



**AMALIE Arena Media Clips
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As Lightning face life without Andrei Vasilevskiy, his backup shines **Eduardo Encina (Tampa Bay Times)**

TAMPA — It was just one preseason game, but Jonas Johansson made a strong impression Friday night at Amalie Arena.

Against a split-squad Hurricanes team that brought its top three forward lines, Johansson stopped all 42 shots he faced in his Lightning debut, a 4-0 win. Fans can exhale a little bit after Thursday's news that star netminder Andrei Vasilevskiy will miss the first two months of the season recovering from surgery to repair a herniated disc in his lower back.

"He's a kid that's been in the league a little bit, but he's not ever really gotten his chance," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "So you never know when you're going to get it. Obviously, he signed here knowing he wasn't coming in to be the starting goaltender, and all of a sudden he's thrust into a situation where playing time might go up.

"And so you want to see if he's going to take this opportunity and seize it. It's a small sample size, just one game tonight, but he sure made a case. For him, confidence-wise, this has to be great for him."

The Lightning can't expect Johansson, or fellow newcomer Matt Tomkins, to be Vasilevskiy, and their success without the former Vezina and Conn Smythe award winner will depend more on how the team plays defense than who is in the net. But the 6-foot-5 Johansson stood tall Friday.

He stopped all 38 shots he faced in 5-on-5, including an 18-shot second period that saw Carolina create 12 high-danger scoring chances at even strength. Clinging to a two-goal lead, Johansson also withstood an opening 10 minutes of the third period that saw the Hurricanes pepper him with 13 shots on goal.

"I always try to prepare something as if I'm going to play every game," Johansson said after Friday's win. "It doesn't matter what position I'm in, really. The biggest thing for me is I think showing up in practice and being good every day. That helps in the games, too."

This all happened quickly. The Lightning went into this week hoping that Vasilevskiy's injured back wouldn't require surgery. The pain first crept up in August, and an injection seemed to resolve it. But when he aggravated the injury last Thursday, and was unable to complete the first practice of training camp, everyone in the Lightning organization held their breath.

He received a second injection, treatment and rest, then spent Tuesday and Wednesday testing the injury. He didn't appear comfortable either day, switching in and out with Johansson, and he looked visibly frustrated. A day later, Vasilevskiy had surgery to repair the disc.

"This happened as early as it possibly could have," Cooper said before Friday's game. "Literally, when the decision was made, the procedure would happen within hours, so no, this isn't something that, 'Oh, my God, I can't believe you didn't get it earlier.' This is something that flared up right at the beginning of training camp, so there was nothing else that could have been done."

The focus of the preseason, and the four remaining exhibition games, is now firmly on Johansson and Tomkins to carry the load.

Johansson, 28, is coming off a strong AHL season in Colorado's organization with just 35 NHL games under his belt.

“We’re evaluating the goaltending,” Cooper said earlier Friday. “... But our job is to get our team ready. So I can’t emphasize enough it’s about the team and how we’re going to play offense, how we’re going to play defense, how we’re going to transition. That’s what it’s about. The goalie is just one piece. So we need to slot somebody in there for the rest of these exhibition games and games No. 1 through however many we’re going to play (without Vasilevskiy), but it’s about how we’re going to play as a team.”

Tomkins, a 29-year-old who has yet to play an NHL game after playing in the AHL and the past two seasons in Sweden, had an impressive preseason debut in Wednesday’s 2-1 overtime win in Nashville. He stopped 30 of the 31 shots he faced, including all 21 even-strength shots. The only goal Tomkins allowed was on the Nashville power play, and overall he stopped the Predators through nearly 13 short-handed minutes.

“This team has always dealt with adversity pretty well in terms of guys being injured and other guys stepping up,” Lightning captain Steven Stamkos said. “So we’ll just have to hold the fort here until the Big Cat’s back.”

Tampa Bay Lightning 2023-24 season preview: Playoff chances, projected points, roster rankings

Dom Luszczyszyn, Shayna Goldman, Sean Gentile (The Athletic)

The shine on the Tampa Bay Lightning's back-to-back championships is starting to fade.

After three straight trips to the Stanley Cup Final, the Lightning's latest run ended early. Yearly subtractions to the supporting cast have become part of the routine in Tampa Bay to keep the core together. As much as the formula has worked before, the cost of contending is building up.

