

# Price, Canadiens Beat Lightning To Avoid Elimination

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Carey Price stopped 22 shots, Max Pacioretty had a short-handed goal and two assists, and the Montreal Canadiens beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 6-2 on Thursday night to stay alive in their second-round playoff series.

Pacioretty and Andrei Markov scored in the first as the Canadiens avoided a sweep with their first victory in nine games this season against the Lightning. Game 5 is Saturday night in Montreal, where Tampa Bay won the first two games of the series.

Lightning goaltender Ben Bishop allowed three goals on 14 shots before he was pulled a little over

five minutes into the second period. Bishop had 30 saves in Tampa Bay's dramatic 2-1 victory on Wednesday night.

Price, a leading contender for NHL MVP, limited the high-scoring Lightning to power-play goals by Nikita Kucherov and Ondrej Palat. By the time Kucherov scored at 12:26 of the second, the Canadiens had built a 5-0 lead.

Lightning coach Jon Cooper pulled Bishop after David Deshar-nais' shot skipped off the 6-foot-7 goaltender's glove and into the net for the 5-7 forward's first goal of the playoffs. That hardly slowed the Canadiens, who scored twice

in their first three shots against backup Andrei Vasilevskiy.

P.K. Subban picked up his second assist of the night on Jeff Petry's power-play goal. Pacioretty and Tomas Plekanec assisted on Brendan Gallagher's even-strength goal just 15 seconds later at 9:54.

The Lightning went 5-0 against Montreal during the regular season. They outscored their Atlantic Division rivals 10-4 in winning the first three games of this series, including a 6-2 victory in Game 2.

The Canadiens played much better on the road in Game 3, which slipped away 2-1 on Tyler Johnson's goal with 1.1 seconds remaining.

The mission Thursday night was to do whatever necessary to get the series back to Montreal.

They were in control from the start.

Markov, assisted by Subban and Pacioretty, beat Bishop from the left circle less than three minutes in. The veteran defenseman was in the penalty box for cross checking when Pacioretty's fourth goal of the playoffs made it 2-0 at 8:43 of the opening period.

NOTES: It's the third time in franchise history the Lightning won the first three games of a series. The other two ended in sweeps, with Tampa Bay eliminating Montreal

in the 2004 Eastern Conference semifinals and beating Washington in the conference semifinals in 2011. ... Tampa Bay had only allowed four goals over its previous 14 periods before Markov and Pacioretty scored in the first period Thursday night. ... The loss ended Tampa Bay's five-game playoff winning streak. Bishop allowed six goals during the stretch, which began in the Lightning's first-round series against Detroit. The goaltender is 13-2-2 all-time against the Cana-dians, including playoffs.

## Track & Field | First Dakota Relays

# Sprint Relays Shine For Bucks

BY JEREMY HOECK  
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A patchwork effort has suddenly made boys' sprints relevant for the Yankton track program.

It's been about two decades, but the senior-laden Bucks have positioned their two sprint relays — the 400-meter and 800-meter — for potentially some serious points at the state meet.

"It's been a really long time since Yankton had a good sprinting crew," senior Ryan Sternhagen said at Thursday's First Dakota Relays at Williams Field.

"It's nice to finally bring that back."

And they're back in a big way.

- Yankton's 400-meter relay quartet of senior Osmar Pacheco, senior Lee Rose, senior Charlie Stephenson and Sternhagen ranks fourth in Class AA with a clocking of 44.0.

- The 800-meter relay quartet of Pacheco, senior Mason Strahl, Stephenson and Sternhagen is second in Class AA with a time of 1:30.7.

Yankton won both relays at the First Dakota Relays, clocking a time of 44.61 in the 400 and 1:32.44 in the 800. The Bucks were also first in the 1600-meter relay (3:31.25), an event they rank sixth in among the Class AA ranks.

Not only are the Bucks primed for a podium spot at the state meet in both sprint relays, they've drastically improved from a year ago — both were ninth at state.

"The main thing was, we had a new runner (Pacheco) come out, and he's stepped it up quite a bit," Sternhagen said.

"He's pretty fast, that's been the main thing."

