

HOCKEY

Oh, brother!

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — Mathieu Biron finally got the best of his big brother.

The Florida defenceman became the first NHL player in 23 years to score against his brother, beating Martin Biron in the Panthers' 2-1 victory over the Buffalo Sabres on Monday night.

Phil Esposito of the Rangers was the last previous player to accomplish the feat, scoring on brother Tony of Chicago on Nov. 5, 1980.

"The Esposito brothers probably have been fighting for the last 23 years," Martin Biron joked. "We'll probably be fighting for the next 23 years, my brother and I."

Mathieu Biron, who at 23 is three years younger than Martin, gave Florida a 2-0 lead late in the first period when he joined a two-on-one rush and tipped Stephen Weiss' pass past his brother.

"I was happy," Mathieu Biron said. "I knew it was going to come sooner or later. I'm glad he didn't put me on the ice right after the goal. I didn't know what was going on. It's hard to explain."

The Biron's parents, Celine and Rejean, were in the crowd.

"In the summer they were nagging each other, with Mathieu saying that he would score on Martin," Celine Biron said. "It was good that it was a nice goal. It wouldn't have been as nice if it was a cheap goal."

TORONTO (CP) — The outdoor game between the Edmonton Oilers and Montreal Canadiens continues to set records.

Saturday's contest, which attracted an NHL-record crowd of 57,167 at Commonwealth Stadium, averaged 2.747 million viewers to become CBC's highest-rated NHL regular-season game ever, the network said Monday.

That erased the previous record of 2.161 million for Wayne Gretzky's farewell game in 1999, which was played in the afternoon. The previous top-rated evening game was the finale at Maple Leaf Gardens in 1999, which drew 1.937 million viewers.

So far this season, the early game on Hockey Night in Canada has averaged about 1.3 million viewers.

Saturday's old-timers' game, which marked Gretzky's return to the ice, drew 2.318 million viewers while 1.832 million tuned in for the NHL pre-game show, CBC said.

The record audience for a sporting event in Canada, with more than 10 million English and French-language CBC viewers, was the Canadian men's gold medal hockey win over the U.S. at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics.

■ MONTREAL (CP) — The Heritage Classic has made a simple Montreal Canadiens' hat into the hottest product in Quebec.

Demand has been "overwhelming" for the red, white and blue tuque with the Canadiens logo that Jose Theodore wore over his goaltender's mask, Ray Lalonde, vice-president of marketing for the NHL club, said Monday.

The hats were also worn by the Canadiens oldtimers to keep out the minus-20 freeze in the Megastars game that preceded the historic NHL match at Commonwealth Stadium on Saturday.



THEODORE AND HIS TUQUE



Saturday's Heritage Classic outdoor hockey marathon at Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton was the highest-rated regular season television broadcast in CBC history.

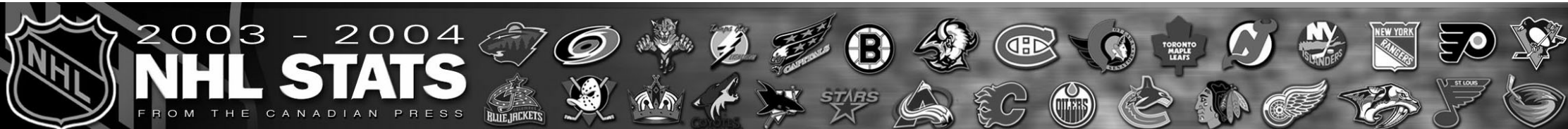
"We're shocked, the demand has been phenomenal," Lalonde said. "We could not have anticipated this level of demand and now we have to deal with it."

A rush order has been put in to manufacturers for more hats, he said. A few hundred should be available at the Bell Centre for a game Saturday against Florida but they hope to have shelves fully stocked with the \$27 tuques in time for the holiday rush. The team is also taking orders from fans at the arena and on its

website that will be filled once the hats are delivered.

"When I saw the hat was really nice I thought, hey, it's a big show, I'll put it on," said Theodore. "I didn't know there would be such a response. I thought if I got one picture of it, it would be something to remember the game by. I'm glad I thought of it. It was part of the event."

After the game, Theodore handed his tuque to the Hockey Hall of Fame, which requested it.



