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Is Young Royals star Edvin Ryding joining Heated Rivalry Season 2? Jacob Tierney's Instagram activity sparks rumours: 'Will he be Luca or Harris?'

Shivani Negi | May 22, 2026, 24:02 IST

Rumours that Edvin Ryding could join Heated Rivalry Season 2 have exploded online after fans noticed suspicious social media activity linked to creator Jacob Tierney. Now, the fandom is locked in debate over whether the Young Royals star could play fan-favourite Luca Haas or the emotionally damaged Harris Drover.



Image credit : IMDb | Edvin Ryding sparks Heated Rivalry casting rumours after Jacob Tierney's suspicious Instagram move

Let's just get this out of the way. Edvin Ryding, the undisputed king of young adult yearning (a.k.a. Prince Wilhelm of Young Royals), is rumoured to be joining the cast of Heated Rivalry Season 2. And honestly? The internet is not okay. It is passed out on the floor of a luxury gym in Stockholm.

Fans are currently tearing themselves apart trying to solve a very specific puzzle. If the Swedish heartthrob has indeed traded his royal uniform for a hockey stick, who is he playing? The debate has narrowed down to two very different, very beloved characters from the Rachel Reid universe: the chaotic fan-favourite Luca Haas or the grumpy, broken Harris Drover. Depending on who you ask, Season 2 is either about to deliver the fluffiest vibes ever or a devastating angst fest, and the fandom cannot agree which one they want more.

Here is the deep dive into the chaos.

What even is Heated Rivalry?

Before we diagnose Edvin's potential new job, let's hit the ice for the newbies.

Heated Rivalry is the TV adaptation of Rachel Reid's beloved Game Changers series, currently streaming on Crave and HBO Max. Season 1 introduced us to the electric, disastrous, secret romance between two hockey superstars: Shane Hollander (Hudson Williams), the polite Canadian golden boy of the Montreal Metros, and Ilya Rozanov (Connor Storrie), the loud, chaotic Russian powerhouse of the Boston Raiders.

 **Image credit :** X/@heatedrivalry | Heated Rivalry follows the messy, secret romance between hockey rivals Shane Hollander and Ilya Rozanov,

The show is famous for two things. First, the chemistry. These two have been rivals since they were teens, but their "hatred" keeps boiling over into clandestine hotel room hookups.

Second, the yearning. Creator Jacob Tierney has described Season 2 as moving past the "hotel room adolescent sex stuff" into "more serious territory" as they actually try to navigate being adults in a secret relationship.

 Image credit : X | Edvin Ryding is currently training and fans think it's for Heated Rivalry

The smoking gun: How the Edvin Ryding rumours started

This isn't just fan fiction. There is a paper trail. It all started with a suspicious click on Instagram.

Fans noticed that Jacob Tierney, the creator of Heated Rivalry, recently hit that follow button on Edvin Ryding's Instagram. In the world of fandom detective work, a creator following an actor who has zero previous connection to the project is basically a press release.

But the real juice comes from a recent Swedish report. Edvin Ryding has reportedly joined a "luxury gym" in Stockholm with a very specific, almost cinematic goal. Sources say he is aiming to gain seven kilograms (roughly 15 pounds) in three months for a "still secret role." The report quotes him as feeling "motivated."

Fans immediately connected the dots. Heated Rivalry begins filming in August 2026 . Three months from late spring is August. The timeline fits perfectly. Edvin is currently smaller and leaner for his Young Royals aesthetic. Gaining 7kg of muscle screams "hockey player transformation." The math is mathing.

The great debate: Luca vs. Harris

So, if he is in the show, which jersey does he wear? The fandom is currently in a brutal civil war.

Who is Luca? He is a young, talented, famously sunny and sweet player. He is often described as a ray of sunshine. In the books, specifically Role Model, he is the new guy who brings light into the life of a grumpy older player.

Edvin is masterful at playing "sweet boy with hidden depths." Fans who want to see him smile and be charming are team Luca. As one person wrote: "If he's Luca I'm genuinely going to be inconsolable in the best way."

