



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

NHL GAMES TO WATCH 2026

OCTOBER 20-25, 2026

17 CURATED MATCHUPS | PREVIEWS & PREDICTIONS

North American game dates | U.S. Eastern & Bucharest times

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Editorial selections, not the full league schedule. Goalies and lines can change.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

AVALANCHE AT DEVILS

COLORADO AVALANCHE AT NEW JERSEY DEVILS

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026 | 19:00 EDT

Regular season | Newark | Bucharest 21 Oct 02:00 EEST

Colorado arrives on the second night of a back-to-back after playing in Philadelphia on October 19. That makes New Jersey's early pace an immediate attraction. Jack Hughes is our Devils focal point: watch whether he receives the puck with room to accelerate or has to turn back through traffic. Our narrow home lean depends on New Jersey sustaining pressure without conceding easy counterattacks. Colorado can still punish one loose change. Recheck both starting goalies before upgrading this 4-3 opinion.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

New Jersey Devils

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

NJD 4 - 3 COL

WATCH FOR: HUGHES FINDING SPACE BETWEEN COLORADO'S LINES.



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BRUINS AT STARS

BOSTON BRUINS AT DALLAS STARS

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026 | 20:00 EDT

Regular season | Dallas | Bucharest 21 Oct 03:00 EEST

This is our early-week choice for viewers who enjoy a game decided by access to dangerous ice. Watch how Boston creates a second scoring chance after the first shot, and whether Dallas can move the puck beyond the opening forecheck. We slightly prefer the Stars at home because a patient, controlled contest fits our projected 3-2 outcome. Boston's route is to make every clearance expensive and keep a body in the goalie's sightline. The confirmed goaltending matchup could reverse a small lean.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Dallas Stars

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

DAL 3 - 2 BOS

WATCH FOR: SECOND CHANCES AROUND THE DALLAS CREASE.



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WILD AT OILERS

MINNESOTA WILD AT EDMONTON OILERS

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026 | 21:00 EDT

Regular season | Edmonton | Bucharest 21 Oct 04:00 EEST

Connor McDavid makes Edmonton essential viewing, and this game begins a busy stretch of home dates within our window. The question is how Minnesota handles speed before it reaches the defensive blue line. Backing in too early invites possession; stepping up without support can open a break. Our 5-3 Oilers lean imagines Edmonton creating separation through repeated pressure rather than one isolated highlight. Minnesota's best response is to extend its own attacking shifts and force the home forwards to defend.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Edmonton Oilers

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

EDM 5 - 3 MIN

WATCH FOR: MINNESOTA'S GAP AGAINST MCDAVID IN MOTION.



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LIGHTNING AT GOLDEN KNIGHTS

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING AT VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2026 | 22:30 EDT

Regular season | Las Vegas | Bucharest 21 Oct 05:30 EEST

Tampa Bay opens a trip that also takes it to Colorado and Utah, giving this late game a useful place in the week's story. Watch the Lightning's first pass out of their zone: a clean exit can turn pressure into an attack, while a forced play can leave them defending another shift. We favor Vegas 4-2 in a scenario built on territorial control and a late cushion. That is a pregame preference, with the actual goalie selection and defensive lineup still important.

