WELCOME TO "SportsCENTRE."
FRED VanVLEET, SCOTTIE BARNES
AND OG ANUNOBY CLEARED COVID
PROTOCOLS AND RETURN TO RAPTORS
PRACTICE ON THURSDAY MEANING THE
TEAM WILL ONLY HAVE TWO PLAYERS
IN PROTOCOLS AHEAD OF FRIDAY'S
MATCHUP AGAINST THE CLIPPERS.
ALL THREE PLAYERS MISSED THE
PREVIOUS TWO GAMES.
BOTH OF THOSE LOSSES.
HEAD COACH NICK NURSE WAS ASKED
ABOUT AVOIDING BEING PLACED IN
PROTOCOLS AGAIN.
>> GOT TO CUT OUT ANYTHING THAT
REMOTELY COULD BE POSSIBLE.
I MEAN, YOU KNOW, CLEAN THINGS A
LOT MORE.
I WEAR MY MASK A LOT MORE.
I STAY IN MY OFFICE BY MYSELF
ALL THE TIME.
I GO HOME WHEN PRACTICE IS OVER.
THERE'S ALL KINDS OF THINGS THAT
I TRY TO DO.
I DON'T KNOW IF I LEARNED THAT.
I WAS DOING THAT LAST YEAR AS
WELL; RIGHT?
I THINK AGAIN TO -- I THINK IT'S
REALLY A THING WE DON'T KNOW
MUCH ABOUT.
I'M REALLY, REALLY PROBABLY A
LOT ON THE SIDE OF I DON'T THINK
ANYBODY KNOWS HOW TO STAY AWAY
FROM IT, HOW TO CATCH IT, HOW
NOT TO CATCH IT, WHATEVER, WHERE
THEY GOT IT FROM, I THINK
EVERYBODY IS IN A GUESSING GAME
ON ALL THAT STUFF.
I TRY TO DO THE BEST I CAN AS WE
ALL SHOULD.
>> Kelcey: WE'RE JOINED BY JOSH
LEWENBERG.
THE RAPTORS SLOWLY BUT SURELY
ARE HEADED TO FULL STRENGTH WITH
FRED VanVLEET, OG ANUNOBY AND
SCOTTIE BARNES ALL CLEARING
COVID PROTOCOLS.
THEY HAVE ALL BUT TWO PLAYERS
OUT OF PROTOCOLS.
SHOULD WE EXPECT TO SEE A FULL LINEUP FOR FRIDAY’S GAME AGAINST THE CLIPPERS?
>> THAT'S THE PLAN.
AS NICK NURSE WISELY POINTED OUT PLANS CAN CHANGE IN A HURRY THESE DAYS.
ASSUMING EVERYTHING GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN THE RAPTORS SHOULD HAVE THEIR FULL ROTATION AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ANY GAME THIS SEASON.
THAT MEANS THAT NURSE WILL HAVE SOME DECISIONS TO MAKE WITH HIS LINEUP.
DO THEY BRING GARY TRENT OFF THE BENCH?
SCOTTIE BARNES?
DO THEY START SMALL.
THESE AREN'T EASY DECISIONS.
THERE'S SEVEN GUYS ON THIS ROSTER THAT COULD START.
HE CAN ONLY START FIVE OF THEM.
IT'S A GOOD PROBLEM TO HAVE CONSIDERING AT THIS TIME A WEEK AGO THEY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH BODIES TO EVEN PLAY A GAME.

