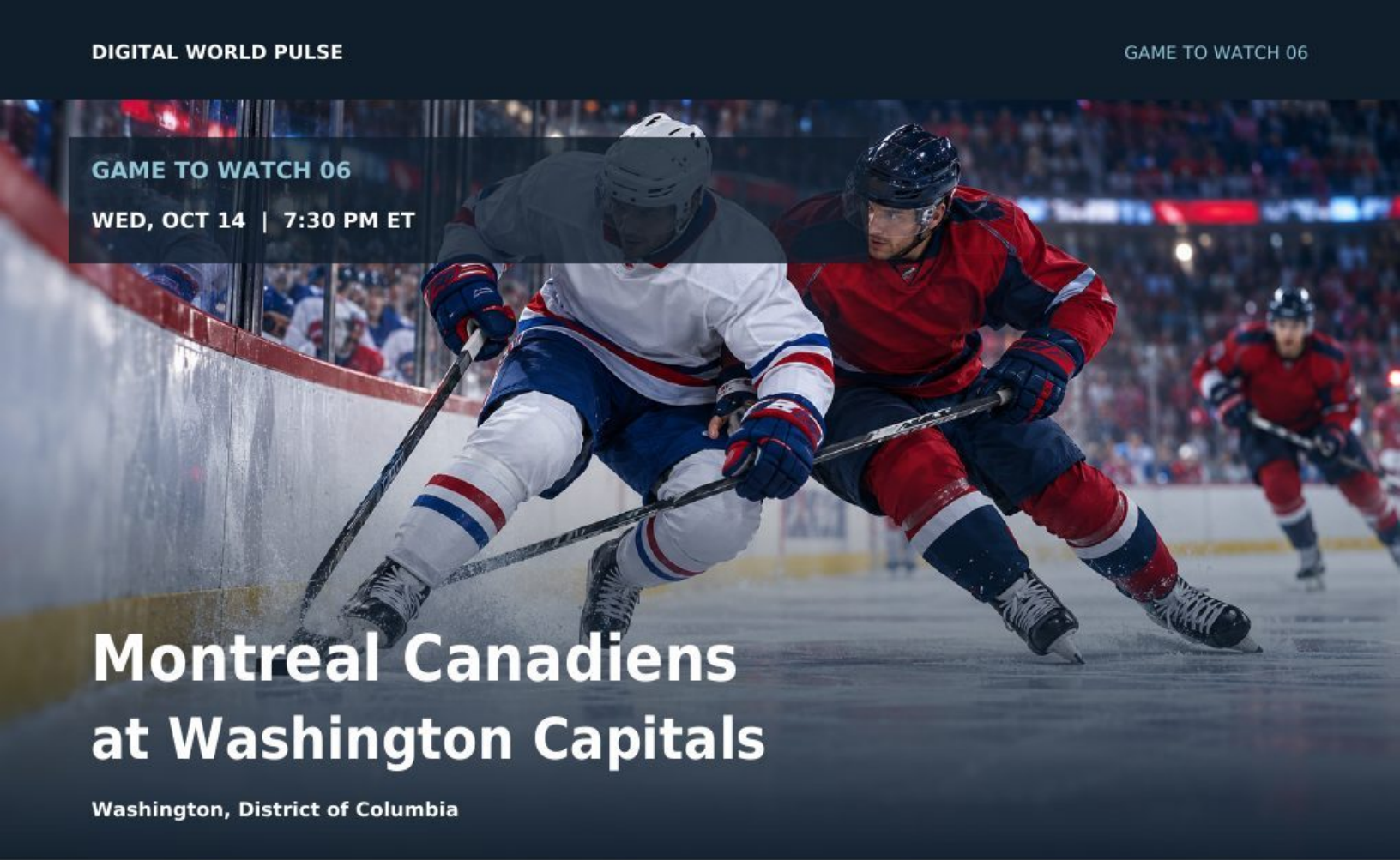
When a game opens up, the important question is whether chances come from planned movement or broken coverage. Track the player arriving at the far post and the forward responsible for following him. A seemingly harmless possession can become dangerous if that assignment is lost.