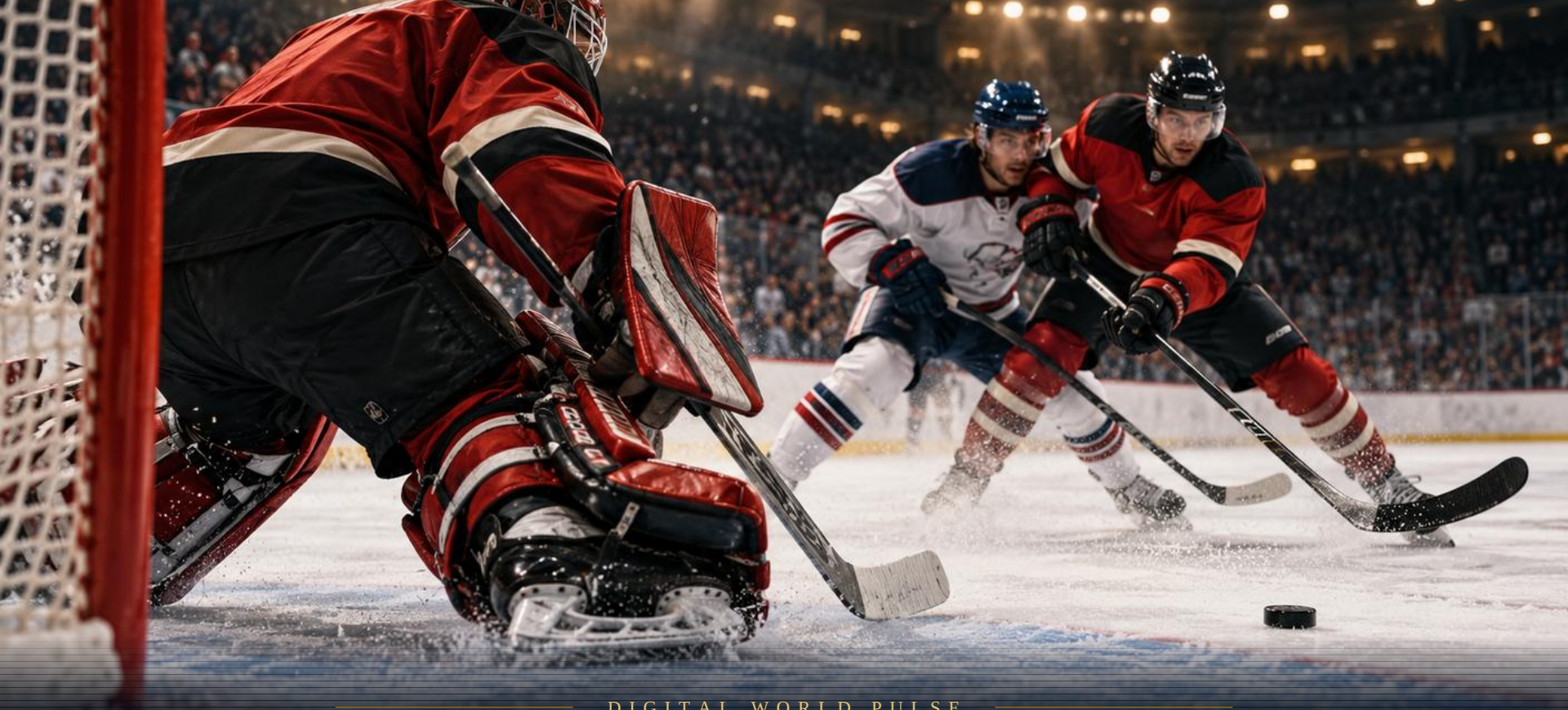
EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Vegas Golden Knights

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

VGK 4 - 2 TBL

WATCH FOR: TAMPA BAY'S FIRST PASS UNDER VEGAS PRESSURE.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

PANTHERS AT SENATORS

FLORIDA PANTHERS AT OTTAWA SENATORS

WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2026 | 19:30 EDT

Regular season | Ottawa | Bucharest 22 Oct 02:30 EEST

Brady Tkachuk returns to Ottawa with Florida; the latest NHL preview lists Aleksander Barkov as unavailable. That makes the emotional storyline compelling while keeping the personnel question central. Watch whether the opening exchanges stay within a useful competitive edge or lead to avoidable penalties. Our 4-3 Panthers lean imagines Florida converting a few decisive chances in a tight game. Ottawa can turn the evening by controlling the space around the crease. Check updated lines and goalies before treating the narrative as an advantage.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Florida Panthers

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

OTT 3 - 4 FLA

WATCH FOR: A CHARGED HOMECOMING WITHOUT COSTLY PENALTIES.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

RANGERS AT MAPLE LEAFS

NEW YORK RANGERS AT TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026 | 19:00 EDT

