

Blackhawks go 13-0-3, celebrate historic victory

Ciaran Kohli-Lynch
SPORTS EDITOR

The Blackhawks set a league record for consecutive games with a point to open a season on Friday night. Skating to a 2-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks at the United Center, Chicago went one better than the Anaheim Ducks, who began their season in 2006-7 with a 12-0-4 record. Chicago's streak has now lasted 35 days, which has seen them take on 12 different opponents, and has spanned a six-game trip.

There was more good news for the Blackhawks who saw Marian Hossa return from a head injury suffered during Tuesday night's victory against Vancouver. Hossa overcame a concussion to join the squad for Friday's historic match, and played a crucial role in the team's victory.

While the team has been playing with confidence and style of late, it was two fortuitous goals that gifted the Blackhawks vic-

tory on the night. Trailing by a goal, Chicago's Viktor Stalberg's shot rebounded off ex-Blackhawk Antti Niemi and into the net to even the scoring in the second period, assisted by Patrick Kane. Brandon Saad broke the deadlock in the final third when his shot ricocheted off the post and into the San Jose net.

As fans celebrated a historic victory, Niemi's pre-match interview seemed resoundingly prophetic. "Even when you are a very good team," he had said earlier in the day, "it is hard not to lose. The puck has to bounce for you."



Photo courtesy of nytimes.com

NBA Roundup: All-Star game winners, Miami leads

Nathan McMahon
STAFF WRITER

This weekend the NBA took their midseason break for the All-Star festivities in Houston. These festivities took place in Houston and included the Celebrity All-Star game, the Rising Stars game, the Skills Contest, the Three Point shooting contest, the Dunk Contest, and capped off by the All-Star Game. In order to encourage competitiveness, the results of each competition were

worth points.

The East and West faced up to each other and the winning team got money to donate the charity of their choice. The East was captained by Dwayne Wade and the West was led by Chris Paul. The winner of this overall competition will be decided after Sunday's All-Star game. Kevin Hart, for the second year in a row, claimed the MVP award in the Celebrity All-Star game and also beat Usain Bolt in a footrace.

The Skills Contest title went to Damian Lillard from Portland who in dominat-

ing fashion won points for the West. Kyrie "Uncle Drew" Irving put on a clinic in the three-point shooting contest and gave the East their first win. In the dunk contest Terrence Ross from Toronto took the crown with a Vince Carter-like dunk and helped the East get some points as they go into the All-Star game that the West appears to have a significant advantage. Critics still are unhappy with the lack of star power in these contests and are calling for Lebron James to do as the greats like Michael Jordan did and win the dunk contest.

As the NBA gets into the second half of the season teams are looking to get into the playoffs. In the East, Miami is on top with Milwaukee four games out of the 8th and final playoff spot. In the West, San Antonio has quietly climbed to the top while the Lakers have failed to fulfill expectations this season and remain four games out of the playoffs as well.

Meanwhile trade rumors involving Dwight Howard from the Lakers for Rajon Rondo from the Celtics are swirling before the trade deadline.

SLIPSTICK

And now...a comic!

Sam Kepp
TECHNEWS WRITER

