

## Pro Hockey

## NHL seeing boost in scoring this season

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
Associated Press

The nets aren't bigger, the goaltenders aren't smaller and yet scoring is up significantly around the NHL.

Through the first two months of the season, goals are up more than 12 percent from the same time a year ago, including a whopping 14 percent increase on the power play and a 38 percent spike in short-handed goals.

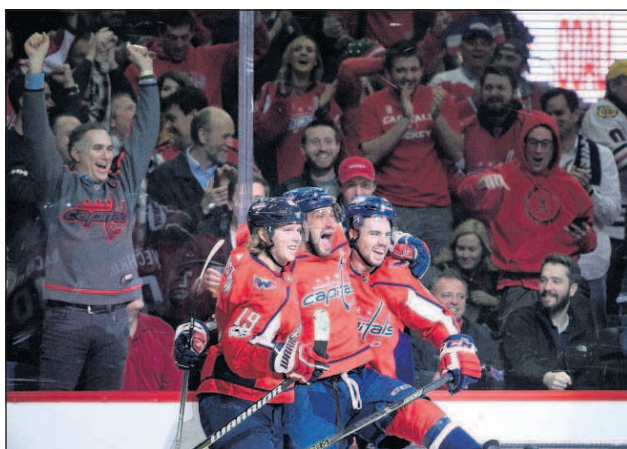
"That's what the league wanted," San Jose Sharks defenseman Marc Edouard-Vlasic said. "The league has done everything in their power to make there more goals out there, and that's exactly what's going on."

The uptick can be credited to a concerted crackdown on slashing by issuing more penalties and a league-wide move toward younger and more skilled players. The current pace of 6.01 goals per game would be the highest since 2005-06, when a series of rule changes were put in to open up the game and get more scoring to attract fans.

"Teams try to go for it more," said New York Rangers goaltender Henrik Lundqvist, whose goals-against average is 2.66, nearly 13 percent higher than it was at this point a year ago. "Most teams are trying to go for it, have this fast hockey, leave the zone quickly and it opens it up."

Deputy NHL Commissioner Bill Daly said general managers are pleased with the current pace, which has lasted beyond the typical high-scoring October as defenses settle in for the season. Stricter enforcement of slashing was designed to reduce hand and wrist injuries, though it has had a positive effect on offense with defenders unable to whack at puck carriers' sticks in an effort to stop them.

"I do think that has created certainly more room for our players to be offensive," Daly said. "I think over time, clearly since we increased



AP Photo/Nick Wass, File

In this Dec. 6, 2017, file photo, Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin, center, of Russia, celebrates his goal with center Nicklas Backstrom (19), of Sweden, and defenseman Matt Niskanen, right, during the first period of an NHL hockey game against the Chicago Blackhawks in Washington. Through the first two months of the season, goals are up more than 12 percent from the same time a year ago, including a 14 percent increase on the power play and a 38 percent spike short-handed.

the standard for hooking and holding and interference (in 2005-06), slashing has become a way to defend and an effective way to defend, and I think this year it's a less effective way to defend."

Players have noticed, even if some are frustrated at the varying degrees of what rises to the level of a slashing penalty. Every referee is watching closely.

"The last five years, you could do so much more with your stick and probably now lots of players are afraid to use their sticks," Los Angeles Kings forward Jussi Jokinen said. "I think everybody wants to see more goals, so scoring being up, I think it's good."

Everyone except maybe the goaltenders may think so, but it's not like they've been terrible. Four goalies who have played at least 20 games have a save percentage of .930 or higher.

"The goaltenders, they haven't been any better than they are right now and some of them are still getting lit up pretty good," said Washington Capitals coach Barry Trotz, who has the league's leading goal-scorer in Alex Ovechkin.

is that chance if it goes the other way and it's a 2-on-1, it could end up in the back of your net."

Los Angeles coach John Stevens said teams are in "attack mode" all the time now, and Trotz estimates that he spends three-quarters of time trying to figure out how to score more.