WHAT COMES NEXT

Boston's next game should be assessed on its own personnel and pace; the Bruins visit Anaheim on Friday outside the featured list. San Jose's response is worth watching for cleaner support around its own net. A high-scoring win is a useful result, not a reason to repeat Tuesday's total in the next forecast.

GAME TO WATCH 06

WED, OCT 14 | 7:30 PM ET

A background image showing two hockey players in action on an ice rink. One player is wearing a white jersey with blue and red accents, and the other is wearing a red jersey with blue and white accents. They are both skating and holding hockey sticks, with the player in the red jersey appearing to be in a defensive stance against the player in the white jersey. The background is slightly blurred, showing other players and the arena lights.

Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals

Washington, District of Columbia

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

WSH 3 - MTL 2

UPCOMING

A COMPACT MIDWEEK DOUBLEHEADER BEGINS

WHY WATCH

With only two games on Wednesday's schedule, this is the natural opening window. Montreal's route to a strong road performance is to turn controlled exits into useful entries, then keep possession long enough to move the defense. Washington can answer by forcing those entries toward the boards and winning the next loose puck.

WHY THIS SCORE

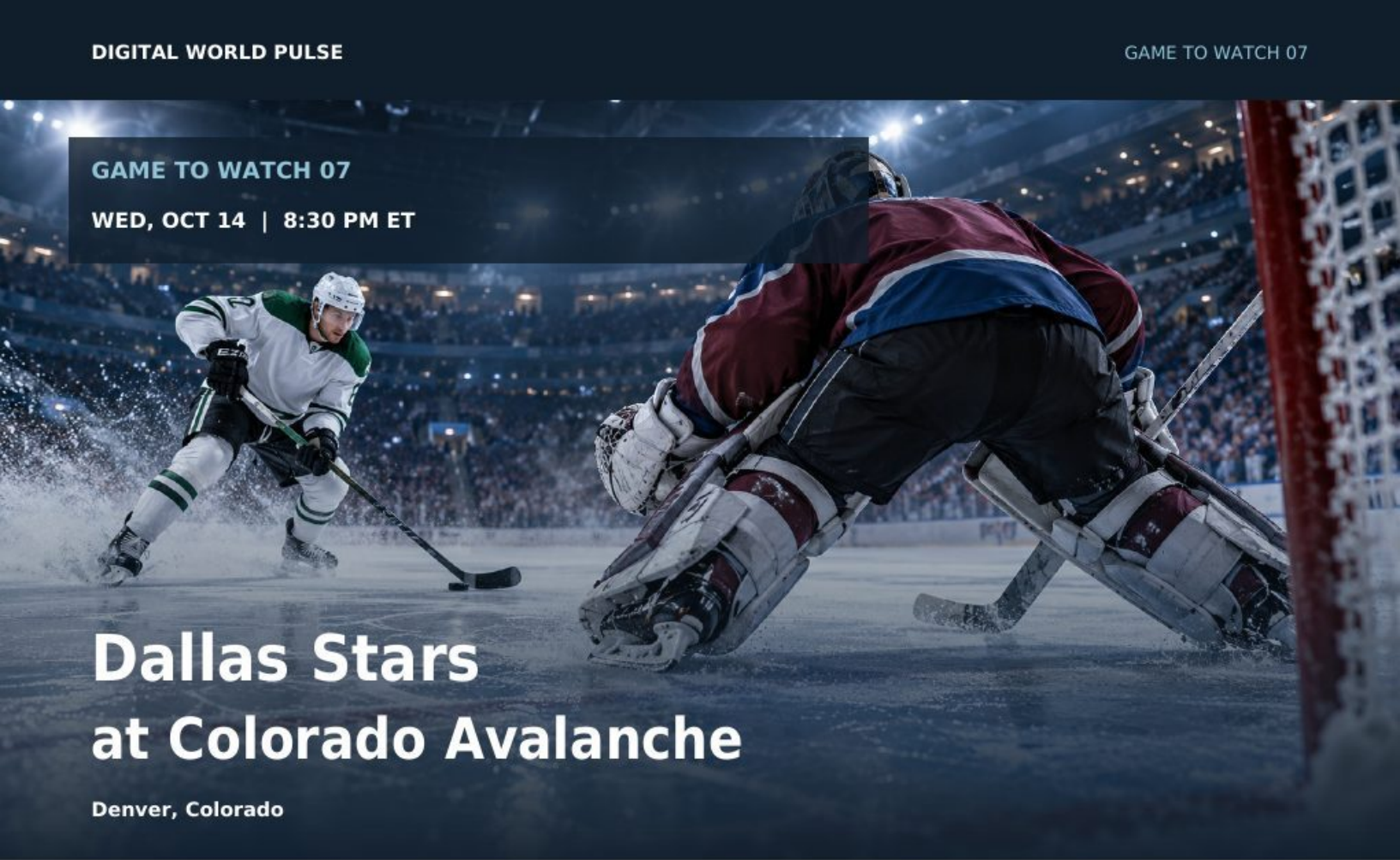
The editorial 3-2 Washington lean gives a small advantage to the home team in a close game. It assumes neither side repeatedly supplies free rushes and that one net-front sequence creates the deciding separation. This is a plausible scenario, not a calculated win probability.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