Regular season | Toronto | Bucharest 23 Oct 02:00 EEST

Auston Matthews supplies the individual focus, but the more revealing contest is Toronto's ability to turn possession into a clear shooting lane. Watch New York's coverage after the puck changes sides: one late handoff can expose the middle. Our narrow Maple Leafs lean favors a 3-2 home result rather than an unrestricted exchange of chances. The Rangers can upset that script by forcing Toronto to restart attacks from deep. This is a good game to follow closely through the final line changes.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Toronto Maple Leafs

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

TOR 3 - 2 NYR

WATCH FOR: MATTHEWS GETTING TO HIS SHOT THROUGH TRAFFIC.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

JETS AT STARS

WINNIPEG JETS AT DALLAS STARS

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026 | 20:00 EDT

Regular season | Dallas | Bucharest 23 Oct 03:00 EEST

NHL.com reported on October 19 that Winnipeg was still awaiting clarity on Connor Hellebuyck. Keep the confirmed starter at the center of this preview rather than penciling in a familiar name. On the ice, watch Dallas try to turn clean breakouts into sustained attacking time, and Winnipeg's response when the first outlet is closed. Our 4-2 Stars projection favors the home side's route to a controlled third period. A different goaltending picture or a quick Winnipeg lead would require a fresh assessment.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Dallas Stars

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

DAL 4 - 2 WPG

WATCH FOR: GOALIE CONFIRMATION BEFORE THE CENTRAL MATCHUP.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

GOLDEN KNIGHTS AT BLUES

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS AT ST. LOUIS BLUES

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026 | 20:00 EDT

Regular season | St. Louis | Bucharest 23 Oct 03:00 EEST

This is a useful counterpoint to the week's faster-looking showcases. Watch the space between the blue lines and how quickly each side finds a safe next pass after a turnover. St. Louis can make the game uncomfortable by slowing entries and recovering the loose puck; Vegas can answer by moving it before the pressure arrives. Our 3-2 Golden Knights lean expects a narrow margin and a meaningful late shift. Goalies, special-teams opportunities and the quality of the first defensive read can move this pick.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Vegas Golden Knights

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

STL 2 - 3 VGK

WATCH FOR: WHICH TEAM OWNS THE MIDDLE AFTER TURNS.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

HURRICANES AT OILERS

CAROLINA HURRICANES AT EDMONTON OILERS

THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2026 | 21:00 EDT

Regular season | Edmonton | Bucharest 23 Oct 04:00 EEST

Edmonton's second appearance in this guide offers a different viewing test: how it escapes pressure before the attack can accelerate. Watch Carolina's first two forecheckers and the support arriving behind the puck. If the Oilers make that pressure miss, the next rush can be dangerous; if they force the outlet, Carolina can extend a shift. We lean Edmonton 4-3 while treating the matchup as close. Compare the home side's execution with Tuesday's game, and revisit the forecast after those earlier minutes are played.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Edmonton Oilers

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

EDM 4 - 3 CAR

WATCH FOR: EDMONTON'S EXITS AGAINST THE FIRST FORECHECK.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

CANADIENS AT BLACKHAWKS

MONTREAL CANADIENS AT CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2026 | 20:00 EDT

Regular season | Chicago | Bucharest 24 Oct 03:00 EEST

Chicago's Connor Bedard is an obvious individual reason to tune in. The team question is whether the Blackhawks can support the next play once a first defender is beaten, or leave the puck carrier working alone. Montreal's route in our 4-2 projection is to keep the middle organized and turn a patient shift into a second chance. Watch the Canadiens' discipline when possession breaks down. This Friday selection is also a useful lead-in to Montreal's outdoor date in Winnipeg on Sunday.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Montreal Canadiens

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

CHI 2 - 4 MTL

WATCH FOR: BEDARD'S NEXT PLAY AFTER THE FIRST DEFENDER.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

LIGHTNING AT AVALANCHE

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING AT COLORADO AVALANCHE

FRIDAY 23 OCTOBER 2026 | 21:00 EDT

Regular season | Denver | Bucharest 24 Oct 04:00 EEST

This is our high-tempo Friday selection, with a projected 5-4 Colorado win reflecting an open-game scenario. Watch the risk each side accepts when a defender joins the attack, because one misplaced pass can send the play straight back toward goal. Tampa Bay is scheduled to visit Utah the following night, making goalie deployment and workload worth checking. Colorado earns our small home preference if it turns recoveries into attacks without stretching its support too far. A controlled, low-event game would undermine this score projection.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Colorado Avalanche

