



## DAILY CLIPPINGS

Lack introduces himself to new coach by keeping Canucks in game for 40 minutes

By Ed Willes, The Province

Lack introduces himself to new coach by keeping Canucks in game for 40 minutes

Eddie Lack gets the job done in the Vancouver net.

John Tortorella was dimly aware Eddie Lack was the other guy in his locker room who wore big pads but that was about all he knew about the young Swede.

After Sunday night, he has a better idea about his backup goalie.

"We found out a little about Eddie tonight," said Tortorella after Lack played a starring role in the Canucks' wild 5-4 overtime win over the Flames.

And he liked what he discovered.

Lack, making his first NHL start, stopped 24 of 26 shots through the first two periods and generally held the Canucks in the game long enough to find their legs.

He finally earned the win on Mike Santorelli's overtime goal after the Flames' David Jones tied the game with 19 seconds left in regulation. By then, he had made believers of his teammates and coach.

"We hung him out to dry for a couple of periods there and he kept us in the game," said Chris Higgins.

"He was unbelievable," said Henrik Sedin.

Tortorella, for his part, allowed he'd talked to Lack only once or twice since he took over the Canucks but reasoned Sunday night was as good a time as any to see if he could deliver the goods. The goalie rotation, he said, is not etched in stone -- "It's a day-to-day thing," he said -- but the importance of Sunday's performance wasn't lost on Lack.

"I know coming in there are a lot of question marks about me with my surgery," he said afterwards. "It's important for me to help the team get some points."

Lack, in fact, was in the process of establishing himself as one of the game's fine young goaltending prospects before his development was impeded by last season's hip injury. Two years ago, he recorded a .925 save percentage and 2.31 goals-against average in 46 games with the Chicago Wolves. In 2010-11, his first year in North America, he had a .926 save percentage and 2.26 GAA in 56 starts with Manitoba.

Last year, however, he was shut down in November before undergoing surgery in January. He came into the Canucks as an unknown quantity but also was the only alternative to Roberto Luongo.

"I told myself to stick with it and play the full 60 minutes," Lack said, still beaming in the Canucks' locker room after the game. "I felt like I did that. It was just so much fun when we came back.

"I was very nervous on the bus ride over here but as soon as I got into my normal warmup routine and on to the ice. I was OK. The guys have been really supportive. It's just felt like a normal game."

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Lack stars in his first NHL start as Canucks prove nothing is going to come easy

By Ed Willes, The Province

CALGARY – John Tortorella went on something of a fact-finding mission on Sunday and, while it's hard to know what exactly the Vancouver Canucks' head coach learned amid all the craziness at The Saddledome, it likely dawned on him that the early part of this season isn't going to be smooth or predictable.

"Really, we should have been spanked," Tortorella said shortly after the Canucks fashioned a wildly improbable 5-4 overtime win against the Calgary Flames. "It's a good test for our team to win a game like that. Those are some games you're going to have win during a year. You're not always going to be perfect and we found a way tonight."

But they had to look really hard for this one.

In the Flames' home opener, the Canucks pulled a complete no-show for two periods, fashioned a frenzied third-period comeback when Tortorella took a meat cleaver to his lineup, took the lead on fourth-liner Dale Weise's goal with 3 and a half minutes left, piddled it away when Vancouver kid David Jones scored the tying goal for the Flames off a wild scramble with 19 seconds left, then won it on Mike Santorelli's second goal of the game in overtime.

Read that and it sounds simple enough but it doesn't begin to capture the wild swings in momentum, the moments of inspiration and ineptitude and the general chaos within the affair.

"It just felt awesome when Santorelli scored," said rookie goalie Eddie Lack, who starred in his first NHL game.

And maybe that was the only important takeaway for the Canucks. But it was a mighty struggle to get there.

Through two periods, the Orcans were outshot 26-14 by a Calgary club that is chest-deep in a rebuilding project. The only reason they were still in the game was Lack. The rookie 'keeper, who missed the last five months of last season with a hip injury, stopped 12 of 13 in the first period and 11 of 12 in the second while his mates went through the motions in front of him.

"It could have got embarrassing," said Henrik Sedin.

"It was good to see the team play for (Lack) in the third period because he gave us the opportunity to win," said Tortorella.

But the coach's fine hand could also be found in this victory. With the Canucks in a daze, Tortorella split up the Sedin twins in the third period after he had split up his top defensive pairing of Dan Hamhuis and Kevin Bieksa in the second frame. This has happened only a handful of times in the twins' years in Vancouver and rarely has it been successful. But Daniel immediately set up Jannik Hansen with the first goal of the comeback before Henrik teed one up for Santorelli to tie the game. Weise and Jones then traded goals late in the third before the twins, reunited, almost won it on the first shift in overtime.

It was left to Bieksa, whose evening mirrored his team, to set up Santorelli for the game-winner.

"It wasn't just to split (the Sedins) up," said Tortorella. "I mean, we had six body checks and four scoring chances in two periods. We were dead in the water. It's an easy decision to change things up."

"It wasn't a big deal for us," said Henrik. "We came out as a new team. We got some new lines rolling and got some energy from that."

As for the deeper meaning of the game, Henrik said: "It was a big win for us. To go home 2-1 and feeling good about our game is huge. Now we can move on."

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## **Sedin Corner is a very suite place**

Brian Morton      Vancouver Sun

Surrey teachers first to get royal treatment

Henrik and Daniel Sedin and their families launched Sedin Corner Saturday, a 14- person suite at Rogers Arena that will host throughout the hockey season charities and groups that support children's health and education as well as family wellness.

