



NHL EXPANSION FRANCHISES AND INAUGURAL SEASON RESULTS

Courtesy of the Elias Sports Bureau

The expansion Vegas Golden Knights join the NHL for the 2017-18 season as the League's 31st franchise. An overview of how other NHL expansion teams have fared in their first campaigns:

Franchise	Inaugural Season	First Game	Result	First Goal	Regular-Season Record
California Seals	1967-68	10/11/1967	CAL 5 vs. PHI 1	Kent Douglas	15-42-17 (6th, West)
Los Angeles Kings	1967-68	10/14/1967	LAK 4 vs. PHI 2	Brian Kilrea	31-33-10 (2nd, West)^
Minnesota North Stars	1967-68	10/11/1967	MNS 2 at STL 2	Bill Masterton	27-32-15 (4th, West)^
Philadelphia Flyers	1967-68	10/11/1967	PHI 1 at CAL 5	Bill Sutherland	31-32-11 (1st, West)^
Pittsburgh Penguins	1967-68	10/11/1967	PIT 1 vs. MTL 2	Andy Bathgate	27-34-13 (5th, West)
St. Louis Blues	1967-68	10/11/1967	STL 2 vs. MNS 2	Larry Keenan	27-31-16 (3rd, West)^
Buffalo Sabres	1970-71	10/10/1970	BUF 2 at PIT 1	Jim Watson	24-39-15 (5th, East)
Vancouver Canucks	1970-71	10/9/1970	VAN 1 vs. LAK 3	Barry Wilkins	24-46-8 (6th, East)
Atlanta Flames	1972-73	10/7/1972	AFM 3 at NYI 2	Morris Stefaniw	25-38-15 (7th, West)
New York Islanders	1972-73	10/7/1972	NYI 2 vs. AFM 3	Ed Westfall	12-60-6 (8th, East)
Kansas City Scouts	1974-75	10/9/1974	KCS 2 at TOR 6	Simon Nolet	15-54-11 (5th, Smythe)
Washington Capitals	1974-75	10/9/1974	WSH 3 at NYR 6	Jim Hrycuik	8-67-5 (5th, Norris)
Edmonton Oilers	1979-80	10/10/1979	EDM 2 at CHI 4	Kevin Lowe	28-39-13 (4th, Smythe)^
Hartford Whalers	1979-80	10/11/1979	HFD 1 at MNS 4	Gordie Roberts	27-34-19 (4th, Norris)^
Quebec Nordiques	1979-80	10/10/1979	QUE 3 vs. AFM 5	Real Cloutier	25-44-11 (5th, Adams)
Winnipeg Jets	1979-80	10/10/1979	WIN 2 at PIT 4	Morris Lukowich	20-49-11 (5th, Smythe)
San Jose Sharks	1991-92	10/4/1991	SJS 3 at VAN 4	Craig Coxe	17-58-5 (6th, Smythe)
Ottawa Senators	1992-93	10/8/1992	OTT 5 vs. MTL 3	Neil Brady	10-70-4 (6th, Adams)
Tampa Bay Lightning	1992-93	10/7/1992	TBL 7 vs. CHI 3	Chris Kontos	23-54-7 (6th, Norris)
Mighty Ducks of Anaheim	1993-94	10/8/1993	ANA 2 vs. DET 7	Sean Hill	33-46-5 (4th, Pacific)
Florida Panthers	1993-94	10/6/1993	FLA 4 at CHI 4	Scott Mellanby	33-34-17 (5th, Atlantic)
Nashville Predators	1998-99	10/10/1998	NSH 0 vs. FLA 1	Andrew Brunette*	28-47-7 (4th, Central)
Atlanta Thrashers	1999-00	10/2/1999	ATL 1 vs. NJD 4	Kelly Buchberger	14-57-7-4 (5th, Southeast)
Columbus Blue Jackets	2000-01	10/7/2000	CBJ 3 vs. CHI 5	Bruce Gardiner	28-39-9-6 (5th, Central)
Minnesota Wild	2000-01	10/6/2000	MIN 1 at ANA 3	Marian Gaborik	25-39-13-5 (5th, Northwest)

* Goal scored Oct. 13, 1998 vs. CAR, in team's second game (3-2 W)

^ Qualified for Stanley Cup Playoffs