A goalie change, a major lineup absence or several early power plays can overturn this modest lean. Pay particular attention to how each club protects a change of possession in the neutral zone. If the game becomes a sequence of unchallenged entries, five combined goals may be too conservative.

GAME TO WATCH 07

WED, OCT 14 | 8:30 PM ET



Dallas Stars at Colorado Avalanche

Denver, Colorado

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

COL 4 - DAL 3

UPCOMING

THE IMMEDIATE REMATCH MOVES TO DENVER

WHY WATCH

The teams have a direct reference point after Colorado's 3-2 win in Dallas on Tuesday. The key viewing question is which coach changes the route to the offensive zone. A second meeting in two nights is valuable because a different entry or forecheck can be judged against a very recent example.

WHY THIS SCORE

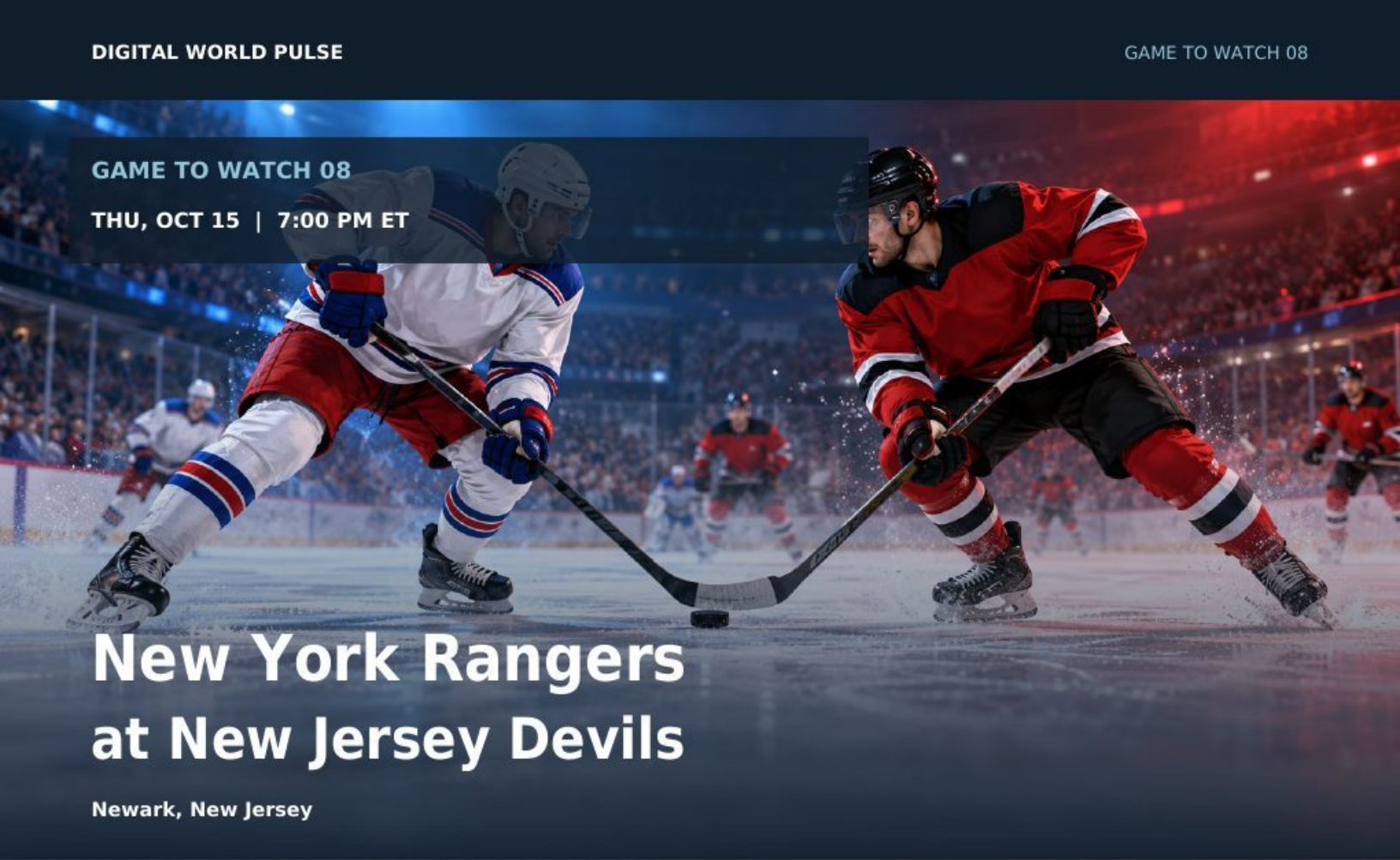
Colorado 4-3 is a narrow editorial home lean that allows for more open play after the quick turnaround. The estimate does not assume Tuesday's goalie, scorer or lineup will be repeated. It leaves Dallas close enough that one successful special-teams sequence could reverse the result.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Confirm both goaltenders and the available skaters before treating the extra projected goal as meaningful. Short recovery time can affect puck support and defensive reads, but it does not guarantee poor defense. If both clubs simplify their exits and limit second chances, another lower-scoring night is plausible.

GAME TO WATCH 08

THU, OCT 15 | 7:00 PM ET



New York Rangers at New Jersey Devils

Newark, New Jersey

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

NJD 3 - NYR 2

UPCOMING

A RIVALRY ASKS A DIFFERENT QUESTION

WHY WATCH

The geographic rivalry makes this an obvious early-evening selection. New York arrives after Tuesday's 4-1 win, but facing a new opponent means a fresh tactical test. New Jersey should make the Rangers carry the puck through contested space instead of letting an exit become a clean rush immediately.

