

BOSTON BRUINS vs. COLORADO AVALANCHE
Thursday, October 9, 2008
Pepsi Center; Denver CO
Game Time: 10:00 p.m. ET
Versus and WBZ Radio

Tonight's Game

The Bruins visit the Avalanche tonight in the only game between these teams this season and the Bruins' first visit to Pepsi Center since Dec. 7, 2005. The Bruins and Avalanche are both playing their first games of the 2008-09 season tonight.

The Bruins are 34-33-16-0 lifetime in season openers and are 6-20-5-0 lifetime when those openers are in road arenas. This is the third straight year that the Bruins are opening the season on the road and it is the first time they have opened three consecutive seasons on the road since 1958, 1959 and 1960 (3-2 loss in Montreal on Oct. 9, 1958; 4-1 loss in Montreal on Oct. 8, 1959; and 2-1 loss at NY Rangers on Oct. 5, 1960). The Bruins are winless in their last five season openers at 0-4-1 with their last opening night win a 4-2 victory over Anaheim on Oct. 4, 2001. The Bruins are 2-5-5-0 in their last 12 season opening games following a 12-game unbeaten streak from 1987-1998, which stands as the third-longest such streak in NHL history (Montreal, 13-0-4 from 1963-1979; Detroit, 14-0-1 from 1940-1954). The Bruins last won a season-opening road game on Oct. 5, 1993 with a 4-3 victory at NY Rangers.

Lifetime Series

The Bruins are 67-47-15-1 lifetime vs. the Colorado franchise (includes games as Quebec Nordiques) with a 512-432 scoring advantage in those 130 games and they are 5-10-1-1 lifetime vs. the Avalanche in Colorado. The Bruins are 36-25-6-0 vs. the Colorado franchise on the road with a 3-6-0-0 road mark vs. the team as the Avalanche. The Bruins have lost their last two games vs. Colorado with their last win over the Avalanche a 4-1 victory in Colorado on Oct. 21, 2003.

Fun Facts vs. Colorado: Stephane Yelle played his first professional season in the Quebec Nordiques organization with their AHL team in Cornwall in 1994-95. He then moved with the team to Colorado in 1995-96 and played his first seven NHL seasons with the Avalanche until his Oct., 2002 trade to Calgary. Yelle won two Stanley Cup championships with Colorado, in 1996 and 2001 ... Chuck Kobasew scored his only NHL hat trick vs. the Avalanche on Jan. 24, 2006 while with Calgary ... Mark Stuart played three seasons of college hockey at Colorado College and went to the Frozen Four with the Tigers in 2004-05 ... Boston's 2008 first round draft pick, Joe Colborne, is currently attending Denver University.

Recent Bruins Games

The Bruins finished their 2008 pre-season with a 3-4-1 record. They posted wins over Montreal (8-3 Sept. 22), Detroit (2-1 Sept. 26 in Detroit's only regulation loss during the pre-season) and Washington (5-4/SO Oct. 5); recorded regulation losses to Detroit (4-3 Sept. 25), Washington (4-3 Sept. 27), Montreal (3-1 Oct. 1) and NY Islanders (3-1 Oct. 4); and took an overtime loss to NY Islanders on Sept. 23 (2-1).

The Bruins finished the 2007-08 season with a 41-29-12 record, 21-16-4 at home and 20-13-8 on the road. Their 94 points were good for eighth place in the Eastern Conference and the final post-season berth. They fell in their Eastern Conference Quarter-Final playoff series to Montreal, four games to three.

Recent Avalanche Games

The Avalanche finished their 2008 pre-season with a 4-1-1 record.

Upcoming Bruins Games

The Bruins open their 2008-09 season with a four-game road trip, beginning tonight in Colorado. They will continue the trip in Minnesota on Oct. 11 (8:30 pm ET), in Montreal on Oct. 15 (7:30 pm) and in Ottawa on Oct. 18 (7:00 pm). They will return to Boston for their home opener on Oct. 20 (7:00 p.m.) when they host the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Upcoming Avalanche Games

The Avalanche will next face a two-game road trip, traveling to Edmonton on Oct. 12 and to Calgary on Oct. 14.

Bruins Injuries

None reported.

Bruins Recent Transactions

Sept. 22: Jamie Arniel (Sarnia), Denis Reul (Lewiston) and Michael Hutchinson (Barrie) returned to their junior teams; Yuri Cheremetiev, Arthur Fritch and Doug Krantz (ATOs) released from training camp; Scott Fletcher (ATO) released from Boston training camp and invited to Providence/AHL training camp; Jeff LoVecchio, Levi Nelson and Wacey Rabbit assigned to Providence/AHL.

Sept. 24: Maxime Sauve (Val d'Or) returned to his junior team.

Sept. 27: Jordan Knackstedt released from Boston training camp and invited to Providence/AHL training camp; Byron Bitz, Andrew Bodnarchuk, Zach Hamill, Martins Karsums, Mikko Lehtonen, Brad Marchand, Matt Marquardt, Adam McQuaid and Kevin Regan assigned to Providence/AHL.

Sept. 29: Mike Egener and Ryan Stokes assigned to Providence/AHL.

Oct. 1: Johnny Boychuk assigned to Providence/AHL.

Oct. 2: Matt Lashoff, Jeff Penner and Tuukka Rask assigned to Providence/AHL.

