

Oilers, Flames alumni look back at last playoff Battle of Alberta: 'A lot of hate'

JOSHUA CLIPPERTON
The Canadian Press

CALGARY
Esa Tikkanen could feel his team's season, and perhaps the Edmonton Oilers' dynasty, starting to slip away.

He also knew a 3-0 deficit — even in the knife-edged Battle of Alberta — didn't mean much at the time.

The Oilers found themselves in that big hole early in Game 7 against the Calgary Flames on April 16, 1991, at what was then known as the Olympic Saddledome.

Looking to shake his team to life, Edmonton head coach John Muckler called timeout late in the first period.

"He goes, 'Well guys, we have to start to play hockey if we want to keep going,'" Tikkanen recalled in a phone interview from his native Finland. "The next shift I scored a big goal — slapshot from blue line on Mike Vernon in the five-hole."

"That was the turning point."
The Oilers would tie the score in the second, including Tikkanen's second of the night, and then grab the lead in the third only to have the Flames knot it up late.

Just under seven minutes into overtime, with a province holding its collective breath, Tikkanen dashed down the right side on a hopeful 1-on-4 rush before firing a shot that ticked off Calgary defenceman Frantisek Musil and sailed past Vernon to cap the teams' fifth playoff meeting in nine years.

"A great battle," Tikkanen said. "One of greatest series in hockey history."

The provincial rivals, however, would both fall on hard times for long stretches and not meet again in the post-season for more than three

decades — a showdown that started this week and once again has the attention of the hockey world.

But not for all of the same reasons. Now it's largely about the speed and skill of Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl, Johnny Gaudreau and Matthew Tkachuk.

Sure, there's dislike on both sides in 2022.

But back in 1991, it was the heated match-up of two teams — two champions — taking and receiving walloping blows that almost defy logic when examined under the sport's current lens.

That Battle of Alberta in particular was mean, nasty and downright violent.

"The most physical, aggressive, emotional series I've ever been part of," said Mark Lamb, another Edmonton forward at the time.

"Just unbelievable how intense it was."
"The hardest I'd been (hit)," added former Flames centre Joel Otto.

Craig Muni, who patrolled the Oilers blue line, said while YouTube video of various incidents 31 years later is shocking to some — hobbled Edmonton captain Mark Messier could barely get off the bench to celebrate Tikkanen's Game 7 heroics — the players didn't think twice.

"Just the way the game was," Muni said. "You didn't look at it or think of it any different."

"It was the cost if you wanted to play."

The clubs had combined to win the Stanley Cup the four previous years heading into the 1991 series — Edmonton in 1987, 1988 and 1990,

while Calgary hoisted hockey's holy grail in 1989 — but there was a feeling time wasn't on the side of either battered powerhouse.

"To be honest," Oilers defenceman Kevin Lowe said, "both teams were on fumes."

Edmonton jumped out to a 3-1 lead in the series before the

Flames roared back with two straight victories, including Theo Fleury's dramatic Game 6 winner in OT and his memorable celebration, to send the drama back to Calgary for the decider.

"When Theo came in our barn and scored in overtime and did a full lap on his knees and jumped and so on, as a player you're saying ... I'm not going to say it," recalled Martin Gelinas, an Oilers forward at the time and now a Flames development coach. "It was physical, it was hard."

"It was a jungle."
Vernon likened the action to a "war" in that seven-game set.

"A lot of stuff going on behind the referee's back," he said. "A lot of dirty, chippy stuff."

"There was a lot of hate."
Muni said it didn't take long for a kid from Toronto to understand the intensity of the Battle of Alberta — and not just on the ice.

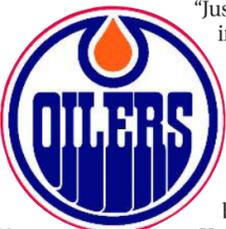
"It was a baptism by fire," he said. "You quickly realize it's not just a rivalry hockey-wise. It's a rivalry between the cities, and the politics ... everything."

"Everybody's on either side of the fence."

Tikkanen said there was no escaping Oilers-Flames chatter.

"They talked about it every minute," he said of fans and media.

"Everyone was watching."



Smith, Raanta, Hurricanes top Rangers for 2-0 series lead

AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C.

Brendan Smith scored a shorthanded goal late in the second period while Antti Raanta finished with 21 saves to help the Carolina Hurricanes beat the New York Rangers 2-0 on Friday night, taking a 2-0 lead in their second-round playoff series.

Smith's goal off a feed from Sebastian Aho marked his first postseason goal in nine years, and it was the difference in a tightly defended game by both teams with little space to operate and even fewer traffic-free looks at the net.

Aho added a clinching empty-net score to finish this off with 1.8 seconds left as Raanta held up.

The Hurricanes had flirted with tallying a short-handed goal earlier in the game multiple times, including once when Teuvo Teravainen pinged the right post in the first period from the slot off a feed from Aho. It ended up foreshadowing the Hurricanes' breakthrough score, with Aho skating in on the right side to set up Smith for a one-timer from the left that cleanly zipped past Igor Shesterkin for the putaway with 4:06 left in the second.

Carolina improved to 6-0 at home in the playoffs and has a 2-0 lead for the second straight round. Now they face the challenge of winning on the road for the first time in the postseason after claiming a seven-game first-round series against Boston in which no team managed a road win.

