

BOSTON BRUINS vs. MONTREAL CANADIENS

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

Bell Centre; Montreal QBC

Game Time: 7:30 p.m. ET

NESN and WODS Radio

Tonight's Game

The Bruins visit the Canadiens tonight in the first of six games between these teams this season and the first of three Boston visits to the Bell Centre this season. The Bruins are 1-1-0 overall this season with a 1-1-0 record on the road while the Canadiens are 1-0-1 overall this season and are playing their first home game of the season tonight. The Bruins are playing their first game of the season tonight vs. both a Northeast Division opponent and Eastern Conference foe. The Canadiens are 1-0-1 thus far this season vs. both Northeast Division opponents and Eastern Conference teams.

Lifetime Series

The Bruins are 257-330-103-3 lifetime vs. Montreal with the Canadiens holding a 2,109-1,830 scoring advantage in those 693 games. The Bruins are 99-199-47-1 lifetime vs. Montreal on the road with the Canadiens having a 1,168-814 scoring edge in those 346 games. The Bruins are winless in their last 11 regular season games vs. the Canadiens at 0-10-0-1 with their last victory over Montreal a 3-1 win in Boston on Mar. 3, 2007. The Bruins are 0-6-0-1 in their last seven regular season games at the Bell Centre with their last road win in Montreal a 6-5 victory on Dec. 4, 2006.

Fun Facts vs. Montreal: The Bruins and Canadiens both open this season with road trips - Boston on a four-game stretch before their Oct. 20 home opener and Montreal with their first three games on the road prior to their home opener tonight ... The Bruins' next win in Montreal will be their 100th road victory in the lifetime series between these teams ... Boston's current 11-game losing stretch vs. the Canadiens is their longest such streak in the lifetime series ... Bruins coach Claude Julien coached the Canadiens from January, 2003 through the 2005-06 season with a 72-62-10-15 record in 159 games behind the Montreal bench ... Julien and assistant coach Geoff Ward also served as head coaches of the Canadiens' AHL affiliate (shared with Edmonton) in Hamilton and shared AHL Coach of the Year honors in 2002-03 ... Manny Fernandez was a native of Montreal ... Michael Ryder was drafted by the Canadiens (ninth pick, 216th overall) in the 1998 NHL Entry Draft and played his first seven pro seasons in the Canadiens organization, including four seasons in Montreal from 2003-04 through 2007-08.

Recent Bruins Games

The Bruins have split their first two games of this season, opening their 2008-09 schedule with a 5-4 win in Colorado on Oct. 9 and following up with a 4-3 loss in Minnesota on Oct. 11. The win in Colorado was their first opening night win since a 4-2 victory over Anaheim on Oct. 4, 2001 and their first season-opener win on the road since a 4-3 triumph at NY Rangers on Oct. 5, 1993.

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 Canadiens Games

The Canadiens are 1-0-1 thus far this season with a 2-1 overtime loss in Buffalo on Oct. 10, a 6-1 victory in Toronto on Oct. 11 and a 0-0 in Philadelphia on Oct. 13. Montreal finished their 2008 pre-season with a 6-3-0 record.

Upcoming Bruins Games

All games are televised on NESN and broadcast on WBZ Radio unless otherwise noted.

The Bruins conclude their current four-game road trip 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 and will then face another road contest in Buffalo on Oct. 21 (7:00 p.m.).

Upcoming Canadiens Games

The Canadiens open a five-game home stand tonight, continuing by hosting Phoenix on Oct. 18, Florida on Oct. 20, Anaheim on Oct. 25 and Carolina on Oct. 28.

Bruins Injuries

Chuck Kobasew: Fractured right leg suffered Oct. 9 in Colorado; out indefinitely.

Bruins Recent Transactions (Last 30 Days)

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.

Oct. 13: Ned Lukacevic and conditional 2009 draft pick acquired from Philadelphia for Andrew Alberts.

Oct. 14: Vladimir Sobotka and Matt Hunwick recalled from Providence/AHL.

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 23 players on the current Bruins roster, eight were acquired by the team via trade, eight 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.

Phil Kessel carries the team's longest current iron-man streak into tonight's game at 127 games, dating back to Jan. 9, 2007 at Ottawa. His last game missed was Jan. 6, 2007, the final game of 11 he missed following a testicular cancer diagnosis and surgery.

