



## 2024 A YEAR FOR THE RECORD BOOKS

The New Year's Eve countdown will have a different ring to it this year as the League marks a first, with 2024 set to become the first calendar year to both begin and end with an outdoor game. The excitement started Jan. 1 with an outdoor game in one of the NHL's newest cities ([Seattle](#)), and fittingly will end with an outdoor contest in one of its oldest as Chicago gets set to host St. Louis for the [Discover NHL Winter Classic on Dec. 31](#).

With 12 days and 81 games remaining in the 2024 calendar, the latest Year in Review by #NHLStats recaps some of the most memorable events and milestones from a year in which high-scoring and comeback trends continued. The document will be updated again through Dec. 31 when the calendar year ends.

Highlights include a look back at the thrilling championship series that culminated with the Panthers becoming the [25th](#) different franchise to [win the Stanley Cup](#); a generational shift with the emergence of new young stars; the League welcoming a new franchise for the third time in eight seasons; and veterans breaking or pursuing records that have stood for generations – all as the League prepares to celebrate the past 25 years with Quarter-Century Team selections.

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24 YEAR IN REVIEW

# 2024 LEAGUE TRENDS

REGULAR SEASON AND PLAYOFFS

**6.1**  
**GOALS PER GAME**  
Third consecutive year;  
second-longest stretch in  
past 75 year

**100**  
**HAT TRICKS**  
Third consecutive year;  
longest stretch  
since 1991-93

**42%**  
**OF GAMES WERE  
COMEBACK WINS**  
2nd highest rate in NHL  
history (tied; min. 600GP)

**72.2%**  
**CLOSE GAMES\***  
Highest rate in  
NHL history

**19**  
**NATURAL HAT TRICKS**  
Most in a calendar year

**26**  
**3+ GOAL  
COMEBACK WINS**  
The only seasons with as  
many: 1985 (34) and 1989 (26)

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\*Close games: decided by one goal or 2+ following ENG

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LET'S TAKE THIS OUTSIDE,  
FROM START TO FINISH

The 2024 calendar year began in front of a sold-out crowd of 47,313 outdoors in Seattle, where the Kraken became the [second team in NHL history](#) to defeat a reigning Stanley Cup champion in an outdoor game, and will conclude with a jam-packed New Year's Eve schedule highlighted by **Connor Bedard** making his outdoor debut in the first-ever Winter Classic rematch as the Blackhawks host the Blues in Chicago.



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\* **2024 was an event-filled year:** The NHL put on [two other outdoor games](#) with a back-to-back Stadium Series set at MetLife Stadium. A star-studded All-Star Weekend in Toronto was highlighted by the [return of the player draft](#), **Justin Bieber** serving as one of four celebrity co-captains and a [revamped skills competition](#). The year also featured [four Global Series games](#), the 2024 Upper Deck NHL Draft at the [world-famous Sphere in Las Vegas](#) and an [unforgettable Kraft Hockeyville 2024](#).

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## 2024 FULL "SPHERE" MOMENTS

The day after **Connor Bedard**, the No. 1 pick from the 2023 NHL Draft, heard his name [called as winner of the Calder Memorial Trophy](#) in Las Vegas, fellow North Vancouver, B.C., native **Macklin Celebrini** heard his name called as the No. 1 pick when the hockey world converged upon Las Vegas for the [2024 Upper Deck NHL Draft at Sphere](#) – the first sports event and first live television broadcast from the venue. Fast forward a few months and Celebrini (11-11—22 in 23 GP) now leads rookies [in points-per-game](#), sits [tied in goals](#) and [is living with Joe Thornton](#) – the Sharks franchise legend who [called his name in June](#) and [had his No. 19 retired by the club](#) in November. Thornton was one of four players to have his number retired in 2024, along with [Chris Chelios](#), [Jaromir Jagr](#) and [Miikka Kiprusoff](#).

**GEN Z ABOUT TO OVERTAKE MILLENNIALS**

2024 could mark the first year where Gen Z players (52%; born 1997-2012) outnumber Millennials (48%; born 1981-1996). There have been 548 Gen Z players and 506 Millennials since Jan. 1.

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## 2024 YEAR OF THE CATS

A little more than a year after falling to the Golden Knights in the 2023 Stanley Cup Final, the Panthers completed their [self-proclaimed "Redemption" tour](#) by defeating the Oilers to capture their first championship and became the [ninth team in NHL history](#) to win a Cup after losing in the previous Final.

\* **Aleksander Barkov** became the first Finnish-born player in League history to captain a Stanley Cup champion, **Paul Maurice** claimed his first title more than 28 years after his NHL coaching debut, and **Matthew Tkachuk** shared the team lead in playoff points en route to becoming the first member of his family to win the Cup.

