

## ON THE MOVE

Kane joins second line as right wing

Chris Kuc  
Chicago Tribune

The Blackhawks are back home after their annual circus trip, and Patrick Kane is making a return home of his own: to his familiar spot at right wing.

Kane, who was shifted to the left side to make room for Marian Hossa on a line with center Jonathan Toews three games ago, was back on the right side during practice Monday. Kane was moved to a line with winger Dustin Byfuglien and center Kris Versteeg. Meanwhile, Patrick Sharp joined Toews and Hossa, and the Hawks will start that way when they take on the Blue Jackets on Tuesday night at the United Center.

"It was fun while it lasted," Kane said of the switch. "I don't know if it's balancing out the lines or getting me back to my old position, but I'm happy with wherever they put me."

Kane had two assists in the three games paired with Hossa and Toews, but the Hawks' offense sputtered, scoring just one goal in the final two games of the trip, both losses.

"You can kind of sense it coming," said Kane, who leads the Hawks in scoring with nine goals and 16 assists. "Something was going to change. It's a pretty dynamic line now with Sharp, Toews and Hossa.

"They'll probably score a lot of goals, and it will probably take more pressure off guys like myself, Versteeg and Byfuglien when we go out there because (defenses) will probably be worried about that line a little bit more."

Coach Joel Quenneville said breaking up the team's top three offensive players will give the Hawks two dangerous lines.



### Career Stats

**Height:** 5' 10"  
**Weight:** 178  
**Born:** 11/19/88  
**Birthplace:** Buffalo, NY  
**Draft:** 1st pick, 1st round

**GP:** 188  
**G:** 55  
**A:** 113  
**Pts:** 168  
**PM:** 104  
**PP:** 21  
**SHG:** 0  
**GWG:** 9  
**S:** 517  
**SPct:** 10.64

[www.nationalpost.stats.com](http://www.nationalpost.stats.com)

[www.czhhl.com](http://www.czhhl.com)

Coaches move Patrick Kane back to his original position, right wing, after playing left side for the past three games.

## Bulls lose 99-97 to Bucks

John Salmons scores 23 points in the team's 5th straight loss against Milwaukee

K.C. Johnson  
Tribune reporter

To reprise Joakim Noah: What's so circus about this trip anyway?

Noah uttered that classic comment on Nov. 16, comfortably claiming his ignorance about why the Bulls' annual extended November road swing is called the circus trip.

Then, with the circus invading the United Center, the Bulls proceeded to cap their six-game trip Monday night with a 99-97 stink bomb of a loss to the Bucks at the Bradley Center.

Brad Miller's 17-footer at the buzzer to force overtime wasn't close.

"That's a shot I've shot a lot of," Miller said. "I just came up short."

After Charlie Bell split two free throws with 7.1 seconds left, the Bulls ran Derrick Rose off Miller's high screen.

"They double-teamed Derrick, he swung it and made the right basketball play," coach Vinny Del Negro said. "Brad got a good look."

The Bulls actually went 0-2 on the day, learning earlier that Kirk Hinrich would be sidelined one to two weeks with his sprained left thumb.

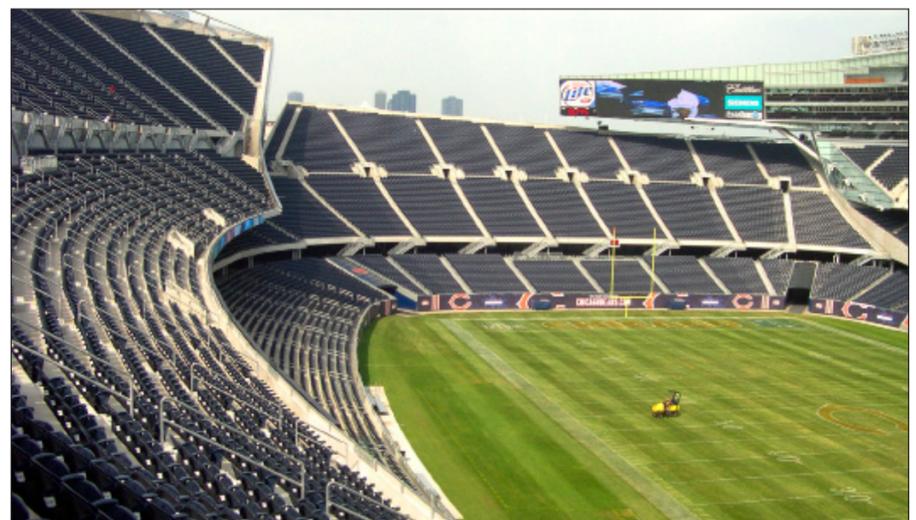
And if players are waiting for reinforcements to arrive, it's time to look within. There are no plans to sign a guard off the scrap heap.

That meant heavy minutes for Luol Deng, Rose and John Salmons, who logged 46, 44 and 43, respectively, during the Bulls' fifth straight loss. Surprisingly, rookie James Johnson, coming off a 10-point effort against Utah, didn't play.

Veteran Lindsey Hunter did, and his energetic play should quiet all critics who claim he's a waste of a roster spot. Pushing the tempo and running the Bulls' occasionally tired offense with aplomb, Hunter didn't shoot well but teamed with Rose to spark the Bulls' comeback from a 14-point third-quarter deficit.

"You think the game while you're watching," Hunter said. "And then I just try to do what the game tells me to do. Push it when we have a break. If not, get into a set. Make sure the ball moves. Hit the open guy."