The Sedins, who arrived in Vancouver in 1999, have helped more than 50 charities since their arrival, including the Canucks For Kids Fund, the Canucks Family Education Centre, Canuck Place Children's Hospice, the YWCA and B. C. Children's Hospital, where they made a \$ 1.5- million donation in 2010.

"Our families feel very fortunate to live and work in Vancouver and we want to give something back that would benefit children and families across the province," said Henrik Sedin.

"We hope that an evening at a Canucks game will be a way for us to convey our thanks to the dedicated people who spend their days doing great

work in children's health and education while supporting families throughout British Columbia," added Daniel Sedin.

Guests of Sedin Corner receive game tickets, parking passes, food and beverage from Aramark Sports & Entertainment, an in- game welcome and Sedin Corner and Canucks souvenirs.

Who benefits: Surrey's Holly Elementary — a school with a large immigrant population whose staff are known for going above and beyond every day — was the first recipient of the suite Saturday night to honour World Teachers Day, which was October 4.

Number of applications: More than 70 from around B. C. were received and they are now being reviewed by the Sedin families.

Decor and design of the suite: It's reflective of a comfortable Swedish home with lots of light, wood flooring, simple patterns and clean lines.

Food: Swedish meatballs are included in the food and beverage selection for all guests.

Other Canucks who have offered suites to deserving individuals: Trevor Linden, Captain's Crew & Linden's Locker room, 1995-1998; Markus Naslund, Nazy's Suite, 2001- 2008; Roberto Luongo, Lui's Crease Club, 2008- 2013.

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Tortorella's juggling act pays off

Brad Ziemer      Vancouver Sun

Mike Santorelli scores twice, including the OT winner, as Canucks rally for the win

John Tortorella wants his Vancouver Canucks to be tougher to play against. For two periods Sunday night, they were just tough to watch.

The Canucks delivered a dreadful, lacklustre performance in the opening 40 minutes that must have had Tortorella peeling the fresh paint off the walls of the visitors' dressing room at the Scotiabank Saddledome.

"What goes on in our lockerroom is going to stay there," Tortorella said after his team rallied from a two- goal thirdperiod deficit to defeat the Calgary Flames 5- 4 in overtime and earn goalie Eddie Lack a win in his NHL debut.

Whatever he said, it worked, as did some third- period line-juggling when Tortorella split up all of his forward lines, including the Sedin twins.

"We had six bodychecks and four scoring chances in two periods," Tortorella said. "So we were dead in the water. It was an easy decision just to change things up."

"We played OK for five minutes early on and we were really bad for two periods," added Daniel Sedin. "I thought in the third we got them on their heels a little bit and turned pucks over and we got some goals. But for 40 minutes it's not good enough."

Mike Santorelli's second goal of the night, at 3: 17 of overtime, gave the Canucks a win that never would have happened without the solid play of Lack in the first two periods.

Tortorella heaped praise on Lack as well as rookie defenceman Ryan Stanton, who was plus- two on the night and logged more than 16 minute of ice time.

"You still have to look at the big picture, where we are going as a team," Tortorella said. "And we found out a little bit about Eddie tonight and also a young defenceman that we just picked up."

Lack faced 36 shots and made a number of big saves, particularly in the second period, that kept the game within reach for the Canucks.

"He gives us a chance," Tortorella said. "It was good to see the team played for him in the third period because he gave us the opportunity."

Santorelli's game- winner salvaged a successful weekend for the Canucks, who roasted the Edmonton Oilers 6- 2 in their home- opener Saturday night at Rogers Arena. They are now 2- 1- 0 in the early going and return home to begin a threegame homestand Tuesday night against Cory Schneider and the New Jersey Devils.

Santorelli finished off a beautiful cross- ice pass from defenceman Kevin Bieksa to score his game- winner. Midway through the third period, Santorelli was a beneficiary of another nice pass — this one from Henrik Sedin — to tie the game 3- 3.

"The first one Hank made a great play and then the second one Juice ( Bieksa) made an unbelievable pass across the D and it went in, said Santorelli, who couldn't believe his good fortune when he found himself skating on a line with Henrik in the third period.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "Those two guys are unbelievable. It is great watching them and they are our leaders. They stepped up again tonight."

Before Santorelli's first goal, Daniel Sedin set up Jannik Hansen to cut the Calgary lead to 3- 2.

Daniel had no problem skating on a new line with centre Ryan Kesler and Hansen.

"I liked it," he said. "We didn't create much for two periods, so something needed to happen ... it's a mental game. We easily could have blamed the travel or whatever, but we kept digging hard and got back in the game. I think that showed a lot."

"I know the focus is on the twins, but we split up all the lines," said Tortorella, who called the first two periods unacceptable. "I think the guys just decided to play for Eddie because he gave them a chance to be there with still an opportunity to win a hockey game when really we should have been spanked."

The Canucks, who trailed 2- 1 after 40 minutes, looked to be dead when Sean Monahan put a shot through Lack's legs off a 2- on- 1 rush at 1: 47 of the third.

But after Hansen and Santorelli scored four minutes apart, Dale Weise potted what looked like the game- winner at 16: 06 of the third off a nice setup from Brad Richardson.

But David Jones, off a wild goalmouth scramble tied forced overtime with 19 seconds remaining in the third period.

"It's a good test for a our team to win a game like that," Tortorella said. "Those are games you are going to have to win during the year. You're not always going to be perfect and we found a way tonight."

David Booth and Calgary defenceman Mark Giordano traded goals in the first period. Booth hadn't scored with a goalie in the net since April 7, 2012. His lone goal in an injury- shortened 2013 season was an empty- netter.

Mikael Backlund scored Calgary's other goal on a breakaway midway through the second period.

The Canucks again played with just 11 forwards and used defenceman Yannick Weber as the 12th forward. Tortorella said he has no plans to call up an extra forward.