Pacheco, known in Yankton athletic circles for his soccer exploits, hadn't gone out for track since his eighth grade year. That all changed after being persuaded to



ABOVE: Yankton's Charlie Stephenson hands the baton to teammate Ryan Sternhagen as the Bucks won the 800-meter relay at the First Dakota Relays on Thursday at Williams Field. (James D. Cimburek/P&D)

RIGHT: Yankton's Madason Tessier, center right, approaches the final hurdle in the girls' 100-meter hurdles at Thursday's First Dakota Relays at Williams Field. Brookings' Grace Eggebrecht (5) finished second. Also pictured are Yankton's Kate Budig, left, and Danielle Salvatore. (Jeremy Hoeck/P&D)



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# With Longtime Powers Sidelined, NBA Playoffs Have Fresh Look

BY PAUL NEWBERRY  
AP Sports Writer

Spurs and Celtics? Already eliminated.

Lakers and Heat? Didn't even make the playoffs.

There's a new look to this NBA postseason, which will crown a champion that hasn't won the title in at least 17 years — or, quite possibly, a franchise that has never been on top.

"There is not just one dominant team," Washington's Bradley Beal said Thursday. "You're not going to see the same teams."

Indeed, of the eight conference semifinalists, the most recent to win a championship is the Chicago Bulls, who claimed the last of six Michael Jordan-era titles in 1998. The Houston Rockets are the only other multiple champion still playing, winning back-to-back titles in 1994-95.

There are two franchises that won their only championships so long ago, well, one had a different nickname (the Washington Wizards were the Bullets when they took the 1978 title) and another was in a different city (the 1958 St. Louis Hawks, who moved to Atlanta a decade later). The Golden State Warriors are 40 years removed from their lone championship season, but at least they've got a banner.

The Los Angeles Clippers, Cleveland Cavaliers and Memphis Grizzlies have never won a title.

"I don't think there's any question that fresh faces and new teams invigorate the sport," Grizzlies general manager Chris Wallace said.



GINA FERAZZI/LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS  
The Los Angeles Clippers' Jamal Crawford (11), Blake Griffin (32) and Matt Barnes celebrate the Clippers' 111-109 win against the San Antonio Spurs in Game 7 of the Western Conference quarterfinals at Staples Center in Los Angeles on Saturday.

"It adds new flavors for the fans to sample. And they like it. The game has never really been more popular on a global standpoint than it is right now."

While the NBA was the first major North American league to put in a salary cap, it's had the most exclusive group of champions. Over the last 16 years, just three teams — the Los Angeles Lakers, San Antonio Spurs and Miami Heat — have hogged a total of 13 titles.

Going back even farther to the launch of the modern NBA

in 1950, two teams — the Boston Celtics, with 17 banners, and the Lakers, who have a total of 15 including their time in Minneapolis — account for nearly half the championships.

That's why this season really stands out for the NBA.

"Whoever wins is going to be a brand new face," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "That's exciting for those of us who are still playing."

Some possible reasons for this changing of the playoff guard:

TEAM BALL: San Antonio

proved last year that a team doesn't need a megastar to win the title, and plenty of teams are trying to follow the Spurs model.

Most notable is Atlanta, where the roster was expertly assembled by former Spurs executive Danny Ferry and the coach is Mike Budenholzer, a longtime assistant under San Antonio's Gregg Popovich. The Hawks went 60-22 and claimed a top seed in the East for the first time since 1994 with an absurdly balanced lineup; the five starters averaged between

12 and 17 points a game.

Ball movement is now the order of the day, the isolation play largely viewed as a forgettable relic. With everyone sharing in this fast-paced style, it's no longer necessary to have one of the five best players in the game to be a title contender.

"It's more of a team game," Hawks guard Jeff Teague said. "A team like us, that doesn't have what you would call a superstar, can be a really good team."

TOUGHER CAP: While the NBA first instituted a salary cap in the 1980s, it was long nothing more than an annoyance for the power franchises, which were still able to go after pretty much anyone they wanted.

The lockout of 2011 changed that. Under the current collective bargaining agreement, there are shorter contracts and tougher financial penalties for teams that spend too much.

While it's still too early to know exactly how much this CBA will affect the competitive balance, the league touts the measures as a means to getting more teams in the mix (and making the owners a lot more profitable).

With franchises now selling for astronomical amounts, the players figure to push back on these measures the next chance they get. No matter what, it figures to have a long-term impact on the way rosters are built and maintained.

WHERE'S LEBRON: It still helps to have the best player in the world. And there's no one better than LeBron James.

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## YHS Wins 16 Events At First Dakota Meet

On the strength of their relays, the Yankton girls' and boys' track teams combined for 16 event titles at Thursday's rainy First Dakota Relays at Williams Field.

The annual event featured athletes from Yankton, Beresford, Bon Homme, Brookings, Dakota Valley, Gayville-Volin, Irene-Wakonda, Huron, Mitchell and Vermillion.