But risk is also inherent in the NHL getting younger and featuring so many rookie scorers such as Arizona's Clayton Keller, Chicago's Alex DeBrincat and Vancouver's Brock Boeser. The average age of an NHL player is 27 and Daly said the number has dropped over the past several years. He said more scoring is a byproduct as junior hockey and college programs get better at making players NHL-ready sooner.

Team composition has also changed. There are fewer journeyman faceoff specialists and grinders, and more players kept for speed and skill.

"Just the mold of all teams is kind of changing: They're going for smaller, skilled guys rather than guys who are two-way forwards and stuff like that," said Kings defenseman Drew Doughty, who is all of 27. "These young kids have unbelievable skill, too. It's kind of crazy how much skill. They have things they grew up getting taught how to do those things, which we didn't have access to when we were kids."

For all the offense so far, there are those who don't expect it to keep happening. Goals were up through October last season and the NHL finished averaging 5.54 per game. DeBoer said teams often tighten their systems and structure after Christmas, making it more difficult to score.

"I think it's still early to say," Blackhawks winger Richard Panik said. "The game is going to get tighter. It always does before playoffs."



Andy Nelson/The Register-Guard via AP

In this July 31, 2017, photo, Oregon offensive coordinator Mario Cristobal gestures during practice in Eugene.

## CRISTOBAL: Held interim tag for three days

Continued from 1B

NBC Sports Northwest was first to report Oregon had decided to promote Cristobal.

Cristobal also released a statement saying he was honored to be named head coach.

"The rich tradition combined with the incredible wave of momentum that has been created throughout the season and the recruiting process is something we believe will be unstoppable, and this will lead us to fulfill the great expectations of our great university and our fan base," he said.

He addressed the team in the early afternoon.

"We're just happy to finally have a coach and have a guy we all love," Ducks safety Brady Breeze told reporters afterward. "I don't think there's a guy on the team that doesn't like coach Cristobal, and just his knowledge of the game and the way he approaches all of us individually."

That Cristobal's "interim" tag was only in place for three days shows the enthusiasm the program has for him.

Dozens of players signed a petition backing him as head coach. Some players voiced support by using the hashtag #cristobALLIN on

social media.

Left tackle Tyrell Crosby tweeted Thursday night that more than 70 players had signed the petition.

"We are all fighting so hard for him to be HC, because we all know he'd fight just as hard for us," Crosby wrote.

When Oregon hired Taggart to replace Mark Helfrich, he was the first Oregon coach to come from outside the staff in more than four decades. Losing Taggart, the Florida native, after less than a year meant another coaching search, but this time the Ducks stayed in-house. Oregon went 7-5 this season, including 1-4 in games without starting quarterback Justin Herbert, who missed time with a broken collarbone. The Ducks face Boise State in the Las Vegas Bowl on Dec. 16.

The Ducks had also been doing well on the recruiting trail under Taggart and the hope is promoting Cristobal can help Oregon keep a promising class of high school commitments together.

The Ducks wanted to name a successor quickly because of the early signing period, which begins Dec. 20. Oregon is set to host a group of recruits this weekend.

EASTERN OREGON

## marketplace

Place classified ads online at [www.eastoregonmarketplace.com](http://www.eastoregonmarketplace.com) or call 1-800-962-2819 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. After hours, leave a voicemail and we'll confirm your ad the next business day. Email us at [classifieds@eastoregonian.com](mailto:classifieds@eastoregonian.com) or fax: 541-278-2680

Deadline is 3 p.m. the day before publication

East Oregonian

We accept:

211 S.E. Byers Ave.  
Pendleton, OR 97801333 E. Main St.  
Hermiston, OR 97838See [www.eastoregonmarketplace.com](http://www.eastoregonmarketplace.com) for classified ads from all over Eastern Oregon

## 104 Special Notices

## CLASSIFIED LINE AD DEADLINES

East Oregonian  
3pm the day prior to publication

Hermiston Herald  
10am Tuesday

1-800-962-2819

## 107 Public Notices

PUBLIC AUCTION  
EZ Mini Storage  
2315 Hwy. 395 S.  
Hermiston, OR  
97838

Deanna Hendricks/  
Andrew Kauffman  
J-27

Sale on site, 11AM  
December 18, 2017  
Please call ahead to confirm  
541-567-1003

## You can find your dream home...



Check out our real estate listings in the classifieds!