“No, our lineup is what it is,” he said before the game. “We’re not looking to call anybody up.”

The Canucks have lost winger Alex Burrows for at least a couple of weeks with a right foot injury suffered while blocking a shot in Thursday night’s seasonopener in San Jose.

Winger Zack Kassian, who has two more games to serve of his suspension, should be back for Saturday’s home game against Montreal.

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The Stork delivers a win in his first NHL start

Brad Ziemer      Vancouver Sun

Coach has high praise for first- timer Eddie Lack and rookie defenceman Ryan Stanton

CALGARY — Eddie Lack knew there were questions and he did a nice job of answering them on Sunday night.

Lack got a win in his NHL debut and the Vancouver Canucks did not win despite their backup goaltender. Rather, to a large degree, they won because the 25- year- old Swede with the omnipresent smile gave them a chance.

The long- limbed player nicknamed The Stork delivered.

Lack stood strong during the first two periods before his teammates finally came to life in the third and managed to register a come- from- behind 5- 4 overtime win over the Calgary Flames.

“I know coming in here, there were a lot of question- marks about me, with my surgery I haven’t played a lot so it was important for me to help the team get some points in the beginning,” Lack said.

Lack had played only 13 games last season before undergoing major hip surgery and many have wondered if the Canucks were taking a huge gamble making him Roberto Luongo’s backup.

Before the game, Vancouver coach John Tortorella acknowledged he did not know a whole lot about Lack.

"There is no question we want to see what Eddie is," Tortorella said. "That 60- or 65- game range is a good range for a starting goaltender. We need Lack to not only play some games, but also get points."

"It's not just about spelling the No. 1 goalie. It's about getting points because that is what helps you in the standings. So it's a great opportunity to get him right in and we'll see where we go with him from there."

Lack battled some butterflies on the bus ride to the rink, but said he felt quite calm by the time the game started.

"I felt good," he said. "I felt like I saw the puck well, I tracked it well. I kind of want that third one back, but it was a pretty good shot. I am really happy right now."

Lack surrendered that third goal to Calgary centre Sean Monahan on a 2-on-1 rush early in the third that gave the Flames a 3-1 lead.

After the game, Lack was thinking about his father, Jan, a carpenter back home in Sweden who taught him how to play goal.

"I am sure my dad had a heart attack back home in Sweden," Lack said. "I'm sure he's happy now. He probably won't be able to go back to sleep. I talked to him before the game and he told me to just go out there and have fun. He knows how hard I have been working at this for a while."

His teammates were awfully happy for Lack as well.

"I remember my first start and it's exciting," said Luongo. "I am really happy for him."

"Eddie Lack was phenomenal, kept us in the game," added defenceman Kevin Bieksa. "I think anytime you play your first NHL game it is going to be special, but to play the way he did and be such a big part of the win. I'm sure he's happy and we're happy. That was the first chance we had to see him play in the regular season and he didn't disappoint us. We're pretty confident with him."

In addition to Lack, Tortorella had high praise for another rookie, defenceman Ryan Stanton.

"He is not flashy, I think he understands positioning," Tortorella said of Stanton, who was claimed on waivers last week from the Chicago



Blackhawks. "He comes from a pretty good organization. He has been taught well. I just like his presence."

Stanton moved up to play with Biekse part way through the game, while Dan Hamhuis dropped down to play on the third pairing with Chris Tanev.

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## SANTORELLI SCORES OT WINNER AS CANUCKS TOP FLAMES

The Canadian Press

CALGARY -- A third-period spark required, Vancouver Canucks head coach John Tortorella shuffled his forwards and split twin forwards Henrik and [Daniel Sedin](#) onto different lines Sunday in Calgary.

The move paid dividends as the Canucks scored three goals in the period and [Mike Santorelli](#) provided the overtime winner in a 5-4 victory over the Flames.

It was the second win for Vancouver (2-1) in as many nights following a 6-2 win over the Edmonton Oilers in their home-opener Saturday.

Santorelli deflected a pass from [Kevin Biekse](#) to score at 3:17 in overtime.

Trailing 3-1, the Canucks kicked off their third-period comeback with [Daniel Sedin](#) assisting on a Jannick Hansen goal at 5:01, followed by [Henrik Sedin](#) setting up Santorelli's first goal of the game at 9:27.

"I know the focus is on the twins, but we split up all the lines," Tortorella said. "We had six body checks and four scoring chances in two periods, so we were dead in the water. It's an easy decision to change things up."

[Dale Weise](#) put the visitors up 4-3 at 16:06, but Calgary's [David Jones](#) tied the game again with 19 seconds remaining in regulation.

Canucks backup goaltender [Eddie Lack](#) made 32 saves in the first NHL regular-season game of his career. [Roberto Luongo](#) had made 21 saves against the Oilers.

"I was nervous on the bus ride over here, but as soon as I got into my normal warmup routine and got on the ice, the guys have been really supportive, then it felt like a normal game," said Lack, a 25-year-old Swede.

"I know coming in here there was a lot of question marks about me because I haven't played a lot. It's important for me to help the team get some points here in the beginning."

[Mikael Backlund](#), [Sean Monahan](#) and Calgary captain [Mark Giordano](#) also scored for the Flames (1-0-2). It was the second goal in three games for 18-year-old Monahan, who was selected sixth overall by Calgary in the 2013 NHL draft.

MacDonald stopped 23 shots in his second straight start after picking up the win in Calgary's 4-2 decision over Columbus on Friday.

Tortorella lauded Lack's play and that of 24-year-old defenceman [Ryan Stanton](#), who was claimed off waivers a few days ago.