\* The Prime Video cameras captured the [special moments](#) between the Tkachuks after Game 7 for the [first season of FACEOFF: Inside the NHL](#), with the family to be featured again in [Season 2 of FACEOFF](#) as younger brother Brady takes his turn in the spotlight.



\* \* \*

## 2024 OTHER TEAMS FIND SUCCESS SINCE JAN. 1

\* Edmonton overcame a tumultuous start to the 2023-24 season to reach the 2024 Stanley Cup Final, with the tide beginning to turn after rookie head coach **Kris Knoblauch** was hired in November 2023. Part of the turnaround included a 16-game winning streak – tied for the second longest in NHL history – that began just before the 2023 Holiday Break and spanned until the 2024 NHL All-Star Weekend. Edmonton [shared the League lead](#) with 67 points from Jan. 1 through the end of the 2023-24 regular season and rebounded from a 10-point deficit in the Western Conference playoff bracket to become the third team in NHL history to reach the Stanley Cup Final after being that far out of the race.

\* Winnipeg began 2024-25 as the [ninth teams in NHL history](#) to start a season with a winning streak of eight or more games. They also finished 2023-24 with a similar streak and became the fourth team in NHL history with a winning streak of 16 or more contests (spanning seasons or otherwise), following Pittsburgh (17 GP in 1992-93), Edmonton (16 GP in 2023-24) and Columbus (16 GP in 2016-17). They currently pace the NHL in regular-season wins and points in the [2024 calendar year](#).

\* Currently in the thick of a Western Conference playoff race that has five teams separated by three points, the Utah Hockey Club embarked on its inaugural season with a thrilling victory in front of a sold-out crowd at Delta Center Oct. 8. The 40th franchise in NHL history, Utah later joined Vegas as the second to win each of its first three games - led by the club's first captain Clayton Keller.

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## USUAL SUSPECTS HIT MAJOR MILESTONES

Playing their 20th year in the NHL, **Alex Ovechkin** and **Sidney Crosby** both entered 2024-25 in pursuit of major achievements, as did **Connor McDavid** (after leading a historic comeback attempt in the Stanley Cup Final).

\* Ovechkin (39-30—69 in 67 GP) has scored 39 goals in 2024, including a League-leading 15 within his first 18 games of the 2024-25 before being sidelined with an injury [Nov. 18](#). In addition to matching his age with his goal total since the calendar turned, the 39-year-old [accelerated his pursuit](#) of breaking **Wayne Gretzky's NHL goals record (894) by becoming the oldest player in League history to be the first to 15 goals in a season and the oldest ever to lead the NHL in goals outright at any point of a campaign. Nearing a return to the lineup, Ovechkin (868) needs only 27 goals to overtake Gretzky for the historic record. "The Great Eight" also sits one tally shy of his 14th calendar year with at least 40 goals (regular season & playoffs); his 13 such performances are tied with **Brett Hull** for the most in NHL history.**

\* Crosby (31-62—93 in 81 GP) continued to climb the NHL's all-time leaderboards for [points](#) and [assists](#) in 2024 – a year in which he hit [600 goals](#), [1,000 assists](#), [1,600 points](#), [1,300 games](#) and [matched a Gretzky record](#) with his 19th career point-per-game *regular season* in 2023-24. Including playoffs, this is the 19th time Crosby will average at least a point-per-game during a *calendar year*, which places him ahead of **Gordie Howe** and **Joe Sakic** (both 18x) for the second most in NHL history behind Gretzky (20x).

\* McDavid (42-129—171 in 98 GP) can lead all players in scoring for a fourth consecutive calendar year (regular season & playoff points). McDavid, whose total includes a [League-leading 42 points in the 2024 postseason](#) – including an [NHL-record 34 assists](#) – captured the [Conn Smythe Trophy](#) after spearheading the Oilers' historic [comeback attempt](#) during his first Stanley Cup Final appearance. The Oilers captain hit both the [900](#) and [1,000-point](#) milestones in 2024 – the third time he has hit multiple [point milestones](#) in one calendar year – and has made his way into the top 90 on the NHL's [all-time points list](#).

