

# SPORTS

## Canucks thump Predators

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Vancouver Canucks did not take the Predators lightly, and it paid off.

Todd Bertuzzi had two goals and two assists — tying his career-high for points in a game — as Vancouver shutout the Nashville Predators 5-0 on Tuesday night.

"We wanted to make sure we started out right against Nashville," Bertuzzi said. "We wanted to smother them."

"They're known as a team that comes out of the gate really strong. We wanted to come out physical. I think we basically smothered them and took over the game."

Brendan Morrison added a goal and two assists for the Canucks, who held the Predators to only one first-period shot — tying Nashville's record low set in 1999, also against the Canucks. Artem Chubarov and Henrik Sedin also scored. "We talked about coming out and dominating a team," said Nashville coach Barry Trotz. "Tonight was not our night. We were embarrassed by the first period. I am surprised by the lack of resiliency. It is not a Predator trademark, and it will be resolved."

Nashville finished with only 23 shots on goal, giving Vancouver goaltender Dan Cloutier his sixth shutout of the season and the seventh of his career.

The Canucks failed to score on 15 first-period shots, but found the net on four of 21 second-period shots against goaltender Mike Dunham. Tomas Vokoun replaced Dunham to start the third.

The Canucks wore down the Predators with their solid play down low.

"That's a staple of our team ... be in good condition and take it down low," Bertuzzi said. "We've got a lot of little guys so it's a matter of working their defence and our working and coming up with chances."

Chubarov scored the first goal at 2:26 of the second period when he skated down the left side of the ice, around the net and put a wraparound shot by Dunham, one of nine wraparound shots by



the Canucks in the game.

Bertuzzi's first goal came at 9:52 as he went top shelf with a back-hand shot to beat Dunham.

For his second goal, Bertuzzi left the penalty box and took an onside pass from Morrison. He then skated one-on-one against Dunham and beat him low to his glove side.

Morrison, standing in front of the net, scored at 18:20 to make it 4-0 when he tipped in the rebound of a seemingly harmless shot from the blue-line by Brent Sopel.

Sedin scored for the Canucks at 4:54 of the third against Vokoun. It marked the second game in row that Vokoun has replaced Dunham in the third period and allowed a goal.

■ Buffalo Sabres fans greeted Dominik Hasek with fond cheers when he returned to HSBC Arena for the first time Sunday.

They had other plans for former captain Michael Peca's return Tuesday night.

Peca was relentlessly booed every time he touched the puck in his first game back in Buffalo, helping the New York Islanders beat the Sabres 3-0.

"I had butterflies all day," Peca said. "I was sitting here in the locker-room right across from the clock, and it was like every tick was a repeat of my heartbeat."

## Kovalchuk a fast healer

ATLANTA (AP) — The Thrashers' team doctors and executives said Ilya Kovalchuk could be out six to eight weeks.

Kovalchuk has other ideas. The rookie forward thinks he can return this year, even if it's only for the final few games.

"Doctors are always pessimistic in their prognosis," Kovalchuk said

Chris Osgood stopped all 28 shots he faced in earning his 34th shutout and fourth this season. He was pulled in both of this season's previous games against Buffalo, including a 5-0 loss last Thursday.

"It was a big game for us," Osgood said. "We didn't want them to gain any more ground on us than they already have."

### Senators 4 Wild 3 (OT)

At St. Paul, Minn., Magnus Arvedson's goal 1:41 into overtime lifted Ottawa past the Wild. Todd White, Chris Neil and Radek Bonk also scored as Ottawa won its second straight road game.

### Flyers 1 Maple Leafs 1

At Toronto, Gary Roberts scored with just over two minutes remaining in the third period as the Maple Leafs tied Philadelphia to take three of four points from a home-and-home series with the Eastern Conference-leading Flyers.

### Stars 5 Capitals 2

At Washington, Sergei Zubov had a goal and two assists as Dallas stopped a two-game losing streak with a win over the Capitals.

### Lightning 4 Thrashers 4

At Atlanta, Dan Boyle scored with 11:55 left in regulation as Tampa Bay rallied from a three-goal deficit to tie the Thrashers.