The team is low on cap space, trade assets, and high-end prospects, putting pressure on management to get creative. And there are questions on whether the clock is ticking on Victor Hedman after an uncharacteristic season, plus a Steven Stamkos contract situation looming.

On top of that, the latest hurdle includes an injury to one of their most valuable players in Andrei Vasilevskiy for about the first two months of the season. That throws Jonas Johansson in the starter's net and pushes the team's trajectory lower than originally expected.

It's not all doom and gloom for the Lightning — the core is still elite, and the playoffs can't be entirely lost in the first two months of the season while Vasilevskiy is sidelined. But the days of being the standard in the East may officially be in the rearview mirror.

The projection

Is this really it for the Lightning?

That was already the question at the start of September when we started working on these, it's an even bigger question now with Vasilevskiy out to start the season. That's 24 games without a top-five goaltender and in his place may be one of the league's absolute worst options.

That played a massive role in where the Lightning landed to the point we had to make some serious scheduling chances. The news dropped the team from the outskirts of the league's top 10 to the thick of the playoff bubble. For the first time in a long time, their grasp on the playoffs already looked vulnerable with just a 70 percent chance. Now it looks downright precarious at 57 percent — tied with Ottawa for eighth in the East.

Losing key depth pieces year after year to pay for a talented core will do that. The pressures of a competitive East only accentuate that further. It's difficult to be a contender for so long and it does seem like the Lightning might finally be on the cusp of losing that status.

With that being said, this is a model that only uses regular-season data to make predictions, and if any team couldn't care less about what happens there, it's the Lightning. They know what it takes to get in and they know how to play once they get there.

In that vein, it might've been worth taking this projection with a grain of salt, especially after seeing how strong Tampa Bay looked once the playoffs actually started. But the injury to Vasilevskiy makes things very tricky, no matter how scary the rest of the team's core may still be. With all the depth lost over the last few seasons, this is a suddenly vulnerable group in a conference with a lot of teams knocking on the door.

The Lightning have spent the last few years not caring about the regular season. This year, they're going to have to.

Percentiles with the bar graphs are based on each player's Offensive, Defensive and Net Rating relative to their time-on-ice slot, i.e. the first forward is compared to other first forwards only.

The strengths

The top end of the Lightning's roster might not be as good as it's ever been — this far into their run, that'd be an unfair expectation — but it's still terrific, and capable of more than enough production to keep them in the contender tier. "They know what they're doing" counts for something here, even if it's not tangible.

Nikita Kucherov is the straw that stirs the drink for the forwards, a no-doubt franchise winger who'd be the best player on all but a select few teams. Offensively, his ability to make plays and dictate pace as both a passer and shooter remains remarkable, even as he enters his 30s. He's also still creating offense at an elite level off both the rush and cycle, as shown in AllThreeZones data. Only Matthew Tkachuk (plus-27) and Mikko Rantanen (plus-21) are projected to have greater offensive impacts this season than Kucherov. The model also has him again comfortably hitting the 100-point mark (107, specifically, finishing top five in the league).

When we assembled the Player Tiers, we nearly moved him into the MVP-player category, ahead of younger, less accomplished players like Rantanen and Jason Robertson. What keeps him out of Tier 1 — though he's still rightly on plenty of top-10 lists, including those of a few NHL sources who lobbied for him — is a dip in defensive play. In the last two seasons, he's been on the ice for the same number of expected goals against as Alex Ovechkin and Patrick Kane, two players who've become shorthand for "aging wingers who sacrifice defense for offense." Kucherov's play with the puck is simply still transcendent enough to make it matter less.

Brayden Point may continue to close the gap between himself and his right winger this season. He stayed healthy last season, elevating his play and production in the process. Scoring 51 goals is impressive enough; on a team with no issue relying on the power play to get them through chunks of the schedule, 29 even strength is an even bigger feat. He's a force in transition — creating chances off his zone entries as frequently as Nathan MacKinnon — and a top-15 player in the league.

"I think he's the guy that people underestimate," one coach told us, "because they have so many players on that team, but the guy gets 50 goals and skates like hell." Don't be surprised if he finishes this season as the Lightning's true most valuable player.

Stamkos, even at 33, is Tampa Bay's other argument-free high-end offensive player. Two seasons ago, he looked to be on the decline. Since, he's turned in 106- and 84-point seasons, and not just because he's a power-play weapon; in 2022-23, he scored 20 of his 34 goals at even strength. That sort of production makes his obvious dissatisfaction with his contract situation even more understandable; barring something odd, he's still capable of being one of the leaders on a team trying to win Stanley Cups.