Calgary outshot Vancouver 26-14 and out-hit them 14-6 in the first two periods.

"I think the guys decided to play for Eddie," Tortorella said. "He gave them a chance to be there and still have an opportunity to win a hockey game where really, we should have been spanked."

"It's a good test for our team to win a game like that. Those are some games you're going to have to win during the year. You're not always going to be perfect and we found a way to win."

The Flames have earned four out of a possible six points in their first three games of this NHL season, but have squandered leads in two of those games.

"We kind of sat back, we turned the puck over a couple times in the third period and with a team like that, they have a lot of talent," MacDonald said. "The Sedins, that's what they thrive on, they want to get these turnovers and they usually make you pay."

With MacDonald pulled for an extra attacker, Jones sent the game into overtime by shovelling the puck in during a goal-mouth scramble at 19:41 of the third. Officials ruled the goal valid after review.

Vancouver's [Brad Richardson](#) fed Weise with a wrap-around pass to put the Canucks up 4-3 at 16:06.

[Henrik Sedin](#) pounced on a neutral zone turnover from Calgary and dished to Santorelli who beat MacDonald with a wrist shot to tie the game 3-3.

[Daniel Sedin](#) corralled a [Curtis Glencross](#) giveaway behind the goal-line and fed it to Hansen in the slot to pull the Canucks within a goal.

Monahan, from Brampton, Ont., gave Calgary a 3-1 lead at 1:47 of the third. On an odd-man rush, he gained an outside lane, feinted a pass and slipped the puck under Lack.

Backlund scored on a breakaway off a [T.J. Brodie](#) stretch pass at 11:26 of the second period. He deked Lack and shovelled a backhand by the Vancouver goaltender's outstretched pad.

Giordano scored his first goal of the season and team-leading fourth point on a long wrist shot which beat Lack top shelf at 14:32 of the first.

Booth earned his 200th career point deflecting a [Jason Garrison](#) shot from the blue-line low past MacDonald's stick at 4:47 of the first for a 1-0 Vancouver lead.

Calgary hosts the Montreal Canadiens on Wednesday. The Canucks are at home to the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday.

Notes: Singer Corb Lund sang "Blood, Sweat and Water" during the pre-game ceremony in honour of Calgarians' efforts after the June floods that destroyed the lower level of the Saddledome . . . Calgary fell to 18-15-7 in home-openers . . . Flames forwards [Mike Cammalleri](#) (wrist) and [Matt Stajan](#) (leg contusion) and defencemen [Chris Breen](#) (shoulder) were Calgary's scratches . . . Forward Alex Burrows was out of Vancouver's lineup.

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## HAMHUIS AND HANSEN SPARK CANUCKS TO VICTORY OVER OILERS

The Canadian Press

VANCOUVER -- When the Vancouver Canucks hired John Tortorella, performances like Saturday night's were probably what they envisioned.

Fast, aggressive forecheck and relentless puck pressure in all three zones are hallmarks of the fiery coach's style, and it was all on display against the overmatched Edmonton Oilers.

[Dan Hamhuis](#) and [Jannik Hansen](#) scored 18 seconds apart late in the first period as the Canucks cruised to a 6-2 victory over the Oilers in Vancouver's home opener.

"That's the way we want to play. That's the way we want to continue to play and we want to enforce that on other teams," said Canucks centre [Ryan Kesler](#), who scored in the second period. "We want to do that every night. We want to win that way."

[Daniel Sedin](#) had a goal and an assist, and [Brad Richardson](#) and [Jason Garrison](#) -- into an empty net -- also scored for the Canucks (1-1-0) as [Roberto Luongo](#) made 21 saves.

[Henrik Sedin](#) picked up three assists as Vancouver rebounded from Thursday's season-opening 4-1 road loss to the San Jose Sharks in impressive fashion.

"We were aggressive, we put a lot of pressure on their (defence)," said [Henrik Sedin](#). "We didn't really play this way for the last couple of years, we were sitting back a little bit more and played a little more on the safe side."

Tortorella, who replaced the fired Alain Vigneault in the off-season, has answered repeated questions about the players' ability to adapt to his system. The Canucks showed spurts in their season-opening road loss to San Jose but Saturday's performance was closer to what the coach envisioned.

"We were pretty consistent tonight in our attack," said Tortorella. "(I'm) pretty satisfied with that part of the game."

Luongo, back as Vancouver's No. 1 goalie after the the Canucks traded Cory Scheinder to the New Jersey Devils, had a good view of his team's domination of Edmonton.

"That's one of the best games I've seen this team play in a long time," said Luongo. "It was 60 minutes. It was hard. We sustained pressure the whole game."

[Jeff Petry](#) and [Boyd Gordon](#) had the goals for the Oilers (0-2-0). [Devan Dubnyk](#) allowed five goals on 31 shots before being replaced in the second period by [Jason LaBarbera](#). The Edmonton backup finished with 12 saves.

Oilers rookie head coach [Dallas Eakins](#) has spent the pre-season trying to shake the team's image of being in rebuild mode, stressing that the time to win is now.

It's clearly going to take some time.

"Old habits die hard," Eakins said. "I was encouraged with certain things going through the pre-season. I was more encouraged even though we let that game get away against Winnipeg (a 5-4 season-opening home loss).

"Tonight we are back to square one. This isn't going to be an easy process here. We will dig our heels in and continue on."

After the teams exchanged goals in the game's first four minutes, the Canucks carried the play for the rest of the period, with Hamhuis and Hansen beating Dubnyk in quick succession late to give Vancouver a 3-1 lead after 20 minutes.

Hamhuis made it 2-1 with a shot from just inside the Edmonton blue-line that took a deflection off Petry's stick with 1:33 left in the period.

