



# GAME NOTES

WASHINGTON CAPITALS at ST. LOUIS BLUES  
 Scottrade Arena – St. Louis, Missouri  
 October 1, 2017

## WASHINGTON CAPITALS

### Forwards

- 8 OVECHKIN, Alex
- 10 CONNOLLY, Brett
- 13 VRANA, Jakub
- 14 PELUSO, Anthony
- 18 STEPHENSON, Chandler
- 19 BACKSTROM, Nicklas
- 20 ELLER, Lars
- 25 SMITH-PELLY, Devante
- 39 CHIASSON, Alex
- 43 WILSON, Tom
- 65 BURAKOVSKY, Andre
- 77 OSHIE, T.J.
- 79 WALKER, Nathan
- 83 BEAGLE, Jay
- 91 GRAOVAC, Tyler
- 92 KUZNETSOV, Evgeny

### Defenseemen

- 4 CHORNEY, Taylor
- 2 NISKANEN, Matt
- 9 ORLOV, Dmitry
- 22 BOWEY, Madison
- 29 DJOOS, Christian
- 44 ORPIK, Brooks
- 55 NESS, Aaron
- 74 CARLSON, John

### Goaltenders

- 31 GRUBAUER, Philipp
- 70 HOLTBY, Braden

Senior VP/General Manager	Brian MacLellan
Head Coach	Barry Trotz
Associate Coach	Todd Reirden
Assistant Coach	Blaine Forsythe
Assistant Coach	Lane Lambert
Goaltending Coach	Scott Murray
Video Coach	Brett Leonhardt
Video Analyst	Tim Ohashi

Referees: Ghislain Hebert #22, TJ Luxmore #21  
 Linesmen: Tim Nowak #77, Jonny Murray #95

### 2017 Washington Capitals Preseason Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time/Result	TV	Radio
Mon., Sept. 18	at New Jersey	Prudential Center	L, 1-4	CSN	1500AM, Caps Radio 24/7
Wed., Sept. 20	at Montreal	Bell Centre	W, 4-2	CSN, NHLN	Caps Radio 24/7
<b>Fri., Sept. 22</b>	<b>St. Louis</b>	<b>Capital One Arena</b>	<b>L, 4-0</b>	<b>CSN, NHLN</b>	<b>Caps Radio 24/7</b>
<b>Sat., Sept. 23</b>	<b>Carolina</b>	<b>Capital One Arena</b>	<b>L, 4-1</b>	<b>CSN</b>	<b>Caps Radio 24/7</b>
<b>Wed., Sept. 27</b>	<b>New Jersey</b>	<b>Capital One Arena</b>	<b>L, 4-1</b>	<b>CSN</b>	<b>SiriusXM 91, Caps Radio 24/7</b>
Fri., Sept. 29	at Carolina	PNC Arena	L, 3-1.	CSN, NHLN	Caps Radio 24/7
Sun., Oct. 1	at St. Louis	Scottrade Arena	2 p.m. CT		Caps Radio 24/7

### Contacts

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 Megan Eichenberg, Manager of Communications and Publicity, 202.266.2310

## ST. LOUIS BLUES

### Forwards

- 10 SCHENN, Brayden
- 17 SCHWARTZ, Jaden
- 22 THORBURN, Chris
- 26 STASTNY, Paul
- 28 BRODZIAK, Kyle
- 32 THOMPSON, Tage
- 37 KOSTIN, Klim
- 56 PAAJARVI, Magnus
- 61 MEGAN, Wade
- 64 BLAIS, Sammy
- 70 SUNDQVIST, Oskar
- 71 SOBOTKA, Vladimir
- 91 TARASENKO, Vladimir

### Defenseemen

- 6 EDMUNDSON, Joel
- 27 PIETRANGELO, Alex
- 39 PROSSER, Nate
- 41 BORTUZZO, Robert
- 46 WALMAN, Jake
- 55 PARAYKO, Colton