Aaron Ward is playing his 700th NHL game tonight.

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

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

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

Patrice Bergeron is eight points short of his 200th NHL/Bruins point 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 have completed one of their 29 season series ...They are 1-0-0 vs. Colorado.

This Date in Bruins History

October 15, 1967: Phil Esposito ties a club record with four goals in a 6-2 win over the Montreal Canadiens.

October 15, 2003: Andrew Raycroft makes 27 saves for his first career shutout in a 2-0 win at Dallas Stars. It is Boston's first win in Dallas since February 16, 1994.

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.

Has points in each of his games played thus far at 0-3=3 with an assist Oct. 9 in Colorado and two assists Oct. 11 in Minnesota.

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 out indefinitely with a fractured right leg suffered Oct. 9 in Colorado.

Has one multiple-point game, a two-assist effort Oct. 9 in Colorado.

16–Marco Sturm–LW

Picked up his first point of the season with an assist Oct. 11 in Minnesota.

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

17–Milan Lucic–LW

Had an assist on the game-winning goal Oct. 9 in Colorado.

Had two assists in 6 pre-season games.

18–Stephane Yelle–C

Played his first game as a Bruin Oct. 9 in Colorado.

Had one assist in 5 pre-season games.

21–Andrew Ference–D

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

Had an assist Oct. 9 in Colorado.

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

Played his first game of the season Oct. 11 in Minnesota.

Did not dress Oct. 9 in Colorado (coach's decision).

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

30–Tim Thomas–G

Won his first start of the season with a 5-4 victory Oct. 9 in Colorado.

Has dressed as backup for one game.

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

33–Zdeno Chara–D

Had a power play assist Oct. 9 in Colorado.

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 two games shy of his 300th NHL game milestone.

Took the 4-3 loss in Minnesota on Oct. 11, playing his first regular season game since Oct. 22, 2007 in Montreal (missed the remainder of the 2007-08 season following knee surgery).

Has dressed as backup for one game.

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

37–Patrice Bergeron–C

Is eightine points shy of his 200th NHL/Bruins point milestone.

Has points in each of his first two games of the season with a two-assist effort Oct. 9 in Colorado and an assist Oct. 11 in Minnesota.

Has one multiple-point game, a two-assist effort Oct. 9 in Colorado.

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

42–Blake Wheeler–LW

Scored his first NHL goal in his first NHL game Oct. 9 in Colorado ... Was the first Bruin to accomplish that feat since Andy Hilbert vs. Montreal on Dec. 20, 2001.

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

44–Aaron Ward–D

Is playing his 700th NHL game tonight.
Had one goal in 4 pre-season games.

45–Mark Stuart–D

Scoreless in 5 pre-season games.

46–David Krejci–C

Has one multiple-point game, a 1-1=2 effort Oct. 9 in Colorado with the goal proving the game-winner with 2:36 remaining in the third period.

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 exhibition games, including two assists Sept. 22 vs. Montreal and two goals Oct. 5 in Washington.

48–Matt Hunwick–D

Recalled Oct. 14 from Providence/AHL where he had two assists in two AHL Bruins games.

Had one assist in 5 Boston pre-season games.

60–Vladimir Sobotka–C

Recalled Oct. 14 from Providence/AHL where he had 2-2=4 totals with 7 PIM in 2 AHL Bruins games ... Had a "Gordie Howe Hat Trick" with the overtime goal, an assist and a fight vs. Springfield on Oct. 12.

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

73–Michael Ryder–RW

Has points in each of his first two games with a goal Oct. 9 in Colorado and two assists Oct. 11 in Minnesota.

Scored his first goal as a Bruin in his first game as a Bruin Oct. 9 in Colorado ... The goal was the 100th of his NHL career.

Had one goal in 6 pre-season games.

81–Phil Kessel–RW

Has scored the first goal of the game in each of Boston's first two games this season, Oct. 9 in Colorado and Oct. 11 in Minnesota.

Had two assists in 4 pre-season games.

91–Marc Savard–C

Has points in each of his two games this season with a 1-1=2 effort Oct. 9 in Colorado and two goals Oct. 11 in Minnesota.

Has two multiple-point games, both two-point efforts.

Had three assists in 6 pre-season games.