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>>> CONNOR BEDARD IS 17 YEARS OLD.

IT'S CLEAR WHAT WE'RE SEEING HERE IS SOMETHING AND ONE VERY SPECIAL -- SOMEONE VERY.

>> SCORES!

>> VERY RARE FOR SOMEONE TO DO WHAT ABOUT A START IS DOING.

>> THERE'S -- BEDARD -- THERE'S NOTHING HE CAN'T DO.

>> CONNOR BEDARD HAS TIED THE RECORD.

>> THE EXPECTATIONS GOING IN AND HYPE LEADING UP TO IT, AND SOMEHOW HE LIVED UP TO EVERY BIT OF IT.

>> Kelcey: AS WE SAY COME ON IN, CANADA.

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE.

I'M KELCEY BRADE.

THIS IS "SPORTSCENTRE."

JOINED BY MARK MASTERS IN HALIFAX.

MARK, NEW YEAR'S EVE IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL NIGHT AT THE WORLD JUNIORS.

EVEN MORE SO WHEN CANADA GETS THE CHANCE TO PLAY AT HOME AND FOR ONE PLAYER, THIS OPPORTUNITY ALSO CARRIES A LITTLE EXTRA MEANING.

>> YEAH, KELCEY.

YOU KNOW, THIS IS A STAR-STUDED TEAM CANADA.

NINE FIRST-ROUND PICKS AND A COUPLE GUYS IN CONNOR BEDARD AND ADAM FANTILLI HAD WILL GO AT THE TOP OF THE NEXT NHL DRAFT.

THE GUY WHO WILL LEAD THEM ON TO THE ICE TONIGHT IS THE ONE PLAYER WHO WAS PASSED OVER IN THE NHL DRAFT, THOMAS MILIC GETS THE NEW YEAR'S EVE START.

>> I'M PUMPED.

YOU KNOW, THAT'S ALL I CAN REALLY SAY ABOUT IT.

I'M SUPER EXCITED.

I HAVE SOME FAMILY HERE BEYOND JUST MY PARENTS.

THEY'LL GET TO WATCH THE GAME AS WELL.

I'M REALLY EXCITED TO MAKE THEM

AND THE REST OF THIS COUNTRY
PROUD.

>> SURPRISED THOMAS MILIC HASN'T
BEEN DRAFTED IN THE NHL?

>> YEAH, IT'S PROBABLY ONE OF
THE BIGGER SHOCKS THAT, YOU
KNOW, FOR ME.

I REMEMBER EVEN AFTER U18s
WHEN HIS NAME DIDN'T GET CALLED,
IT WAS PRETTY SURPRISING.

>> DOESN'T MATTER, YOU KNOW, HOW
EARLY YOU GOT PICKED OR YOU GOT
PICKED, YOU KNOW, HOW OLD YOU
ARE.

IF YOU'RE PLAGUED GOO, YOU'RE
PLAGUED GOO.

I THINK -- PLAYING GOOD --
THAT'S HOULE THAT THERS IN --
THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS IN
TOURNAMENTS LIKE THIS.

>> I LOVE THE CROWD BOOING YOU,
GOING AGAINST YOU.

I LOVE IT.

>> WHY?

>> I DON'T KNOW.

IT'S FIRE -- IT FIRES ME UP.

IT'S FUELLING.

>> THAT'S SUPER COOL OBVIOUSLY
I'D WANT TO PLAY HOCKEY ON THIS
DAY FOR SURE.

IT'S EXCITING.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE CROWD AND
STUFF TONIGHT.

>> THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE YOU'D
RATHER PLAY.

I MEAN, PLAYING IN CANADA IS ONE
THING, BUT PLAYING FOR CANADA IN
CANADA IS THE BEST THING THERE
IS.

FANS ARE AMAZING.

THEY'RE KEEPING THE ATMOSPHERE
ROCKING.

SO WE'RE LOVING IT.

>> IT'S THE BIGGEST GAME I
PLAYED BY FAR.

>> HE'S A SPECIAL PLAYER.

OBVIOUSLY UNREAL HOCKEY IQ ON
HIM.

SKILL-SET AND EVERYTHING.

SO, YOU KNOW, FOR ME, I'M
EXCITED TO PLAY AGAINST HIM.
SEE THAT UP CLOSE.

YOU KNOW, I'M SURE HE'LL BE
PRETTY HIGH PICK IN JUNE.

>> FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HALIFAX, CANADA GOING TO THEIR BLACK UNIFORMS. CAPTAIN SHANE WRIGHT SAYS THESE ARE HIS PERSONAL FAVOURITE SWEATERS FOR THE JUNIOR TEAM, AND MAYBE LUCKY AS WELL, KELSY. THE LAST TWO TIMES CANADA WON THE GOLD MEDAL AT THE WORLD JUNIORS, EDMONTON IN THE SUMMER AND IN 2020, THEY WERE WEARING BLACK.

>> Kelcey: THEY WILL BE ROCKING THE HOUSE TONIGHT IN HALIFAX. CANADA'S FIRST NEW YEAR'S EVE GAME IN FRONT OF HOME FANS SINCE THE EVENT IN VANCOUVER BACK IN 2019.

MARK, THANK YOU FOR THIS.

>>> AS WE LOOK AT CONCONNED ABOUT A, HE IS TIED WITH JORDAN EBERLE -- CONNOR BEDARD -- FOR FIRST ON CANADA'S WORLD JUNIOR GOALS LIST AND FOUR POINTS BACK OF ERIC LINDROS FOR IT'S MOST POINTS ALL TIME BY A CANADIAN. LINDROS PLAYED IN 21 GAMES WHILE BEDARD HAS PLAYED IN 12.

YEAH.

JUST 12.

BEDARD IS TIED FOR THE 15th MOST POINTS ALL-TIME AT THE JUNIORS.

WITH MORE, JAMES DUTHIE AND THE PANEL.

>> THANK YOU.

ALONG SIDE CHERYL POUNDER, JEFF O'NEILL, AND BOB McKENZIE.

CANADA FLUNKED ITS FIRST TEST AGAINST A HOCKEY POWER IN CZECHIA IN THE OPENER ON BOXING DAY.

NOW IT'S A HOCKEY SUPERPOWER IN SWEDEN.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FOR A TEAM THAT WE REALLY HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT QUITE YET?

>> JAMES THROUGHOUT THE TOURNAMENT WE SAID A COUPLE TIMES TO EACH OTHER WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS TEAM IS ALL ABOUT.

THEY HAD THE STINKER AGAINST

CZECHIA AND THEN TWO LAUGHERS IN VICTORIES.

SO SOME THINGS TO LOOK FOR TONIGHT.

CAN THEY DEFEND IN THEIR OWN ZONE?

CAN THEY HELP OUT THE GOALTENDER BE POSITIONALLY SOUND?

AND THE GOALTENDING ITSELF, WE HAVEN'T DONE THAT POSITIVE GOALTENDING PACK WHERE THE GOALTENDER STOLE THEM A GAME OR REALLY BEEN A BIG PART OF A VICTORY.

AND THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IF IT DOESN'T TURN INTO A POWER PLAYFEST, CAN THEY GET SOME EVEN PLAY SCORING FROM DIFFERENT LINES OTHER THAN THE CONNOR BEDARD LINE?

YOU LOOK AT SHANE WRIGHT AND HIS LINEMATES.

FIVE ON FIVE THEY'RE JUST NOT GENERATING.

AND YOU WOULD THINK SWEDEN, THEIR NUMBER ONE GOAL IN THE GAME, WOULD BE TO TAKE AWAY BEDARD FIVE ON FIVE AND TAKE THEIR CHANCES AFTER THAT.

>> NOBODY HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO IT SO FAR WITH BEDARD FIVE ON FIVE OR ON THE POWER PLAY.

HE ALREADY SET A COUPLE RECORDS AND A CHANCE FOR NUMEROUS OTHERS TO FOLLOW BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT IS DONE.

BEDARD HAS MOST POINTS IN THE GAME FOR A CANADIAN, SEVEN.

MOST CAREER GOALS, 14.

TIED WITH OTHERS WITH THOSE RECORDS.

AS MANY AS FIVE MORE COULD FALL.

POTENTIAL FOUR GAMES LEFT IF THINGS GO WELL FOR CANADA.

HE COULD EQUAL OR SET MARKS FOR SINGLE TOURNAMENT GOALS,

ASSISTS, POINTS, PLUS CAREER ASSISTS, CAREER POINTS.

HE'S THE BRIGHTEST SPOTLIGHT OF THE TOURNAMENT SO FAR, BOB.