It's fair to say the Brandon Hagel trade back in March 2022 has worked out for Tampa Bay. Two low first-round picks is a fine price to pay for a player that, in his first season with the Lightning, scored 30 goals and put up the best expected-goals percentage at five-on-five outside of Point and Kucherov. The Lightning will need more of that if Hagel, 25, is to live up to his \$6.5 million annual cap cost through 2032, but for the time being, he looks like a strong top-six winger. He should have little trouble getting back to 65 points this season, especially if he takes a job on the top power-play unit.

Down the lineup a bit, Anthony Cirelli and Nick Paul have value as defensive centers. Mikey Eyssimont has potential as a volume shooter on the fourth line. Conor Sheary can provide some

cheap, half-decent point production in limited minutes (1.52 points/60 at five-on-five with the Capitals last year, same as Drake Batherson and J.T. Compher).

On the blue line, the Lightning's obvious strength is on the left side. Hedman, despite a dip in his offensive output and overall minutes last season, remains a force. Nick Perbix, in his first NHL season, didn't seem out of place as Hedman's partner. His work on puck retrievals and zone exits was strong, according to AllThreeZones, and his effect on offense was solid — though playing alongside Hedman still helps in that area.

Mikhail Sergachev might be one of the more interesting defensemen in the league. Last season, with his ice time on the upswing, he finished 20th among defensemen in Net Rating. That stemmed mainly from an offensive game (64 points in 78 games) that flourished in a relatively sheltered role since Hedman took over some of the tougher minutes that opened up with Ryan McDonagh's exit. He's projected once again to provide tons of offensive value. If his defensive game improves, even if his usage stays the same, he'll be an even bigger strength for the Lightning.

If Vasilevskiy were healthy, he'd have been projected — yet again — as one of the few most valuable goaltenders in the league. He, of course, is not healthy. Before news of his back injury broke, his plus-16 projection was behind only Ilya Sorokin, Juuse Saros and Igor Shesterkin. That number, by the way, came in spite of the nagging injuries that cropped up down the stretch of a relatively subpar 60-game season in 2022-23. He's been a workhorse, and once he returns from surgery, he'll have to quickly return to form. Two months with him on the shelf is going to be a major, major problem for the Lightning; cost-cutting backup Johansson put up an .886 save percentage and a minus-24.3 Goals Saved Above Expected in 35 NHL games spread over five seasons. A track record that ugly, combined with the strength of the Atlantic Division and other issues on the roster, does not bode well.

The weaknesses

Contract extensions, a flat salary cap and some questionable decisions have finally chipped away at the Lightning's depth in a meaningful way. They may well have the high-end talent necessary to overcome it come playoff time, but the outlook at several spots in the lineup isn't particularly pretty.

Lightning's big question: Are cap casualties and personnel losses going to be too much?

Cirelli and Paul, despite being plus defensive players, struggle to bring enough offense to make them across-the-board positives down the middle. In Cirelli's case, he produced 1.7 five-on-five points/60 despite spending the vast majority of his time on ice with either Stamkos or Hagel. For a second-line center on a contender with a \$6.25 million cap hit, that's not good enough — regardless of how much defensive value he provides. Paul was less efficient (1.32 points/60), though he cost about half as much.

Tanner Jeannot has yet to sign a long-term contract of his own, which ... probably isn't a bad thing for the Lightning. He had four points in 20 regular-season games after Tampa Bay acquired him for first-, second-, third-, fourth- and fifth-round picks spread across three drafts. For a team like the Lightning, dumping the equivalent of a full draft class on one win-now, cost-controlled player isn't an inherently bad idea. When that guy goes on to play a little more than 13 minutes in one playoff series, buyer's remorse is certainly on the table.

It's not over for Jeannot; he's still only 26 years old, with an aesthetically pleasing game for old-time hockey fans and at least some goal-scoring ability. His shooting percentage, ridiculously high as it was in 2021-22 (19.4) was ridiculously low in 2022-23 (5.6). He's also a fantastic forechecker. Still, the Lightning aren't going to get many more bites at the apple. They need him to be good, and he's projected to be, well, the opposite — a third-line forward.

