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## SHARKS NOTEBOOK

# 2 games in 2 days OK, say Sharks

## SERIES FEATURES BACK-TO-BACK SHOWDOWNS

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Mercury News

Games 1 and 2 of the Sharks' second-round series against Edmonton are on Sunday and Monday, which might be cause for concern for San Jose, if it didn't have a solid track record of performing in back-to-back situations.

``We're used to that," defenseman Scott Hannan said. ``We played four in five nights. If we can pull that off . . . "

In their final eight regular-season games, the Sharks had three sets of games on consecutive nights. They won both ends every time.

Game 3 in Edmonton is Wednesday, which creates a sequence of three games in four nights.

Having young legs helps in such situations. The Sharks have seven rookies in their lineup.

``And they're all playing important roles," Coach Ron Wilson said. ``I'm not saying that to cast us as underdogs. It's just reality."

From the Olympic break to the end of the regular season, right wing Steve Bernier scored 13 goals. Among NHL rookies, only Alexander Ovechkin of Washington and Chris Higgins of Montreal -- with 16 each -- had more goals over that span.

## Fifth to first

The Sharks are trying to be the second team to win the Stanley Cup as a fifth seed since the current playoff format began in 1994.

In 1995, the New Jersey Devils, the fifth seed in the East, won the Cup despite not having home-ice advantage in any series.

If the Sharks go on to win the Cup this year, they would have something else in common with the '95 Devils: First champion after an owners' lockout.

- Correction: Joe Thornton is a finalist for the Pearson Award (most outstanding player), but this isn't the first time. He was also a Pearson finalist in 2003 when Vancouver's Markus Naslund won the award.

- Sharks center Alyn McCauley did not practice again Friday, which puts his availability for Game 1 on Sunday in doubt.

McCauley (knee) did not play last Sunday in Game 5 at Nashville and hasn't practiced since.

- The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society has several Sharks-related packages, such as autographed memorabilia, available for bidding at [www.ebay.com/OutForBlood](http://www.ebay.com/OutForBlood).

The auction begins Monday and runs through May 18. A penthouse luxury box for a Sharks game is among the items up for bids.

- Fans attending the game Sunday are encouraged to arrive early or use public transportation because the Cinco de Mayo festival could create parking and traffic issues.
- Game 6, if necessary, has been scheduled to start at 6 p.m. on May 17.

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