

sports

Lidstrom the star of stars

The Canadian Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Leave it to Nicklas Lidstrom to quietly put his stamp on the NHL's all-star game. On a night that featured an endless stream of odd-man rushes and 21 goals, the Detroit Red Wings defenceman still managed to do what he does best. The Swede finished with an amazing plus-7 rating to lead by example on a team carrying his name. Even though Team Lidstrom beat Team Staal 11-10 on Sunday, a big part of the post-game discussion centred around the future Hall of Famer's defensive skills. "He picked the winning team and was plus-7 so that's a pretty good night for Nick Lidstrom," said Eric Staal. The Carolina Hurricanes captain held his own by scoring twice, but his team wasn't able to take advantage of home ice advantage and the support of a sellout crowd. The league went with a different format for this year's game — putting the power in the hands of the players by having captains Staal and Lidstrom select the teams. While it seemed pretty popular with the participants and created some new buzz heading into the weekend, it didn't have much impact on the game itself. "It's pretty much a shinny game

out there," said Jonathan Toews, one of three Chicago Blackhawks on Team Lidstrom. Added Team Lidstrom goaltender Jonas Hiller: "It felt like summer hockey, lots of back-door plays. It's not the most fun for the goalies but still I had a lot of fun." Lidstrom formed quite a defensive duo with Nashville Predators captain Shea Weber, who had a plus-6 rating himself and chipped in four assists. With the standout performances being put in by blueliners, the game lacked a real buzz moment — something that was in larger supply during Friday's draft and Saturday's skills competition. However, the players are clearly in favour of the new format and a few indicated that they hope it will continue next year when the game is played in Ottawa. "I had fun with it," said Team Staal forward Patrick Sharp, who won the MVP award and a new Honda Crosstour EX-L. "I was a little nervous going into the draft. There's a lot of talk about that last guy, but there is really no pressure at all." In the third period, Colorado's Matt Duchene was awarded the first penalty shot in all-star game history after Alex Ovechkin threw his stick while he was on a breakaway. However, he was unable to beat Henrik Lundqvist with a deke.



TAKING ON THE PROS — Former Vancouver Canucks forward Cliff Ronning had all the right moves while scoring five goals for the Legendary Hockey Heroes in an 11-5 win over the Prince George Emergency Services Guns 'n' Hoses at the 22nd annual Oldtimers Hockey Challenge. Guns 'n' Hoses goaltender Guy Walch, shown making a save off Ronning in the first period, was sharp while playing half the game before goalie Devon Spooner took over midway through the second period. A crowd of about 850 attended the Saturday game at the Coliseum, raising close to \$3,000 for the Prince George and area Child Developments Centres. Citizen photo by Chuck Nisbett

Back in the hunt

Sunday win moves Kings two points out of playoff spot

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It's been easy to write off the Prince George Spruce Kings as potential playoff contestants this season. They've been the bottom-feeders of the B.C. Hockey League since the season began in September. Well guess what, they're now only two points out of a playoff spot. The Spruce Kings shook off an 11-4 hammering Saturday night in Salmon Arm and fired right back into the thick of the playoff race with a 4-1 win Sunday afternoon in Merritt. Kirk Thompson put up a wall in front of the Kings nets, making 47 saves in Sunday's victory over the Merritt Centennials. Dustin Beairsto, Trent Murdoch and Kyle Manlow (into an empty net) were the Prince George triggermen. Evan Stack spoiled Thompson's shutout bid with just 3:03 left on the clock. Kings defenceman Ben Woodley had two assists. The win left the Spruce Kings (12-36-0-4) two points back of the Quesnel Millionaires (11-33-3-5) for the seventh and final playoff spot in the Interior Conference. Saturday night in Salmon Arm, the Kings fell behind 3-1 to the Silverbacks after one period and gave up five more in the second and three in the third, leading to their third loss this season in which an opponent scored 10 or more goals. The Silverbacks outshot the Kings 31-25. Cameron Large played all but 4:13 of the game, giving up seven goals on 19 shots. Thompson allowed four goals on five shots. Brad Reid scored three times to lead the Silver-