## 110 Announcements



VuPoint Research is conducting a research project. Must be a homeowner. Pendleton area. You will receive \$75 if you participate. Contact Samantha at 503-977-6751 / email samantha.johnson@vupointresearch.com

Limited Availability.

## CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

## 110 Announcements



## 166 Good Things to Eat

Davis Orchards  
Fruit Stand  
9am-5pm  
Closed Saturday  
All Apples & Pears.  
53285 Appleton Road  
Milton Freewater, Oregon  
541-938-7093

## 184 Personals

Contact Dayle or Grace at [classifieds@eastoregonian.com](mailto:classifieds@eastoregonian.com)  
1-800-962-2819  
to place your classified ad!

## 204 Automobiles

The Arlington School District will be holding a Sealed Bid Auction for a 2016 Dodge RAM 2500 Tradesmen, blue, 4 door, 4 x 4, tow package with approx. 15,000 miles. There is a minimum bid of \$35,000.

Sealed bids will be accepted at the Arlington High School office at 1200 Main Street in Arlington Oregon or mail to ASD-Attention Bids, PO Box 10, Arlington, OR 97812. If mailing in your bid please make sure the bid is sealed. The deadline for bids is December 14, 2017 at 12:00 pm at this time the bids will be opened, in the AHS library and the high bidder will be announced. For more details, contact AHS at 541-454-2632

Find your new home in Classifieds

## 360 Garage Sales

Mother in law moved into assisted living- everything must go. 2 beds with frames, pottery wheel, dishes, misc. household items, large craft table, rocking chair, washer/ dryer, China set. Call with questions.  
541-377-1986

15 SE 11th Street #22  
Pendleton. Sunday  
December 10  
9am-3pm

Clothing, furniture, Christmas decorations, lots of bikes and bins of knick-knacks. Clothing will be 5 items for \$1.00. Furniture priced as marked and bins of knick-knacks are you name the price.

500 Harper Road Hermiston  
Saturday December 9  
8:30am - 11:30am

Sale will be inside if it rains.

## 501 Open Houses

DOWNUNDER????????????  
Sign up for your Tour to Australia in April 2018. This will be your trip of a lifetime. The tour is made to fit the group! References available! Call Kerry 541-377-6855 or email your questions to kjcbaird@gmail.com  
Turn Here Realty  
541-377-6855

## YOUR DREAM HOME is right here in the Classifieds! Check our real estate listings.

## 504 Homes for Sale

3 bed, 1 bath, attached garage, patio, fenced yard. Cute home waiting for you. \$143,500. Call Cathy for more info  
541-215-0103

Garton & Associates  
(541) 276-0931

\$96,950- 3 bed, 2.5 bath home in Weston. Great starter home for families or couple. Basement has 1 bedroom and 1/2 bath, plus lots of storage. Call Jerry  
541-969-6378 cell. #16641934

Coldwell Banker Whitney  
541-276-0021

## 504 Homes for Sale

Call the "Weekend & After Hours Realtor" to view homes at a convenient time for you. Available on Short Notice, Special Financing Program Information! Call Matt Vogler, 541.377.9470  
John J. Howard & Assoc.  
(541) 377-9470

\$149,900- 3bed, 2+ bath home w/ hardwood floors, fireplace with gas insert. Updated kitchen: granite, stainless appliances. Gas HVAC. Large covered patio, single garage. Vicki 541-969-9441 cell. #17653169  
Coldwell Banker Whitney  
541-276-0021

\$177,900- 3 bed, 2 bath w/ master suite, new master bathroom. Deck, dog kennel, play structure. Updates include roof, HVAC, windows, exterior doors, garage door, electrical. Jef 541-969-9539 cell. #17688085  
Coldwell Banker Whitney  
541-276-0021

\$69,900- PILOT ROCK BUNGALOW. New flooring, carpet, interior paint. Some new windows, new hot water tank. Newer metal roof. Seller licensed Broker in Oregon. Marsha 541-377-5152 cell. #17395833  
Coldwell Banker Whitney  
541-276-0021

\$125,000- 4 bedroom, 2 bath home w/ vaulted ceilings, open floor plan. 1 car garage with extra space. Lots of parking. A pond, hot tub, sheds, kennel. Dawn 541-310-9563 cell. #17337579  
Coldwell Banker Whitney  
541-276-0021

GET A JOB...  
check out the employment Classifieds today!

