

= 58th National Hockey League All @-@ Star Game =

The 58th National Hockey League All @-@ Star Game , also known as the 2011 National Hockey League All @-@ Star Game presented by Discover , was the National Hockey League 's (NHL) annual All @-@ Star Game played on January 30 , 2011 . The game took place during the 2010 ? 11 NHL season at the RBC Center in Raleigh , North Carolina , home of the Carolina Hurricanes . Originally , the Game was supposed to be hosted by the Phoenix Coyotes , but due to ownership issues , the NHL decided to move the game . After bidding for the game reopened , it was awarded to Carolina and fulfilled a nine @-@ year @-@ old promise made to the franchise by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman .

The 2011 version of the All @-@ Star Game featured a break from the traditional way in which teams were organized . Instead of using conferences or player nationalities as in the past , teams were selected by captains in a fantasy draft days prior to the game . Fans still elected players to the All @-@ Star Game , but instead of the traditional 12 starters (six for each team) , they elected only six players , with the remaining 36 players involved in the game selected by the NHL . Sidney Crosby received the most votes of any player , but due to a concussion he was unable to participate in the game . The participating players voted for team captains , selecting Nicklas Lidstrom of the Detroit Red Wings and Eric Staal of the Hurricanes .

Staal won the first pick in the draft and selected longtime teammate Cam Ward , while the Toronto Maple Leafs ' Phil Kessel was the last player chosen . The annual SuperSkills Competition was held the night before the Game and featured Alexander Ovechkin winning his third consecutive Breakaway Challenge . In addition , Zdeno Chara broke his own SuperSkills Competition record for hardest shot at 105 @. @ 9 mph (170 @. @ 4 km / hr) . Team Staal won the contest 33 ? 22 .

Team Lidstrom won the game 11 ? 10 , the 21 combined goals was the fourth highest total scored in an NHL All @-@ Star Game . The first Penalty shot in All @-@ Star Game history was called after Ovechkin threw his stick to break @-@ up a Matt Duchene breakaway . Registering one goal and two assists , Patrick Sharp of the losing Team Staal won the Most Valuable Player Award . Jeff Skinner was the youngest player to ever play in an NHL All @-@ Star Game . Shea Weber recorded four assists , making him only the second defenceman to accomplish the feat in one All @-@ Star Game . Fellow defenceman Lidstrom registered a + 7 rating , the highest in an All @-@ Star Game since 1991 . Winning goaltender Tim Thomas became the first goaltender in NHL history to win three consecutive All @-@ Star Games .

= = Background = =

The 58th National Hockey League All @-@ Star Game was originally scheduled to be hosted by the Phoenix Coyotes at Jobing.com Arena in Glendale , Arizona . However , due to the ongoing bankruptcy case , potential ownership changes in the Coyotes organization , and the possibility of relocation , the NHL decided to reopen bidding to host the game . In the bidding process , 14 teams made bids for All @-@ Star Games or NHL Drafts for the next three years . Out of all the bids , the NHL chose the Carolina Hurricanes to be the new host team and on April 7 , 2010 , the announcement was made by NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and Hurricanes President and General Manager Jim Rutherford .

The awarding of the All @-@ Star Game fulfilled a nine @-@ year @-@ old promise Bettman made to the city of Raleigh . In 2001 , he promised the organization that they would host an All @-@ Star Game if the season ticket base reached 12 @, @ 000 . After reaching that plateau , Bettman indicated that other community assets were still required to secure a bid . Most notably , a proper convention center for ancillary events was needed , along with a four @-@ star hotel , which was completed in 2009 with the new Raleigh Convention Center and adjoining Raleigh Marriott City Center in downtown Raleigh .

Three months after receiving the All @-@ Star Game , the Hurricanes unveiled the logo for the 2011 game . The logo was designed with some homage to the host team and city hidden within it . The shape of the logo is similar to the Hurricanes primary logo , along with the team colors of red ,

black and silver . The banners at the top and bottom of the logo are inspired by the state flag of North Carolina .

