

Greatest Moments in Canuck History

Go Canucks Go! Lesson 2

Appendix 1.0

40 most memorable moments in team history Vancouver Sun, Wed Sep 30 2009

Byline: Elliott Pap

There have been many significant events in the history of the Vancouver Canucks, none of them including a Stanley Cup victory and parade. Nevertheless, the team has supplied its fan base with a number of unforgettable moments as it begins its 40th season in the NHL. Of course, not all of those memories were happy ones -- Quinn-gate and Bertuzzi-Moore come to mind -- but there you have it: You take the good with the bad and the best. Here's our look at the top 40 moments in Canuck history:

1 April 30, 1994

Pavel Bure takes Jeff Brown's pass at 2:20 of double overtime and dekes Mike Vernon to score the Game 7 series-winning goal against the Calgary Flames in the opening round of the 1994 playoffs. The goal caps a remarkable comeback from a 3-1 series deficit, with all three Canuck victories in OT.

2 April 30, 1994

Kirk McLean commits goaltending larceny with a double-pad stack stop on Robert Reichel in the first overtime of Game 7, setting the stage for Bure's winner in the second OT period. Reichel had been set up perfectly by Theo Fleury on a 2-on-1.

3 May 24, 1994

Greg Adams knifes Dave Babych's rebound past Leaf netminder Felix Potvin at 0:14 of double overtime to propel the Canucks into the 1994 Cup final. Jim Robson had the memorable call: "Greg Adams! Greg Adams! Greg Adams has scored and the Vancouver Canucks are going to the Stanley Cup final!"

4 June 14, 1994

Nathan LaFayette hits the post behind Mike Richter with less than two minutes remaining in Game 7 of the '94 final, enabling the Rangers to win the game 3-2 and depriving the Canucks of a chance to win their first Stanley Cup. Fans in Vancouver riot after the game.

5 April 29, 1982

Coach Roger Neilson, upset with the officiating of Bob Myers in Game 2 of the conference final against Chicago, hoists a white towel in mock surrender and "towel power" is born. Canucks lose the game but win the series and advance to their first Stanley Cup final, against the powerhouse New York Islanders.

6 May 8, 1982

With the game tied 5-5 in overtime in Game 1 of the '82 final, defenceman Harold Snepsts tries a pass up the middle from deep in his own zone. It's picked off by Islander sniper Mike Bossy, who promptly scores the game-winning goal on Richard Brodeur. The Isles go on to sweep the Canucks.

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7 April 26, 1994

With the Canucks facing elimination in Game 5 of their first-round playoff series, Geoff Courtnall roars down the left wing and blasts a shot past Flames netminder Mike Vernon at 7:15 of overtime to keep his team alive. The Canucks also win Game 6 in overtime on a Trevor Linden goal.

8 April 11, 2007

In his first career playoff game, Roberto Luongo makes an astonishing 72 saves as the Canucks outlast the Dallas Stars 5-4 in quadruple overtime. Henrik Sedin, from brother Daniel, nets the winner at 18:06 of the fourth OT period. It's the sixth longest game ever played and ends at 12:32 a.m.

9 March 8, 2004

Enraged that Colorado Avalanche forward Steve Moore wouldn't accept his challenge to fight -- retribution for Moore's head shot on Markus Naslund. in a previous game -- Todd Bertuzzi sucker-punches Moore and knocks him unconscious. Bertuzzi is suspended for the rest of the season and playoffs; his suspension isn't lifted until August 2005 following the lockout. Moore never plays another game in the NHL and has a massive \$38-million lawsuit still pending.

10 Nov. 5, 1991

Pavel Bure makes his NHL debut against the Winnipeg Jets and mesmerizes fans at Pacific Coliseum with several jaw-dropping end-to-end rushes. Bure doesn't score but a Canuck legend is born when The Sun's Iain MacIntyre dubs Bure the Russian Rocket. The nickname sticks and Bure goes on to capture the Calder Trophy as NHL rookie of the year.

11 May 31, 1994

Kirk McLean records 52 saves, including 17 in overtime, as the Canucks shock the New York Ranger 3-2 in Game 1 of the Stanley Cup final. Cliff Ronning sets up Greg Adams on a 2-on-1 for the winning goal at 19:26 of the first OT period.

12 Jan. 9, 1987

Pat Quinn is expelled from the NHL for accepting a "futures" contract -- and \$100,000 signing bonus -- to become Canuck president-GM while still coaching the Los Angeles Kings. The expulsion is later lifted, allowing Quinn to assume his new duties on June 16. Quinn is also suspended from coaching for three years and the Canucks are fined \$310,000 by NHL president John Ziegler.

