

CAPITALS ROSTER

No.	Pos.	Name	GP	G	A	Pts.
2	D	Brian Pothier*	38	5	9	14
3	D	Tom Poti	71	2	27	29
4	D	John Erskine	51	2	7	9
8	L	Alex Ovechkin	82	65	47	112
10	R	Matt Bradley	77	7	11	18
14	R	Eric Fehr	23	1	5	6
15	R	Boyd Gordon	67	7	9	16
17	R	Chris Clark*	18	5	4	9
19	C	Nicklas Backstrom	82	14	55	69
21	C	Brooks Laich	82	21	16	37
23	D	Milan Jurcina	75	1	8	9
24	L	Matt Cooke	78	10	13	23
25	C	Viktor Kozlov	81	16	38	54
26	D	Shaone Morrisonn	76	1	9	10
28	L	Alexander Semin	63	26	16	42
39	L	David Steckel	67	5	7	12
43	C	Tomas Fleischmann	75	10	20	30
44	D	Steve Eminger	20	0	2	2
52	D	Mike Green	82	18	38	56
53	L	Quintin Laing	39	1	5	6
55	D	Jeff Schultz	72	5	13	18
87	L	Donald Brashear	80	5	3	8
91	C	Sergei Fedorov	68	11	30	41
92	C	Michael Nylander*	40	11	26	37

* — Injured reserve

GOALTENDERS

No.	Name	GP	GAA	Shots Faced	Goals Allow.	Save Pct.
38	Cristobal Huet	52	2.32	1,479	118	.920
37	Olie Kolzig	54	2.91	1,423	153	.892

1 Brent Johnson 19 2.67 500 46 .908
Starting goaltender shaded

COACHES

Bruce Boudreau (head coach)
Jay Leach, Dean Evason, Dave Prior

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	Total	Rank
Goals (Per Game)	2.90	8
Goals Against (Per Game)	2.77	T-18
Power-Play Percentage	18.8	T-9
Penalty-Kill Percentage	80.5	25
Shots (Per Game)	31.0	T-5
Shots Allowed (Per Game)	27.5	T-8

SERIES SCHEDULE

*If necessary

Game 1 at Washington
Tonight, 7 p.m.
Comcast SportsNet, Versus

Game 2 at Washington
Sunday, 2 p.m.
WRC-4, WBAL-11

Game 3 at Philadelphia
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Comcast SportsNet, Versus

Game 4 at Philadelphia
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Comcast SportsNet, Versus

Game 5 at Washington*
April 19, 1 p.m.
WRC-4, WBAL-11

Game 6 at Philadelphia*
April 21, TBD
Comcast SportsNet, Versus

Game 7 at Washington*
April 22, TBD
Comcast SportsNet

[3] WASHINGTON CAPITALS vs. [6] PHILADELPHIA FLYERS



SERIES: Best of seven. **SEASON SERIES:** Tied 2-2.

RECORDS: Capitals (Southeast Division champions), 43-31-8; Flyers (fourth in Atlantic Division), 42-29-11.

WINNER FACES: In the conference semifinals, teams are reseeded.



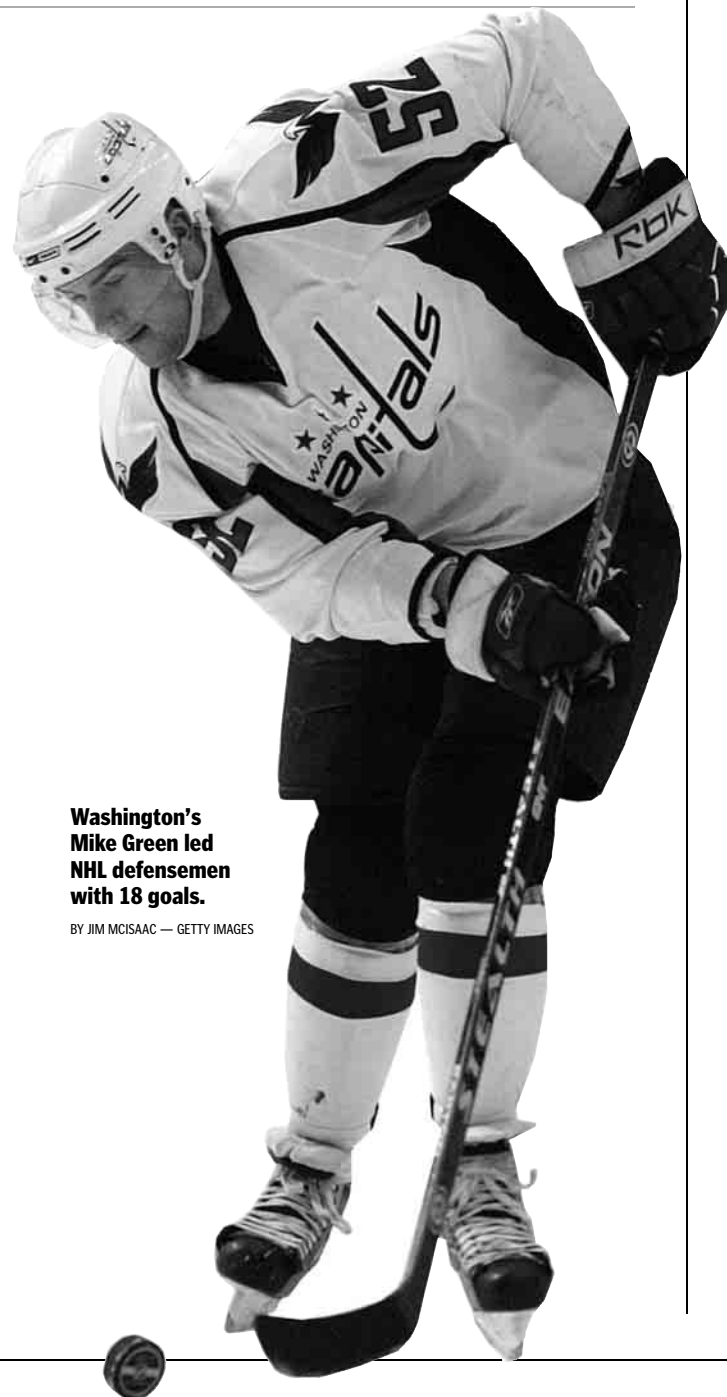
FORWARDS: NHL scoring champion Alex Ovechkin will receive most of the media spotlight, but for the Capitals to be successful he'll need plenty of support from Calder Trophy candidate Nicklas Backstrom (team rookie-record 55 assists), Alexander Semin (26 goals in 63 games), Viktor Kozlov (plus-28), Brooks Laich (career-best 21 goals) and deadline additions Sergei Fedorov and Matt Cooke. The Flyers' deep core features a potent mix of skill and grit, led by hard-hitting Mike Richards (team-best 75 points) and crafty Daniel Briere, who hopes to return from a lower-body injury. Seven Philadelphia forwards scored 20 or more goals, compared with three for the Capitals.