The same goes for Erik Cernak, who signed a contract that pays him an average of \$5.2 million annually through 2031. He was a drag in most areas last season, outside of some decent entry defense, while being paid like a high-end second-pair guy. Players like Hedman can get away with conserving energy during the regular season. Players like Cernak, less so.

The Lightning's biggest issues, though, might be at the bottom of the lineup. They simply didn't have enough cap space to sign fourth-liners and third-pair defensemen for anything more than the league minimum, and it's reflected in the projections. An example: Of the 636 NHL players with projected Net Ratings for the season, Luke Glendening is 628th and Logan Brown is 607th. Both are penciled into the Opening Night lineup. Glendening may have some defensive use, but that doesn't matter after a season where he somehow scored just 0.27 points-per-60 at five-on-five. That's the sixth-worst mark in the analytics era.

Depth defensemen Calvin de Haan, Zach Bogosian and Haydn Fleury aren't much better. That'd be a risky approach even with their elite goaltender in top form; with Johansson back there for a couple months — or some other low-end addition — it could be disastrous.

The wildcard

Will Victor Hedman bounce back to form as a true number one?

There's something that immediately jumps out when looking at Tampa Bay's depth chart above: A measly "+8" next to Victor Hedman's name. That's the 24th-highest Net Rating among defensemen, a farcically low number for a defenseman many still consider to be one of the league's 10 best, if not five. That's where we placed him when doing our Player Tiers project earlier this month.

Hedman's lower-than-expected rating is one reason the Lightning find themselves outside the league's top 10 — and it's not completely undeserved. His 53-point pace was his lowest in eight seasons and he had a career-worst defensive performance allowing 0.42 more expected goals per 60 than his average teammate. It was the first time since his rookie season that the Lightning were out-chanced with him on the ice. If his stat line was next to any other name no one would blink.

It's not next to any other name though, it's next to Hedman's. Even at 32, no one's doubting him. He was still a force in the playoffs, short-lived as it was, and still does a lot of great things with the puck. It's the off-puck play that took a year off, but a return to form isn't out of the cards there. This is Hedman, after all.

But even if no one is doubting Hedman, the possibility that a 32-year-old workhorse defenseman is in decline is very real. That's the warning sign that his modest-by-his-standards Net Rating suggests and it may just define how good the Lightning can be in 2023-24. Vintage Hedman carries double the Net Rating and makes the Lightning a bonafide Stanley Cup contender when healthy. Anything less and Tampa Bay's era of excellence may be nearing its end.

The best case

The Lightning survive two months of Johansson and prove everyone wrong, showing they're still a force in the East. Hedman rebounds and looks like his elite, game-changing self. Stamkos' contract situation gets resolved at a reasonable price. The Hagel extension pays off early, and Sergachev thrives in matchup minutes. Tampa Bay finds its spark and goes on a deep run.

The worst case

The window starts closing. The Lightning get into an early hole without Vasilevskiy and struggle to climb out. The Stamkos contract situation stays unresolved, with no internal replacements in sight. Aging comes for Hedman, and Sergachev can't shoulder a greater workload. The Jeannot trade proves to be a total bust, and big contracts to players like Cernak that caused subtractions elsewhere cause a weight on the cap. A shocking playoff miss doesn't help, with no first or second-round picks to help them retool.

The bottom line

The Lightning have been the definition of a quality organization for the last decade, a perennial contender built off an elite core supplemented by strong depth pieces. Add one of the best goalies in the league to that and you get a team worth fearing.

This year's version isn't that.

The core is starting to show cracks, the depth has plenty of question marks, and the top-tier goalie able to paper it all over is out to start the season. The Lightning can and should still make the playoffs, but that's a far more precarious bet than usual.

Lightning's big question: Are cap casualties and personnel losses going to be too much? **Shayna Goldman (The Athletic)**

In the summer of 2021, the cost of winning caused the Lightning to lose all three members of its "Grind Line." Yannick Gourde and his \$5.17 million cap hit were picked by the Kraken in the expansion draft, forcing the Lightning to lose a pivotal spark plug. Then, Blake Coleman and Barclay Goodrow departed as free agents, as teams ponied up to pay for their championship experience.

Tyler Johnson and his \$5 million cap hit were the next to go in the 2021 offseason, in a cost-cutting deal with Chicago. A year later, Ryan McDonagh and his \$6.75 million AAV were sent to Nashville.

Also lost in the 2022 offseason was Ondrej Palat, to the Devils via agency.