backs, while Bryce Gervais and Paul De Jersey each fired a pair. Prince George midget call-up Sean Landrey, Tye Sanford (a Vernon call-up), Beairsto and Todd Skirving replied for the Kings. The Spruce Kings and Millionaires each have eight games left, including a head-to-head matchup on Tuesday, Feb. 8 in Quesnel, with similar schedules ahead of them. The Kings host Nanaimo in their next game this Friday at the Coliseum, then travel to Quesnel, returning home for games against Penticton (twice) and Westside, ending on the road in Merritt, Penticton and Westside. The Mills play Nanaimo at home on Saturday, then host the Kings, Westside (twice) and Penticton, ending the season with a trip to Westside, Penticton and Vernon. Since Dave Dupas took over from the fired Ed Dempsey as interim head coach of the Spruce Kings Nov. 25, his record is 6-14-0-2, as compared with Dempsey's 6-22-0-2 mark to start the season. Since the Jan. 10 trade deadline, when the Kings parted company with their top four scorers — RJay Berra, Nic DeSousa, Justin Fillion and Zac Ashdown — as well as 20-year-old defenceman Derek Henderson, they've compiled a 2-3-0-2 record. ■ Fillion, a Prince George minor hockey graduate, scored the game-winning goal for the Victoria Grizzlies, 1:01 into overtime Saturday, to give the Grizzlies a 3-2 triumph over the visiting Penticton Vees. The Grizzlies lost 7-1 Sunday to the Powell River Kings. Prince George native Michael Garteig made 28 saves in the Powell River nets. Garteig is still looking for his seventh shutout of the season, which would tie Brad Thiessen's BCHL season record.

Maxwell leads 'Tips past Cats

The Canadian Press

EVERETT, Wash. — Tyler Maxwell scored twice, leading the Everett Silvertips to a 4-2 victory over the Prince George Cougars Saturday night in Western Hockey League action. Clayton Cumiskey and Josh Birkholz also scored and Ryan Murray added three assists for Everett (20-23-7), which won back-to-back games for the first time since Dec. 18. Kent Simpson had a strong game in net for the Silvertips, stopping 31 shots. Charles Inglis and Brett Connolly scored for Prince George (24-23-3). Goaltender Ty Rimmer finished with 23 saves. Maxwell's second goal was the clincher late in the third period. Prince George, which trailed 3-0 going into the third, pulled within one with two goals in 20 seconds.

Roughnecks one better than Rush

The Canadian Press

CALGARY — It was a closer game than the night before but the same result as the Calgary Roughnecks swept a home-and-home series with the Edmonton Rush on Saturday night. Rookie Curtis Dickson notched his second hat-trick in as many nights and Mark Scherman scored the winning goal 2:30 into overtime in Calgary's 12-11 victory. "I got open around the crease and nobody was really covering me," Scherman said. "(Curtis) Conway made a nice little move and he got the ball to me and I just quick-sticked it and was able to squeeze it in just inside the post. "I didn't even realize the moment and then the boys all jumped on me there and it was pretty awesome to hear the place going wild." It was the second goal of the season and just fourth of his career for the 25-year-old. Prince George's Jeff Moleski is a member of the Roughnecks and P.G.'s Brandon Atherton is a back-up goalie for the Rush.

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LIFESTYLE programs on TV tonight 1/31/11

	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
HGTV	House Hunters	House Hunters International	Holmes on Homes "Homes Inspection 2" Home inspections		House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters
FOOD	Pitchin' In "Mussels" (N)	Good Eats "Water Works I"	The Best Thing I Ever Ate	Glutton for Punishment "Caesar"	Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives	Un-wrapped "Sandwiched"	Top Chef "Dim Sum, Loso Sum" Chef's must beat Tom Colicchio's time	
W	Friends Joey's likable date.	Come Dine With Me Canada	Come Dine With Me Canada	Come Dine With Me Canada	Come Dine With Me Canada	Come Dine With Me Canada	Love It or List It "Gallagher" The Gallagher family.	
TLC	19 Kids and Counting (N)	19 Kids and Counting (N)	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss A cake for the Greatest Show on Earth		19 Kids and Counting	19 Kids and Counting
OUTDOOR	Ghost Hunters "Fort Ticonderoga"		Destination Truth Haunted ruins, monstrous worm		Operation Repo	Operation Repo	Ghost Hunters "Fort Ticonderoga"	
MUCH MUSIC	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	New.Music.Live		Pretty Little Liars The guilt that comes with secrets.		Gossip Girl "Damien Darko" Blair learns she landed an internship.	
MMM	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	Buffy the Vampire Slayer "New Moon Rising"		Gene Simmons Family Jewels	Gene Simmons Family Jewels	Don't Forget the Lyrics!	Don't Forget the Lyrics!

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