The NHL and the city of Raleigh also presented a three @-@ day festival to coincide with All @-@ Star weekend called NHL All @-@ Star Wide Open . The festivities include a series of free concerts , headlined by the band 3 Doors Down , interactive games and attractions , special appearances , Hockey Hall of Fame trophy and memorabilia displays , pin trading and trading card zones and a street party similar to the city 's own annual festival , Raleigh Wide Open . There was also a charity 5K fun run , starting and ending at RBC Center with the Carolina Hurricanes " Kids ' N Community Foundation " being the beneficiary of the raised funds .

= = New format = =

On November 10 , 2010 , the National Hockey League Players ' Association (NHLPA) unveiled a new format for selecting the NHL All @-@ Star teams : the traditional conference format was replaced by a " fantasy draft . " Fans voted for six players , from either conference (three forwards , two defencemen and one goaltender) , and the NHL selected another 36 players , for a total of 42 players . The chosen players then appointed two captains ; the NHL and NHLPA , with input from the players , named two alternate captains for each team . Each team had two forwards and one defenceman as its captain and alternates . The captains and alternates selected their team members in a fantasy @-@ style draft held on January 28 , 2011 . The first pick was determined by a coin toss , with alternating picks after the first . Teams consisted of three goaltenders , six defencemen and 12 forwards . Although the draft rules did not dictate a strict order in which positions had to be filled , to guarantee the final picks were not constrained by having to satisfy roster composition rules , the teams ' three goaltenders had to be chosen by the end of round ten , and all defencemen had to be chosen by the end of round 15 . According to NHL Vice President of Hockey and Business Development Brendan Shanahan , the new format was introduced to add excitement and intrigue into all the events , while make it more fun for everyone involved .

For 2011 , the NHL eliminated the YoungStars Game which had been played in the previous five All @-@ Star weekends . However , rookies were still featured at the Super Skills Competition . A group of 12 Calder Trophy @-@ eligible players were split into two groups of six . At the conclusion of the fantasy draft 's 15th round , one rookie was selected from the 12 to choose which team his group would join for the competition .

This was the first time the traditional " East vs. West " format was not used since 2002 , when the World All @-@ Star Team defeated North America 8 ? 5 in Los Angeles .

= = The Guardian Project = =

During the All @-@ Star weekend , the NHL announced a new " superhero franchise " , The Guardian Project . Created by comic book writer Stan Lee , the project featured 30 new superheroes representing the 30 NHL teams , all which were unveiled at the All @-@ Star Game . The goal of the project was to appeal to pre @-@ teen and teenage boys in hopes of bringing in " new audience to the NHL , while engaging the existing , established hockey fan base through a compelling tale of good vs. evil . "

= = Voting = =

One hundred players were chosen to be on the ballot for the All @-@ Star Game (minimum of two players from each team) , but fans were also given the option to write in any player who was not listed . Ballots were all digital for the fourth consecutive time , giving fans the ability to cast votes online at NHL.com and Facebook . Votes could also be cast via text messages from mobile devices and Smartphone users could vote by way of a mobile ballot feature . The NHL put no limitation on the number of votes an individual could cast . When fan balloting ended , 14 @.@ 3 million votes had been cast and the top six were named to the All @-@ Star Game . The six top vote recipients

were from only two teams , the Pittsburgh Penguins (4) and Chicago Blackhawks (2) . Individually , Sidney Crosby led all players with 635 @,@ 509 votes , while teammate Kris Letang was elected as a write @-@ in candidate . The six players elected by the fans are listed below with their vote totals .