Oct. 4: Martin St. Pierre assigned to Providence/AHL.

Oct. 7: Matt Hunwick assigned to Providence/AHL; Carl Soderberg assigned to Malmö/Sweden; Mike Egener announced retirement.

Oct. 8: Peter Schaefer, Vladimir Sobotka and Jeremy Reich assigned to Providence/AHL; Nate Thompson claimed off waivers by NY Islanders.

2008-09 Shootouts

The Bruins participated in one shootout during the 2008 pre-season, taking a 5-4 decision in Washington on Oct. 5. Phil Kessel and Patrice Bergeron (deciding goal) scored for Boston with Manny Fernandez getting the victory in goal.

Bruins Fun Facts

October Birthdays: Phil Kessel turned 21 on Oct. 2.

Of the 22 players on the current Bruins roster, eight were acquired by the team via trade, seven were drafted by the team and seven were signed by the Bruins as free agents.

P. J. Axelsson is the longest-tenured Bruin as he enters his 11th season with the team since playing his first NHL game with Boston on Oct. 2, 1997.

Blake Wheeler is looking to play in his first NHL game.

Michael Ryder and Stephane Yelle are looking to play in their first games as Bruins.

Michael Ryder is one goal shy of his 100th NHL goal milestone.

Manny Fernandez is three games short of his 300th NHL game milestone.

Aaron Ward is three games shy of his 700th NHL game milestone.

P. J. Axelsson is three goals short of his 100th NHL/Bruins goal milestone.

Andrew Ference is six assists shy of his 100th NHL assists milestone.

The Bruins have 16 sets of back-to-back games this season - six each home-road and road-road, three road-home and one home-home.

The Bruins will complete the first of their 29 season series tonight in Colorado.

This Date in Bruins History

October 9, 1989: Reggie Lemelin makes 24 saves in a 2-0 win over the Montreal Canadiens. It is Boston's first shutout over Montreal in Boston since March 8, 1970 and the first overall since January 19, 1974.

October 9, 1999: The Bruins play their first game under the league's new four-on-four overtime format, tying the Philadelphia Flyers in a 1-1 game.

October 9, 2000: Mike Knuble scores Boston's first shorthanded goal since December 19, 1998 in a 4-2 win over Florida.

The Players

6—Dennis Wideman—D

Had 0-1=1 totals in 4 pre-season games.

11—P. J. Axelsson—LW

Is three goals shy of his 100th NHL/Bruins goal milestone.

Had points in four of his five pre-season games played with 3-1=4 totals, including two power play goals.

12—Chuck Kobasew—RW

Is seven games short of his 300th NHL game milestone.

Had one goal in four pre-season games.

16—Marco Sturm—LW

Had 2-2=4 totals in 6 pre-season games.

17–Milan Lucic–LW

Had two assists in 6 pre-season games.

18–Stephane Yelle–C

Is looking to play his first game as a Bruin tonight in Colorado.

Had one assist in 5 pre-season games.

21–Andrew Ference–D

Is six assists shy of his 100th NHL assists milestone.

Led the team in pre-season scoring with 2-4=6 totals in 4 pre-season games.

Led all NHL defensemen in pre-season scoring and was one of four defensemen to lead their teams in scoring during the exhibition schedule (Edmonton's Sheldon Souray, Nashville's Shea Weber, Ottawa's Filip Kuba).

22–Shawn Thornton–LW

Had 1-2=3 totals in 5 pre-season games.

29–Petteri Nokelainen–C

Had 1-0=1 totals in 3 pre-season games.

30–Tim Thomas–G

Went 0-3-0 with a 3.35 GAA in 3 pre-season games.

33–Zdeno Chara–D

Had points in each of his 3 pre-season games played with 2-1=3 totals with both goals coming on the power play.

34–Shane Hnidy–D

Scoreless in 3 pre-season games.

35–Manny Fernandez–G

Is three games shy of his 300th NHL game milestone.

Is looking to play his first regular season game since Oct. 22, 2007 in Montreal (missed the remainder of the 2007-08 season following knee surgery).

Went 2-1-0 with a 3.29 GAA in 3 pre-season games.

37–Patrice Bergeron–C

Is looking to play his first regular season game since suffering a season-ending concussion on Oct. 27, 2007 vs. Philadelphia.

Tied for the team's pre-season scoring lead with 1-5=6 totals in 6 pre-season games.

41–Andrew Alberts–D

Had three assists in 6 pre-season games.

42–Blake Wheeler–LW

Is looking to play his first NHL game tonight in Colorado.

Tied for second in the team's pre-season scoring race with 1-4=5 totals in 6 games.

44–Aaron Ward–D

Is three games short of the 700th NHL games milestone.

Had one goal in 4 pre-season games.

45–Mark Stuart–D

Scoreless in 5 pre-season games.

46–David Krejci–C

Tied for second in the team's pre-season scoring race with 2-3=5 totals in 3 games.

Had points in each of his games, including two assists Sept. 22 vs. Montreal and two goals Oct. 5 in Washington.

73–Michael Ryder–RW

Is looking to play his first game as a Bruin tonight in Colorado.

Is one goal shy of his 100th NHL goals milestone.

Had one goal in 6 pre-season games.

81–Phil Kessel–RW

Had two assists in 4 pre-season games.

91–Marc Savard–C

Had three assists in 6 pre-season games.