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

COL 5 - 4 TBL

WATCH FOR: THE FIRST ATTACK AFTER A LOOSE OFFENSIVE PASS.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

KINGS AT DEVILS

LOS ANGELES KINGS AT NEW JERSEY DEVILS

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 2026 | 15:30 EDT

Regular season | Newark | Bucharest 24 Oct 22:30 EEST

The 15:30 Eastern start gives this selection a distinct place in Saturday's viewing plan, and it is the guide's most convenient same-evening option for Bucharest. Watch how New Jersey handles a crowded middle: a reset and a better entry can be more useful than forcing the first available pass. Los Angeles can change the game by keeping the puck deep and denying easy restarts. Our 3-1 Devils lean describes a disciplined home win, with limited scoring chances and room for a late insurance goal.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

New Jersey Devils

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

NJD 3 - 1 LAK

WATCH FOR: NEW JERSEY'S PATIENCE AGAINST A CLOSED MIDDLE.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

MAPLE LEAFS AT OILERS

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS AT EDMONTON OILERS

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 2026 | 19:00 EDT

Regular season | Edmonton | Bucharest 25 Oct 02:00 EEST

Matthews and McDavid give this Canadian matchup immediate appeal. Watch the support around them as closely as the highlight play: a well-timed pass or a strong defensive recovery can decide who gets the next dangerous touch. Edmonton has three home games in our six-day window, while Toronto arrives after hosting New York on Thursday. Our Oilers lean is 4-3 in a close contest. Recheck the earlier results and confirmed goalies; this pregame snapshot cannot include performances that have not happened yet.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Edmonton Oilers

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

EDM 4 - 3 TOR

WATCH FOR: MATTHEWS AND MCDAVID WITHOUT LOSING THE TEAM PICTURE.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

RANGERS AT SENATORS

NEW YORK RANGERS AT OTTAWA SENATORS

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER 2026 | 19:00 EDT

Regular season | Ottawa | Bucharest 25 Oct 02:00 EEST

Ottawa's second selection lets viewers compare its response to two different opponents in the same home stretch. Watch what happens after the first shot: the save matters, but clearing the rebound and finding the next pass can matter just as much. New York can tilt the game by extending possession after an apparent stop. We give the Senators a narrow 3-2 home lean, conditional on a stable defensive lineup and goaltending. This is one to revisit after Ottawa's Wednesday and Thursday games have been played.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Ottawa Senators

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

OTT 3 - 2 NYR

WATCH FOR: OTTAWA'S REBOUND CONTROL AFTER THE INITIAL SAVE.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

CANADIENS AT JETS

MONTREAL CANADIENS AT WINNIPEG JETS

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2026 | 19:00 EDT

Heritage Classic | Princess Auto Stadium | Bucharest 26 Oct 01:00 EET

The Heritage Classic moves this matchup outdoors at Princess Auto Stadium in Winnipeg. The setting alone makes it our signature Sunday selection. Watch how players adjust their first touches, puck retrievals and shooting decisions as the game develops; conditions can affect those choices without making the result predictable. We narrowly favor Montreal 3-2, with the starting-goalie announcement especially important before committing to the lean. Treat the outdoor spectacle and the hockey assessment separately: a memorable stage does not remove the uncertainty of a close game.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Montreal Canadiens

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

WPG 2 - 3 MTL

HERITAGE CLASSIC | PRINCESS AUTO STADIUM | OUTDOOR HOCKEY



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

AVALANCHE AT PREDATORS

COLORADO AVALANCHE AT NASHVILLE PREDATORS

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2026 | 20:00 EDT

Regular season | Nashville | Bucharest 26 Oct 02:00 EET

Colorado's Sunday visit to Nashville completes its three-game thread in this guide, after New Jersey and Tampa Bay. Watch how the Predators protect the middle when the puck changes direction quickly. A defender stepping up needs support behind him; a cautious retreat can leave room for another attacking touch. Our 4-2 Avalanche lean favors Colorado creating a decisive spell of pressure. Nashville's counter is to keep its own shifts alive and force the visitor to defend. Update the assessment after Friday's game and the goalie announcements.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Colorado Avalanche

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

NSH 2 - 4 COL

WATCH FOR: NASHVILLE'S SUPPORT WHEN COLORADO CHANGES DIRECTION.



