



# NEWS RELEASE



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## PREDATORS' CALLE JARNKROK, FRONTLINE HEALTHCARE HERO DR. ALEX JAHANGIR NAMED NHL 'FIRST STARS' OF THE WEEK

*Oilers' McDavid, Rangers' Zibanejad Round Out 'Three Stars'*

**NEW YORK (March 22, 2021)** – Nashville Predators center **Calle Jarnkrok** and Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC) **Dr. Alex Jahangir** have been named the NHL's "First Stars" for the week ending March 21.

Throughout the 2020-21 season the NHL is celebrating the remarkable efforts of the off-ice stars who make it possible for us to play our games amid a pandemic by honoring frontline healthcare heroes from the regions represented by the League's weekly and monthly "Stars."

Dr. Jahangir is an orthopedic trauma surgeon and a professor of orthopedic surgery at Nashville's VUMC, where he currently serves as the director of the Division of Orthopedic Trauma as well as the executive medical director of the Vanderbilt Center for Trauma, Burn, and Emergency Surgery.

In March 2020, Dr. Jahangir – who already was serving as chair of Metro Nashville's Board of Health – was appointed to head Nashville's Metro Coronavirus Task Force. Throughout the pandemic, he has joined city officials at daily press briefings and worked with the mayor's advisor for Nashville's response to COVID-19.

"What's been great in this capacity is that I've had the opportunity to meet people from different parts of Nashville," Dr. Jahangir told the [Nashville Scene](#). "And people, I know, are taking huge hits, but they say, 'I get it,' and they're on board. I see people wearing masks, I hear about people making masks. We are flattening the curve."

Rounding out the "Three Stars" of the week are Edmonton Oilers center **Connor McDavid** and New York Rangers center **Mika Zibanejad**. More on each NHL player's performance can be found below:

### FIRST STAR – CALLE JARNKROK, C, NASHVILLE PREDATORS

Jarnkrok recorded 3-3—6 in four outings, factoring on six of Nashville's nine goals to power the Predators (14-17-1, 29 points) to a 3-1-0 week. He matched a career high for assists (also Jan. 20, 2018 vs. FLA) and established a single-game best for points with 1-3—4 in a 4-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning March 15. Jarnkrok then scored twice, including his 13th career game-winning goal, in a 2-1 triumph against the Florida Panthers March 18. After being held off the scoresheet in a 2-0 loss to the Panthers March 20, Jarnkrok bounced back with the shootout-deciding goal – the first such tally of his career – in a 4-3 win over the Dallas Stars March 21. The 29-year-old Gävle, Sweden, native ranks third on Nashville with 9-6—15 in 26 appearances this season. His 22.0 shooting percentage in 2020-21 (9 G on 41 SOG) shares fourth place in the entire NHL.

## NHL COMMUNICATIONS

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## **SECOND STAR – CONNOR McDAVID, C, EDMONTON OILERS**

McDavid collected 4-4—8 in four contests to share the League lead in scoring and lift the Oilers (21-13-0, 42 points) into a tie – *in terms of points* – for first place in the Scotia NHL North Division. He posted four points across a pair of games against the Calgary Flames, notching one assist in a 4-3 loss March 15 and 1-2—3 (including the winning goal) in a 7-3 triumph March 17. McDavid then scored both Edmonton goals, including his second straight winner, in a 2-1 victory over the Winnipeg Jets March 18 before closing the week with 1-1—2 in a 4-2 triumph against the Jets March 20. The 24-year-old Richmond Hill, Ont., native and two-time Art Ross Trophy winner tops in the NHL in goals (t-21), assists (39) and points (60) through 34 outings in 2020-21. His 60 points are the most by any player through his first 34 games of a season since 2002-03 (**Mario Lemieux**: 18-45—63).

## **THIRD STAR – MIKA ZIBANEJAD, C, NEW YORK RANGERS**

Zibanejad also registered 4-4—8 in four games to guide the Rangers (13-13-4, 30 points) to a 2-1-1 week. He did not reach the scoresheet in a 5-4 overtime loss to the Philadelphia Flyers March 15, but rebounded with 3-3—6 – all in the second period – in a 9-0 win over the Flyers March 17. In doing so, Zibanejad matched [the NHL record for points in a single period](#) and became the first Rangers player with a six-point performance since Nov. 25, 1992 (**Mark Messier**: 2-4—6 at PIT). Zibanejad again was held off the scoresheet in a 2-1 loss to the Washington Capitals March 19, but closed the week with 1-1—2 – including the winning goal with 2:32 remaining in regulation – in a 3-1 triumph against the Capitals March 20. The 27-year-old Stockholm, Sweden, native sits fifth on New York with 7-12—19 in 30 contests this season.

### (3/22/21)