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Second Month of the 2023-2024 NHL Season

The second month and the first quarter of the 2023-2024 NHL season have concluded and this month included a lot of action from around the league. The first match-up of the season between the Tkachuk brothers did not disappoint. Matthew Tkachuk and the Florida Panthers defeated Brady Tkachuk and the Ottawa Senators 5-0 in a penalty-heavy game on November 27th. The Panthers and Senators combined for 167 penalty minutes with ten game misconducts handed out to players due to a scrum in the third period. The 17th goalie goal in NHL history occurred when Pittsburgh goalie Tristen Jarry scored in the Pittsburgh Penguins' 4-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on November 30th.

Three teams that stood out this month to make up Mia's Terrific Three are the New York Rangers, Vancouver Canucks, and Florida Panthers. Following November, the New York Rangers currently lead the Metropolitan Division after improving to 16-4-1 with 33 points. The Vancouver Canucks are the most surprising team this season because no one expected them to be this good following their mediocre 2022-2023 season where they were nowhere close to a spot in the 2023 Stanley Cup Playoffs. Vancouver currently is in second in the Pacific Division, trailing the reigning Stanley Cup Champions the Vegas Golden Knights by three points. After November, the Canucks have a total of 31 points with a record of 15-8-1. The third and final team to make up Mia's Terrific Three for November is the Florida Panthers. This season the Panthers are looking for redemption following their 4-1 series loss to the Vegas Golden Knights in the 2023 Stanley Cup Finals. Florida currently is in second place in the Atlantic Division trailing the Boston Bruins by three points. The Panthers are 14-7-2 with 30 points going into December.

Mia's Troubling Three for November has two who return and a new team joining them this month. The San Jose Sharks collected their first win this season in a 2-1 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on November 7th. Although the Sharks improved greatly this month they remain favorites to acquire Macklin Celebrini, the projected first overall pick in the 2024 NHL Draft. San Jose finished the month with a 5-16-2 record with 14 points which is 13 more points than they had in October. After a disappointing start to November, the Edmonton Oilers fired

their head coach Jay Woodcroft and assistant coach Dave Manson on Sunday, November 12th after only collecting 7 points in a 3-9-1 start. The firing comes as a surprise to Oilers' captain Connor McDavid who said, "It caught him off guard." The Oilers hired Kris Knoblauch who was McDavid's coach when he was still in juniors playing in the OHL during his time with the Erie Otters. The Oilers have started to find their groove with the new head coach going into December with a 9-12-1 record with 19 points. The Minnesota Wild have had an extremely disappointing November starting the month with a seven-game losing streak. In response to the losing streak, the Wild fired head coach Dean Evason and assistant coach Bob Woods after the Wild's 5-10-4 start, collecting only 14 points in 19 games. The Wild hired John Hayes to replace Evason. In the Wild's first game under Hayes, they snapped the seven-game losing streak in their 3-1 win over the St. Louis Blues. Minnesota finishes November with 18 points and a 7-10-4 record.

Three players have stood out to earn the title of one of Soracco's Stand Out Stars for November. In November, Vancouver Canucks' forward, Brock Boeser collected 11 goals and 6 assists for 17 points. This season Boeser is proving to Vancouver that they made the correct choice when they decided not to trade him to another team. Boeser's captain in Vancouver, defenseman Quinn Hughes had a great November scoring 5 goals with 17 assists for 22 points in 15 games played. Hughes leads all defensemen for goals with his 8 total for the season and is second in points and assists for defensemen with his 33 points and 25 assists. In 14 games in November, Colorado Avalanche defenseman Cale Makar scored 4 goals with 21 assists for 25 points. Makar leads defensemen in points with his 34 total and assists with his 27 total. The point race between Hughes and Makar is reminiscent of the 2019-2020 Calder race between the two. Both young defensemen are the current front runners for the 2023-2024 Norris Trophy.

There have been three standout rookies after a month of play, making up Soracco's Rockin' Rookies. Leo Carlsson became the youngest Ducks player to score a hat trick when he scored his first NHL hat trick in the Ducks' 6-3 loss to the Philadelphia Flyers on November 10th. Carlsson was drafted 2nd overall in the 2023 NHL Draft by the Anaheim Ducks. In November, Carlsson scored 4 goals with 3 assists for 7 points. Carlsson currently is tied for second in goals among rookies with his 6 total goals. Logan Cooley scored his first NHL goal in the Arizona Coyotes' 4-3 overtime loss to the Ducks on November 1st. In November, Cooley scored 2 goals with 5 assists for 7 points. Cooley is tied for first in assists among rookies with

two other players with 11 total. Cooley was drafted 3rd overall in the 2022 NHL Draft by the Arizona Coyotes. An underrated rookie this season has been Luke Evangelista. In November, Evangelista scored 2 goals with 6 assists for 8 points. He currently is second among rookies for assists with his 10 total. Evangelista was drafted 42nd overall in the 2020 NHL Draft by the Nashville Predators. Cooley and Evangelista are currently tied for third in total points among rookies with 13 points.