On the girls' side for the Yankton Gazelles, Danielle Beckmann won the 200-meter dash (27.76), Savannah Woods won the 3200-meter run (12:09.02), Madason Tessier won the 100 hurdles (16.26), Lindsey Hale won the long jump (16-9) and Emma Stewart was first in the triple jump (35-9.25).

The Gazelles also won four relay titles, finishing first in the 800, 1600, 3200 and medley relays.

In area girls' finishes, Gayville-Volin's Laura Nelson captured first in the 1600-meter run (5:22.29) and Traia Hubbard won the discus (123-0).

Bon Homme's Anna Heu-sinkveld won the 100-meter dash (13.26) and teammate Morgan Rothschild won the 300 hurdles (47.54). Dakota Valley's Marisa Schultz won the 400-meter dash (1:02.85) and Irene-Wakonda's Andrea Sokolowski won the high jump (5-0).

On the boys' side for the Yankton Bucks, Charlie Stephenson was first in the 110 hurdles (15.99) and 300 hurdles (42.55), while Ryan Sternhagen won the 100-meter dash (11.32). Lee Rose won the long jump (20-8.5).

The Bucks were also first across the line in the 400 relay, 800 relay, 1600 relay.

In area boys' finishes, Bon Homme's Devin Millen was the champion in the triple jump (40-0.75) and Beresford's Oliver Doeden was first in the shot put (49-1).

Vermillion had the best time in the medley relay.

Up next for the Yankton track teams is the Eastern South Dakota Conference meet on May 16 in Brookings.

## Randolph Inv.

RANDOLPH, Neb. — The Crofton Lady Warriors cruised their way to another track meet championship, this time by beating Ponca by 60 points at Thursday's Randolph Invitational.

The Crofton girls — who scored 168 points — weren't alone, however. Their teammates on the boys' team also won the crown.

The Lady Warriors got individual titles from Allison Arens in the 400-meter dash (1:03.9) and 1600-meter run (5:43.21), Maria Wortmann in the discus (125-1) and shot put (41-7.5), as well as Quinn Wragge in the 800-meter run (2:29.3). Crofton also won the 1600 relay and 3200 relay, with Wragge anchoring both.

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge got titles from Ellie Arduiser in the 100-meter dash (12.94), Sadie Petersen in the 3200-meter run (11:55.07), Audra Corbit in the high jump (5-2) and Bayley Holloway in the pole vault (9-0).

On the boys' side, Crofton scored 127 points, followed by Creighton (107).

Securing individual titles for Crofton were Noah Lancaster in the 800-meter run (2:14.06) and Tyler Koch in the 110 hurdles (17.53). The Warriors also had the top times in the 1600 relay and 3200 relay.

For Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Aaron Haahr was a double winner in the 1600-meter run (4:54.59) and 3200-meter run (10:42.99). Colton Jensen won the 200-meter dash (24.45), Collin Dirks won the high jump (5-7) and Jayden Reifenhath won the long jump (17-9.75).

Creighton's Zac Hazen was first in the 100-meter dash (11.7) and teammate Conner Hazen won the 300 hurdles (46.7).

## Jim Winch Inv.

LAUREL, Neb. — Wausa's Austin Hegge won three events and the Wynot girls claimed six titles at the Jim Winch Invitational track and field meet, held on Thursday in Laurel, Nebraska.

Hegge won the 400 (52.2), long jump (20-2) and triple jump (39-7) day. The Vikings also got a win from Darren Nissen in the 200 (23.8) and Kyle Kleinschmitt in the 110 hurdles (16.8).

Also among area boys, Allen's Brian Boese won the 300 hurdles (42.0). Wynot's Austin Lange won the discus (136-3).

Osmond's Cameron Moes was a double-winner, taking the 800 (2:04.9) and 3200 (10:33.2).

In the girls' division, Wynot's Courtney Arkfeld won the 400 (59.1) and 800 (2:27.1). Kristi Bruening in the discus (114-4) and Holly Lauer won the long jump (14-10.5). The Lady Blue Devils also won the 1600 (4:11.2) and 3200 (10:37.2) relays.

Allen had three individual champions: Lindsey Sullivan in the 200 (27.7), Courtney Reuter in the 300 hurdles (49-3) and Gabby Sullivan in the triple jump (34-6). Allen also won the 400 relay (53.0).

The Wausa girls won the 400-meter sprint medley relay (1:01.1).

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