(Not including Monday games)														
ANAHEIM														
Player	GP	G	A	Pts	+/−	PM	P	S	W	T	Sh	Pctg		
Fedorov	21	5	10	15	-8	8	1	1	0	0	69	7.2		
Ruchin	21	9	4	13	-6	8	1	1	0	0	36	25.0		
McDonald	18	4	9	13	-2	2	2	0	1	1	39	10.3		
Prospal	21	4	8	12	0	6	0	0	0	0	49	8.2		
Sykora	21	6	5	11	-2	8	2	0	1	0	69	8.7		
Zolozhnik	21	3	8	11	-1	20	0	0	0	0	42	7.1		
Christov	19	0	10	10	-2	4	0	0	0	0	27	0		
Niedermayer	21	6	2	8	-5	14	3	0	0	0	39	15.4		
Lupul	19	2	6	8	-2	8	1	0	0	0	33	6.1		
Havlid	21	1	3	4	-12	2	1	0	1	0	24	4.2		
Krog	20	3	0	3	-3	4	1	0	0	0	30	10.0		
Vishnevskiy	16	1	2	3	-2	14	0	0	0	0	14	7.1		
Pahlsson	21	1	2	3	0	18	0	0	0	0	30	3.3		
Salei	21	0	2	2	-1	39	0	0	0	0	25	0		
Ward	13	0	1	1	3	28	0	0	0	0	4	0		
Sauer	15	0	1	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Geber	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Burnett	7	0	0	0	0	38	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Carney	10	0	0	0	-4	4	0	0	0	0	11	0		
Giguere	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Simpson	20	0	0	0	-6	65	0	0	0	0	21	0		
Johnston	21	0	0	0	-2	12	0	0	0	0	25	0		
ATLANTA														
Player	GP	G	A	Pts	+/−	PM	P	S	W	T	Sh	Pctg		
Kovalchuk	22	15	11	26	2	16	9	0	3	0	103	14.6		
McCormack	22	13	16	29	7	14	1	0	0	0	42	7.1		
Savard	13	6	9	15	3	10	1	0	2	0	36	16.7		
Hejduk	22	6	15	21	-5	20	1	0	0	0	62	11.3		
Cowan	21	4	10	14	5	34	0	0	0	0	24	16.7		
Kozlov	22	11	14	25	3	6	0	0	0	0	28	10.7		
Robitaille	22	8	12	20	6	14	1	0	2	0	34	11.8		
Aubin	19	11	12	23	6	14	1	0	0	0	27	3.7		
Petrovich	20	7	10	17	0	18	0	0	0	0	25	28.0		
Stefan	22	4	5	9	-3	6	1	1	0	0	27	14.8		
Vigier	22	3	5	8	-12	12	1	0	0	0	35	8.6		
McCarthy	22	2	6	8	-5	11	1	0	0	0	22	9.1		
Nickelshin	20	1	3	4	0	18	0	0	0	0	10	20.0		
Skrastins	20	1	4	5	0	10	0	0	0	0	20	0		
Skoula	18	0	4	4	-4	0	0	0	0	0	23	0		
McCormick	18	2	4	1	-3	25	0	0	1	0	17	11.8		
Brigley	11	1	2	3	-1	2	1	0	0	0	10	10.0		
Cummins	18	2	3	5	-1	42	0	0	0	0	9	11.1		
Thibault	6	0	2	2	-1	4	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Moore	11	0	2	2	-1	10	0	0	0	0	10	0		
Hinote	20	1	0	1	-3	20	0	0	1	0	18	5.6		
Slavos	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Sauve	5	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Laursen	6	0	0	0	-1	2	0	0	0	0	11	0		
McAllister	12	0	0	0	-1	9	0	0	0	0	5	0		
Aebischer	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
COLUMBUS														
Player	GP	G	A	Pts	+/−	PM	P	S	W	T	Sh	Pctg		
Nash	20	12	1	13	-4	24	6	2	1	0	60	20.0		
Vyborny	20	9	4	13	-6	4	3	1	0	0	40	22.5		
Marchant	19	3	8	11	-3	6	1	0	2	0	38	7.9		
Cassels	18	3	7	10	-5	12	1	0	1	0	30	10.0		
Sanderson	18	3	7	10	-4	0	2	0	1	0	57	5.3		
Sydor	20	2	6	8	-13	9	0	0	0	0	32	5.9		
Storck	19	1	2	3	-4	10	0	0	0	0	32	0		
Letowski	11	2	2	4	0	2	1	0	1	0	18	11.1		
Pirjeta	19	1	3	4	-4	0	0	0	0	0	26	3.8		