The fans at Rogers Arena had barely sat down from celebrating that goal when Hansen, who took the spot of the injured [Alexandre Burrows](#) on Vancouver's top line, beat Dubnyk from the slot to give his team a 3-1 edge at 18:45 as the Canucks closed out the period with a 22-8 advantage on the shot clock.

Vancouver then made it 4-1 on the power play at 7:21 of the second on a picture-perfect passing play. [Alexander Edler](#) fed [Henrik Sedin](#), who in turn found his brother Daniel with a no-look spin-o-rama pass in front of a helpless Dubnyk.

The Vancouver onslaught continued at 13:56 when Kesler ripped a shot past Dubnyk from the top of the faceoff circle with the teams playing 4-on-4. That spelled the end of the night for the Edmonton goaltender, who was replaced by LaBarbera.

"We shot a lot tonight. It was good to see. We had a lot of second and third opportunities. When you shoot that much you're going to get six goals," said Kesler, who finished with nine shots. "You shoot that much, you play that much with the puck, you're going to tire out the other team."

Gordon gave Edmonton some life when he scored off an odd-man rush at 15:23 but the Oilers still trailed by three after two periods and wouldn't get any closer in the third before Garrison iced it with a short-handed empty-net goal at 18:16.

The Oilers got on the board first at 1:58 of the opening period when Petry beat Luongo five-hole from a sharp angle with both teams down a man.

But the lead didn't last long as Richardson, who joined the Canucks as a free agent in the off-season, raced in on a short-handed breakaway and beat Dubnyk between the pads to tie the score at 3:42 before Hamhuis and Hansen scored late in the period.

"We really did come out OK," said Oilers left-winger [Taylor Hall](#), who was minus-4. "We scored the first goal. They scored right after that and we just kind of fell off the wagon there."

Notes: Garrison also added an assist. ... Burrows is expected to miss a couple of weeks after breaking a bone in his foot blocking a shot in the loss to San Jose. ... [David Booth](#) took Hansen's spot on the second line with Kesler and [Chris Higgins](#). ... Edmonton lost left-winger [Jesse Joensuu](#) to a back injury in the first period. Eakins said he will be re-evaluated Sunday. ... The Oilers were without centres [Sam Gagner](#) (broken jaw) and [Ryan Nugent-Hopkins](#) (shoulder surgery). Edmonton expects to have Nugent-Hopkins back for Monday's home game against the New Jersey Devils. Canucks right-winger [Zack Kassian](#) served the fifth game of his eight-game suspension for the hit that broke Gagner's jaw.

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## Schneider plans to make statement vs. Canucks

Mark Spector      Sportsnet.ca

EDMONTON — The goaltending drama became so overdone, so excessive in Vancouver last season, the Canucks instituted a new rule for media covering the team: For the first time in National Hockey League history, there would be no access to the backup on game days. While it's customary around the league for starters not to speak at morning skates, with the Roberto and Cory show it was the other who went silent on game days. It was a protocol that was an outcome, not a symptom, of the madness that was the Canucks goaltending soap opera.

Another, more desired result is 27-year-old Cory Schneider; wise beyond his games played, whose time in the Vancouver frying pan makes him the perfect candidate for the fire of succeeding Martin Brodeur in New Jersey. He is poised, mature, and handles himself admirably in front of a bank of microphones. And he believes he learned from the hurricane that was playing in Vancouver last season. "It's something we were forced to deal with. That's just life playing hockey in Canadian cities," Schneider said Sunday afternoon in Edmonton, where he will watch Martin Brodeur face the Oilers on Monday before getting the start against the Canucks on Tuesday in Vancouver.

Brodeur was actually sitting with friend and then backup Johan Hedberg at the draft when Lamoriello unloaded the ninth overall pick to Vancouver for Schneider. "I was thinking, 'okay, how is this working here...,'" Brodeur said. "I looked at (Hedberg) and you could tell right away. He knew. What could you say to the guy?" So, instead of "The Moose" facing his old team Tuesday—he was released from a tryout with the New York Rangers in September—it's Schneider, a return that will have the media Richter Scale off the charts on the lower mainland. But Schneider can handle it.

For a goalie who will notch career game No. 100 Tuesday, Schneider has reams of experience, graduating from one Canadian Olympic goalie to another. By osmosis, he has learned to carry himself with the confidence of an elite goaltender. "They've both been through a lot, seen every circumstance, been through every situation. They're kind of unflappable," he said. "I learned a lot from Roberto. The way he dealt with some situations there that were fair, or unfair. He'd put on a smile and do what was best for the team. That's not easy to do—especially for a guy who has accomplished as much as he has, and has as much pride as he has."

Before Schneider tugged on his new Devils jersey, he had relieved one Olympian of his starting NHL job. Then, as if the culture shock of going from Vancouver to Newark wasn't enough, he became the successor to the next, a walk-in Hall of Famer to boot. "He's our future," Brodeur said. "I won't play forever."

The Devils have a stunning 22 sets of back-to-back games this season, and, at age 41, Brodeur doesn't do both ends anymore. So it plays to script to have Schneider go Tuesday, but it will be a media frenzy regardless. Yet Schneider appears prepared. "We're there less than 24 hours," he said. "Gotta play a game, gotta win a game. I'm not going to get all nostalgic."

Although he's never had to do it himself, to Brodeur—and Devils head coach Pete DeBoer—starting Schneider versus the Canucks was obvious. “They made him No. 1 and they traded him,” Brodeur said. “I’m sure in the back of his head it’s like, ‘C’mon. We’re all went through that circus, and I’m the one leaving?’”

