

# Horvat's 2nd goal lifts Islanders over Penguins 5-4 in OT

NEW YORK (AP) — Bo Horvat scored his second goal of the game 52 seconds into overtime and the New York Islanders beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 5-4 on Tuesday night.

Mathew Barzal had a goal and an assist, Ilya Sorokin made 31 saves and New York snapped its two-game skid. Matthew Schaefer and Ryan Pulock also scored for the Islanders.

Justin Brazeau had a goal and an assist for the Penguins, who dropped their second consecutive game. Anthony Mantha, Egor Chinakhov and Bryan Rust also scored. Stuart Skinner stopped 18 shots.

Horvat buried a breakaway in overtime to give the Islanders a critical victory in their second-to-last game prior to the Olympic break.

Barzal tied it at 3 midway through the third period, but Brazeau redirected a shot from Brett Kulak to put Pittsburgh ahead 4-3 with 9:20 remaining.

Pulock responded for the Islanders with less than six minutes left in the third to tie it again and force overtime.

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby corralled a loose puck behind the net and slid it to Rust, who fired a

sharp-angled shot from behind the goal line that caught Sorokin off guard with under six minutes to play in the second.

Brazeau set up Mantha in the slot for the opening goal of the game at 12:09 of the first.

Horvat tied it with less than two minutes left in the period when he buried a rebound.

Schaefer, the 18-year-old rookie defenseman, fired a slap shot from

the point in the closing seconds of the first to give the Islanders a 2-1 lead. It was his 16th goal.

Chinakhov evened the score at 2 early in the second off a feed from Tommy Novak.

## Up next

Penguins: Visit the Buffalo Sabres on Thursday.

Islanders: Visit the New Jersey Devils on Thursday.

# With Suarez off the board, Pirates' activity about to pick up

## BY JASON MACKEY

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (TNS)

PITTSBURGH — Although it did not go in their favor, a key domino in the Pittsburgh Pirates offseason fell Sunday night.

Eugenio Suarez, a third baseman with the sixth-most home runs in MLB since 2018 (261), signed with the NL Central rival Cincinnati Reds for one year, \$15 million, along with a mutual option for 2027.

According to sources, the Pirates offered the same amount of money to Suarez and were willing to go higher, both in terms of average annual value and tacking on a second guaranteed year.

However, Suarez chose returning to one of his former teams due to ballpark fit, familiarity and a chance to cash in on a big season next winter.

The possibility of a Suarez deal had the Pirates in a holding pattern. Now, they regain the momentum

they built in December and complete their offseason.

First order of business, they need a bat. One at least reasonably similar to that of Suarez.

Yes, they also need to sign a starting pitcher, preferably a lefty and certainly someone who can eat innings, but their focus needs to be adding another middle-of-the-lineup hitter — and a target for them may surprise you.

Marcell Ozuna is a three-time All-Star and was worth 4.3 wins above replacement (Baseball Reference) for the Braves in 2024. However, he's coming off a down year in 2025, and the Pirates could pivot to try and sign one of the game's best designated hitters.

During that 2024 campaign, Ozuna appeared in all 162 games and hit .302, and produced a .925 that included 39 homers. He drove in 100 or more runs (104) for a second consecutive season.

During a two-year stretch from 2023-24, Ozuna hit 79 home runs

and was worth 7.8 bWAR.

The gamble is that Ozuna is 35 and saw a fairly steep decline in his performance this past season, hitting .232 in 145 games with a .756 OPS that included 21 home runs.

It's not bad but also not enough for someone who made \$16 million and could get around in free agency.

Signing Ozuna would almost assuredly close the door on Andrew McCutchen's time in Pittsburgh, while there's also a tough fit.

Ozuna would DH pretty much every day. Ryan O'Hearn would bounce between left field and first base, which could compromise playing time for Spencer Horwitz and Jake Mangum.

It's also not prohibitive. However it happens, the Pirates must do more to improve their offense.

Which is why they could also go the trade route and specifically target a third baseman such as Alec Bohm (Phillies), Josh Jung (Rang-

ers), Isaac Paredes (Astros) or one of two players from the Mets, Brett Baty or Mark Vientos.

Bohm was an All-Star in 2024, when he hit .280 with a .779 OPS during a 3.0 bWAR season. He's in his final year of arbitration and will make \$10.2 million.