Krutsn	14	0	4	4	-5	2	0	0	0	0	11	0		
Shelley	20	2	1	3	-6	4	1	0	0	0	17	11.8		
Green	16	0	3	3	-2	0	0	0	0	0	23	0		
Kleinow	16	0	1	1	-2	0	0	0	0	0	21	4.8		
Richardson	16	0	3	3	-2	0	0	0	0	0	23	0		
McDonald	16	1	1	2	-3	2	0	0	0	0	16	6.3		
Westcott	8	0	2	2	-1	11	0	0	0	0	5	0		
Faltis	13	0	2	2	-3	12	0	0	0	0	12	0		
Wesley	16	1	0	1	-4	12	0	0	0	0	6	6.3		
Ersson	16	0	1	1	-2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0		
Denis	13	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	13	0		
Lachance	17	0	1	1	-6	16	0	0	0	0	8	0		
Rohloff	4	0	0	0	-2	2	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Brathwaite	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Wright	12	0	0	0	-6	10	0	0	0	0	24	0		
Grand-Pierre	13	0	0	0	-2	10	0	0	0	0	13	0		
DALLAS														
Player	GP	G	A	Pts	+/−	PM	P	S	W	T	Sh	Pctg		
Guerin	21	12	8	20	-1	38	5	0	1	0	70	17.1		
Arnott	21	5	13	18	6	12	2	0	1	0	47	10.6		
Morrow	19	5	9	14	4	0	0	1	0	0	34	14.7		
Zubov	21	11	12	-13	-4	1	0	0	0	0	28	3.6		
Modano	21	5	6	11	-15	26	2	0	0	0	39	12.8		
Burnes	20	5	4	9	4	0	0	0	2	0	46	10.9		
Dickens	18	1	1	2	-1	1	0	1	1	0	25	2.0		
Bocharov	20	3	4	7	6	33	1	0	1	0	39	7.7		
Turgeon	18	1	5	6	-3	8	0	0	0	0	18	5.6		
Nurminen	17	0	6	6	-1	4	0	0	0	0	24	0		
Young	20	2	2	4	-11	8	1	0	0	0	43	4.7		
Kapanen	18	2	2	4	-3	8	0	0	0	0	12	8.3		
Malinichuk	20	1	2	3	-8	10	0	0	0	0	22	0		
McKee	21	0	3	3	-5	43	0	0	0	0	27	0		
Lehtinen	5	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	11.1		
Klemm	22	1	2	3	-7	20	0	0	0	0	23	4.3		
Tjanjstjorn	6	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	4	0		
Thurway	8	0	0	0	2	16	0	0	0	0	3	0		
Johnson	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Valicovic	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Swaney	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Giarey	3	0	0	0	-2	4	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Turco	20	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Erskine	21	0	0	0	-10	-44	0	0	0	0	14	0		
DETROIT														
Player	GP	G	A	Pts	+/−	PM	P	S	W	T	Sh	Pctg		
Guerin	21	12	8	20	-1	38	5	0	1	0	70	17.1		
Arnott	21	5	13	18	6	12	2	0	1	0	47	10.6		
Morrow	19	5	9	14	4	0	0	1	0	0	34	14.7		
Zubov	21	11	12	-13	-4	1	0	0	0	0	28	3.6		
Modano	21	5	6	11	-15	26	2	0	0	0	39	12.8		
Burnes	20	5	4	9	4	0	0	0	2	0	46	10.9		
Dickens	18	1	1	2	-1	1	0	1	1	0	25	2.0		
Bocharov	20	3	4	7	6	33	1	0	1	0	39	7.7		
Turgeon	18	1	5	6	-3	8	0	0	0	0	18	5.6		
Nurminen	17	0	6	6	-1	4	0	0	0	0	24	0		
Young	20	2	2	4	-11	8	1	0	0	0	43	4.7		
Kapanen	18	2	2	4	-3	8	0	0	0	0	12	8.3		
Malinichuk	20	1	2	3	-8	10	0	0	0	0	22	0		
McKee	21	0	3	3	-5	43	0	0	0	0	27	0		
Lehtinen	5	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	11.1		
Klemm	22	1	2	3	-7	20	0	0	0	0	23	4.3		
Tjanjstjorn	6	0	1	1	0	4	0	0	0					