They'll get their first chance to win at Madison Square Garden in Game 3 on Sunday. And the Rangers will try to mount another series comeback after rallying from a 3-1 deficit to beat Pittsburgh in a seven-game first-round series.

Shesterkin finished with 20 saves to lead the Rangers on a night with few offensive highlights.

The teams combined for 43 shots and had big penalty kills as well, with New York killing off more than a minute of 5-on-3 time while the Hurricanes scored their short-handed goal on a 4-minute kill for a double-minor high-sticking penalty on Brady Skjei.

CHANGING LOOKS

Carolina coach Rod Brind'Amour tweaked his lines a bit looking for a spark in the Game 1 comeback, then stuck with that look for Game 2.

Most notably, Teravainen moved up to the top line to play alongside Aho and rookie Seth Jarvis, while Andrei Svechnikov moved to the second line.

Brind'Amour also moved up speedy skater Martin Necas to the second line and bumped Max Domi - the Game 7 hero against Boston with two goals - down to the fourth line.

The Rangers stayed with the same line pairings to start this one, though coach Gerard Gallant eventually moved Alexis Lafreniere up to the second line alongside Artemi Panarin and Ryan Strome looking for a third-period spark.

RIGHT BACK IN

Rangers defenseman Ryan Lindgren left briefly after taking a puck to the mouth area near the boards slightly past the midway point of the first period. He was back on the bench, and soon after the ice, by late in the period.

SIREN SOUNDERS

Carolina Panthers running back Christian McCaffrey sounded the pregame "storm warning" siren for the Hurricanes to take the ice.

NFL quarterback Mike Glennon and WNBA player Kiara Leslie — both former North Carolina State stars who played in college here in Raleigh — sounded if for the first and second intermissions, respectively.

PUBLIC NOTICES



8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages.....	403.529.8260	Water & Sewer Emergency	403.502.8042
Gas Emergency	403.529.8191	After Hours Special Services.....	403.526.2828

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED MAY 12 TO MAY 18, 2022 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

1005 22 STREET NE	(Lot 25, Block 7, Plan 7410918 LDP20220334. Single Detached House (Secondary Suite).	
687 HEMINGWAY CRESCENT NE	(Lot 55, Block 7, Plan 8310543) PLDP20220345. Garage.	
126 2 STREET NW	(Lots 7 & 8, Block 9, Plan 726M) PLDP20220371. Garage.	
595 12 STREET NE	(Lot 12, Block 8, Plan 1433HS) PLDP20220388. Garage.	
4 CACTUS COULEE PLACE SW	(Lot 8, Block 1, Plan 0912682) PLDP20220407. Garage.	

COMMERCIAL

101 552 3 STREET SE	(Lots 27-33, Block 15, Plan 1491) PLDP20220336. Change Of Use (Market).
5254 BOX SPRINGS ROAD NW	(Lot 1, Block 2, Plan 1811492) PLDP20220363. Industrial Operations (Garage).

HOME OCCUPATION

33 CHINOOK DRIVE SW	(Lot 30, Block 37, Plan 9611202) PLDP20220384. Office With Storage On Site. Plumbing/Gas fitting/Heating.
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A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTIONS & WATER MAIN FLUSHING

City Assets Environmental Utilities Maintenance Crews perform regular, routine maintenance to uphold the water quality and system infrastructure by annually inspecting fire hydrants and flushing water mains.

During these operations, there may be some discoloration in the water which is not harmful to consume and will dissipate when flushing is complete. Please note that discoloured water should not be used for laundry and that fluctuating water pressure may also be noticed.

Should discoloration persist beyond three hours, turn on a cold-water faucet or an outside sprinkler and let the water run for several minutes until the water runs clear.

For additional information or to confirm whether crews are working in your zone, refer to the Water Flushing information on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca/water or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

RESIDENTIAL WASTE COLLECTION

COLLECTION DAY CHANGES

There will be **no residential waste collection** on **Monday, May 23, 2022**, due to the Victoria Day Statutory Holiday.

Waste collection zones will advance as follows:

DATE	CITY ZONE
Monday, May 23	No Collection
Tuesday, May 24	Zone 5
Wednesday, May 25	Zone 1
Thursday, May 26	Zone 2
Friday, May 27	Zone 3
Monday, May 30	Zone 4

Download the Recycle Coach App, refer to www.medicinehat.ca/collectionschedule or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176 for more information.

CART COLLECTION TIPS

- Carts must be out by 7 a.m. on your collection day.
- Waste carts are collected separately with collection times that vary throughout the day.
- Make sure carts are accessible with 3ft (1m) clearance on all sides.
- Ensure cart lids are closed to avoid litter or collection problems.
- Contaminated yard waste and blue recycling carts **will not** be collected.

To prevent theft or damage to your cart; remove carts off roadways, sidewalks, back lanes etc. and return to **private property** within 24 hours of collection.

WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

Residents are reminded that the City of Medicine Hat Waste Management Facility will be **closed on Monday, May 23, 2022**, re-opening the following business day.

Hours of Operation are as follows:

- Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- Closed on Sunday

Refer to www.medicinehat.ca/landfill, download the Recycle Coach App, or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176 for more information.

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