2024 BEARD Hockey All Star RESULTS: CLICK HERE!



You could say it was about time. All season long, one conference has seemed somewhat more loaded than the other.

Nowhere was that more on display than the 2024 BEARD Hockey All-Star game, a lightly attended affair that saw just 8,281 fans stick around after a "skills competition" on Friday that saw WWE's The Rock force his way onto the ice, claim ownership of the building, and then Rock Bottom all 42 players before a single event was held.

After shaking off the chorus of boos the night before, the Western All-Stars seemed shaken to start the main event. Florida's Noah Dobson opened the scoring, taking a slick pass from Panthers teammate Kirill Kaprizov to make it 1-0 for the East just three minutes into the opening frame.

Next up to score was NY Islanders' center Jack Eichel, with Boston's Nathan MacKinnon following up minutes later, making it an early 3-0 lead for the Eastern club. It seemed like the route may be on.

But just 89 seconds later, the West woke up with a sizzling snipe from St. Louis' Steven Stamkos, who blew a 103 MPH slapper by Carolina's Linus Ullmark. Seattle's Auston Matthews brought the West to within one with 4:08 left in the first, taking a beautiful feed from Kraken teammate Quinn Hughes on a 2-on-1 rush and burying it in the net.

Both teams went into the first intermission feeling like there was more to give. And that's when the dam busted through.

Carolina's Jacob Trouba, MacKinnon again, and Washington's Patrice Bergeron opened the second period with quick tallies, sending the East to a 6-2 lead just three minutes in. Almost immediately, it seemed Islanders netminder Ilya Samsonov was no longer interested in defending his cage as the West poured eleven (yes, 11) straight goals onto the board in just under 13 minutes of action.

Matthews had a natural hat trick over 15 seconds of play, notching his second, third, and fourth goals of the contest to send the West to a 7-6 lead (this was after goals from Vancouver's Brock

Boeser and Dallas' Leon Draisaitl). San Jose's Connor McDavid alternated goals with Arizona's Sebastian Aho and Boeser again on his way to a second-period hat trick, with Boeser himself notching his third on the night with 3:48 remaining in the period.

Washington's Alex Ovechkin managed to plug the West's attack for a moment with a late-period tally. But after two periods of play, the West was up 13-7. Samsonov finished the period with a .476 save percentage, allowing 11 goals on 21 shots.

Once again, the East managed to get the action started in the third period on goals from New Jersey's Mikko Rantanen and Dobson notching his second of the game. But not to be outdone, Matthews took a big rebound from Ottawa's Juuse Saros off a Alex Pietrangelo blast from the point to earn his fifth of the night, putting the West up 14-9.

The East wouldn't get another goal as Chicago's Jake Oettinger stood tall, making 18 saves on 20 third-period shots. Colorado's Nikita Kucherov, Draisaitl again, Minnesota's Rasmus Dahlin, Boeser with his fourth, and Winnipeg's Jason Robertson all scored, leading to a 19-9 rout for the Western Conference by game's end.

The Kraken's Matthews was easily the unanimous choice for All-Star MVP with five goals and an assist. Boeser (4-2-6) and McDavid (3-3-6) joined Matthews with six points each, while Draisaitl finished with five points (2-3-5) and Arizona's David Pastrnak (0-4-4) and Seattle's Tim Stutzle (0-4-4) each contributed four points for the West.

MacKinnon led the East with four points (2-2-4), while Ovechkin (1-2-3) and Dobson (2-1-3) each had three points.

Mercifully, with the NHL's news that there will be international competitions taking place in 2025 and 2026 that will cancel the usual All-Star festivities, BEARD Hockey will look to change things up moving forward as this format leaves little for excitement and fun.

We'll be discussing alternatives and potentially doing a version of what the NHL does with their international competition over the 2024 offseason.

Thanks all!