



Aries Cryptic #31

HOCKEY GAME

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Answers are entered into the grid implementing one of six techniques. **FACEOFF** entries have their first letter removed (for example, CENTER would be entered as ENTER in the grid). **HOLDING** entries include an extra letter inside (ex. PUCK -> PLUCK). **OVERTIME** entries are reversed (ex. DEKE -> EKED). **SHOT** entries are anagrammed (ex. ASSIST -> STASIS). **LINE CHANGE** entries are relocated to a different row or column. **SAVE** entries are unchanged. All alterations will result in new, valid entries; among the new entries are two two-word phrases and one proper noun. Each of these techniques is used eight times. Enumerations have been withheld, though multi-word entries are indicated. If this isn't enough of a challenge, 27-Across provides something that would make this hockey game even more challenging.

ACROSS

- 1 Most impetuous leaders of hockey team embracing as they force overtime
- 8 Georgia capturing one backward Italian city
- 14 Pale-colored pig eating everything
- 15 Flying ace's bulk purchase
- 17 Bathroom fixture with a brass instrument
- 19 Tire out restraining stray dog
- 20 Makes a shrewd transaction, flipping split housing not in perfect condition: 2 words
- 23 Victor, stuck inside, watched Brad Pitt movie
- 25 Crouton changed shape
- 26 Greeting that is welcoming very quiet nonconformist
- 27 [See instructions]
- 32 Lose artificial gin ingredient
- 34 Two directions on Broadway sign
- 37 Wharton cut short reworked draft
- 39 Elitist adjusted to son
- 40 Two members of Devo and head of soul duo singing the blues
- 41 German song was inventive
- 42 Reported drop of saline level
- 43 Feel bad about headless bird
- 44 Runs away with an extra small cake and pie, e.g.
- 45 Head of state, distressed, needs trip

DOWN

- 1 Mascots, essentially, are pains
- 2 Country flop
- 3 Drop last bits of hay in far eastern Mediterranean port
- 4 Vocalized each cat sound
- 5 Promptly accepting libertarian lawmaker from Athens
- 6 Bite half of tangelos
- 7 Exam did nothing
- 8 Group of nine players retreating on hockey goal
- 9 With GE modification, "cleanse" becomes blender setting
- 10 Smoking in dens violated a code of conduct
- 11 Loudly break down European car
- 12 Partially sponsor a Guyanese sauce company
- 13 Drop off Delaware organ
- 16 Broke code, keeping nurse next to emergency room trapped
- 18 Herb enjoyed a book course on audio
- 19 Relaxed while wearing a casual shirt: 2 words
- 21 Tonic drunk after enjoyable party
- 22 Government agent, taking in king, became an informer
- 24 Novel features page with items to draw
- 27 Singer Diana acquiring ultimate of vintage wines
- 28 Station countered Time opinion piece
- 29 Metal singer's fifth Pitchfork feature
- 30 English county finally incorporates charter
- 31 Chatter surrounding one player from Pittsburgh
- 33 Salutation in respectful introductions!
- 35 Key is French article
- 36 Vote in Reagan - it's elementary
- 38 Recycled tin's contraction

