



NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 2, 2008

PENGUINS CROSBY AND MALKIN CLOSING IN ON CANADIENS IN XM NHL ALL-STAR FAN BALLOTING PRESENTED BY 2K SPORTS

New York (December 2, 2008) – Responding to the daunting challenge issued by the devoted fans of the Montreal Canadiens, the citizens of Pittsburgh and Penguins fans around the world are proving just how passionate they are about their heroes.

Pens forwards **Sidney Crosby** and **Evgeni Malkin**, the top two scorers in the NHL, have closed the gap considerably on the front-running Montreal threesome of **Alexei Kovalev**, **Saku Koivu** and **Alex Tanguay** in fan balloting to select the starting lineups for the 2009 NHL All-Star Game in Montreal Jan. 25.

As of 7 a.m. ET today, Crosby had received 320,373 votes in XM NHL® All-Star Fan Balloting presented by 2K Sports. With polls still open for another month, that moved Crosby within 65,000 votes of claiming one of the three starting spots up front for the Eastern Conference. Malkin, who led the NHL with 39 points through Monday's games, ranked fifth among Eastern Conference forwards with 264,914 votes.

However, Canadiens fans haven't eased up at all since storming the virtual polls the moment they opened.

Defensemen **Andrei Markov** and **Mike Komisarek** continue to lead the voting at their position, with Markov's 440,292 votes the most among all Eastern Conference players. And goaltender **Carey Price's** 429,087 votes are more than twice as many as those received by his nearest competitor, Pittsburgh's **Marc-Andre Fleury**.

The vote totals, as of 7 a.m. ET, in the fan balloting for the Eastern Conference starters are detailed below. A Western Conference update will be issued tomorrow.

Through Jan. 2, NHL fans can vote as often as they like in the XM NHL® All-Star Fan Balloting presented by 2K Sports to select the starting lineups for the 2009 NHL All-Star Game in Montreal. Fans around the world can vote online via interactive English and French ballots at Vote.NHL.com. Those in the U.S. and Canada also are able to cast their votes via text message using any wireless carrier. Real-time results are available exclusively at <http://Vote.NHL.com/results>.

Fans can vote for up to six Eastern Conference players and six Western Conference players -- three forwards, two defensemen and one goaltender. Fans are permitted to select as few as one player -- a balloted player or write-in -- per online ballot at Vote.NHL.com or via text message.

To vote using any wireless carrier, fans should text their favorite player's last name to the shortcode **81812**. Fans interested in voting for all of their favorite team's balloted players

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can text the team nickname (e.g., Bruins) to 81812. Standard text messaging charges will apply.

XM, which airs every NHL game for every team as the Official Satellite Radio Partner of the NHL, and 2K Sports, a leading publisher of sports video games, are the NHL All-Star Fan Balloting title and presenting sponsors, respectively.

The 2009 NHL All-Star Weekend in Montreal will celebrate the Montreal Canadiens' Centennial season with live national broadcasts of the Honda/NHL SuperSkills® event on Saturday, Jan. 24, and the NHL All-Star Game on Sunday, Jan. 25, on VERSUS in the United States and CBC and RDS in Canada. NASN, ASN, J Sports, Sky Mexico, Fox Sports Australia and other NHL international broadcast partners will provide live coverage of both the Honda/NHL SuperSkills event and the NHL All-Star Game to more than 150 countries and territories in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific Rim, Mexico and the Caribbean. NHL Radio™ will provide exclusive, national radio coverage which can be heard on stations around the United States and Canada as well as on Sirius XM Radio's NHL Home Ice, located at XM channel 204 and on SIRIUS channel 208 with the "Best of XM" programming package. NHL.com and NHL Network will provide extensive coverage of the All-Star Weekend.

XM NHL All-Star Fan Balloting Presented by 2K Sports

Eastern Conference

(as of 12/2/08, 7 a.m. ET)

Forwards

Player	NHL Club	Votes
Alex Kovalev	Montreal	393,303
Saku Koivu	Montreal	390,026
Alex Tanguay	Montreal	385,297
Sidney Crosby	Pittsburgh	320,373
Evgeni Malkin	Pittsburgh	264,914
Alex Ovechkin	Washington	190,535
Alexander Semin	Washington	109,917
Marc Savard	Boston	98,731
Patrice Bergeron	Boston	91,453
Thomas Vanek	Buffalo	86,198
Simon Gagne	Philadelphia	66,667
Mike Richards	Philadelphia	53,486
Danny Briere	Philadelphia	52,770
Derek Roy	Buffalo	51,955
Vincent Lecavalier	Tampa Bay	47,147
Ilya Kovalchuk	Atlanta	31,208
Chris Drury	NY Rangers	30,617
Dany Heatley	Ottawa	29,916
Daniel Alfredsson	Ottawa	27,599
Eric Staal	Carolina	24,785
Zach Parise	New Jersey	22,437
Markus Naslund	NY Rangers	21,335
Scott Gomez	NY Rangers	20,462
Martin St. Louis	Tampa Bay	17,380
Jason Spezza	Ottawa	14,971
Rod Brind'Amour	Carolina	14,253
Brian Rolston	New Jersey	13,250
*Jordan Staal	Pittsburgh	13,068
Patrik Elias	New Jersey	11,870

Ray Whitney	Carolina	10,441
*Milan Lucic	Boston	9,141
*Philip Kessel	Boston	8,251
*Jeff Carter	Philadelphia	6,177
Trent Hunter	NY Islanders	5,300

Defensemen

Andrei Markov	Montreal	440,292
Mike Komisarek	Montreal	396,754
Zdeno Chara	Boston	197,582
Sergei Gonchar	Pittsburgh	185,051
Ryan Whitney	Pittsburgh	162,461
Mike Green	Washington	159,808
Teppo Numminen	Buffalo	77,688
Kimmo Timonen	Philadelphia	77,347
Tomas Kaberle	Toronto	61,604
Wade Redden	NY Rangers	45,745
Jay Bouwmeester	Florida	36,499
Chris Phillips	Ottawa	15,602

Goaltenders

Carey Price	Montreal	429,087
Marc-Andre Fleury	Pittsburgh	204,308
Henrik Lundqvist	NY Rangers	87,620
Ryan Miller	Buffalo	82,709
*Tim Thomas	Boston	52,606
Martin Biron	Philadelphia	47,090
Martin Brodeur	New Jersey	36,435
Vesa Toskala	Toronto	24,890
Kari Lehtonen	Atlanta	12,148
Tomas Vokoun	Florida	7,210
Rick DiPietro	NY Islanders	7,183

Note: Write-in candidates are denoted by an asterisk (*).

12/2/2008