Coming to Harris, he is the opposite of Luca. He is a "really damaged guy," according to Jacob Tierney, who has confirmed that Season 2 is pulling from the Role Model book to introduce Troy Barrett and Harris Drover. Harris is grumpy, isolated, and emotionally bruised.

One fan joked: "Playing Prince Wilhelm AND Luca Haas?? His greed knows no bounds." (Implying Luca suits him better).

What the fans are screaming?

The energy in the quote retweets is absolutely unhinged. Here is the temperature check from the front lines.

One fan said, "Edvin Ryding is truly in season 2 of Heated Rivalry, I will become the most annoying person of all time. I will actually pass out."

The confusion is real, too. "DOES HE PLAY LUCA???? or maybe harris. idk" is currently the most relatable tweet on the timeline.

The consensus seems to be that while fans trust Jacob Tierney (who has promised a "very faithful adaptation"), the choice determines the vibe of Season 2.

What we actually know about Heated Rivalry Season 2

Okay, putting the rumours aside for a second, here is the real Heated Rivalry tea for your group chat.

Production officially begins in Summer 2026 (specifically August). We are likely looking at a Spring 2027 premiere date, likely April or June. Season 2 will primarily adapt The Long Game, but creator Jacob Tierney has confirmed he is weaving in plotlines from Role Model. This is why the Harris and Luca debate exists.

Tierney says Season 2 is "different." Shane and Ilya are actually in a relationship now, so the show has to deal with the reality of that, including the public pressure, the hiding, the "codependency."

So, will Edvin be packing his bags for the Canadian set? We are waiting for that official press release. But for now, the luxury gym in Stockholm is officially the most-watched location in the queer TV universe.



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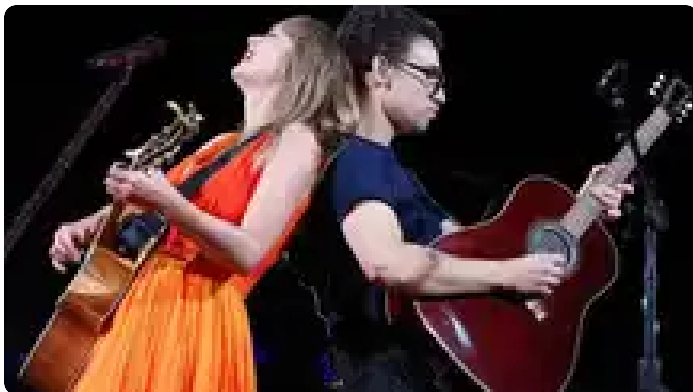
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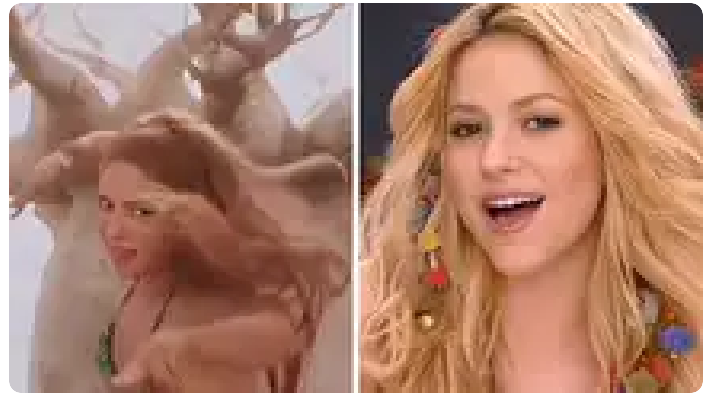
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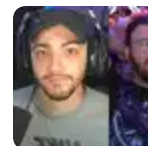
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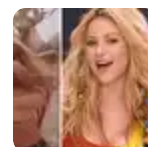
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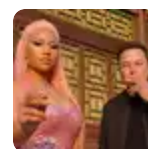
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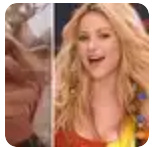
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