Sitting in the stands at Rexall Place watching DeBoer run his charges through their paces, wily general manager Lou Lamoriello smiles the wide grin of a man who couldn't believe his luck when the goalie he'd sought for years suddenly became available at the draft in Newark. Edmonton offered a better package—the seventh overall pick plus another asset—but Canucks GM Mike Gillis knew better than to arm the Oilers at a key position. So he sent Schneider far, far away.

Replacing Brodeur had gnawed at Lamoriello—he'd been mulling over the move for most of the past three years. He had the luxury of patience, though. Every time he thought it was going to become a necessity, Brodeur would defy his age and play like he was 10 years younger. And Lamoriello knew he needed a special netminder, one with a similar makeup to Brodeur. “Our team is used to a goaltender who doesn't get rattled, doesn't blame people, and is as low maintenance as you could possibly get,” he said.

And as competitive.

When asked about facing their former team in front of their former fans, most goalies would toss out the predictable platitudes about playing within themselves and how they're facing the shooters, not the goalie. Not Schneider, he can't wait to face down Luongo. “Sure I am,” he said when asked if he was looking to make statement.

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## **NHL Week Ahead: Schneider's Vancouver return**

Patrick Hoffman Sportsnet.ca

Each week we take a look at three players that are on fire, the best sound bite from the previous week, our must-see highlight of the weekend, and which upcoming game NHL fans should circle on their calendar.

### **Three to See**

#### **1. Alex Chiasson, Dallas Stars**

Dallas Stars' 23-year-old rookie Alex Chiasson is off to quite the start in his NHL career.

In just nine NHL games, Chiasson already has eight goals. In two games this season, Chiasson has two goals, one of them a game-winner against the Washington Capitals on Saturday night.

This week, Chiasson and the Stars will take on the Colorado Avalanche, San Jose Sharks, Los Angeles Kings and Anaheim Ducks.



## **2. Jonathan Bernier, Toronto Maple Leafs**

Going into this season, everyone in the hockey world knew that there would be a battle for the Toronto Maple Leafs' crease between James Reimer and newcomer Jonathan Bernier.

Three games into the season, it appears that Bernier is winning that battle. In two games, Bernier has two wins (one in relief on Saturday night over the Ottawa Senators) and has posted a 0.64 goals against average and a .979 save percentage.

It will be interesting to see which goaltender Leafs head coach Randy Carlyle goes with in games against the Minnesota Wild, Carolina Hurricanes, and Chicago Blackhawks.

## **3. Alex Ovechkin, Washington Capitals**

Washington Capitals all-world scorer Alex Ovechkin has come into this season by picking up where he left off last year.

Through his team's first three games, Ovechkin has four goals and two assists for six points. Three of his four goals have come on the power play and not only that, but he has also already fired 24 shots on goal.

This week, Ovechkin and the Capitals will take on the Edmonton Oilers, New York Rangers, and Columbus Blue Jackets.

### **Streak of the Week**

Believe it or not, the streak of the week belongs to the Toronto Maple Leafs.

This past week, the Leafs won their first three games of the regular season. With wins over the likes of the Montreal Canadiens, Philadelphia Flyers and Ottawa Senators, the team finds themselves atop the Atlantic Division.

Obviously, there is still a ton of hockey left to be played but if you are a fan of the blue and white, you have to be happy with the team's quick start.

### **Biting Sound**

"What (Bruce) Boudreau said was all lies," Avalanche head coach Patrick Roy said in response to Anaheim Ducks' head coach Bruce Boudreau's claim that Roy was yapping at his players. "I'm certainly not going to get too involved in this one, but when you talk about classless – when you're lying, this is classless. This is the league policy and I understand it now, but at the same time I will always defend my players. Things happen. This is the way I dealt with this one. Would I deal with it differently next time? Maybe, maybe not. I don't know."

### **Weekend Rewind**

An Original Six rivalry was renewed this weekend when the Detroit Red Wings took on the Boston Bruins at the TD Garden on Saturday night.

For the first time since the Original Six era, the two teams are in the same division and will be supplying hockey fans with big hits, saves, goals, and everything a hockey fan could want for many years to come.

The Bruins won the first meeting by a score of 4-1 thanks to a surging power play and solid goaltending from Tuukka Rask.

### **Save the Date**

Tuesday, October 8, 2013: New Jersey Devils vs. Vancouver Canucks

This tilt will mark the first time that the New Jersey Devils and Vancouver Canucks meet since the trade that changed both club's goaltending situations.

Canucks' netminder Roberto Luongo is the outright starter for his team. After wondering or not if he would be in Vancouver this season, the trading of Schneider put Luongo back in the driver's seat of the Canucks' crease.

On the other coast, the Devils' now have both Cory Schneider and Martin Brodeur. It is not clear yet just how many games both will play but there is no doubt that Schneider is the future when it comes to the Devils' crease.

### **Rink Roundup**

- In his first game as an NHL head coach for the Avalanche, Patrick Roy was fined \$10,000 for his outburst against the Ducks and their head coach Bruce Boudreau. Roy was known for doing stuff like this in juniors so we doubt that is the last of it in the NHL.

- It is going to be a long year in Buffalo for the Sabres. The teams dropped their first three games of the season and in those three games, have been outscored 7-2.

- While the Pittsburgh Penguins are 2-0 this season, it is hard to believe that Evgeni Malkin has yet to score a goal. One has to figure that will change this week in games against the Carolina Hurricanes, Florida Panthers and Tampa Bay Lightning.

- In the Western Conference, the St. Louis Blues look like they are contenders this season. The team is 2-0, has scored 11 goals, has allowed just two goals and has a healthy Jaroslav Halak in goal. It cannot get much better than that if you are a Blues' fan.