ANY REASON TO THINK SWEDEN WILL BE ABLE TO DO WHAT OTHERS HAVEN'T AND SHUT HIM DOWN?

>> IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE.

THE SWEDES ARE A CREDIBLE
OPPONENT.

TEAM CANADA AND CONNOR BEDARD
FACE A BIG JUMP UP IN THE LEVEL
OF COMPETITION THEY'VE SEEN IN
THE LAST COUPLE OF GAMES.

AND YOU'RE DEALING WITH THE
SWEDISH GOALTENDER PAR LINDHOLM
LO HAS THE BEST SAVE
PERCENTAGE --

>> Karl: CARL LINDBOHR.

BEDARD IS LETHAL WHEN HE'S ON
THE POWER PLAY.

BUT BY THE SAME TOKEN, IF I HAD
TO BET MONEY, CONNOR BEDARD
SCORE A GOAL IN THIS GAME?
THAT'S PROBABLY ONE I MIGHT TAKE
GIVEN THE ROLE HE'S -- ROLL HE'S
ON RIGHT NOW.

IT DOESN'T DIMINISH WHAT HE'S
DONE IN THE PAST.

IT'S THE REALITY OF THE WORLD
JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP.

IT'S A TOUGH COMPETITION.
THERE ARE CERTAIN TIMES WHEN
EVEN ELITE GOAL SCORERS GET SHUT
DOWN AGAINST A CREDIBLE
OPPONENT.

THE SWEDES ARE ALL THAT AND THEN
SOME.

>> I GUESS WATCHING BEDARD IT'S
FEASIBLE THAT BEDARD AND HIS
LINE COULD SINGLE-HANDEDLY WIN
THIS GAME FOR AN DA, BUT MORE
LIKELY -- FOR CANADA -- BUT MORE
LIKELY THEY'LL GO BACK TO
FORWARDS WHO MOVED THEMSELVES UP
IN THE LINEUP.

HOW FAR HAS HE DONE THAT
TONIGHT?

>> HE'S BOSTON BRUIN EFFECTIVE
THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT -- BEEN
HE'S HEAVY ON THE PUCK.
HE PLAYED OVER 6½ MINUTES ON THE
PC IN THAT CZECHIA GAME.
HE DID -- PK -- HE DID A REAL
EFFECTIVE JOB.

ONE OF HIS GIFTS IS HIS
NORTH-SOUTH PLAY.

HE ATTACKS ALONG THE WALL.
THIS IS WHERE HE NEEDS TO USE
HIS PRESENCE TO WORK DOWN LOW,
GET NET FRONT.

YOU WANT HIM IN THE PAINT.

HE IS A BIG BODY.
HE'S PHYSICAL.
YOU CAN EXPECT SOME PRESENCE
ALONG THE WALL.
BUT HE ALSO TRACKS THAT.
BECAUSE HE'S GOT THE NORTH-SOUTH
SPEED, HE WILL WIND UP BEHIND
THE GOAL LINE QUITE A BIT, BUT
WHEN THE PUCK DOES TURN OVER,
HE'LL GET BACK.
HE'LL TRACK BACK, WHICH WILL
ALLOW CANADA TO DEFEND THEIR
BLUE LINE.
REAL HEAVY ON THE PUCK.
THIS THIRD LINE CAN REALLY
CREATE SOME HAVOC AND ALSO MAYBE
LINE UP SOME PREFERABLE
MATCHUPS.
THEY KNOW THEY'LL GET DEFENSIVE
STARTS.
THEY KNOW THEY CAN PLAY AGAINST
SOME FAST PLAYERS IN SWEDEN THAT
HAVE A LOT OF OFFENSIVE PUNCH.
SO THEY CAN CONTAIN.
THEY CAN REALLY BE EFFECTIVE IN
THE OFFENSIVE ZONE.
THEY CAN PLAY VALUABLE TOUGH
MINUTES.
>> HISTORICAL STATS TAKE THEM
WITH GRAINS OF SALT AT THE WORLD
JUNIORS BECAUSE THEY MEAN
NOTHING TO THE KIDS ON THE ICE,
ABOUT YOU THEY'RE FUN FOR US.
CANADA -- BUT THEY'RE -- CANADA
HAS A THREE-GAME LOSING STREAK
ON NEW YEAR'S EVE TO SWEDEN
HISTORICALLY AT THIS TOURNAMENT
THAT STRETCHES OVER 34 YEARS AND
FIVE DIFFERENT DECADES.
CANADA HAS LOST ON
DECEMBER 31st TO SWEDEN, 1988,
2010, 2015.
SINCE WINNING THE FIRST END OF
YEAR MEETING WAY BACK IN 1983.
>>> THANK YOU.
WE HEARD THE PANEL DISCUSSING
SPECIAL TEAMS.
CANADA'S POWER PLAY IS 11 FOR 16
IN THE TOURNAMENT.
OTHER HAND, SWEDEN A PERFECT
10-FOR-10 ON THE KILL.
COVERAGE FROM HALIFAX CONTINUES
THROUGHOUT "SPORTSCENTRE" UNTIL
JAMES AND COMPANY GET YOU SET AT

