

GAME IN FIVE™

MONTREAL
HOCKEY

Your team. Five minutes. You're caught up.

FREE EDITION / NO. 001

4 MIN READ

POSTGAME FIVE.

One goal. Forty-eight answers.



FINAL · SEASON OPENER · BELL CENTRE

MTL

Montréal Canadiens

1:0

TOR

Toronto Maple Leafs

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 · Montréal, Québec

THE 30-SECOND VERSION

Montreal beat Toronto 1-0 because Cole Caufield converted a first-period power play and Samuel Montembeault stopped all 48 shots. Toronto kept coming, but never found an equalizer. It was a narrow win built on goaltending and special teams—not a comfortable night protecting the lead.

If you remember one thing: Montembeault made one goal enough.

Result and shutout: NHL Morning Skate

48

MONTEMBEAULT SAVES

27-48

SHOTS · MTL-TOR

1-0-0

MONTREAL RECORD

Game figures: 98.5 Montréal

01 What Actually Happened

Montreal scored early, then spent the rest of the night trying to add breathing room. Toronto's Anthony Stolarz kept that second goal out; Montembeault kept every Toronto goal out. The shot count finished 48-27 for the visitors.

FIRST PERIOD / MONTREAL STRIKES

Caufield finished the game's only scoring play. The Canadiens took a one-goal lead into the intermission, with no idea how long they would need to make it last.

SECOND PERIOD / NO CUSHION

Montreal could not convert a 94-second five-on-three. Both goalies made important saves, and the score stayed 1-0. The missed chance to extend the lead kept the game on a knife-edge.

THIRD PERIOD / HOLD THE LINE

Toronto applied sustained pressure, then pulled Stolarz with about two minutes left. Montreal survived the extra attacker and reached the final horn without conceding.

Period-by-period account: 98.5 Montréal

02 The Moment That Changed the Game

07:48 · FIRST PERIOD · POWER-PLAY GOAL

Caufield gives Montreal something to protect.

A passing sequence involving Kirby Dach and Juraj Slafkovský ended with Caufield scoring. Montreal finished 1-for-5 with the extra skater; Toronto went 0-for-4.

Our read: this was the decisive scoring moment. After that, every save carried more weight: Montreal needed to preserve its advantage, while Toronto had to find a way through.

Scoring play and special teams: The Canadian Press / CityNews

03 Good Night / Rough Night

GOOD NIGHT

Samuel Montembeault

THE DIFFERENCE-MAKER

48/48

A shutout under heavy pressure. His glove stop on Auston Matthews in the second period and another late Matthews save helped keep the lead intact.

Cole Caufield

One power-play finish became the winner. On a night with little room for error, Montreal's scorer delivered the touch that mattered.

Anthony Stolarz

26 saves on 27 shots in defeat. Toronto's goalie gave his team a chance; the scoreboard was not a fair reflection of his performance.

ROUGH NIGHT

Toronto's power play

Four opportunities, no goals. In a one-goal game, that empty column was costly.

Montreal's workload without the puck

Allowing 48 shots left too much on one goalie. Our concern: the Canadiens need more shifts that end in Toronto's zone, rather than another save.

Performances: The Canadian Press / CityNews

04 What This Means

Montreal starts 1-0-0 with two points; Toronto starts 0-1-0. That is a good opening night, not evidence of a playoff trend. One game is far too early to judge either team's season.

The useful takeaway: Montreal showed it could protect a fragile lead. The next test is making the job less demanding on its goalie. With Boston waiting the following night, there is little time to recover or settle into the win.

Opening records and next opponent: 98.5 Montréal

05 The One Thing People Will Talk About Tomorrow

THE GAME IN FIVE TAKE

Montembeault stole the show. And the two points.

His 48 saves set an NHL record for a shutout in a season opener. That is the headline fans will remember long after the details of the power plays fade.

For someone who missed it, here is the conversation-ready version: Montreal got the finish it needed from Caufield, then an extraordinary night from its goalie. The Canadiens won, but the shot gap is the reason to celebrate the result without getting carried away.

ONE SENTENCE TO TAKE WITH YOU

“Caufield gave them the lead. Montembeault made sure they kept it.”

Season-opening shutout record: NHL Morning Skate

NEXT UP

Montreal at Boston

Thursday, October 10, 2024 · 7:00 PM ET

TD Garden · Second night of a back-to-back

Date, time and venue: TD Garden

YOU'RE CAUGHT UP.

You missed the game. You didn't miss the story.

GAME IN FIVE™

Independent Montreal hockey briefings.

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