### Coyotes 3 Blackhawks 1

At Phoenix, Daniel Briere scored his team-leading 27th goal and Robert Esche made 38 saves as the Coyotes beat Chicago for their fifth straight win.

## Stars, Rangers deal

DALLAS (CP) — The Dallas Stars have traded left-winger Martin Rucinsky and centre Roman Lyashenko to the New York Rangers for left-wingers Manny Malhotra and Barrett Heisten, the NHL team announced Tuesday night.

Malhotra, 21, has seven goals and six assists in 56 games with the Rangers this season, along with 42 penalty minutes. The six-foot-two, 215-pound winger has appeared in 206 career NHL games, collecting 19 goals and 22 assists with 90 penalty minutes.

"He brings size, speed and a competitive nature that is very important at this time of year," said Dallas GM Doug Armstrong. "He was the key to the trade for the Dallas Stars."

A first-round draft choice (seventh overall) by the Rangers in the 1998 entry draft, Malhotra broke into the league in the 1998-99 season with a career-best eight goals and eight assists.

He is expected to join the Stars in Montreal in time for a game Thursday night. Dallas is in the midst of a four-game road trip that includes Toronto on Saturday and Chicago next Monday. The Stars began the road trip by beating the Washington Capitals 5-2 Tuesday night.

Heisten, 21, has been assigned on loan to the AHL Utah Grizzlies. He had appeared in 10 games with the Rangers at the beginning of the season, going scoreless. Buffalo's first-round pick (20th overall) in the 1999 entry draft, Heisten also has played in 49 games this season with the AHL Hartford Wolf Pack, collecting nine goals and nine assists. A member of the University of Maine's 1999 NCAA championship team who jumped to the Western Hockey League's Seattle Thunderbirds in his 20-year-old season, Heisten made his NHL debut this season on Oct. 5 at Carolina.

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CP photo  
**BACK IN THE SWING AGAIN** — Olympic gold medalists Jamie Sale and David Pelletier perform at the Skyranch Centre in Edmonton Tuesday evening. The pair, made the most famous Canadian skaters because of the controversy at the 2002 Salt Lake City Winter Olympic Games, are touring with the Russian pair that shared gold with them.

## Raiders find their coach

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The Oakland Raiders promoted offensive co-ordinator Bill Callahan to head coach Tuesday night, three weeks after Jon Gruden left to coach Tampa Bay.

In typical Raiders fashion, their big announcement was made quietly by fax and e-mail. The Raiders are to introduce Callahan, a seven-year NFL assistant with no head coaching experience, during a news conference Wednesday at their Alameda training facility.

There was little suspense in the Raiders' decision. Though the team said it conducted an extensive search for its new coach, apparently considering former Minnesota coach Dennis Green and Kansas City offensive co-ordinator Al Saunders, Callahan was the clear favourite to continue Gruden's successful tenure — simply because he never left the building.

Callahan, who's popular with the Raiders' veteran roster of offensive players, remained under contract to Oakland when Gruden left for Tampa Bay. In fact, Gruden's entire staff has remained at work full-time in Alameda since the popular young coach's departure.

Callahan, a Chicago native and a former NAIA quarterback at Illinois Benedictine, is the latest in the long line of offensive-minded head coaches favoured by Raiders owner Al Davis.

Callahan spent four seasons as Gruden's offensive co-ordinator in Oakland — also coaching the offensive line and tight ends at different points — after working with Gruden as the Philadelphia Eagles' offensive line coach from 1995-97.

Last weekend, the Raiders hired Jay Norvell, a longtime friend of Callahan, to be their tight ends coach even though Norvell had accepted a job at Oklahoma one month earlier — further evidence that there was a clear front-runner in the Raiders' search.

Callahan, who was an assistant coach at Illinois and Wisconsin earlier in his career, now must tackle the difficult job of following in the footsteps of Gruden, the baby-faced coach who became the Raider Nation's hero during the team's return to power culminating in AFC West championships the last two seasons.

Gruden was 40-28 in four seasons with the Raiders, including two division titles and a 2-2 mark in the playoffs.

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