The hits kept coming for the Lightning this summer, with Alex Killorn leaving to join the Ducks as a free agent.

Championships tend to inflate salaries. That's why Coleman and Goodrow were able to fetch such great deals in free agency. The same is true of Palat and Killorn, even though those contracts came a year or two removed from their Stanley Cup wins. And it may have boosted the extensions for Anthony Cirelli, Mikhail Sergachev and Erik Cernak.

But in a salary-cap world, a team can't afford to manage all of these raises — especially when the championship boom takes them even higher. So, changing members of the supporting cast around the core has become a part of the process in Tampa Bay, to help balance the books.

At a certain point, though, it takes a toll on the roster. Is that where the Lightning are now, as the personnel losses have built up?

The Lightning are coming off one of their worst offseasons in some time. There were a few good bits of business, like the Brandon Hagel extension, which solidified the 25-year-old's standing with the team, and the Tyler Motte signing. Shedding the entire fourth line may seem a bit dramatic, but those are the role players on which every contender should avoid overspending.

But Killorn leaves a hole in the lineup, emphasized by the subtractions before him — Palat in particular. Hagel's breakout year may help ease losing Palat, but there isn't a natural fit to step in for Killorn.

The hope is likely Tanner Jeannot, on whom the Lightning spent a lot to bring to Tampa. But it's hard to see how he reaches Killorn's level of impact, especially after last season. The winger is only a season removed from a promising 24-goal, 41-point campaign. But last year's awful six-goal, 19-point performance in 76 games is a real red flag. So is the fact that he didn't start to rebound with his new team post-deadline last year, even though the Lightning are known for having a strong system that maximizes most players. Hagel didn't have the greatest start in Tampa, but he absolutely crushed it in his second season. So there's obviously some reason for optimism that the same can be true with Jeannot. But the varying levels of "bad" between the two is sizable, so it's a big ask on a team that now has even less support.

The move from Killorn to Jeannot at least has a bit of potential, because they're betting on a 26-year-old to rebound. Conor Sheary in place of Ross Colton doesn't make much difference in the near future, but the age gap and positional flexibility may help down the line.

Moving from Ian Cole to Calvin de Haan, on the other hand, is an outright downgrade that this blue line is likely to feel. The incoming defenseman has seen better days at this point, even when playing on a stacked team like the Hurricanes, and has a dicey injury history.

If the Lightning just had one bad offseason, that would be one thing. But years of subtraction are quickly adding up for a team that hasn't gotten past some of those prior offseason moves.

Mikhail Sergachev may have taken a step forward offensively, in the greater role created by the McDonagh trade. But not everyone was impressed with how he responded to a tougher workload. One analyst noted as much when discussing his jump to "All Star" territory in this year's "Player Tiers," and said, "I think he played the sheltered role and hasn't really elevated, given McDonagh leaving. I don't think he stepped up."

The subtraction of a third-pair defender like Cole may not seem like much, because he is replaceable. But it hurts when there's some uncertainty above him on the depth chart. And that may be more exposed during the first two months of the season, when Andrei Vasilevskiy is sidelined (which subsequently likely means Jonas Johansson is the number one goalie until management finds a better option on a budget).

Unfortunately for the Lightning, free agency was actually their best shot of improving, even with their salary troubles. The team doesn't have many trade assets to help them as the year progresses, after years of contending. That makes the Jeannot cost even more glaring. A difference from years past is that the Lightning actually kept some of their big splashy adds. After letting Coleman and Goodrow walk, Hagel, Nick Paul and Jeannot have been extended. So that's one less need to address mid-year. But this roster is showing real signs of cracks, with few ways to remedy them.

The Lightning still have an elite core with Nikita Kucherov, Brayden Point, Steven Stamkos, Vasilevskiy and Hedman (last year wasn't a sign of real age-related decline). Between that strength and a system that has helped elevate role players, the Lightning should still be a playoff team despite their subtractions. But for the first time in years, there's some uncertainty around their chances of making a real impact in the spring. No matter how a team goes about its window of contention, this is an enviable part of the process. Subtractions have taken a real toll on this team's future, and it's no longer just the long term that is in doubt.

Johansson shines in preseason debut **Chris Krenn (TampaBayLightning.com)**

Following the news of Andrei Vasilevskiy's microdiscectomy that was announced by Tampa Bay Lightning general manager Julien BriseBois Thursday afternoon, all eyes were on goaltender Jonas Johansson when he made his debut in the Bolts' preseason home opener vs. the Carolina Hurricanes Friday night.