WHY THIS SCORE

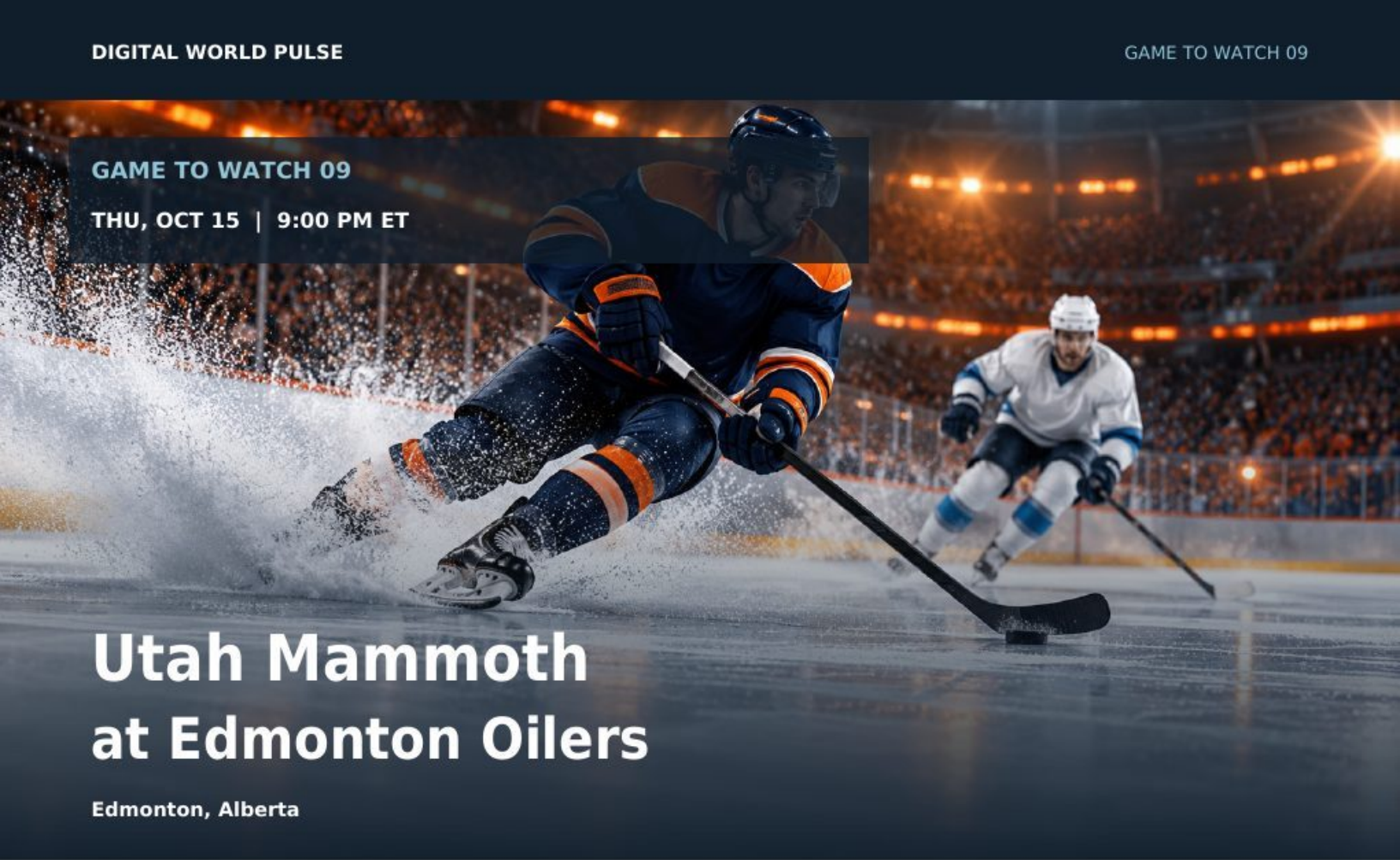
The Devils 3-2 projection is a slight home lean in a close game. It assumes New Jersey can protect the middle while creating one productive spell of pressure. The preference is deliberately small: a single turnover near either blue line can produce enough offense to erase it.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

The starting-goalie matchup and actual special-teams personnel can outweigh home ice. Watch whether frustration leads either team to take an avoidable penalty after the whistle. A rivalry can add intensity, but disciplined possession and the next defensive assignment still decide the quality of the chances.

GAME TO WATCH 09

THU, OCT 15 | 9:00 PM ET



Utah Mammoth at Edmonton Oilers

Edmonton, Alberta

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

EDM 4 - UTA 2

UPCOMING

UTAH STARTS ITS TWO-GAME OILERS TEST

WHY WATCH

This is the first of two Utah-Edmonton meetings in three days, with the return game in Utah on Saturday. That sequence makes neutral-zone coverage especially interesting. Utah can use this first game to find out whether its pressure slows Edmonton's entries or leaves space behind the first defender.