### Goaltenders

- 34 ALLEN, Jake
- 40 HUTTON, Carter

President of Hockey Ops & GM  
 Head Coach  
 Associate Coach  
 Assistant Coach  
 Assistant Coach  
 Assistant Coach  
 Assistant Coach  
 Goaltending Coach  
 Video Coach

Doug Armstrong  
 Mike Yeo  
 Craig Berube  
 Steve Ott  
 Darryl Sydor  
 Daniel Tkaczuk  
 David Alexander  
 Sean Ferrell

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## Washington Capitals at St. Louis – 10.1.17

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### Other Dates of Note

Tues., Oct. 3

Capitals Media Luncheon at Kettler Capitals Iceplex, 11:30 a.m.

Sat., Oct. 7

Opening Night, presented by GEICO, at Capital One Arena vs. Montreal, 7 p.m.

### Game Recaps

Carolina 3, Washington 1

September 29, 2017

Raleigh, N.C.

Matt Niskanen scored his first goal of the preseason. Dmitry Orlov led all players in ice time (23:09) and total shifts (27). Niskanen and Aaron Ness led the team in shots (3). Lars Eller won 8 of his 10 face-offs (80%). Taylor Chorney and Tom Wilson led the team in blocked shots (2). Nathan Walker led the team in hits (5).

New Jersey 4, Washington 1

September 27, 2017

Washington, D.C.

Tyler Graovac scored his first goal of the preseason. Dmitry Orlov led all players in ice time (23:05) and total shifts (29). Matt Niskanen and Jakub Vrana led the team in shots (4). Lars Eller won 10 of his 13 face-offs (77%). Madison Bowey led the team in blocked shots (4). Niskanen and Brooks Orpik each recorded four hits.

Carolina 4, Washington 1

September 23, 2017

Washington, D.C.

Alex Chiasson scored his first goal of the preseason on the power play. Evgeny Kuznetsov and Jakub Vrana each recorded an assist. Dmitry Orlov led all players in ice time (21:58) and total shifts (26). Alex Ovechkin led the team in shots (6). Travis Boyd won seven of his 12 face-offs (58%). Jonas Siegenthaler led the team in blocked shots (4). Ovechkin, Orlov, Siegenthaler, Brett Connolly, Devante Smith-Pelly and Brooks Orpik each recorded two hits.

St. Louis 4, Washington 0

September 22, 2017

Washington, D.C.

Braden Holtby stopped 20 of 22 shots, earning himself a 2.57 goals against average and a .927 save percentage this preseason. John Carlson led all players in ice time (23:00) and total shifts (26). Tyler Graovac and T.J. Oshie led the team in shots (4). Graovac also won 9 of his 11 face-offs (82%). Taylor Chorney led the team in blocked shots (3). Carlson, Oshie, Tom Wilson and Anthony Peluso each had three hits.

Washington 4, Montreal 2

September 20, 2017

Montreal, Que.

Evgeny Kuznetsov opened the scoring on the game's first power play, with Madison Bowey and Philipp Grubauer recording an assist on the goal. Devante Smith-Pelly broke the tie in the third period with a deflection goal and Tom Wilson finished on an empty net goal to seal the Capitals' first win. Jakub Vrana scored a power play goal, and Alex Ovechkin, Brett Connolly and Connor Hobbs each picked up an assist, while Kuznetsov finished with two. Bowey led all skaters in ice time (22:06), while Kuznetsov led all forwards (18:01). Bowey finished with five blocked shots and Ovechkin led the team in shots on goal (4). Chandler Stephenson led the team in hits (5). Grubauer, who started the game in net, made 21 saves, while Pheonix Copley stopped 21 of the shots he faced.

New Jersey 4, Washington 1

September 18, 2017

Newark, NJ

Nathan Walker scored the lone goal in the Capitals' preseason opener shorthanded, with Lars Eller picking up the assist. John Carlson led the team in ice time (23:54), while Travis Boyd led the team in ice time among forwards (18:38). T.J. Oshie led the team in shots on goal (4) and hits (3) in 16:44 minutes of ice time. Andre Burakovsky and Tyler Graovac each recorded two takeaways, while Aaron Ness led the team in blocked shots (2). Braden Holtby, who started the game in net, made 18 saves, while Vitek Vanecek stopped 14 of the shots he faced.