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Devil of a showdown in the works

Jim Matheson      Postmedia

Schneider set to face old friend Luongo on Tuesday night at Rogers Arena

Cory Schneider and Roberto Luongo will once again be sharing ice in Vancouver this week.

The former Canucks teammates will face off Tuesday when the New Jersey Devils make an appearance at Rogers Arena.

Schneider knows he can't avoid the glare of meeting up with Luongo, who had his No. 1 job taken by the younger Schneider but later regained it when Schneider was dealt to the Devils at the NHL draft last June for the 10th overall pick (Bo Horvat) because Luongo's contract was untradeable.

"I'm not making a big deal about it but I can't avoid talking about it," said Schneider, who's now splitting time with future Hall of Famer Martin Brodeur. "Sure I want to outplay Roberto ... it's not me vs. him, but generally you want to be better than the other guy."

Schneider says he didn't ask New Jersey coach Pete DeBoer to play the game in Vancouver and didn't go the other way and beg off, trying to dodge the confrontation everybody's been salivating over.

"We don't pick and choose, Marty and I, which games we're playing," Schneider said.

The Devils have 24 back-to-backs games this season, more than any other NHL team, so Brodeur and Schneider know they'll be rotating for those ones. Brodeur is getting the nod in Edmonton on Monday night.

Schneider says he owes Luongo for not kicking him to the curb as a young guy coming in with the Canucks.

"Roberto was really open and embraced me as a younger guy when he was playing a lot of games," said Schneider. "I learned a lot from him, on the ice and off. He dealt with some tough situations, fair or not, and he put on a smile and did what was best for the team. That's not easy, especially for somebody who has accomplished as much as he has and has as much pride. He supported me, and put the team first. I was really impressed with that."

It would have been easy to get sour, to divide a dressing room, but that's not Luongo's makeup. He was hurt to lose his No. 1 status and was choked up when the Canucks didn't trade him at the deadline last March, only to be blindsided when Schneider moved and the Canucks wanted to kiss

and make up this summer. Ultimately, he's a pro. "He doesn't have to prove anything to anybody, outside the dressing room," Schneider said of Luongo.

Schneider sees a lot of the same stuff in Luongo and Brodeur, conceding he's still getting to know his Devils teammate, who coincidentally lost the starting job to Luongo on the 2010 Canadian Olympic squad.

"They are both very confident in themselves, they both know they're elite goalies who've been through a lot, seen every circumstance," Schneider said. "They're both unflappable."

Luongo was the unwitting victim in Vancouver.

"We were forced into this (who was the No. 1) in Vancouver," Schneider said of the daily soap opera that took on a life of its own. "I hope I've learned from my experience there.

"I'm going to be there 24 hours, it (trade) was only five months ago," he added. "I'm not going to get all nostalgic."

Devils GM Lou Lamoriello, who was interested in Schneider for a few years before getting him in June, knowing full well he needed a succession plan in place for when Brodeur retired, has said that Schneider "was the perfect guy" to come in to work with the 41-year-old legend.

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### **'Tis the season for overreactions**

Bruce Arthur The Province

Ignore the early trends of this season, because there's a lot of hockey left to be played

And now, a little math. Wait, don't leap to your feet applauding and throwing bouquets of roses yet. There will be time for that later. This is an annual public service announcement, designed to discourage panic and/ or irrational exuberance and/or despair. In hockey, because that's where so many of us use those things.

The return of the NHL is a flood, and the waters are rushing in. In Washington, Alexander Ovechkin is as good as he has ever been. In Pittsburgh, Marc-Andre Fleury is airtight. In Edmonton, all is lost. In Calgary, all is not lost. In Vancouver, John Tortorella is crazy. In Colorado, coach Patrick Roy is on pace for \$820,000 US in fines.

Can you spot the overreactions in that paragraph? Well, one of them is easy. Patrick Roy could easily blow past that number. He could get fined more than that after killing a peanut vendor by throwing the bench at him.

But the point is, teams have played between 1.2 per cent and 3.6 per cent of their schedules, and you need to conserve your overreactions. Like in Toronto. In Toronto, it feels like people are on Ecstasy. Some people who should know better are declaring the dark days are over, the new age has begun, the Maple Leafs have figured this NHL thing out again.

And, in fairness, in this regard, the Leafs are due.

But jeez, come on. The Devils started 3-0 last year. Toronto started 3-0 in 2011-12. Here are some teams that enjoyed at least a three-game winning streak last season: Edmonton, Columbus, Carolina, Winnipeg, Dallas, New Jersey, Tampa Bay, Philadelphia, Buffalo, Florida, Calgary, Phoenix, and Nashville. Hey, none of them made the playoffs.

Only Colorado didn't string at least three straight wins together among the non-qualifiers, and that took some doing.

And last season was a sprint, a breathless thing, 48 games and a cloud of ice shavings, and there was still time for teams to falter or surge or tiptoe along the edge. Three games don't determine your season unless you are, say, the Pittsburgh Penguins and you just lost one of your stars to injury. We have six months for that to happen, sadly.

It's not that what has happened is meaningless, no. Some guys really do look great — Kyle Turris in Ottawa, for instance — and some guys look terrible — Devan Dubnyk in Edmonton, for instance — and we have no idea how sustainable it really is. Well, that's only partly true. There are pockets of twitchy-eyed panic in Edmonton over Dubnyk's start, conveyed to me chiefly by Edmonton Journal and Bleacher Report writer Jonathan Willis. Dubnyk has an .831 save percentage and a 6.52 goals-against through two miserable games, and — this may be relevant, so let's throw it out there — a 2.82 goals-against and .912 save percentage in 141 career NHL games. For the Oilers — whose defensive zone coverage has occasionally strayed into the realm of teenagers standing around a junior high school dance, scared to talk to the girls on the other side of the gym. He's had a bad start. It

happens. Well, in 2012-13 Henrik Lundqvist allowed 10 goals on 81 shots in his first three games, while Martin Brodeur started 3-0, allowing three goals on 71 shots. Not to spoil the ending — in case you're still catching up on the season — but those trends did not quite last.

