

LA KINGS EDGE AVS IN POTENTIALLY-COSTLY SHOOTOUT WIN

👤 Ryan Cowley 🕒 September 28, 2015



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DENVER — The **Los Angeles Kings** got back into the win column this preseason as they pulled out a 2-1 shootout win at the **Pepsi Center** against the **Colorado Avalanche**. Unfortunately for the silver-and-black, said win was a potentially-costly one.

Eight minutes into the first period, Kings defenseman **Jake Muzzin** was checked hard into the boards by Colorado's **Blake Comeau**. As devastating as the hit was, though, Muzzin continued to play a few more shifts but eventually had to leave the game, gone before the second period got under way.

Fellow defenseman **Matt Greene** did not play in the third period, though he was on the bench for the entire frame. According to the game log, Greene's final shift of the night occurred with 3:33 remaining in the second period. Both he and Muzzin have, according to Kings public relations, "upper-body" injuries.

While a member of the Kings' hockey operations did speak to **LAKingsInsider** about Muzzin's injury, the severity, in addition to the location of said injury, were unclear. Head coach **Darryl Sutter** declined to comment on the severity of Muzzin's injury following the game.

As for Matt Greene, he will be re-evaluated on Monday.

But it wasn't all bad for the Kings on this night. In addition to the win, **Michael Mersch** continues to prove that he deserves consideration to make the big club this year. As active as Mersch has been during the preseason thus far, he had yet to score a goal entering Sunday night. That changed at the 13:19 mark of the opening frame as his backhand shot beat Colorado's **Semyon Varlamov** to open the scoring. **Jordan Nolan**, in his first game of the preseason, picked up the lone assist on the tally.

Jonathan Quick started in the Los Angeles goal, stopping 10 of 11 shots. **Tyson Barrie** was the only Av able to solve Quick, tying the game 1:39 into the second.

Peter Budaj came on in the third for Los Angeles, stopping all seven shots he faced before captain **Dustin Brown** won the game for the silver-and-black in the shootout. Before Brown's winner, **Tanner Pearson** opened the shootout scoring for Los Angeles before **Gabriel Landeskog** knotted it up for the Avs.

Semyon Varlamov was solid in a losing effort, stopping 35 of 36 shots en route to earning first-star honours.

Before meeting the Avalanche next weekend in Las Vegas, the Kings will return home on Tuesday night to host the **Anaheim Ducks**, hoping to avenge their Friday-night loss to their crosstown rivals.