### **Washington Capitals Preseason Notes**

**SUPER SWEDE** – Nicklas Backstrom is scheduled to play against the St. Louis Blues. Backstrom tallied 86 points (23g, 63a) in 82 games last season, ranking second in the NHL in assists (50) and first in assists per 60 minutes (2.52). Backstrom's 86-point season was his third-highest point total of his career. The Gavle, Sweden native finished the season +17, his second-straight season with the mark and set a new career high in game-winning goals (5).

## **Washington Capitals at St. Louis – 10.1.17**

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In addition, Backstrom ranked second in the NHL in power-play assists (27) and led the NHL in power play points (35). Since he entered the NHL in 2007-08, Backstrom ranks third in the NHL in assists (540), trailing Joe Thornton (558) and Henrik Sedin (553).

**GO DEVO** – Devante Smith-Pelly recorded his second point of the preseason in Carolina. Smith-Pelly, who has suited up for three different NHL teams over the last five seasons (Anaheim Ducks, Montreal Canadiens and the New Jersey Devils), has recorded 77 points (33g, 44a) in 266 career NHL games. In total, only three of those points have come on the power play (1g, 2a), while three have come shorthanded (2g, 1a). Smith-Pelly, 25, had his 2016-17 season reduced to 53 games due to injury, but in a 64-game season in 2015-16, split between the Canadiens and the Devils, Smith-Pelly managed to record 14 goals and 11 assists, with only one point (1a) coming on the power play. That 24-point total at five-on-five ranked 190<sup>th</sup> in the NHL among forwards with at least 50 games played. However, Smith-Pelly ranked 144<sup>th</sup> among forwards at points per 60 minutes (1.91), just .01 points per 60 behind Carolina Hurricane Jordan Staal, San Jose Shark Joel Ward and .02 points behind Tampa Bay Lightning Tyler Johnson.

**CAPS CONNECTIONS** – T.J. Oshie was drafted by St. Louis in the first round, 24<sup>th</sup>-overall, in the 2005 NHL Draft. Oshie registered 310 points (110g, 200a) in 443 games with the Blues in seven seasons. Lars Eller was drafted by St. Louis in the first round, 13<sup>th</sup>-overall, in the 2007 NHL Draft. In seven career games with the Blues, Eller recorded two points (2g). Taylor Chorney played in two games for the Blues in the 2011-12 season. Anthony Peluso was drafted by St. Louis in the sixth round, 160<sup>th</sup>-overall, in the 2007 NHL Draft. Peluso never played a game for St. Louis.

**OSH BABE** – Oshie co-led the team in goals last season (33), becoming the first player other than Alex Ovechkin to lead the Capitals in goals since 2003-04 (Robert Lang: 29). Oshie was fifth on the team in points (56), first on the team in goals per game (1.63) and second on the team in points per game (2.77). Oshie's 33 goals set a new career high and marked the first time in his career that he reached the 30-goal mark. Oshie also became the first Capitals player to score 30 goals in a season since the 2009-10 season (Alex Semin: 40, Nicklas Backstrom: 33). Oshie scored on a NHL-leading 23.1 percent of his shots, finished seventh in the NHL in plus/minus (+28) and the Capitals were 27-3-2 when Oshie earned a point last season.

**HOLTBEAST** – Braden Holtby is scheduled to play against the Blues. The winner of the 2015-16 Vezina Trophy winner as the League's top goaltender, Holtby became the first goaltender since 2011-12 to receive Vezina Trophy nominations in back-to-back seasons. Last season, Holtby led the NHL in shutouts (9), tied for first in wins (42), ranked second in goals against average (2.07) and fourth in save percentage (.925). Holtby has reached the 40-win plateau in each of the last three seasons (2014-15: 41, 2015-16: 48, 2016-17: 42) and became the third goaltender in NHL history to record 40 wins in three consecutive seasons, joining Martin Brodeur (2005-08) and Evgeni Nabokov (2007-10).