It's early. Repeat it, hold it like a totem, breathe it in, breathe it out.

The results so far may either confirm or go against our pre-season biases, but they're not proof of anything other than a good/bad/indifferent start to what will be a very long season. This is not rocket science, or brain surgery, or trying to figure out why some fans in Glendale, Ariz., booed NHL commissioner Gary Bettman when he appeared on the big screen during the home opener.

(Tourists? Taxpayers who wandered in, lost and disoriented? Canadians? Still, people.)

But it's worth remembering, in this instant-reaction world we have built. Twitter, where this writer spends far too much time, is a declarative minefield, full of instantaneous judgment and insane confidence.

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### **Canucks' Burrows out for at least two weeks**

Sportsnet.ca

Vancouver Canucks forward Alexandre Burrows will miss at least two weeks with a lower-body injury, according to head coach John Tortorella.

Burrows was injured while blocking a shot during a five-on-three penalty kill in Vancouver's season-opening loss to the San Jose Sharks on Thursday. The 32-year-old finished the game but was seen limping afterward and was reported to be in a walking boot.

The Canucks blocked 22 shots against the Sharks and Tortorella defended his strategy Saturday morning despite the injury to Burrows.

"I know you are probably going to ask about 15 questions about shot blocking," Tortorella said. "Alex Burrows made the right play and if he doesn't make that play, he'd probably never play a five-on-three again here, so don't turn it into that. It was the right play. Injuries happen in a lot of different ways, so we'll continue to try to play defence — not just shot block — play defence the way you are supposed to."

Due to Zack Kassian's suspension, the Canucks don't have another forward to play and will not call one up from the AHL. Instead the team will dress another defenceman to replace the roster spot left by Burrows.

Burrows, who had no points and a minus-one rating in Vancouver's first game, recorded 13 goals, 11 assists and a plus-15 rating in 47 games for Vancouver last season.

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Vancouver Canucks down Calgary Flames 5-4 in overtime

Wes Gilbertson QMI

Never a dull moment.

That should be the slogan for the 2013-14 Calgary Flames.

Sunday's home-opener at the Saddledome — 63:17 of high and lows that resulted in a 5-4 overtime loss to the visiting Vancouver Canucks — was evidence of exactly that.

Up by two early in the third period, thanks to Sean Monahan's second big-league goal before his 19th birthday.

Trailing by one, thanks to consecutive goals by Canucks forwards Jannik Hansen, Mike Santorelli and Dale Weise in a span of just over 11 minutes.

Tied up again, suddenly, thanks to Flames winger David Jones scoring on a wild scramble with just 19 ticks left on the clock and their puck-stopper pulled for an extra attacker.

And then forced to settle for a single point in the standings, thanks to Santorelli's second of the night — and second as a member of the Canucks — in overtime.

The action? Heart-stopping.

The result? Heart-breaking.

"We can't lose that game, that's the bottom line. We feel, as a team, like we gave a divisional team two points," said Flames captain Mark Giordano.

"If we weren't burned after that one, I don't know what's going to burn you."

The new-look Flames (1-0-1-1) looked pretty darn good for long spurts during Sunday's home-opener — and you can't complain about the entertainment value — but they were eventually undone by their own mistakes.

Four points in three games?

Not bad.

Not satisfactory, either, when you've had multi-goal leads in both of your extra-time losses, including Thursday's 5-4 shootout setback in Washington.

Giordano scored in the first, Mikael Backlund on a breakaway in the second and Monahan early in Sunday's third frame to give the Flames a two-goal edge.

The Saddledome was rocking.

The Canucks, suddenly, were knocking.

Hansen was left alone in front and finished off a bang-bang play with Daniel Sedin with 15 minutes still on the board in the third period, giving the Saddledome faithful good reason to be nervous.

Santorelli made the most of a pass from the other Sedin — Henrik — to tie it up after a turnover by Flames pugilist Brian McGrattan just inside Calgary's blueline.

Weise escaped from Monahan and buried Brad Richardson's pass to give the out-of-towners a lead with 3:54 to go.

The culprit on Santorelli's overtime goal was defenceman Flames Dennis Wideman, who missed Kevin Bieksa with a hip-check and then watched the Canucks blueliner set up the winning goal.

"I'm very disappointed for my guys because we did more great things than we did bad things," said Flames head coach Bob Hartley. "But in this league, when you do bad things, it comes back to haunt you."

Let's not forget the good things, though.

Giordano scored his first as the Flames captain and now has four points in three games, tied for tops in the NHL among defencemen.

Monahan extended his point spree to three games, a terrific start to his big-league career. In fact, with three points, he's tied for tops in the NHL among rookies.

Jones' goal in the dying seconds showed the Flames won't quit, although that's hardly a consolation for a group that believes they should be tied for tops in the NHL with three victories.

"As far as I'm concerned, we pretty much gave them the game there in the third period. That's happened a couple of times now in the first three games," Jones said. "There's



no excuses. When you have a two-goal lead, the minute you start to say, 'Oh, we did OK here, we did OK there,' that's when you start to accept losing. We're not going to do that, so everyone is frustrated."

Making his second straight start for the crew from Calgary, Joey MacDonald finished with 23 stops on 28 shots. David Booth also scored for the out-of-towners.

Next up for the Flames is Wednesday's visit from the Montreal Canadiens (6 p.m., TSN, Sportsnet Fan 960).

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