A noticeably more aggressive Rose scored 17 of his 19 points in the second



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The cost to resod the field is approximately \$250,000, paid by Chicago Park District

## Soldier Field's Makeover

Bear's stadium gets new grass for Rams game

Dan Pompei  
Tribune reporter

The playing surface at Soldier Field for the Bears-Rams game Sunday should be considerably better than it was a week and a half ago, as the entire field is being re-sodded.

The four-day re-sodding project is scheduled to be completed this afternoon. The sod has been growing in Sugar Grove and was trucked into Soldier Field over the weekend.

The cost of the resodding is approximately \$250,000, which is paid by the

Chicago Park District.

This is the first resodding of the field since the entire field was resodded after the U2 concerts and before the Bears' home opener. In some years, only the center of the field is resodded in-between complete resods.

Some of the Bears and Eagles players had problems with their footing in their game Nov. 22 and complained about it afterward. Divots of turf kept coming up as they dug in their cleats.

SEE BULLS, B2



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Former Royals player, Mark Teahen, joins the Sox as third baseman

## Sox give Teahen 3-year, \$14M deal

15 players have signed on for 2010 season at \$79.675 mil

Mark Gonzales  
Tribune reporter

The White Sox avoided arbitration with Mark Teahen today by giving their new third baseman a three-year, \$14 million contract.

Teahen will earn \$3.75 million in 2010, \$4.75 million in 2011 and \$5.5 million in 2012.

Teahen was acquired in November for infielder Josh Fields and second baseman Chris Getz. As part of the deal, the Sox received \$1.5 million.

"I'm pumped," Teahen said. "I told my family how great this is, especially to go to a new place and get that security."

"It's been a great offseason. To be traded to a new team with a chance to win, to go back to my old position (third base) and get this security, I'm very thankful that the White Sox did this."

Teahen, who hasn't played third base on a full-time basis since 2006, said he will start taking grounders at his old position soon.

"It's time to turn up the baseball stuff," Teahen said. "It will be great to return to third base. That's where I feel most comfortable."

Teahen is just as satisfied after meeting new teammates Paul Konerko and Matt Thornton at a players association meeting last week in Phoenix, and he already knew Carlos Quentin.

"It seems like there are some good teammates," Teahen said.

With the signing, the Sox now have 15 players signed for 2010 at \$79.675 million, \$1.5 of which will come from Kansas City in the Teahen deal.

## United Center: It's a mad world



Molly Wheeler/ Loyola Student

New seats in the 300 level will allow for more fans to come to games

### Major renovations happening to 300 Level

Alexia Elejalde-Ruiz  
RedEye reporter

The fancy seats aren't the only sections sporting a face lift.

The United Center's 300 level--a.k.a. the cheap seats, where the rowdiest, most hardcore fans tend to sit--has been rebranded The Madhouse on Madison, after the nickname of the old Chicago Stadium, and debuted this season with considerable upgrades.

The \$3.5 million renovation included the addition of 144 new flat-screen TVs in the concourses, plus two new horseshoe-shaped bars with open-air

views of the stadium.

"I love it," Jim Brill, 25, said as he drank a Bud Light outside one of the new bars overlooking the ice.

"They're giving back to the fans, which is nice, especially for the 300 level," said Brill, a lifelong Blackhawks fan who lives in Park Ridge and goes in on season tickets with his friends. "I think we're the true fans."

Several new food items from the new concession partner, Levy Restaurants, also are noteworthy. Among them are

the Madhouse Burger (\$9.75), a beef patty topped with spicy brown mustard, cheddar cheese, grilled onions and a grilled polish sausage--yes, a sausage--served on a pretzel roll; and the Victory Knot (\$15), which is a soft pretzel made with two pounds of dough.

A new concession stand and seating area in Section 326 called "Backstage" is decorated with posters of music acts that have performed at the United Center over the past 15 years.

## The Bulls lose 99-97 to Bucks

FROM FIRST SPORTS PAGE

half and also had seven assists.

"I try to get a feel for the game first," Rose said. "Then I step it up. But I have to find a way to force myself from the beginning."

The Bulls took their first lead since the opening minute on Salmons' jumper with 8 minutes, 22 seconds remaining.

Andrew Bogut returned from a lower left leg strain in a big way, tallying 22 points, 15 rebounds and four blocks, one on a Deng dunk attempt with 1:30 left.

Officials then whistled Deng for goaltending with 1:08 left on a Bogut shot that looked well short, making it 95-90

Bucks.

"That wasn't a goaltend," Deng said. "I thought it was an easy play, but I guess (the official) had a different angle."

Hunter fed Salmons (23 points) for a 3-pointer with 14.7 seconds left to make it 96-95. Brandon Jennings and Salmons traded points before Salmons fouled Bell to set up the finish.

As for Hinrich, the hand specialists he visited Monday confirmed he suffered a Grade 2 sprain of his left thumb. He is wearing a splint, and Hinrich said the doctors instructed him to wear it off the court for a full two months.

"I take the splint off every day and try to test it out with grabbing things," Hinrich said. "They said it could be a full two weeks before it starts to feel better."

In the next breath, Hinrich, who missed his second straight game with the injury, said he isn't ruling out returning by Saturday's home game against Toronto, albeit with the thumb taped.

"Guys are going to have to play extended minutes with the bodies we have," Del Negro said. "This is a game we could've won. We didn't. So we move on."

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