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Heated Rivalry season 2: Who's returning, who's joining, and what's next

Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams are returning for another season of the steamy hit series as new players take the ice.

By **Randall Colburn** and **Britt Hayes** | August 10, 2026 5:06 p.m. ET

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Connor Storrie as Ilya Rozanov and Hudson Williams as Shane Hollander on 'Heated Rivalry'.
Credit: Sabrina Lantos/HBO Max

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KEY POINTS

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Breakout stars Connor Storrie and Hudson Williams will return for season 2, alongside new cast members.

A release date is yet to be announced for season 2.

[*Heated Rivalry*](#) is red hot.

After debuting with minimal fanfare in November 2025, the provocative Canadian drama about rival hockey players whose passion explodes into lust (and eventually love) became a word-of-mouth sensation.

Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie lead the series as the star-crossed, puck-smashing Shane and Ilya. The previously unknown actors soon found themselves [mucking it up at the Golden Globes](#), being [parodied on *Saturday Night Live*](#), and getting tapped as the [official torchbearers](#) for the 2026 Winter Olympics. Jimmy Fallon even [told *Entertainment Weekly*](#) that Williams' guest spot on *The Tonight Show* resulted in "one of the hottest audiences we've ever had."

As the stars, like their characters, learn to find a balance between their public and private lives, fans are eager for a follow-up to the show's debut season. Fortunately, production on season 2 is officially underway, with the rising stars set to reprise their roles in the next chapter of the steamy saga. But which book in [Rachel Reid's hit literary series](#) will *Heated Rivalry* tackle next? And who will be joining Williams and Storrie on the ice?

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Here is everything we know so far about *Heated Rivalry* season 2.

Will there be a season 2 of *Heated Rivalry*?

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

Hudson Williams as Shane Hollander and Connor Storrie as Ilya Rozanov on 'Heated Rivalry'.
Credit: Courtesy Bell Media

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deliver: Rich characters, compelling drama, and a world audiences want to live in,” said Justin Stockman, VP of Content and Programming at Crave’s parent company Bell Media, in a statement. “The response has been extraordinary, and seeing the series now traveling internationally is an incredible milestone.”

In an adorable (and cheeky) clip shared by HBO Max, Storrie and Williams opened a gift containing a puck with “season 2” scrawled on it. “Hotter, wetter, longer,” deadpans Williams.

How did *Heated Rivalry* season 1 end?

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The season 1 finale of 'Heated Rivalry'.

Credit: Sabrina Lantos

Season 1 of *Heated Rivalry* ends with Shane and Ilya's frenzied lust giving way to something more tender. While enjoying solitude together at Shane's cottage, the pair confess their love for each other and begin using the word "boyfriend."

It's sweet, but it gets complicated when Shane's father catches the two of them kissing. This prompts Shane to finally come out to his parents, resulting in an apology from his mother, Yuna.

[In an interview with EW](#), showrunner Jacob Tierney spoke about his affection for the ending of Reid's *Heated Rivalry*, the second book in her series and the one on which season 1 is mostly based. "What I remember so clearly feeling at the end of this book was, 'I'm so happy they get to be happy,' that I just wanted to sit with them and let them be happy," he said, also noting that he wanted the season to similarly have a "quiet ending with Shane and Ilya."

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Heated Rivalry Season 1 - Episode 1 Hudson Williams, Connor Storrie

Hudson Williams as Shane and Connor Storrie as Ilya on 'Heated Rivalry'.

Credit: Sabrina Lantos/HBO Max

As Tierney previously told EW, season 2 will continue following Shane and Ilya. “That’s not gonna be a shock,” he admitted.

That said, you’d be forgiven for wondering if the show might pivot. Reid’s *Game Changers* series, after all, is ensemble-driven; not every book centers on Shane and Ilya. [François Arnaud](#)’s Scott Hunter and Robbie G.K.’s Kip Grady, for example, are the subject of their own book, which was partially adapted in *Heated Rivalry* season 1.

In the HBO Max clip announcing season 2, Storrie and Williams confirmed that season 2 will adapt 2022’s *The Long Game*, the sixth book in Reid’s series. *The Long Game* picks up roughly three years after the events of *Heated Rivalry*, and finds Shane and Ilya still dating in

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reads a synopsis.

