

NFL, NHL and “Bachelor” Worlds Collide for Jesse Palmer at the Kings’ Winning Game

By Grace Hartounian

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Jesse Palmer took a break from hosting the “Bachelor” to be hosted at the King’s victorious game on Thursday night. The former Giants quarterback and Canadian TV personality enjoyed watching his hometown team, the Toronto Maple Leafs, play his current home team, the Los Angeles Kings.

“I’ve always wanted to go out to a Kings game. I’ve never been before, so they reached out and invited me when I was out filming out in LA for the show and I accepted it and I’m really glad I did I had a great time,” Palmer said.

The Kings against Maple Leafs game had a packed house with 96% attendance rate for an exciting rivalry game during Mexican festival night. Mariachi music and cheering fans filled the stadium. It was definitely an exciting night, especially for Kings fans. Even former quarter-backer and TV personality Palmer had an amazing time.

“The kings game entertainment, they do a great job with everything. There’s an intermission, so there’s a lot of downtime to kill, so they keep their fans entertained. Meeting a few of the players after the game was really cool. I’m glad they invited me to do that.

The beginning, the intros and the stuff like that with the players kicking the ice and announcing the lineups was really cool seeing. All the videos they played and all that sort of stuff,” Palmer shared.



Los Angeles further rattled the stadium by proving to be dub city again with their 4-2 win against Toronto. Some stars of the game included Kevin Fiala, Anze Kopitar and Cal Peterson. The Maple Leafs started the game with the first goal in the first period, which was also John Tavaers’ fourth goal of the season. Both teams played equally well when closing out the first period. However, the Kings fought back with power-play goals during the second period.

The Kings had a man advantage that tied the game during the second period. Kevin Fiala led the Kings with two points and an assist. One of his points was his first goal at the Crypto Arena as a Kings player. Anze Kpitar helped with two assists while Gabriel Vilardi scored three-goal. Adrian Kempe and Viktor Arvidsson also had powerful contributions to the win with power-play goals in the second period. Cal Peterson had 26 saves that helped keep the Maple Leafs behind the Kings. The second period was brutal for the Maple Leafs as they struggled to keep the puck in the Kings’ zone for much of the period. However, they finished the period with their second goal to make the score 3-2.

In the third period, the Maple Leafs lost an opportunity to lead the game by turning over the puck. Fiala took the puck from Rasmus Sandin with a fast stride and slight of wrist and scored the final goal for the Kings. No goals were made by the Maple Leafs during the last period. This sent

the Maple Leafs into their third consecutive loss, which made them less confident about their performances.

Some game highlights include:

- This was Adrian Kempe’s 400th NHL game and he had his sixth goal of the season, which is the second most for the team.
- Kevin Fiala scored his first goal as a King’s player at the Crypto Arena.
- Cal Peterson saved 26 on 28 shots, which is a big improvement.
- Gabriel Vilardi scored his seventh goal of the season making him second place for goals in the NHL this season.

Maple Leafs fans left the Crypto Arena disappointed and distraught. Though Jesse Palmer is from Toronto, he had both cities at heart when watching the game.

“That was tough, but I kind of felt like it was a win still cause I had to root for both teams since the Kings were the ones hosting me. They made me a jersey, which was very nice of them. So I was wearing that even though maybe deep down I was rooting for the Maple Leafs, but still a great time regardless of the score,” he said.

The NFL may be Palmer’s home, but the NHL made him feel at home with the special jersey that says ‘PALMER / #1 / LA KINGS JERSEY.’ He also met Anze Kopitar and Drew

Doughty in the locker room after their incredible performances on the rink.

After observing the team, Palmer has his eyes on the younger roster for the “Bachelor” if the NHL were to crossover with the show one day.

“Definitely one of the younger guys. I don’t really know the whole roster to be honest with you. Just a few big names. I know those guys are all older and married, but one of those younger guys I think Durzi... He might be a good one,” Palmer said.

With his well-known title of being a quarterback in the past, Palmer did not find it difficult to enjoy his time with the LA Kings. “I’m able to remove myself (as an athlete) and enjoy the game as a fan,” he said. It is safe to say Palmer would most likely enjoy another Kings game, especially for another victory.