WHY THIS SCORE

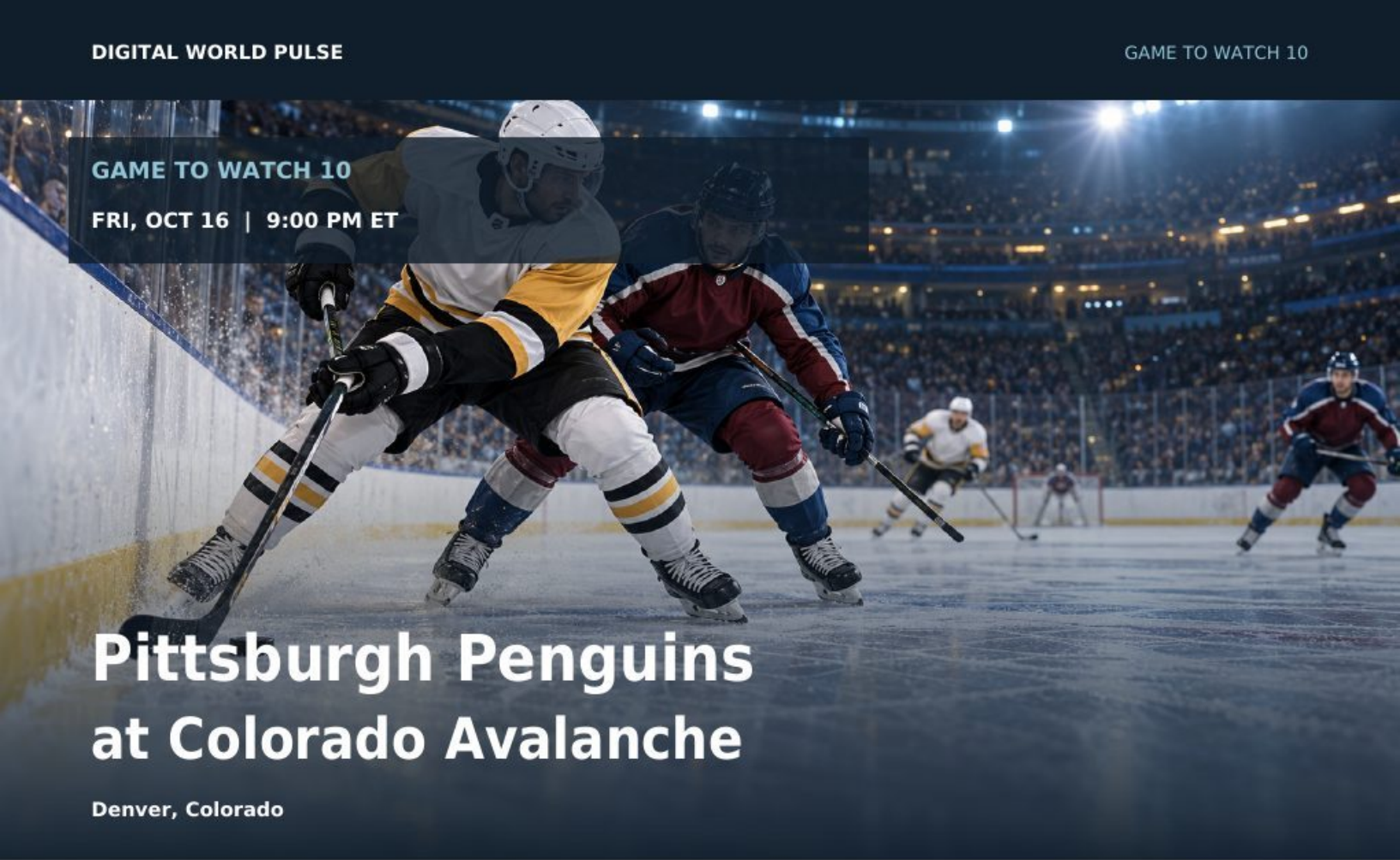
The editorial 4-2 Edmonton estimate leans toward the home offense, while leaving room for an empty-net goal to widen a competitive finish. It is not a claim that Edmonton will dominate every period. A disciplined Utah road game can keep the result within one scoring chance much longer.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

The preference shrinks if Utah repeatedly denies the middle, wins the next puck and leaves Edmonton shooting from the perimeter. Goalie confirmation also matters. Watch how much time the Oilers get to turn a recovered puck into a second attack; quick support is more revealing than a raw shot count.