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 Connor
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 Connor
Storrie as Ilya
Rozanov and

[In a December 2025 chat with EW](#), Storrie spoke about the elements of the book he hopes to see in season 2. “I’m interested to play at the dynamic that develops in *The Long Game*, which is, now that we’ve established we’re together and we’re choosing this, what does that look like to consistently choose through new obstacles, new self-realizations?” he said. “We’re in the real leagues now, and it’s cool to watch these people that have been in this heightened reality for so long. The other shoe drops that deepens the love, but that also tests some of their personal limits.”

During the *Heated Rivalry* panel at BookCon 2026 in April, Tierney [gave fans a taste](#) of how *The Long Game* informs season 2 of the series. “It really is different,” he said, “and the challenge, from an adaptation standpoint, is you’re in much more serious territory. There’s still lots of flirting and there’s lots of sex, but it’s this kind of danger. This kind of

SKIP TO CONTENT adolescent sex’ stuff is largely gone.”

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...but as adults know, there's so much more than that to make a relationship successful. And that is what they're learning."

Tierney also confirmed – “To the great surprise of absolutely nobody,” he said – that parts of Reid’s 2021 novel *Role Model* will be incorporated into season 2 (more on that below), and that *The Long Game* might end up adapted over multiple seasons. “It’s a lot of book,” he noted.

Who’s in the cast of *Heated Rivalry* season 2?

 Charlie Gillespie; Justice Smith

Charlie Gillespie at the 39th Annual Santa Barbara International Film Festival on Feb. 10, 2024; Justice Smith at Vanity Fair’s Vanities: A Night For Young Hollywood on March 11, 2026.
Credit: Tibrina Hobson/Getty; Phillip Faraone/Getty

SKIP TO CONTENT Williams will continue to be at the center of *Heated Rivalry*, expanding in season 2.

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joined the cast as a career hockey player, Troy Baross, who gets traded from the Toronto Guardians to the Ottawa Centaurs. Justice Smith, best known for his roles in *Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves* (2023) and *I Saw the TV Glow* (2024), will play Harris Drover, the Centaurs' social media manager.

"Rachel Reid has given us two beautifully layered characters in Harris and Troy who you can't help but root for," Tierney and executive producer Brendan Brady said in a joint statement following the casting announcement. "From the start of the casting process, we knew we were looking for actors who could create something truly special together and bring that same depth and heart to the screen. Justice and Charlie do exactly that. They immediately connected with the vulnerability and resilience at the core of these characters, bringing an instinctive understanding of who Harris and Troy are."

Speaking of which, at BookCon 2026, Tierney teased the show's depiction of Troy, a character who is really going through it – to put it mildly – when he's traded to the Centaurs. "There is an easy, facile way of looking at *Role Model*," Tierney said. "It's very 'grumpy sunshine.' It's very 'apple orchard.' It can drift into things that you want, but Troy is a *really* damaged guy. And Troy is quite damaged on the show. I would say we're digging into that even harder."

Another key character in the larger *Game Changers* lore is Kyle Swift, who was briefly introduced in the first season as a bartender at Kingfisher. Kyle, here played by [Matthew Finlan](#), is the subject of Reid's 2020 novel *Common Goal*, in which he nurses a crush on Kip and gets involved with an older hockey player named Eric Bennett.

Will Kyle play a bigger role in season 2? That's yet to be seen. "I'm not being coy about that. That's the same Kyle," Tierney told the EW. "I don't know what his love life looks like. I don't know what that journey's gonna
It that's the same Kyle for sure."

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Like season 1, *Heated Rivalry* season 2 will likely consist of six episodes, according to Tierney.

"I don't need to do 10. I would always rather tighten the belt than get loosey-goosey," the showrunner revealed to the *Times*. "I would rather be like, 'Let's see how much story we can pack into these episodes.'"

When does *Heated Rivalry* season 2 come out?



Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie in *Heated Rivalry*.

Hudson Williams and Connor Storrie on 'Heated Rivalry'.

Credit: Sabrina Lantos/HBO Max

A season 2 premiere date has yet to be announced, but Tierney told EW that he doesn't plan for the wait to exceed 18 months.

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going as good as job as we possibly can.

“We can confirm production is set to begin on season 2 sometime this summer, and we are aiming for a spring 2027 premiere,” a spokesperson for Canadian streamer Crave [told EW](#) in February.