\$125,000- Ukiah/ Country living set in the mountains. Remodeled cabin like home. Large deck to enjoy the views and wildlife w/ large yard, large shop. Carolyn 541-786-0822 cell. #17660017  
Coldwell Banker Whitney  
541-276-0021

## 504 Homes for Sale

NEW LISTING 5.2 acres of mountain property 3 b/r 2 bath manufactured home with detached garage and large shop. Year round living. Secluded. \$212,900 Call Cathy for more info (541) 215-0103.  
Garton & Associates  
(541) 276-0931

How Much is your Home Worth? Call Matt Vogler, The Weekend and After Hours Realtor, for a free Market Analysis. 541.377.9470. More Listings needed to meet current buyer demand!  
John J. Howard & Assoc.  
(541) 377-9470

Pendleton - \$105,900- NEW! Sherwood Sweetie!! Great 1st home or rental! 2 bedroom on one level. F/A heat. Covered patio. Storage shed for those extras! MLS#16530010  
CALL: MARGE LAPP  
Pendleton Southgate Realty  
(541) 276-1957



\$89,000 - Ukiah two bedroom, 2 baths. 1848 Sq Ft. Could be 4 bed. Detached shop. Large lot. Valley/Mountain view. Priced to sell quickly. MLS# 17233330  
Rocky Mikesell  
Blue Jeans Realty  
"Our office is wherever you are"  
541-379-8690

## CLASSIFIEDS GET RESULTS!

Almost New...2014 Stick built beautiful home backing onto open field in Pilot Rock-high ceilings, lovely cabinetry, kitchen island, 3 Bed 2 bath \$169,500. #17450356. Call 541 377 6855 or drop by the office.  
TURN HERE REALTY  
--COURT AVE--  
541-377-6855

## 504 Homes for Sale

\$142,000- 1160 +/- sq.ft. 3 bedroom 1 bath on one level. Newer siding, roof and many other updates. Call 541-379-7802.  
Garton & Associates  
(541) 276-0931

Only \$79,900-CHURCH for home or business--Make this one your own special place--currently used as home --Cathedral ceilings in the Great Room, Kitchen, bedrooms, bonus rooms.... #17615728 Water St Weston.  
Turn Here Realty & Travel  
541-377-6855

Pendleton - \$149,900- Invest in the West! Triplex! Well established Two 1 bedroom units & One 2-3 possible bedrooms on large main floor. Small deck. Private yard w/garden area & patio. Off street parking. MLS# 15428504 Call Marge Lapp  
Pendleton Southgate Realty  
(541) 276-1957

REDUCED- \$210,000 - 2,326 Mfg Home on 1.28 Acres in Pilot Rock. Large 3 Bay Shop/Hay Shed/Tack Room. Corrals and more. Plenty of room on this property. MLS# 17435209  
Rocky Mikesell  
Blue Jeans Realty  
"Our office is wherever you are"  
541-379-8690

\$175,000 - Ukiah 3 Bed 2 Bath Home. Very nice throughout. 210x100 Lot. Detached garage. Garden area. Fenced Yard. Vinyl Siding. Very nice home. MLS# 17230137  
Rocky Mikesell  
Blue Jeans Realty  
"Our office is wherever you are"  
541-379-8690

Elk Meadows Holiday Sale  
15% off Sale  
10-13 acre sites starting now at \$109,650 including power and water. Easy commute to La Grande or Pendleton. Meacham Rocky Mikesell  
Blue Jeans Realty  
"Our office is wherever you are"  
541-379-8690