>> Kelcey: NICK NURSE GETTING THE LUXURY OF ACTUAL COACHING DECISIONS.
LAST MARCH THEY LOST 9 STRAIGHT GAMES FINISHING THE MONTH WITH A 1-13 RECORD.
WHAT'S DIFFERENT THIS TIME AROUND AS THIS TEAM RETURNS FROM THEIR MOST RECENT OUTBREAK?
>> THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE TO THE VACCINE.
THE RAPTORS ARE A FULLY VACCINATED TEAM.
THEY WERE GOING INTO THE SEASON.
THAT'S MEANT THAT THE GUYS WHO HAVE TESTED POSITIVE OVER THE LAST MONTH HAVE HAD ONLY MINOR SYMPTOMS.
YOU COMPARE THAT TO A YEAR AGO. PASCAL SIAKAM LOST 15 POUNDS.
FRED VanVLEET HAD A SEVERE CASE.
The hope is that the transition
BACK WILL BE SMOOTHER THIS YEAR. I WILL ALSO SAY THIS, I THINK THE TIMING OF THE OUTBREAK HAS BEEN FORTUNATE. I MEAN, AT THE RATE IN WHICH THE VIRUS IS SPREADING RIGHT NOW, EVERY TEAM IS GOING TO GET HIT. SOME TEAMS HAVE GOTTEN HIT OVER MULTIPLE WAVES AND OVER A LONGER STRETCH OF TIME. A FEW GUYS WILL GO INTO THE PROTOCOLS. THEN THEY GET THEM BACK A FEW WEEKS LATER. A COUPLE MORE GUYS GO INTO THE PROTOCOLS. IT COSTS SOME TEAMS 5, 6, 7 GAMES, MAYBE EVEN MORE. IT HIT THE RAPTORS HARD AND ALL AT UNDERSTAND. IT WILL ONLY COST THEM THOSE TWO GAMES AGAINST CLEVELAND AND AGAINST PHILADELPHIA. DEFINITELY SOME SILVER LININGS HERE AS BAD AS IT FELT. >> Kelcey: RAPTORS LOOKING TO PUT A TRYING 2021 CALENDAR YEAR BEHIND THEM. JOSH, THANK YOU FOR THIS. TO THE ICE, THE HURRICANES KOTKANIEMI FACING HIS FORMER TEAM FOR THE SECOND TIME TONIGHT. THE MONTREAL CANADIENS HAD TWO MORE PLAYERS TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19 TODAY. THAT BRINGS THEIR TOTAL TO 13 PLAYERS CURRENTLY OUT. JAKE EVANS WAS ASKED IF THE LEAGUE SHOULD CANCEL THE GAME AGAINST CAROLINA. >> THAT'S A TOUGH QUESTION. WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IS JUST PLAY WITH WHAT WE HAVE AND KEEP WORKING HARD AND LET THE LEAGUE AND THE TEAM DECIDE WHAT'S BEST FOR US. WHOEVER IS IN THE LINEUP IS GOING TO PLAY HARD AND TRY AND WIN.
I'm not sure I'm here to say if it's right or not. They have people at the league looking around and making sure that, you know, that everything is done for the league to be going and for every team and looking at every situation. We're going to be having 20 guys wearing a jersey tonight like we did in Tampa. We're facing a really good team. It's a good challenge for us. You know, we're going to be ready to go.

Kelcey: For more, let's go to the gentlemen who will call tonight's game. Here's Bryan Mudryk.

SOME POSITIVES FOR THE MONTREAL CANADIENS TO TAKE AFTER THEIR OVERTIME LOSS TO TAMPA ON TUESDAY. THEY'RE FACING A CAROLINA TEAM WELL RESTED. THEY'RE HEALTHY. THEY HAVEN'T PLAYED SINCE DECEMBER THE 18th. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SEE THE HABS DO A BIT BETTER IF THEY CAN?