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13 Oct. 9, 1970

Wearing white uniforms trimmed in green and blue, the Canucks play their first ever regular season game in the NHL against the Los Angeles Kings. The Canucks lose 3-1 with defenceman Barry Wilkins scoring the first goal in team history at 2:14 of the third period. Andre Boudrias leads the team in scoring that season with 66 points. Charlie Hodge leads in goalie wins with 15. Orland Kurtenbach is the captain and Hal Laycoe the coach.

14 July 28, 1997

Needing one more piece of the puzzle, the Canucks sign six-time Stanley Cup winner Mark Messier to a three-year, \$6-million a season contract to take the team to the next level. The contract also calls for two additional years at the team's option or a \$2-million buyout. Messier becomes captain but the Canucks fail to make the playoffs in three straight seasons. His contract is bought out.

15 April 5, 2008

Twenty years after being drafted second overall, Trevor Linden plays his 1,140th and final game as a Canuck and receives a series of thunderous ovations from the sold-out crowd at GM Place. Calgary Flames captain Jarome Iginla leads his teammates back on to the ice at the conclusion of the game and every Flame shakes Linden's hand. Two months later, Linden makes it official and announces his retirement.

16 Feb. 21, 2000

Aging Boston Bruin enforcer Marty McSorley, looking to pick a fight with unwilling Canuck tough guy Donald Brashear, clubs Brashear across the head with his stick and knocks him unconscious. Brashear is wheeled off on a stretcher and misses six weeks with a concussion. McSorley is suspended for the remainder of the season and never plays another game in the NHL.

17 June 6, 1986

In the most disastrous trade in Canuck history, GM Jack Gordon deals 21-year-old right-winger Cam Neely and a first-round pick (Glen Wesley) to the Boston Bruins for playmaking centre Barry Pederson. Pederson has a couple of decent 70-point seasons as a Canuck while Neely becomes one of the greatest power forwards of his generation, hits the 50-goal mark three times and is inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

18 Nov. 4, 1997

After 10 mostly successful years as Canucks president and general manager, Pat Quinn is fired by owner John McCaw and his lieutenant Stan McCammon with the team on the road in Washington. Quinn is replaced by a committee for the remainder of the season -- Steve Tambellini, Mike Keenan and Mike Penny -- and then Brian Burke is hired as Quinn's permanent replacement the following June.

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19 Feb. 6, 1998

After turning the captaincy over to Mark Messier in training camp, franchise icon Trevor Linden is dealt to the New York Islanders by Mike Keenan for Todd Bertuzzi, Bryan McCabe and a third-round pick (Jarkko Ruutu). Brian Burke brings Linden back on Nov. 10, 2001, acquiring him from the Washington Capitals in an exchange of draft picks.

20 June 11, 1994

Facing elimination in the Stanley Cup final for the second straight game, the Canucks turn in a sublime performance, get two goals apiece from Jeff Brown and Geoff Courtnall, the latter's second awarded after a video review, and beat the Rangers 4-1 to force a seventh game. It is arguably the most exciting and dramatic game ever played at Pacific Coliseum.

21 April 21, 2002

With the Canucks up 2-0 in a first-round playoff series against heavily favoured Detroit, Red Wing defenceman Nick Lidstrom scores from centre ice on Dan Cloutier with 25 seconds remaining in the second period. Lidstrom's goal is the game winner and turns the series around as Detroit takes the final four games.

22 March 1, 1993

In just his second season in the NHL, Pavel Bure becomes the first Canuck player to hit the 50-goal mark when he beats Buffalo Sabres netminder Grant Fuhr in a neutral-site game in Hamilton. The Russian Rocket would finish the year with 60 goals.

23 March 20, 1996

In the most lopsided trade in team history, Pat Quinn deals ponderous winger Alek Stojanov to the Pittsburgh Penguins for Swedish forward Markus Naslund. Stojanov plays 45 games for the Pens and scores two goals. Naslund plays 884 games for the Canucks and scores 346 goals. During his time as a Canuck, Naslund is a Hart Trophy finalist, wins a Pearson Award, is a three-time first-team all-star and captain for eight years.

24 Jan. 24, 1999

Having had his fill of head coach Mike Keenan and his antics, GM Brian Burke fires Keenan during the all-star break and hires one-time Canuck player Marc Crawford to coach the team. The Canucks proceed to finish last in the Western Conference with a pathetic 58 points.

25 Feb. 29, 1984

Centre Patrik Sundstrom establishes club records for assists in a game and points in a game when he sets up six goals and scores one himself in a 9-5 romp over the Pittsburgh Penguins. After 25 years, both records still stand.