= = Draft = =

After naming the remaining All @-@ Stars , each player voted for team captains . The players selected the 12 @-@ time All @-@ Star , Nicklas Lidstrom , and the captain of the host Carolina Hurricanes , Eric Staal . Lidstrom was assigned the home blue uniforms while Staal received the away whites . The NHL further named their alternate captains , placing Ryan Kesler and Mike Green with Staal while Patrick Kane and Martin St. Louis joined Team Lidstrom . Prior to the draft , the NHL determined head coaches for the teams via a coin toss . Chicago 's Joel Quenneville and his assistant , Mike Haviland , were named coaches as a result of winning the Stanley Cup last year . Philadelphia Flyers Head Coach Peter Laviolette and the Vancouver Canucks ' Alain Vigneault earned the distinction by having the highest winning percentage through January 8 , 2011 . After the coin toss , Quenneville was assigned to Team Staal , while Laviolette and Vigneault were given Team Lidstrom .

Team Staal won the first pick in the draft , and Eric Staal chose longtime teammate Cam Ward with his first pick . With the fifth pick in the draft , Team Staal selected Daniel Sedin . His twin brother Henrik was taken with the next pick by Team Lidstrom . The All @-@ Star Game marked the first time the two have ever played against each other in an organized game . Throughout the draft , Eric Staal selected players that had a personal connection with him . He selected his brother , Rangers defenceman Marc Staal , in the seventh round , fellow Thunder Bay native Patrick Sharp in the eighth round , and teammate Jeff Skinner in the 11th round . The last player selected was Toronto 's Phil Kessel . As a reward for being the last selection , he was given a new car and \$ 20 @,@ 000 was given to the charity of his choice . Kessel stated he would put the money toward a cancer charity he became involved with in 2006 when he was battling testicular cancer . When the time came for the rookies to decide which team they would participate in the skills competition , Taylor Hall , who won the right via a puck flip , chose Team Lidstrom for his group . All players were allowed to wear the numbers they use in their respective teams . For Team Lidstrom , Henrik Sedin and Dustin Byfuglien both wore number 33 , while Brad Richards and Steven Stamkos wore number 91 . Team Staal had three pairs having same number : Patrick Sharp and Corey Perry with number 10 , Daniel Sedin and Dan Boyle with number 22 and Paul Stastny and Patrik Elias with number 26 . The complete team rosters are listed below with players appearing in the order in which they were chosen .

= = = Withdrawn = = =

Prior to the draft several players withdrew due to injury or , in the case of Jarome Iginla , family concerns .

= = SuperSkills Competition = =

The SuperSkills competition began with the Fastest Skater competition , where the competitors skated one lap around the rink . The winner of each round earned a point for their team . The opening round was skated backwards , followed by each team 's rookie representative . Then two goaltenders skated off before returning to the traditional form . Following preliminary rounds the two fastest competitors from each team faced off in a final round , where Michael Grabner defeated Taylor Hall earning two points for Team Staal . The Breakaway Challenge featured six players (three from each team) taking four shoot @-@ out attempts . Fans voted for the winner via text message . The winner earned four points for his team . Second place was awarded three points and third received one point . Alexander Ovechkin won by a wide margin defeating second place P. K.

Subban by over 17 percentage points , it was the third consecutive win in the competition by Ovechkin . Loui Eriksson finished third to round out the point earners from the competition . The Shooting Accuracy featured two players shooting targets in the four corners of the net . Winners were determined by the fastest player to hit all four targets . Daniel Sedin hit all four targets on four shots in his first round setting the overall fastest time hitting them all in just 7 @. @ 3 seconds . He followed that up by hitting four in five shots during the final round to defeat the Blackhawks ' Patrick Kane .

