Hello all,

Thanks for wearing jerseys today to honour the Humboldt Broncos.

After we decided to do this I thought about what it meant to me to wear a jersey today and why it seemed important. Read if you like and move on if you're busy...

I've played hockey my whole life. And have been on many teams. Hockey teams are a funny sort of family. Before the game while you're getting ready and before you put the jersey on, you laugh with your friends. You tease them and they tease you—often mercilessly. On a team of 15 or so it’s not unusual that you don’t love everybody—some are your best friends, while others are the hockey guys you play with. Sometimes you even get called to play for a team where you don’t know anybody—so you’re likely to quietly get dressed and speak little while the rest team is usually teasing each other about almost anything and everything.

But something special happens when you put on the jersey. Once the jersey is on there is a change in everyone, you're all on the same team now and the merciless teasing is paused for a couple hours. Now we're in this together; whether you're a liberal or conservative, religious or non-religious, for or against the pipeline, a Canucks fan or a Flames fan...for the next couple hours all that doesn't matter. For the next few hours you are a team and you'll do anything to help your teammates. When the end buzzer sounds, and you take off your jersey, the teasing begins and you're more likely to talk to your best bud than someone who is not. But for those few hours that which divided you was overlooked because of a simple jersey that united you.

So today we donned a simple jersey and perhaps for a day we could forget about all the things in this world that can divide us and be united by the simple act of putting on a jersey—and for one day we could be teammates of the Humboldt Broncos. To show them we understand the bond of a jersey; that though we cannot feel their pain, we empathize as best we can. We know we can’t replace their teammates, but maybe the simple act of wearing a jersey shows them we understand the meaning of a jersey and the profound loss they must all feel—players, coaches, trainers, play-by-play announcers and families.

Thanks all.