Signed to a two-year deal by Tampa Bay this summer, Johansson was a third-round pick by the Buffalo Sabres in 2014 and is still a bit of an unknown with just 35 NHL games under his belt. But with a big opportunity in front of him, Johansson could not have had a better performance in his first game with the Lightning, recording a 42-save shutout in a 4-0 victory over the Canes.

"He's a kid that's been in the league a little bit, but he's not ever really gotten his chance," said Tampa Bay head coach Jon Cooper. "You never know when you're going to get it. He obviously signed here knowing it wasn't coming in to be the starting goaltender and all of a sudden he's thrust into a situation where playing time might go up.

"You want to see if he's going to take this opportunity and seize it. It's a small sample size, just one game tonight, but he sure made a case. For him, confidence-wise, this has got to be great for him.

"Like I said, it's an exhibition game. He's getting his feet wet. Hasn't played in a game yet, but that's a heck of a night one."

With eight saves in the first period, 18 in the second and 16 in the third, it was a busy night for the Lightning netminder, who said he tried to keep the same mentality he always has entering the game, despite the pressing situation that lies ahead.

"I can only control what I can control and that's showing up every day and being as good as I can and play as good as I can when I get to play," said Johansson. "That's my main focus.

"I always try to prepare as if I'm going to play every game. It doesn't matter what position I'm in, really. The biggest thing for me, I think, is showing up in practice and being good every day. That helps the games too, so that's just my main focus."

The Bolts opened the scoring with 3:03 left in the first period after a Hurricanes defenseman misplayed a puck in the defensive zone, allowing Anthony Cirelli to gain possession at the bottom of the circle, go to the net and roof a backhand past Yaniv Perets and into the top right corner.

After scoring on the power play in each of the first two preseason games, Tampa Bay once again found the back of the net with the man advantage with 6:54 remaining in the second period. When Conor Sheary sent a pass to Mikey Eyssimont near the top of the left circle in the Carolina zone, Eyssimont made a crafty spin move around Teuvo Teravainen and dished the puck back to Sheary on the goal line.

Looking to make a play with his head up, Sheary sent a pass across the crease for Felix Robert, who fired a one-timer on net before jamming home his own rebound to make it a 2-0 game.

Going into the third period with the two-goal lead, the Lightning went to the penalty kill with 6:42 remaining in regulation when Gabriel Szturc was forced to take a slashing penalty to break up an odd-man rush for the Hurricanes.

But special teams came through once again for the Bolts with Cirelli making a fantastic play on the penalty kill. Standing up at the defensive blue line, Cirelli intercepted an entry attempt by the Hurricanes, danced around Domenick Fensore, sent a pass to Zach Bogosian, and hammered a one-timer past Perets on the return feed for his second goal of the night.

“It doesn't matter with Tony, whether it's Game 7 of a playoff series or an exhibition game,” said Cooper. “He's still going to give you everything he has. That's what you love about the kid.

“That kid never cheats you with his effort. I'll tell you that.”

Luke Glendening put a bow on the 4-0 win when he jumped on a bouncing puck in the offensive zone and fired a quick shot past Perets for his first goal of the preseason with 4:15 remaining in regulation.

With that finish, Tampa Bay has now gotten preseason goals from three of their free agent signings in Glendening, Tyler Motte and Conor Sheary.

“NHL hockey players,” said Cooper. “Those guys were brought here for a reason. It's not necessarily to score every night, but you want them to feel good.

“The two games they've played, all those guys have impressed. It's a little different dimension for our group and getting to know the guys, but they've fit in seamlessly.”

It was a solid performance for a number of Tampa Bay skaters in the first home game of the preseason, but with the 42-save shutout, especially given the circumstances, Johansson was the biggest story of the night and earned First Star of the Game honors for his performance.

“It's been a really good first week,” said Johansson. “Tough practices, good pace. There's a lot of really good players here.

“The organization is really good. Me and my wife have been really well introduced and we feel very welcome since we've got here, so all positives really.”

With the Lightning playing back-to-back games and wanting to get a good look at all the goaltenders in training camp, Johansson won't be in net tomorrow afternoon for the 5 p.m. matchup against the Nashville Predators. However, there will be quite a few regulars in the lineup with some big names making their preseason debut.