

OVER THE PASS



"Definitely, playing baseball. That's what brought me here all the way from New York. I play center-field. This is my first year here. I love to play ball and hope to be a professional someday."

— Jaybrien Estevez, TSJC student, Queens, New York



"I'm graduating this month. That makes me happy. A good sleep over Christmas break will make me happy."

— Jake Williamson, TSJC art student, Trinidad



"Good customer service makes me happy. The Bar K Corral Boutique and the Verizon store are always great. So much of the time, people working in a store are grouchy or tired or unhappy. They don't go the extra mile to make sure you receive the good service that you should."

— Nora Garcia, retired state employee, Raton

TIM KELLER'S CONNECTIONS

"What makes you happy?"

Photos by Tim Keller / The Chronicle-News



"Being around people that I love makes me happy. People who make me happy and inspire me—that makes me happy."

— Nefatira Gatling, TSJC art student, Huntsville, Texas

COLORADO HOCKEY

Struggling Avs try to get on track during 4-game trip

PAT GRAHAM
AP Sports Writer

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Slumping Colorado forward Jarome Iginla experimented with a new stick at practice Monday. Anything to ignite a team that's constantly winding up on the short end of one this season.

The Avs have accumulated a league-worst 19 points through 23 games in coach Jared Bednar's first season at the helm. They're missing their captain, top defenseman and a consistent scoring punch as they tumble farther behind the Central Division leaders.

"There's no question we've been pressing a little bit and pushing," said Iginla, whose team begins a four-game trip Tuesday night in Nashville. "We know the importance, because we don't want to dig ourselves too big of a hole. We've just got to make sure we're as sharp as we can be."

Iginla shelved his old stick after scoring just one goal in his last 15 contests. They early returns on this particularly curved model are favorable, too. He beat Calvin Pickard with a shot in practice that had the backup goaltender gushing later on.

"I'm due. I'm due for a change," said the 39-year-old Iginla, who's scored 614 career goals and sits 11 away from tying Hall of Fame forward/Avalanche GM Joe Sakic for 15th place on the all-time list. "I'd like to get contributing here, production-wise, for the group."

The team has scored just 49 times this season, which is among the lowest in the league. They're generating 29.2 shots per game — five less than NHL leader Pittsburgh.

The scoring chances have certainly been there for speedy forward Nathan MacKinnon, who had a league-high 61 shots in No-

vember. But he's just not cashing in at the moment, with only four goals last month. He has five for the season and 10 assists.

"It's a matter of putting the puck in the net, because once you get hot, they tend to start going in," said MacKinnon, who a signed \$44.1 million, seven-year deal in the offseason. "It will turn for me."

This could help turn the team's luck around as well — captain Gabriel Landeskog is nearing a return after missing eight games with a lower-body injury. He skated Monday, but will miss Tuesday's game.

"Landy is progressing," Bednar said. "He's felt better every day for about the last three of four days."

Still, the Avalanche will be without defenseman Erik Johnson for at least six-to-eight weeks after he broke his leg while blocking a shot against Dallas on Saturday. He's been a big presence for Colorado this season with 10 assists.

For Bednar, the most puzzling aspect of Colorado's struggles has been the inconsistency. One night, it could be the power play. The next, maybe the goaltending.

"Part of the reason we're going through this and we're neck deep in it right now is because it's something different beating us every night," said Bednar, who took over when Patrick Roy surprisingly stepped aside in August. "It's not the same thing. You cure one thing and get better at it and something else pops up."

"We're lacking that unity, that consistency, that togetherness that you need in order to win a hockey game." Their play at home hasn't helped. The Avs went 0-4-1 on their recent homestand to fall to 4-8-1 at Pepsi Center this season.

Heading out on the road might be the ideal thing to clear their heads. "We have a chance to get a fresh start," MacKinnon said. "There's some desperation, for sure, to be better. But we're not going to be stressed. That would be the worst thing we could do."

NOTES: Colorado recalled D Cody Goloubeff from San Antonio of the American Hockey League. Asked what Goloubeff brought, Bednar said: "Well, he brings us a healthy defenseman right now." ... D Fedor Tyutin (lower body) will travel with the team and could play Tuesday. ... Goaltender Semyon Varlamov will start in goal at Nashville.



Q & A

Could Dakota Access pipeline move after permit is denied?

JOSH FUNK
Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Army's refusal to grant a permit for the Dakota Access oil pipeline to cross beneath the Missouri River has focused more attention on alternative routes, but several other options already have been considered and rejected as being more risky and expensive.

Some questions and answers about the Dakota Access pipeline and its route:

WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE PIPELINE?

Nearly all of the 1,172-mile, \$3.8 billion pipeline has been built by Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners except for a mile-long section across federal land and beneath Lake Oahe, a Missouri River reservoir. But the project is in limbo because the Army suggested Sunday that it now needs a more detailed environmental review than it received initially.

The pipeline is designed to carry oil from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a shipping point in Patoka, Illinois. State regulators in all four states approved the route through their territory. The proposed route skirts the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border, and the tribe objects to the project, saying it could threaten drinking water and destroy sacred sites.

ARE THERE OTHER ROUTES AVAILABLE?

The company examined other routes when federal regulators conducted their initial environmental review. Energy Transfer Partners and the Army Corps of Engineers agreed initially that the proposed route appeared to be the safest and most cost-effective path. The initial review looked at factors including the number of water crossings, how close the route came to homes and whether it crossed wetlands.

In North Dakota, the Dakota Access route parallels the existing Northern Border Pipeline, which carries natural gas from Canada across the Dakotas to the Chicago area. The Dakota Access pipeline would use a nearly identical route to cross Lake Oahe near the Standing Rock reserva-

tion. One alternative the company considered called for the pipeline to cross the Missouri River north of Bismarck, about 50 miles upstream of the current path. That option was rejected because it was 10 miles longer and required more water and road crossings. It was also estimated to cost \$22.6 million more than the current route.

DOES ANOTHER ROUTE HAVE SUPPORT?

Energy Transfer Partners doesn't want to reroute the pipeline, which was originally expected to be completed before the end of this year. The company says delaying the project a year would cost it \$1.4 billion in lost revenue. CEO Kelcy Warren told The Associated Press last month that the company doesn't see another way to complete the project besides the current route.

Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault has said the tribe does not oppose oil pipelines if they do not threaten water sources, environmentally sensitive areas or sacred sites. He said a route that would follow existing west-east and north-south oil pipeline corridors that avoid Missouri River crossings would be acceptable to him.

HOW WILL TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AFFECT THE PROJECT?

President-elect Donald Trump wouldn't say Monday whether he will try to overturn the permit decision that has delayed the pipeline. Trump has said he supports the pipeline, and he holds stock in Energy Transfer Partners. Trump spokesman Jason Miller said the new administration would review the Army's decision after it takes office in January.

WHAT ARE THE PIPELINE'S PROSPECTS?

Energy analyst Afolabi Ogunnaike with the Wood Mackenzie consulting firm said it appears to be a question of how long it takes for the project to regain approval and whether the route will have to be adjusted.

"Our expectation is that the Dakota Access pipeline will go forward. I think what's unclear is the path it will take and when it will start up," he said.