**Washington Capitals**  
**at St. Louis – 10.1.17**

**2017 Washington Capitals Training Camp Roster**

**FORWARDS (16)**

#	Player	Ht.	Wt.	Shoots	Born	Birthplace	2016-17 Club	League(s)
19	BACKSTROM, Nicklas	6'1"	210	Left	11/23/87	Gavle, Sweden	CAPITALS	NHL
83	BEAGLE, Jay	6'3"	218	Right	10/16/85	Calgary, Alberta	CAPITALS	NHL
65	BURAKOVSKY, Andre	6'3"	201	Left	2/9/95	Klagenfurt, Austria	CAPITALS	NHL
39	CHIASSON, Alex	6'3"	205	Right	8/1/90	Montreal, Quebec	Calgary	NHL
10	CONNOLLY, Brett	6'0"	193	Right	5/2/92	Prince George, B.C.	CAPITALS	NHL
20	ELLER, Lars	6'2"	207	Left	5/8/89	Rodovre, Denmark	CAPITALS	NHL
91	GRAOVAC, Tyler	6'5"	208	Left	4/27/93	Brampton, Ontario	Minnesota/Iowa	NHL/AHL
92	KUZNETSOV, Evgeny	6'2"	204	Left	5/19/92	Chelyabinsk, Russia	CAPITALS	NHL
77	OSHIE, T.J.	5'11"	195	Right	12/23/86	Everett, Washington	CAPITALS	NHL
8	OVECHKIN, Alex	6'3"	235	Right	9/17/85	Moscow, Russia	CAPITALS	NHL
14	PELUSO, Anthony	6'4"	225	Right	4/18/89	North York, Ontario	Manitoba	AHL
25	SMITH-PELLY, Devante	6'0"	223	Right	6/14/92	Scarborough, Ontario	New Jersey	NHL
18	STEPHENSON, Chandler	6'0"	203	Left	4/22/94	Saskatoon, Saskatchewan	CAPITALS/Hershey	NHL/AHL
13	VRANA, Jakub	6'0"	197	Left	2/28/96	Prague, Czech Republic	CAPITALS/Hershey	NHL/AHL
79	WALKER, Nathan	5'9"	186	Left	4/7/94	Cardiff, Wales	Hershey	AHL
43	WILSON, Tom	6'4"	218	Right	3/29/94	Toronto, Ontario	CAPITALS	NHL

**DEFENSEMEN (8)**

22	BOWEY, Madison	6'2"	198	Right	4/22/95	Winnipeg, Manitoba	Hershey	AHL
74	CARLSON, John	6'3"	218	Right	1/10/90	Natick, Massachusetts	CAPITALS	NHL
4	CHORNEY, Taylor	6'0"	193	Left	4/27/87	Thunder Bay, Ontario	CAPITALS	NHL
29	DJOOS, Christian	6'0"	169	Left	8/6/94	Gothenburg, Sweden	Hershey	AHL
55	NESS, Aaron	5'10"	184	Left	5/18/90	Roseau, Minnesota	CAPITALS/Hershey	NHL/AHL
2	NISKANEN, Matt	6'1"	203	Right	12/6/86	Virginia, Minnesota	CAPITALS	NHL
9	ORLOV, Dmitry	5'11"	212	Left	6/23/91	Novokuznetsk, Russia	CAPITALS	NHL
44	ORPIK, Brooks	6'3"	217	Left	9/26/80	San Francisco, California	CAPITALS	NHL

**GOALTENDERS (2)**

31	GRUBAUER, Philipp	6'1"	191	Left	11/25/91	Rosenheim, Germany	CAPITALS	NHL
70	HOLTBY, Braden	6'2"	211	Left	9/16/89	Lloydminster, Saskatchewan	CAPITALS	NHL

As of Oct. 1, 2017