GAME TO WATCH 10

FRI, OCT 16 | 9:00 PM ET



Pittsburgh Penguins at Colorado Avalanche

Denver, Colorado

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

COL 4 - PIT 2

UPCOMING

A FRESH OPPONENT AFTER THE DALLAS DOUBLE**WHY WATCH**

Colorado follows the Dallas home-and-home with a different opponent, so this game tests whether its decisions travel across matchups. Pittsburgh can make the home team work by extending possessions below the goal line and recovering the next puck rather than exchanging immediate rushes.

WHY THIS SCORE

Colorado 4-2 is an editorial lean toward the home side in a game that could remain tight into the third period. The estimate allows a late goal to add separation. It assumes Colorado can avoid long stretches pinned in its own zone and turn a clean exit into a useful attacking possession.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Wednesday's workload and the confirmed lineup can change this view before puck drop. Watch Pittsburgh's third forward: staying above the puck can prevent a promising cycle from turning into a counterattack. If Colorado spends too much energy defending repeat shifts, the projected home edge should narrow.

GAME TO WATCH 11

SAT, OCT 17 | 3:30 PM ET



Carolina Hurricanes at Winnipeg Jets

Winnipeg, Manitoba

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

CAR 3 - WPG 2

UPCOMING

THE AFTERNOON GAME IS A POSSESSION TEST

WHY WATCH

An afternoon start gives this matchup its own viewing window before the crowded evening slate. The useful contest is the next possession after a forced clearance. Carolina can keep an attack alive by recovering those pucks; Winnipeg can change the rhythm by making the first outlet accurate instead of merely sending the puck away.

WHY THIS SCORE

The editorial 3-2 Carolina lean assumes a close game decided by one sustained spell of pressure. It gives the road team a small preference without predicting a runaway result. Winnipeg's home setting and last-change options leave ample room for a different outcome.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Confirm the goalie pairing and look for the quality of the Jets' exits in the first ten minutes. If Winnipeg repeatedly beats the initial pressure with support, the projected territorial edge weakens. Carolina also plays in Calgary on Sunday, so actual deployment on Saturday will matter to the next page of its weekend.

GAME TO WATCH 12

SAT, OCT 17 | 7:00 PM ET



New York Islanders at Toronto Maple Leafs

Toronto, Ontario

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

TOR 4 - NYI 3

UPCOMING

AN EVENING MATCHUP WITH ROOM FOR SKILL

WHY WATCH

This is a prime-time choice within Saturday's crowded slate. Toronto can try to create separation through quick changes of direction after entering the zone. The Islanders' counter is to keep the middle protected, deny the next pass and make attacking players reset from the outside.

WHY THIS SCORE

The editorial 4-3 Toronto estimate leans toward the home team in a game with several finishing chances. It assumes enough clean possession to move defenders without assuming a confirmed scoring line or goalie. A one-goal finish keeps the projection proportionate to a matchup that can change on one defensive read.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

If New York holds the puck through long cycles and exits without giving it back, Toronto will have fewer chances to play at its preferred pace. A tighter goalie duel can also lower the total. Watch the second pass after a zone entry: it often reveals whether the offense actually gained a useful advantage.

GAME TO WATCH 13

SAT, OCT 17 | 10:00 PM ET

Edmonton Oilers at Utah Mammoth

Salt Lake City, Utah

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

EDM 3 - UTA 2

UPCOMING

THE RETURN GAME MEASURES THE ADJUSTMENT

WHY WATCH

The second meeting shifts to Utah only two days after the teams play in Edmonton. Compare the space available at the attacking blue line with Thursday's game. A smaller gap between defenders and supporting forwards can make an entry more difficult even when the opponent's main puck carrier is unchanged.

