



PUCK YEAH

THE NHL WANTS GAY FANS TO FEEL WELCOME. CAN 'HEATED RIVALRY' MAKE IT HAPPEN?

The pro hockey league has battled a toxic reputation when it comes to LGBTQ inclusion, but the runaway HBO Max hit could help change that

By CT JONES
JANUARY 21, 2026



Connor Storrie as Ilya Rozanov and Hudson Williams as Shane Hollander in 'Heated Rivalry.'

SABRINA LANTOS/HBO MAX

No one — not creator Jacob Tierney, or author Rachel Reid, or stars Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams — knew that the steamy hockey

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