

BOSTON BRUINS vs. PITTSBURGH PENGUINS

Monday, October 20, 2008

TD Banknorth Garden; Boston MA

Game Time: 7:00 p.m. ET

NESN and WBZ Radio

Tonight's Game

The Bruins host the Penguins tonight in the first of four games between these teams this season and the first of two games of this season's series at TD Banknorth Garden. The Bruins are 2-1-1 overall this season and are playing their first home game of the season tonight. The Penguins are 3-2-1 overall this season with a 1-0-0 record on the road. The Bruins are playing their first game of the season vs. an Atlantic Division opponent and are 1-0-1 this season vs. Eastern Conference foes. The Penguins are 2-1-0 vs. Northeast Division opponents and post a 3-2-1 record vs. Eastern Conference teams.

Lifetime Series

The Bruins are 97-50-21-2 lifetime vs. Pittsburgh with a 675-530 scoring advantage in those 170 games. The Bruins are 60-17-6-1 lifetime vs. Pittsburgh on home ice with a 371-237 scoring edge in those 84 contests. The Bruins have won their last two games vs. the Penguins while going 2-1-1 vs. Pittsburgh in last season's series. Their last loss to the Penguins was a 4-2 setback in Pittsburgh on Dec. 23, 2007.

Fun Facts vs. Pittsburgh: Andrew Ference was drafted by Pittsburgh as their eighth pick, 208th overall, in the 1997 NHL Entry Draft and played his first five professional seasons in the Penguins organization, including 11-25=36 totals with 157 PIM in 163 Penguins games ... Vladimir Sobotka scored his first NHL goal at Pittsburgh on Feb. 13, 2008 ... The Bruins last shut out the Penguins on home ice with a 7-0 John Blue win on Jan. 14, 1993 ... The Penguins have shut out the Bruins just once in Boston - on Jan. 28, 1968 (1-0 by Les Binkley) in their first NHL season.

Recent Bruins Games

The Bruins completed their season-opening four-game road trip at 2-1-1 with a 5-4 win in Colorado on Oct. 9, a 4-3 loss in Minnesota on Oct. 11, a 4-3 shootout loss in Montreal on Oct. 15 and a 4-2 victory in Ottawa on Oct. 18.

Recent Penguins Games

The Penguins are 3-2-1 thus far this season. They opened the campaign facing Ottawa in a two-game series in Stockholm, Sweden and split that series with a 4-3 overtime win on Oct. 4 and a 3-1 loss on Oct. 5. They opened their North American season with a four-game home stand and are 2-1-1 in those games with a 2-1 overtime loss to New Jersey on Oct. 11, a 3-2 overtime win over Philadelphia on Oct. 14, a 4-3 loss to Washington on Oct. 16 and a 4-1 victory vs. Toronto on Oct. 18.

Upcoming Bruins Games

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

The Bruins next face another road contest in Buffalo on Oct. 21 (VERSUS, 7:00 p.m.). They will then return to Boston hosting Toronto on Oct. 23 (7:00 p.m.) and Atlanta on Oct. 25 (7:00 p.m.).

Upcoming Penguins Games

The Penguins next return home to host Carolina on Oct. 23. They will then face a four-game road trip at NY Rangers, San Jose, Phoenix and St. Louis.

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 Egner 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 Egner 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.
Oct. 17: Jordan Knackstedt signed to an entry-level contract.

2008-09 Shootouts (0-1):

Oct. 15: Boston 3 at Montreal 4 ... Boston Goal: Tim Thomas ... Montreal Goal: Carey Price
Boston Shooters: Phil Kessel (No), Patrice Bergeron (No), Michael Ryder (No)
Montreal Shooters: Andrei Markov (No), Alex Tanguay (Yes)

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 129 games, dating back to Jan. 9, 2007 at Pittsburgh. His last game missed was Jan. 6, 2007, the final game of 11 he missed following a testicular cancer diagnosis and surgery.

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

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

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

Patrice Bergeron is seven 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. They are playing the first of these sets tonight vs. Pittsburgh and tomorrow in Buffalo.