WHY THIS SCORE

Edmonton 3-2 is a narrower editorial lean than Thursday's 4-2 estimate. The home-ice switch and opportunity to adjust make a closer return game plausible. This projection is independent: it does not require Thursday's forecast to be correct or assume the same goalie will play twice.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Use the actual first meeting to refresh this lean. If Utah consistently forces Edmonton outside or creates repeated clean rushes of its own, the preference can reverse. The late start offers a natural finish to the Saturday watch plan, but confirmed personnel should carry more weight than the convenience of that viewing slot.

GAME TO WATCH 14

SUN, OCT 18 | 8:00 PM ET

Carolina Hurricanes at Calgary Flames

Calgary, Alberta

EDITORIAL SCORE PROJECTION

CAR 3 - CGY 2

UPCOMING

TRAVEL AND RECOVERY CLOSE THE WEEK

WHY WATCH

Carolina moves from Saturday's Winnipeg game to a Sunday date in Calgary. The turnaround creates a clear viewing question: can the visiting forwards continue to support the puck after each recovery, or does the home team gain cleaner exits as the game progresses? Do not assume fatigue decides the contest before it starts.

WHY THIS SCORE

The editorial 3-2 Carolina projection preserves a small road preference while allowing for a close game affected by the schedule. It assumes the visitors manage shifts efficiently and do not hand Calgary repeated uncontested rushes. A single goal separates the teams in this scenario.

WHAT COULD CHANGE IT

Saturday's minutes, travel recovery and the confirmed starter should all refresh the estimate. Calgary can challenge the lean by keeping its first outlet simple and making Carolina defend successive shifts. A key late lineup change can matter more than the assumed edge in this advance projection.

PLAN YOUR VIEWING

The weekend watch plan

Use these windows to follow the featured games with minimal overlap. All times are Eastern; confirm the game's actual U.S. channel and local availability before opening a stream.

FRI, OCT 16 | 9:00 PM ET

Pittsburgh at Colorado

A different opponent after the Dallas double.

SAT, OCT 17 | 3:30 PM ET

Carolina at Winnipeg

An afternoon look at pressure and clean exits.

SAT, OCT 17 | 7:00 PM ET

Islanders at Toronto

The selected prime-time game on a busy slate.

SAT, OCT 17 | 10:00 PM ET

Edmonton at Utah

Compare the adjustments from Thursday.

SUN, OCT 18 | 8:00 PM ET

Carolina at Calgary

The second day of a traveling back-to-back.

Before puck drop: confirm the goalie, check the actual roster and revisit any one-goal lean. An overtime or shootout finish can change the recorded winner; these advance estimates do not specify the finishing mechanism.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Disclaimer & Sources

PUBLICATION SNAPSHOT

Checked October 14, 2026, before Wednesday's games. This is a curated 14-game guide within the 50-game October 12-18 NHL schedule, not a listing of every league game. All start times are ET. Dates, start times and viewing availability may change.

RESULTS AND PROJECTIONS

Five featured games are complete; their scores are final results. The other nine scorelines are original Digital World Pulse editorial estimates. They are not statistical-model probabilities, live odds, guarantees or betting recommendations. Confirm goalies and lineups and refresh a projection after new information.

VISUALS AND INDEPENDENCE

Images are AI-generated editorial illustrations, not documentary photographs from the listed games. Digital World Pulse is independent and is not affiliated with or endorsed by the NHL, its teams or broadcasters. The artwork uses generic players and does not establish a player's availability.

CHECKED SOURCES - CLICK TO OPEN

- [1] [NHL official schedule](#)
- [2] [NHL national TV guide: week of October 12](#)
- [3] [Week schedule and completed results](#)
- [4] [NHL recap: Colorado at Dallas, October 13](#)
- [5] [NHL recap: Edmonton at Los Angeles, October 13](#)
- [6] [NHL recap: Tampa Bay at New York, October 13](#)
- [7] [NHL recap: Boston at San Jose, October 13](#)