Following Shooting Accuracy , both teams participated in the Skills Challenge Relay . Each team broke into two groups and went through a series of drills designed to showcase players ' skills . It started with one timers , then proceeded to passing , where a single player had to complete a pass into six small nets . From there it went to the Puck Control Relay , having a participant skate through a series of cones with a puck . Another player then took on the Stick Handling drill , controlling a puck through a series of stationary pucks . The relay ended when a final player completed the Shooting Accuracy , again hitting all four targets . The two groups from Team Lidstrom finished first and third in the competition , gaining their team a total of five points . During the Hardest Shot competition reigning champion Zdeno Chara was defeated in his preliminary round match up by Shea Weber . In the final round , Chara again matched up with Weber . Chara successfully defended his title by defeating Weber with a shot registering 105 @. @ 9 mph . The speed set a new SuperSkills record surpassing his own record and marking the fourth time he has won the event . Despite being down by a large margin prior to the Elimination Shootout , Team Lidstrom still had an opportunity to win the contest . Players continued to shoot provided they scored ? scoring one point per goal , until only one player remained . However , the shoot @- @ out was won by Team Staal 's Corey Perry as he was the only player to score in all three of his attempts . The full results are listed below .

= = Game play = =

The scoring started early in the game as Team Staal 's Alexander Ovechkin scored the game 's first goal in just 50 seconds into the first period . When he took his first shift Jeff Skinner officially became the youngest player to play in an All @- @ Star game (18 years , 259 days) surpassing the mark set in 1984 by Steve Yzerman by eight days . By the time Claude Giroux scored , less than five minutes later , Team Staal had opened up a 4 ? 0 lead . Team Lidstrom 's Marc @- @ Andre Fleury allowed the four goals on only nine shots while his counterpart Cam Ward stopped the first four shots he faced . The tide turned a little over halfway through the first period when Anze Kopitar scored on a backhand shot . Team Lidstrom completed the first period comeback with under four minutes left in the period when Eriksson and Matt Duchene scored 23 seconds apart to tie the game at four . Team Lidstrom finished the period scoring on four of their final ten shots .

Team Staal recaptured the lead early in the second with goals by Patrick Sharp and Kris Letang . They were unable to hold the lead though as Team Lidstrom tied the game at six with a second goal from Kopitar and one by Steven Stamkos . They quickly took their first lead on a goal by Daniel Briere just 1 : 20 later , ending the period up 7 ? 6 .

Early in the third period Eric Staal tied the game at seven with his first goal of the game . Minutes later Duchene got a breakaway , but before he could take a shot , Ovechkin threw his stick at the puck , resulting in the first penalty shot in All @- @ Star game history , and only the third penalty assessed during the past ten years of All @- @ Star competition . Duchene took the shot against Henrik Lundqvist , who stopped the attempt . Kris Letang scored shortly after the penalty shot to give back the lead to Team Staal . Briere scored a little over a minute later assisted by Weber and Henrik Sedin to re @- @ tie the game . Weber 's assist was his fourth of the game making him the second defenceman in history to record four assists in an All @- @ Star Game (Ray Bourque , 1985) . Team Lidstrom added two more goals before Rick Nash scored to cut the deficit to one . With about a minute and a half left in the game , Team Staal pulled their goaltender for the extra attacker . The decision backfired as Eriksson scored on the empty net with 1 : 11 remaining . Eric Staal scored with 33 @. @ 6 seconds reaming to bring his team back within one goal , but they failed to

get another shot on goal before time ran out . By coming back from a four @-@ goal deficit to win the game Team Lidstrom set the record for biggest comeback victory in All @-@ Star history . Lidstrom finished the game with a + 7 rating , the highest rating since 1991 when Adam Oates was also a + 7 for the Wales Conference . Tim Thomas earned the victory becoming the first goaltender to win three straight All @-@ Star Games . Patrick Sharp was named Most Valuable Player (MVP) after registering one goal and two assists in a losing cause for Team Staal . The combined 21 goals was the fourth highest total in NHL All @-@ Star Game history .

= = = Summary = = =

W ? Tim Thomas L ? Henrik Lundqvist

Key

Player1 (Player2 , Player3) 1 : 00 denotes that Player1 scored a goal after 1 : 00 , with assists from Player2 and Player3 .

GWG denotes the game @-@ winning goal .

EN denotes an empty net goal

W denotes the goaltender awarded the win .

L denotes the goaltender assigned the loss .

Source : NHL