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26 March 20, 1982

Upset with rowdy fans at the Colisée in Quebec City, head coach Harry Neale wades into the crowd and winds up with a 10-game suspension. Assistant coach Roger Neilson assumes command, the Canucks go 5-0-1 in their final six regular-season games and 4-0 in the first four playoff games. Neilson remains behind the bench for the duration of the playoffs and the Canucks advance all the way to the Stanley Cup final.

27 June 26, 1999

Canuck GM Brian Burke pulls off a series of manoeuvres at the NHL entry draft and winds up with the second and third overall picks. He selects, from Ornskoldsvik, Sweden, red-headed identical twins Daniel and Henrik Sedin. The twins are currently the longest-serving members of the organization among the playing ranks.

28 July 1, 1989

The Canucks sign Soviet stars Igor Larionov and Vladimir Krutov, joining the New Jersey Devils (Slava Fetisov) and Calgary Flames (Sergei Makarov) in bringing over players from behind the Iron Curtain. Larionov plays three seasons for the Canucks but finds greater success in Detroit later in his NHL career.

29 March 1, 1992

The Canucks pummel the Calgary Flames 11-0 at Pacific Coliseum for the most resounding victory in team history. Trevor Linden, Sergio Momesso and Garry Valk each score twice while the power play goes 6-for-10. The next day, Doug Risebrough quits as Flames coach.

30 April 13, 1975

The Canucks appear in the first playoff game in team history, meeting the Montreal Canadiens at the Forum where they are whipped 6-2. The Canucks win Game 2 by a 2-1 count but go on to drop the series in five games. They are outscored 20-9 by the Habs, who then capture the first of four straight Stanley Cups.

31 April 15, 1989

On the verge of a stupendous upset of the powerhouse Calgary Flames, the Canucks are eliminated in overtime in Game 7 when Joel Otto directs home the winning goal with his skate, a play that would have been wiped out on video review had it been in place. The Flames proceed to win the Cup.

32 Oct. 8, 1987

In the first game under the new Pat Quinn-Brian Burke regime, the Canucks trounce the St. Louis Blues 8-2 behind the four-goal performance of newcomer Greg Adams. The victory is a mirage as the team goes 1-8-1 in its next 10 games en route to a dismal 59-point season.

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33 Feb. 20, 1971

Rosaire Paiement records the young franchise's first four-goal game in a 5-4 triumph over the defending Stanley Cup champion Boston Bruins, who were led by the incomparable Bobby Orr. Cracklin' Rosie's fourth goal proves to be the game winner.

34 May 14, 1973

The Canucks give up on their first ever draft pick, defenceman Dale Tallon, and deal him to the Chicago Blackhawks for goaltender Gary (Suitcase) Smith and blueliner Jerry Korab. A season later, Smith leads the Canucks to their first winning record (38-32-10), their first division title and their first playoff spot.

35 Oct. 9, 1995

The Canucks play their first regular-season game in their new 18,000-seat downtown arena, General Motors Place. Detroit Red Wings captain Steve Yzerman scores the first goal in the new building, Mike Ridley scores the first Canuck goal and the Wings prevail 5-3.

36 May 27, 1995

Chicago defenceman Chris Chelios scores the final goal in the final NHL game played at Pacific Coliseum as the Blackhawks beat the Canucks 4-3 in overtime to sweep the Western Conference semifinal in four straight.

37 May 4, 1994

Pavel Bure shows his mean streak with a vicious blindside elbow to the head of Dallas Stars enforcer Shane Churla after being roughed up by a couple of Stars earlier in his shift. Churla is knocked out cold but there is no penalty as the elbow was not detected. Bure scores twice in the game and the Canucks win 3-0.

38 Dec. 9, 2003

Captain Markus Naslund comes back to haunt his original team, the Pittsburgh Penguins, by scoring all four goals in a 4-3 Canuck overtime victory. Naslund's line with Todd Bertuzzi and Brendan Morrison collects nine points in the contest against losing netminder Marc-Andre Fleury.

39 Feb. 11, 1982

Thomas Gradin and Ivan Hlinka both score on penalty shots in the same period against the Detroit Red Wings and netminder Gilles Gilbert. Hlinka's goal ties the game at 4-4 and that's the way it ends.

40 Nov. 26, 1986

Petri Skriko nets his third hat trick in five games -- one was a four-goal night -- to cap a frenzy of scoring never before accomplished by a Canuck. Skriko victimizes Calgary's Mike Vernon, the Rangers' John Vanbiesbrouck and the Kings' Rollie Melanson.