DIGITAL WORLD PULSE

WILD AT CANUCKS

MINNESOTA WILD AT VANCOUVER CANUCKS

SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER 2026 | 22:00 EDT

Regular season | Vancouver | Bucharest 26 Oct 04:00 EET

Minnesota is scheduled to play in Seattle on Saturday and Vancouver on Sunday, making this the clearest workload lens among our closing selections. Watch the Wild's shift length, defensive support and ability to recover loose pucks before treating fatigue as a conclusion. Vancouver earns a small 3-2 home lean in our scenario, but a sharp Minnesota start can quickly change the picture. Confirm which goalie takes this second night and how Saturday's minutes were distributed. For Bucharest, this late finale falls early on Monday.

EDITORIAL LEAN | INCLUDING OT/SO

Vancouver Canucks

PROJECTED FINAL | HOME TEAM FIRST

VAN 3 - 2 MIN

WATCH FOR: MINNESOTA'S ENERGY ON THE SECOND STRAIGHT NIGHT.

DISCLAIMER & SOURCES

REFERENCE LINKS | RESEARCHED OCTOBER 20, 2026

- [1] NHL Gamecenter - Avalanche at Devils (20 Oct)
- [2] NHL Gamecenter - Bruins at Stars (20 Oct)
- [3] NHL Gamecenter - Wild at Oilers (20 Oct)
- [4] NHL Gamecenter - Lightning at Golden Knights (20 Oct)
- [5] NHL Gamecenter - Panthers at Senators (21 Oct)
- [6] NHL Gamecenter - Rangers at Maple Leafs (22 Oct)
- [7] NHL Gamecenter - Jets at Stars (22 Oct)
- [8] NHL Gamecenter - Golden Knights at Blues (22 Oct)
- [9] NHL Gamecenter - Hurricanes at Oilers (22 Oct)
- [10] NHL Gamecenter - Canadiens at Blackhawks (23 Oct)
- [11] NHL Gamecenter - Lightning at Avalanche (23 Oct)
- [12] NHL Gamecenter - Kings at Devils (24 Oct)
- [13] NHL Gamecenter - Maple Leafs at Oilers (24 Oct)
- [14] NHL Gamecenter - Rangers at Senators (24 Oct)
- [15] NHL Gamecenter - Canadiens at Jets (25 Oct)
- [16] NHL Gamecenter - Avalanche at Predators (25 Oct)
- [17] NHL Gamecenter - Wild at Canucks (25 Oct)
- [18] PoolExpert - Complete October schedule cross-check
- [19] NHL - Weekly highlights and Tkachuk's return
- [20] NHL - Heritage Classic venue, date and event guide
- [21] NHL - Winnipeg's Hellebuyck situation, October 19
- [22] Oilers - Connor McDavid player profile
- [23] Maple Leafs - Auston Matthews player profile
- [24] Devils - Jack Hughes player profile
- [25] Blackhawks - Connor Bedard player profile

SCOPE & EDITORIAL NOTE

Independent Digital World Pulse viewing guide for information and entertainment. This is a selection of 17 games, not the full schedule. Dates use the North American game date; times show U.S. Eastern and Bucharest, including Romania's October 25 clock change. Research was completed October 20, 2026. Recheck schedules, rosters, injuries, lines and confirmed goalies. Later previews cannot incorporate intervening games not yet played. Editorial leans and projected scores are opinions, not actual results, guarantees, bookmaker odds or a calibrated model. Scores are home team first and include overtime or a shootout if required. AI images are conceptual illustrations, not actual game photographs or identifiable player portraits. Not affiliated with the NHL or its clubs.

Contents entries and numbered source references are clickable.