I would like to see a focus on in zone time in the offensive zone. They were outnumbered in that by Tampa Bay on a 2-1 basis. They did a good job off the rush. 10 scoring chances versus only 7. Carolina is so good defensively, Bryan. They are number one in goals against average, number one in shots against for least shots against. When you get into that offensive zone, you have to really protect the puck. You have to look after things. I really like the focus to be on
KEEPING IT SIMPLE.
GET THE PUCK TO THE NET.
>> IT'S GAME TWO OF THE OFFER SHEET SHOWDOWN.
JESPERI KOTKANIEMI AND THE MONTREAL CANADIENS.
THE HABS DID NOT MATCH.
HE'S A CAROLINA HURRICANE.
HE SCORED IN THE LAST MEETING VERSUS MONTREAL.
SLOW START FOR KOTKANIEMI.
WHAT HAVE YOU SEEN OUT OF HIS GAME?
>> IT'S REALLY COME TOGETHER.
NO SURPRISE A SLOW START.
A YOUNG GUY SIGNS A BIG OFFER SHEET UNEXPECTEDLY.
THREE POINTS THROUGH THE FIRST MONTH AND A HALF IN THE SEASON.
5 POINTS IN THE LAST 3 GAMES.
I THINK THE MOVE THAT'S GETTING CREDIT IS HIS MOVE BACK TO CENTRE.
ALTHOUGH HE WILL PLAY THE WING TONIGHT.
MOVING BACK TO CENTRE FOR A COUPLE OF GAMES GOT HIM INTO A COMFORT ZONE.
GOT HIM BACK TO DOING WHAT HE'S DONE.
HE'S IN A BETTER STATE OF MIND.
HE'S A FEW MONTHS INTO IT.
THE TEAM IS DOING WELL.
EVERYTHING IS LOOKING UP FOR JESPERI KOTKANIEMI.
>> FREDDIE ANDERSEN HAS BEEN DYNAMITE.
IT'S ANTTI RAANTA IN NET.
>> Kelcey: IT IS THE HABS AND THE HURRICANES TONIGHT ON TSN.
VIEWERS IN THE CANADIENS REGION CAN CATCH IT ON TSN 2 BEGINNING AT 7 EASTERN 8 ATLANTIC TIME.
THE CALGARY FLAMES WILL FACE A FAMILIAR FACE IN THEIR FIRST GAME BACK DENTIST.
GAME BACK DENTISAGAINST THE SEATTLE KRAKEN.
THE COVID OUTBREAK FORCED 20 OF THEIR PLAYERS INTO PROTOCOL AND
It will also monarch the first time Mark Giordano plays against his former squad. He was selected by the Kraken in the NHL expansion draft.

>>> It's about, you know, playing with so many of those guys over there for a long time and having great relationships.
So, yeah, it's going to be cool playing against them.
I think we're all competitive.
We want to all do well against each other.
Obviously I'm the same.
It will be fun.
It will be an exciting game to be a part of for sure for me.

>>> Kelcey: Meanwhile, Bruce there it is will live on.
7 wins in a row and counting for the Vancouver Canucks as they remain perfect under Bruce Boudreau.
Vancouver sat last in the Pacific when he was hired.
They sit 4 points back of a playoff spot in the West.
There's definitely a clear will to win in Vancouver which they try to keep going tonight in Los Angeles.

>>> I expect a really hungry team.
I mean, there's no doubt they got spanked pretty good the last game in their own building at 6-3.
They were losing 5-1 at one point.
I know Todd and Trent very well.
I know they will be prepared to come out and they're going to throw everything at us.
I mean, a, it was the first team we beat.
B, because of what transpired in their last game.
I'M EXPECTING PROBABLY OUR TOUGHEST GAME TO DATE.
>> OBVIOUSLY THE BELIEF THROUGHOUT THE LINEUP IN OUR GROUP IS WAY DIFFERENT.
OBVIOUSLY, YOU KNOW, WE'RE FINDING WAYS TO WIN GAMES RIGHT NOW.
EARLY ON IN THE SEASON, WE WERE FINDING WAYS TO PROBABLY LOSE GAMES.
>> Kelcey: LET'S GO BY THE NUMBERS NOW FOR A CLOSER LOOK AT THE CANUCKS' WINNING STREAK STARTING WITH THE NUMBER 7, OF COURSE.
THEIR WIN STREAK UNDER BRUCE BOUDREAU IS TIED FOR THE LONGEST ACTIVE ONE IN THE NHL.
THE PENGUINS ARE RIDING A 7-GAMER OF THEIR OWN.
WHEN DID PITTSBURGH START THEIRS?
IN VANCOUVER EARLIER THIS MONTH WHICH IS THE LAST GAME THE CANUCKS LOST.
HOW ABOUT THE NUMBER 5, THAT'S THE AMOUNT OF WINS THE CANUCKS HAVE HAD BY A SINGLE GOAL DURING THEIR WINNING STREAK.
OVERALL THEY OUTSCORED THEIR OPPONENTS BY 10.
J.T. MILLER IS THE TEAM'S LEADING SCORER WITH 11 POINTS IN THOSE 7 GAMES.
>> BOESER MAKES THE SHOT.
TO THE SIDE.