Williams and Storrie were spotted together in Toronto in early August, prompting a predictably excited response from fans – and a request from the production company. “If you happen to come across one of our filming locations, please give our cast and crew the space they need to do what they do best,” [read a statement](#) from Accent Aigu Entertainment, posted on social media. “We promise it’ll be worth the wait.”

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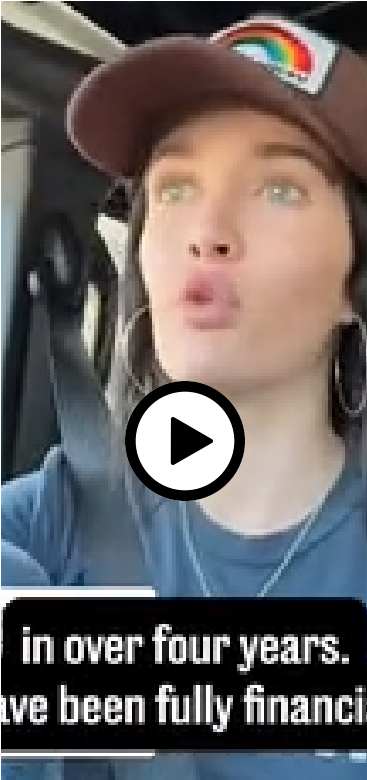
Heated Rivalry is currently streaming on [Crave](#) in the U.S. and on [Crave](#) in Canada.

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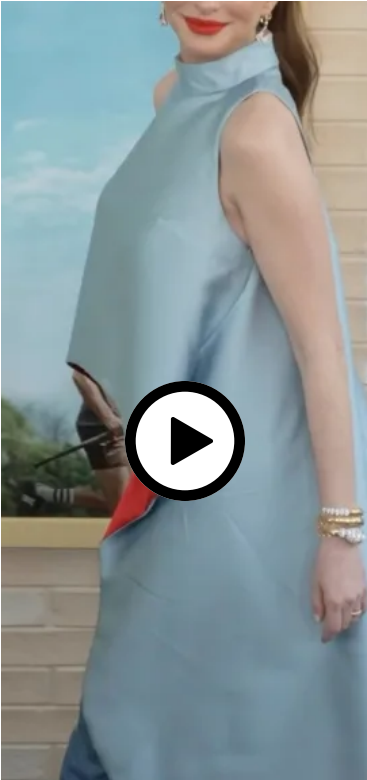
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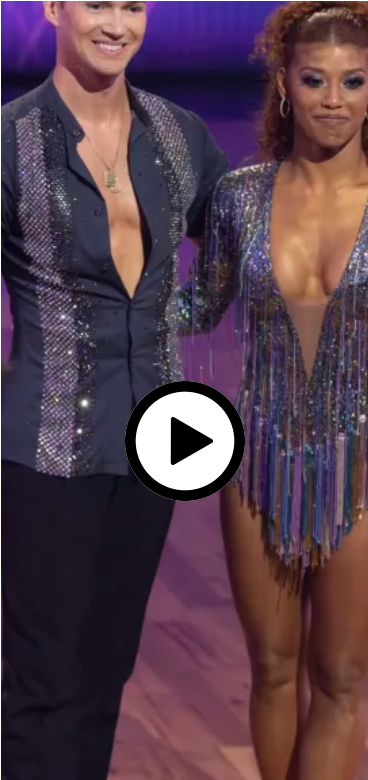
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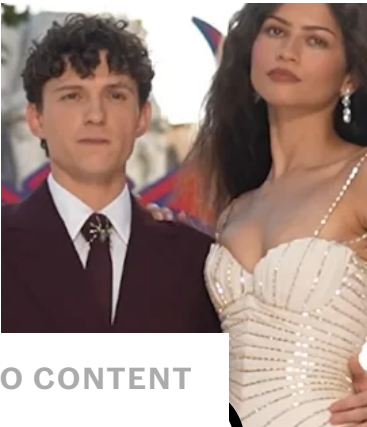
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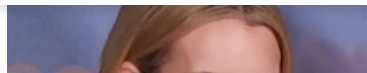
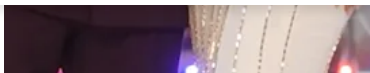


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