The Bruins have completed one of their 29 season series ...They are 1-0-0 vs. Colorado.

This Date in Bruins History

October 20, 1983: The Bruins and Philadelphia Flyers play to a 3-3 tie in the first Boston overtime game since the NHL reinstated OT at the start of the 1983-84 season.

October 20, 2007: Boston's Manny Fernandez and New York's Henrik Lundqvist both earn shutouts in a 1-0 Boston shootout win over the Rangers.

The Players

6--Dennis Wideman--D

Recorded his first point of the season with an assist Oct. 15 in Montreal.

11--P. J. Axelsson--LW

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

Missed the Oct. 18 game in Ottawa with a slight injury.

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

Has missed one game to injury (1-Oct. 18).

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.

Has missed three games to injury (3-Leg, Oct. 11-18).

16--Marco Sturm--LW

Has 1-2=3 totals in two of his last three games with an assist Oct. 11 in Minnesota and a 1-1=2 effort Oct. 18 in Ottawa which included an assist on the game-winning goal.

17–Milan Lucic–LW

Had an assist on the game-winning goal Oct. 9 in Colorado and scored his first goal of the season Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

18–Stephane Yelle–C

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

21–Andrew Ference–D

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

Has two assists on the season, recorded Oct. 9 in Colorado and Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

22–Shawn Thornton–LW

Scoreless in four games thus far this season.

29–Petteri Nokelainen–C

Has played two of the last three games, dressing Oct. 11 in Minnesota and Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

Has not dressed for two games (coach's decision).

30–Tim Thomas–G

Has taken points out of each of his starts this season at 1-0-1 with a 5-4 victory Oct. 9 in Colorado and a 4-3 shootout loss in Montreal on Oct. 15.

2008-09 Shootouts: 0-1 (1 goal/2 shots).

Has dressed as backup for two games.

33–Zdeno Chara–D

Has power play assists in two of his four games, recorded Oct. 9 in Colorado and Oct. 15 in Montreal.

34–Shane Hnidy–D

Is looking for his first point of the season.

Did not dress Oct. 15 in Montreal (coach's decision).

35–Manny Fernandez–G

Is one game shy of his 300th NHL game milestone.

Earned his first win of the season with a 4-2 victory in Ottawa on Oct. 18.

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

Has dressed as backup for two games.

37–Patrice Bergeron–C

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

Has points in three of his four games this season with a two-assist effort Oct. 9 in Colorado and single assists each Oct. 11 in Minnesota and Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

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

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. Pittsburgh on Dec. 20, 2001.

44–Aaron Ward–D

Scoreless in four games thus far this season.

Played his 700th NHL game Oct. 15 in Montreal.

45–Mark Stuart–D

Scoreless in four games thus far this season.

46–David Krejci–C

Has 2-2=4 totals in two of his four games this season with 1-1=2 totals each Oct. 9 in Colorado and Oct. 15 in Montreal.

Has two multiple-point games.

48–Matt Hunwick–D

Did not dress Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

Played his first Boston game of the season Oct. 15 in Montreal.

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

Has not dressed for one game (coach's decision).

60–Vladimir Sobotka–C

Has played the last two games since his Oct. 14 recall 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.

73—Michael Ryder—RW

Has a four-game point streak in progress with 1-4=5 totals in that span ... Had a goal Oct. 9 in Colorado, two assists Oct. 11 in Minnesota and single assists each Oct. 15 in Montreal and Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

Has one multiple-point game.

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.

81—Phil Kessel—RW

Has points in three of his four games this season ... 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, and had 2-1=3 totals, including the game-winning goal, Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

Has one multiple-point game, a 2-1=3 effort Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

91—Marc Savard—C

Has a four-game point streak in progress with 5-4=9 totals in that span ... Had a 1-1=2 effort Oct. 9 in Colorado, two-goal efforts each Oct. 11 in Minnesota and Oct. 15 in Montreal, and three assists, including one on the game-winning goal, Oct. 18 in Ottawa.

Has four multiple-point games with his season-high a three-assist effort Oct. 18 in Ottawa.