

# SHARKS BEAT OILERS 3-2 IN OVERTIME

**EDMONTON:** The veteran San Jose Sharks taught the upstart Edmonton Oilers a lesson in playoff intensity on Wednesday, spotting them two early goals before coming back to win 3-2 in overtime. Melker Karlsson scored at 3:22 of overtime in the opening game of the first-round Western Conference series. "We got the chance and I snuck it in," said Karlsson, who fired a snap shot from the top of the right circle past goalie Cam Talbot. "I got a little space and (Joe Pavelski) saw me in the middle. It was a half-breakaway. It was nice."

The Oilers took a 2-0 lead in the first period only to get outshot 34-9 the rest of the way. The Sharks came back and tied the game with just more than 15 minutes left in regulation. Joel Ward and Paul Martin also scored for San Jose. Milan Lucic and Oscar Klefbom scored for the Oilers before 18,347 fans at sold-out Rogers Place. Edmonton center Connor McDavid, the NHL's leading scorer in the regular season, had one assist in his playoff debut to extend his point streak to 15 games. For the most part, however, he was held in check by the Sharks. "We did a good job starting the game but we've got to finish," McDavid said. "They had the puck all night. They played in our zone. When you don't have the puck you're not going to get many shots on goal." It was the first playoff game in the Oilers' new downtown arena and the team's first post-season game in almost 11 years.

The Sharks played without star center Joe Thornton, who is day to day with a left knee injury. But center Logan Couture returned to the lineup with a full face cage. He missed seven games after having his mouth and teeth smashed by a deflected puck. The teams were headed in opposite directions coming into the playoffs. The Oilers won 12 of their last 14 regular-season games, while San Jose dropped nine of 13. The Sharks, however, are the defending Western Conference champions with 1,169 games of playoff experience on their roster compared with 342 for Edmonton. Game 2 is today in Edmonton.

## Blues 2, Wild 1 (OT)

Goalie Jake Allen had a season-high 51 saves and Vladimir Sobotka scored in regula-



**MONTREAL:** Montreal Canadiens' Brendan Gallagher (left) and New York Rangers' Mats Zuccarello collide during the second period of Game 1 of an NHL first-round hockey playoff series on Wednesday, April 12, 2017. —AP

tion for the St. Louis Blues, giving them a 1-0 lead in their best-of-seven series against Minnesota. The Blues were less than a minute from winning in regulation, but Wild left winger Zach Parise's goal with 22.7 seconds left forged a tie after Minnesota's first 43 shots had been turned aside by Allen.

## Penguins 3, Blue Jackets 1

Marc-Andre Fleury, a last-minute starter after goaltender Matt Murray got hurt during the pregame warmup, stopped 31 of 32 shots as Pittsburgh beat Columbus in Game

1 of a first-round Eastern Conference playoff series. The Penguins built a 3-0 lead in the second period with goals from Bryan Rust, Phil Kessel and Nick Bonino. Evgeni Malkin added two assists. The Blue Jackets spoiled Fleury's bid for his ninth career playoff shutout when Matt Calvert scored from the slot at 12:41 of the third.

## Bruins 2, Senators 1

Brad Marchand scored with 2:33 left in regulation as Boston rallied in the third period for a victory over Ottawa. Bobby Ryan

scored for the Senators, while Frank Vatrano also scored for the Bruins. Tuukka Rask made 26 saves in the Boston net while Craig Anderson stopped 23 shots for Ottawa.

## NY Rangers 2, Canadiens 0

Tanner Glass' first-period goal helped New York beat Montreal in the opener of an Eastern Conference playoff series. Michael Grabner added a late empty-net goal for the Rangers, who got 31 saves from Henrik Lundqvist. Carey Price stopped 29 shots for the Canadiens. —Agencies

## NHL ADDING iPADS ON BENCHES FOR PLAYOFFS

**NEW YORK:** NHL coaches have been given more technology on the bench in time for the Stanley Cup playoffs. The league is making three iPad Pros available for coaches on every bench and officials will also have them to review coach's challenges. The Associated Press has learned. All 16 playoff arenas were outfitted with the iPads and also Macs for video coaches as part of a collaboration with Apple. This season, coaches have been able to use video monitors on the bench to help them decide when to challenge offside and goaltender interference situations. The iPads, which were tested late in the regular season, provide real-time video capabilities to show players how they're performing.

"By the time the player gets off his shift, that content is available within a minute, I guess, from the time it actually took place," NHL executive vice president and chief technology officer Peter DelGiaccio said. "Today generally speaking a lot of that would be done between periods and there's a limited amount of time. ... This kind of gives the coaches and the players real-time access so that they can make adjustments."

The monitors had already become a game-changer for coaches, giving them more information on challenges and for player feedback. The technology is even more valuable in

the playoffs when goals are scarce and the offside and goaltender interference challenges can decide a game - or a series. The St. Louis Blues lost Game 2 to the Chicago Blackhawks last year when a coach's challenge wiped out a go-ahead goal by Vladimir Tarasenko, and even though they won the series they felt the attrition of needing seven games to advance. "It's going to be huge in the playoffs," Washington Capitals coach Barry Trotz said. "The referees, the league wants to get it right, the coaches want to get it right."

## League cracks down

During the season, 86 of 313 coach's challenges were successful in overturning calls. With the aid of the monitors, headsets and video coaches watching live, each team developed its own step by-step process in deciding when to challenge a goal for goalie interference or offside and tried to perfect it. Speed will be key as the league cracks down on coaches who dawdle before deciding to challenge. "When you have challenges, to have the ability to quickly look at what you're doing and now they're trying to expedite it even that much more," Arizona Coyotes coach Dave Tippett said. "When you're in those critical moments, you've got to make that decision in a hurry. You better

have somebody good back there that knows what you want to see and the ability to make the decision quick."

Having iPads in the hands of assistant coaches will provide a crucial benefit for player adjustments. Late in the season, Ottawa Senators winger Bobby Ryan looked at film of Pittsburgh Penguins goaltender Matt Murray on the bench before a shootout, and coach Guy Boucher has also used the advanced technology beyond challenges. "We look at it because sometimes we're not seeing everything that's going on the ice,"

Boucher said. "It's good also for feedback with our players and, yeah, it's good for challenges and all that. I think it's been important since the beginning of the year. It helps is also between periods because instead of looking at 12 different things between periods, we might have to look at five or six, so it's quicker for us to get back to our players and tell them about adjustments because sometimes we already know a few adjustments and a lot of times we'll address it right on the bench." David Lehanski, NHL senior VP of business development, global partnerships and sponsorship sales, said the move got done in time for the playoffs but the league would have also been OK starting next season. —AP