DEFENSE: Injuries are the question for both teams. The Capitals hope Shaone Morrisonn and Jeff Schultz will return from undisclosed injuries tonight. They are among Washington's best penalty killers, and stay-at-home Morrisonn is the steadying force on the top pairing with freewheeling Mike Green, who led the position with 18 goals. The Flyers, meantime, hope veteran Derian Hatcher will return from a broken leg for Game 2, and that leading hitter Jason Smith (upper body) will play at all.

GOALTENDING: Cristobal Huet was arguably the Capitals' best player over the last month of the regular season, winning nine straight starts and posting a .970 save percentage and 0.75 goals against average in his final four games. A calm goalie with strong positional skills, Huet will be making only his seventh postseason appearance tonight, but that's a wealth of experience compared with his counterpart. Martin Biron will be making his playoff debut in his first full season as Philadelphia's No. 1 goalie. The always poised Biron also was dominant down the stretch, winning seven of his final nine starts, including consecutive shutouts to close out the season.

COACHING: There are many similarities between Capitals Coach Bruce Boudreau, 53, and Flyers Coach John Stevens, 41. Both are making their NHL playoff coaching debuts. Each had a long career as a minor league player, then spent years honing his bench skills in the American Hockey League: Boudreau guided the Hershey Bears to the Calder Cup in 2005-06; Stevens won it with the Philadelphia Phantoms in 2004-05. Boudreau took over the last-place Capitals in November and led them to the franchise's first playoff berth in five years; Stevens, in his first full season in Philadelphia, seamlessly integrated nine new players into the lineup as the Flyers rebounded from a franchise-worst 56 points a year ago.

— Tarik El-Bashir



Washington's Mike Green led NHL defensemen with 18 goals.

BY JIM MCISAAC — GETTY IMAGES

FLYERS ROSTER

No.	Pos.	Name	GP	G	A	Pts.
2	D	Derian Hatcher	44	2	5	7
5	D	Braydon Coburn	78	9	27	36
6	D	Randy Jones	71	5	26	31
9	R	Scottie Upshall	61	14	16	30
12	L	Simon Gagne*	25	7	11	18
15	R	Joffrey Lupul	56	20	26	46
17	C	Jeff Carter	82	29	24	53
18	C	Mike Richards	73	28	47	75
19	L	Scott Hartnell	80	24	19	43
20	C	R.J. Umberger	74	13	37	50
21	D	Jason Smith	77	1	9	10
22	R	Mike Knuble	82	29	26	55
24	R	Sami Kapanen	74	5	3	8
25	L	Patrick Thoresen	38	2	6	8
26	D	Jaroslav Modry	80	1	8	9
27	R	Steve Downie	32	6	6	12
28	D	Lasse Kukkonen	53	1	4	5
32	L	Riley Cote	70	1	3	4
34	C	Jim Dowd	73	5	5	10
40	L	Vaclav Prospal	80	33	38	71
44	D	Kimmo Timonen	80	8	36	44
48	C	Daniel Briere	79	31	41	72
53	C	Denis Tolpeko	26	1	5	6
77	D	Ryan Parent	22	0	0	0

* — Injured reserve

GOALTENDERS

No.	Name	GP	GAA	Shots Faced	Goals Allow.	Save Pct.
43	Martin Biron	62	2.59	1,865	153	.918
30	Antero Niittymaki	28	2.91	739	69	.907

Starting goaltender shaded

COACHES

John Stevens (head coach)
Terry Murray, Joe Mullen, Jack McIlhargey, Reggie Lemelin

TEAM STATISTICS

Category	Total	Rank
Goals (Per Game)	2.99	6
Goals Against (Per Game)	2.77	T-18
Power-Play Percentage	21.8	2
Penalty-Kill Percentage	83.2	T-10
Shots (Per Game)	28.8	T-15
Shots Allowed (Per Game)	31.8	27