Jung comes with more team control but additional risk. He was an All-Star in '23, hitting 23 home runs and posting a .781 OPS as a rookie, but he's been hurt and has a .693 OPS the past two seasons.

Paredes, who may be pushed out of a regular spot with Carlos Correa moving to third, hit 20 homers and finished with an .809 OPS last season.

The downside is that, like Suarez, he's a right-handed bat whose power may be swallowed up by PNC Park and the North Side Notch.

With Bo Bichette signing with the Mets, Vientos and Baty could also be available — and they offer different fits.

Vientos is another bounce-back candidate after hitting .223 with a .702 OPS in 121 games in 2025. Certainly not ideal.

But he was excellent in 2024, homering 27 times and producing an .837 OPS amid a 3.1 bWAR season. He has some position flexibility. He's also a righty who does more than simply hit homers.

Baty has more recent production, with a 3.1 bWAR and .748 OPS last year. He's also another lefty with just 33 career homers.

Bottom line, the Pirates know they need to keep going.

But they had to honor the Suarez offer, leaving open the possibility he could take it. But for those on the outside wanting Suarez to sign, I don't get the sense anything was ever terribly close.

Payroll-wise, the Pirates are around \$95 million at the moment. With the addition of a third baseman, a pitcher and potentially McCutchen, it could finish in the \$105-\$110 million range.

## THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

### NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP
Atlantic	53	35	14	4	74	189	136
Tampa Bay	53	35	14	4	74	189	136
Detroit	57	33	18	6	72	173	171
Montreal	56	31	17	8	70	194	188
Buffalo	55	32	18	5	69	190	167
Boston	56	32	20	4	68	191	177
Ottawa	56	27	22	7	61	189	183
Toronto	56	26	21	9	61	183	192
Florida	55	28	24	3	59	168	181
Metropolitan	55	28	24	3	59	168	181
Carolina	56	35	15	6	76	190	163
Pittsburgh	54	28	15	11	67	183	162
N.Y. Islanders	56	30	21	5	65	161	157
Columbus	55	28	20	7	63	175	177
Washington	58	28	23	4	73	185	175
Philadelphia	55	25	20	10	60	166	178
New Jersey	56	28	26	2	58	145	172
N.Y. Rangers	56	22	28	6	50	151	178

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Central	56	34	16	4	75	187	
Colorado	54	36	9	8	81	208	136
Minnesota	57	33	14	10	76	190	185
Dallas	56	33	14	9	75	188	156
Utah	56	29	23	4	62	179	176
Nashville	55	26	23	6	58	162	188
Chicago	56	22	25	9	53	154	181
Winnipeg	55	22	25	8	52	159	170
St. Louis	56	20	27	9	49	143	198
Pacific	56	22	27	6	50	138	166
Vancouver	56	18	32	6	42	147	205

### Monday's Games

Ottawa 3, Pittsburgh 2

Washington 4, N.Y. Islanders 1

Buffalo 5, Florida 3

Minnesota 4, Montreal 3, OT

Nashville 6, St. Louis 5

Dallas 4, Winnipeg 3, OT

Chicago 6, San Jose 3

Winnipeg 5, St. Louis 4, OT

St. Louis 4, Colorado 2

Toronto 4, Calgary 2

### Tuesday's Games

Boston 7, Florida 7

Columbus 3, New Jersey 0

Carolina 4, Ottawa 3

Philadelphia 4, Washington 2

Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.

Toronto at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m.

Seattle at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

### Wednesday's Games

Boston 7, Florida 7

Columbus 3, New Jersey 0

Carolina 4, Ottawa 3

Philadelphia 4, Washington 2

Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.

Toronto at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m.

Seattle at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Vancouver 7, St. Louis 6

Toronto 7, Calgary 2

Montreal 7, Colorado 6

Edmonton 7, Tampa Bay 6

Calgary 7, St. Louis 6

Montreal 7, Colorado 6

Edmonton 7, Tampa Bay 6

Toronto 7, Calgary 6

Edmonton 7, Tampa Bay 6

Toronto 7, Calgary 6

Edmonton 7, Tampa Bay 6

Toronto 7, Calgary 6

Edmonton 7, Tampa Bay 6

Toronto 7, Calgary 6

Edmonton 7, Tampa Bay 6

Toronto 7, Calgary 6