6:00 EASTERN TIME.
>>> OVER TO THE NHL WE GO.
SOME AFTERNOON MATINEE ACTION.
CANADIENS-CAPITALS.
FIRST PERIOD, TIED WITH NO SCORE
YET.
MONTREAL CAN'T CLEAR THE ZONE.
ERIK GUSTAFSSON GRASP THE PUCK.
-- GRABS THE PUCK.
THAT'S THE FOURTH TIME THIS
SEASON MONTREAL HAS ALLOWED A
GOAL IN THE OPENING MINUTE.
TIED FOR MOST IN THE NHL.
SAME FRAME, STILL 1-0, CAPITALS
DUMP IT IN.
AND THIS ONE IS DEFLECTED BEHIND
JAKE ALLEN.
ONLY GARNET HATHAWAY'S FOURTH
GOAL OF THE SEASON.
IT IS 2-0 RIGHT NOW IN THE
SECOND PERIOD OF PLAY.
>>> WITH 20 GAMES PLAYED AT TD
GARDEN THIS SEASON, THE BRUINS
ARE STILL UNDEFEATED -- AT TD
GARDEN -- IN REGULATION.
TAKING ON THE SABRES 6789
OPENING FRAME, DAVID PASTRNAK
LEFT ALL ALONE BURIES THE
ONE-TIMER OFF OF DAVID KREJCI'S
PASS.
PASTRNAK'S TEAM-LEADING 25th
GOAL OF THE SEASON.
HE IS 11 CLEAR OF ANY OTHER
BRUIN.
IT IS 1-0.
MEANWHILE, TAGE THOMPSON TIED
FOR SECOND MOST GOALS IN THE
LEAGUE AT 26.
OFF A BOSTON TURNOVER.
THOMPSON GOES RIGHT AROUND.
JEREMY SWAYMAN FOR THE
EQUALIZER.
SABRES HAD WON FIVE STRAIGHT.
THEIR LONGEST WIN STREAK SINCE
NOVEMBER OF 2018.
BUT NOW TIED AT TWO IN THE
THIRD.
BRAD MARCHAND TAKES THE LONG
LEAD PASS.
BREAKAWAY, SCORES.
BOSTON ON THEIR THIRD LONGEST
HOME POINT STREAK SINCE 1972.
IT IS 3-2.
BUT UNDER TWO TO GO NOW, SABRES

WITH THE NET EMPTY.
PASTRNAK LOOKING TO SEAL IT.
THIS ONE IS BLOCKED BY RASMUS
DAHLIN.
SENDS IT DOWN ICE TO DYLAN
COZENS WHO FINDS THE NET.
BUFFALO TIES IT UP IN THE DYING
SECONDS OF THIS ONE.
SO THIS ONE OFF TO OVERTIME.
>> GREAT PLAY BY COZENS.
INTO THE BOSTON ZONE.
COZENS DROPS IT BACK.
SHOOTS, SCORES!
HAPPY ROYAL BLUE YEAR, BUFFALO.
>> Kelcey: CLUTCH WITH THE
OVERTIME WINNER.
SABRES MAKE IT SIX STRAIGHT WINS
IN COMEBACK FASHION --
OVERTIME -- 4-3 THE FINAL IN
BEAN TOWN.
>>> ON TO THE FLYERS AND KINGS.
FIRST PERIOD, 1-0 KINGS.
FLYERS' POWER PLAY.
ONE TIMES IT TOP SHELF TO TIE IT
UP.
THE KINGS ALLOWED POWER-PLAY
GOALS IN 10 STRAIGHT GAMES.
LESS THAN A MINUTE LATER, IT IS