**MOST CONSECUTIVE CALENDAR YEARS AS SCORING LEADER**  
NHL HISTORY (REGULAR SEASON & PLAYOFF POINTS)

PLAYER	SPAN	YEARS
WAYNE GRETZKY	1980 – 1987	8
PHIL ESPOSITO	1969 – 1974	6
GUY LAFLEUR	1975 – 1979	5
CONNOR McDAVID	2021 – 2024	4*
GORDIE HOWE	1950 – 1953	4
JEAN BELIVEAU	1954 – 1956	3

\*Leads all players this year through Dec. 19, 2024

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## NO SHORTAGE OF STAR POWER

\* **Sam Reinhart** (64-44—108 in 103 GP) has recorded a League-leading 64 goals in 2024 (ahead **Zach Hyman**: 60; **Leon Draisaitl**: 57), including 10 in the playoffs capped by his Stanley Cup clincher in [Game 7 of the Final](#). Reinhart's 64 combined tallies are the most in a calendar year in Panthers history (besting **Pavel Bure**: 58 in 2000), with goals on special teams making up more than half of them (27 PPG, 7 SHG).

MOST COMBINED SPECIAL-TEAMS GOALS IN A CALENDAR YEAR SINCE 1990				
PLAYER	YEAR	PPGS	SHGS	TOTAL
PAT LAFONTAINE	1992	36	3	39
DAVE ANDREYCHUK	1992	38	0	38
DAVE ANDREYCHUK	1993	34	1	35
BRETT HULL	1990	35	0	35
SAM REINHART	2024	27	7	34
LEON DRAISAITL	2023	33	1	34
MARIO LEMIEUX	1996	27	7	34



\*Regular season and playoffs

\* **Kirill Kaprizov** (55-55—110 in 72 GP) leads all players in [regular-season goals dating back to Jan. 1](#) (ahead of Reinhart: 54; **Brayden Point**: 50; **Auston Matthews**: 50), with 22 of those tallies coming in the 2024-25 campaign alone. He has recorded 15 multi-goal games over nearly 12 months, which is the most such outings by any player.

\* Matthews, who was named Maple Leafs captain on Aug. 14, recorded 40 of his career-high 69 goals in 2023-24 after the calendar flipped to Jan. 1. He became the first player to record 69 or more tallies in a single campaign since **Mario Lemieux** (69) in 1995-96.

\* **Nathan MacKinnon** (51-89—140 in 82 GP) concluded the 2023-24 season by winning his first Hart Memorial Trophy after being a runner-up in 2017-18 and 2019-20 as well as a Finalist in 2020-21. Eighty-two of his 140 points came in the new year, a total that was helped by his six contests with four or more points between January and April – the most by any player [over that span](#) (ahead of **Nikita Kucherov**: 5; Matthews: 3).

\* Kucherov (44-100—144 in 81 GP) earned his second career Art Ross Trophy in April after becoming the fifth different player in NHL history with 100 or more assists in a single season. He enters 2025 one helper shy of passing **Martin St. Louis** (588) for the second most in Lightning franchise history and six back of **Victor Hedman** (593) for the franchise lead after the latter set the record on Nov. 30.



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## 2024 PLAYER STATS

REGULAR SEASON AND PLAYOFFS

### TOP SKATERS

**64** MOST GOALS  
SAM REINHART

**171** MOST POINTS  
CONNOR McDAVID

**370** MOST MILES SKATED  
CONNOR McDAVID

**8** MOST 100+ MPH SHOTS  
COLIN MILLER

### TOP GOALIES

**50** MOST WINS  
JAKE OETTINGER / SERGEI BOBROVSKY

**7** MOST SHUTOUTS  
CONNOR HELLEBUYCK / SERGEI BOBROVSKY

**.919** BEST SAVE PERCENTAGE (MIN 50 GP)  
CONNOR HELLEBUYCK

**482** MOST HIGH DANGER SAVES  
IGOR SHESTERKIN

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## KEEPING IT COOL IN THE CREASE

\* **Connor Hellebuyck** captured his second [Vezina Trophy in June](#) after he concluded the 2023-24 season second in [wins](#) (behind **Alexandar Georgiev**: 38) and [save percentage](#) (behind **Anthony Stolarz**: .925 SV%), fourth in [goals-against average](#) (behind Stolarz: 2.03 GAA; **Pyotr Kochetkov**: 2.33 GAA; **Sergei Bobrovsky**: 2.37 GAA) and ranked above the 95th percentile for both high-danger shots against (96th) and saves (97th), according to NHL Edge tracking data.

\* Bobrovsky recorded 50 wins this year, 16 of which victories came in the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs. He became the [11th goaltender in NHL history](#) to secure a championship-clinching win at age 35 or older.

\* \* \*

## YEAR OF THE BLUELINER

**Quinn Hughes**, who concluded the 2023-24 season by winning his first James Norris Memorial Trophy, has recorded 14-80—94 through 91 regular-season and playoff games. Should he record six points over his remaining four games, the Canucks captain would join **Cale Makar** (27-77—104 in 90 GP) and **Evan Bouchard** (21-80—101 in 104 GP) as the third defenseman with 100 or more points in 2024. It would mark the first time three blueliners have done so in a calendar year.

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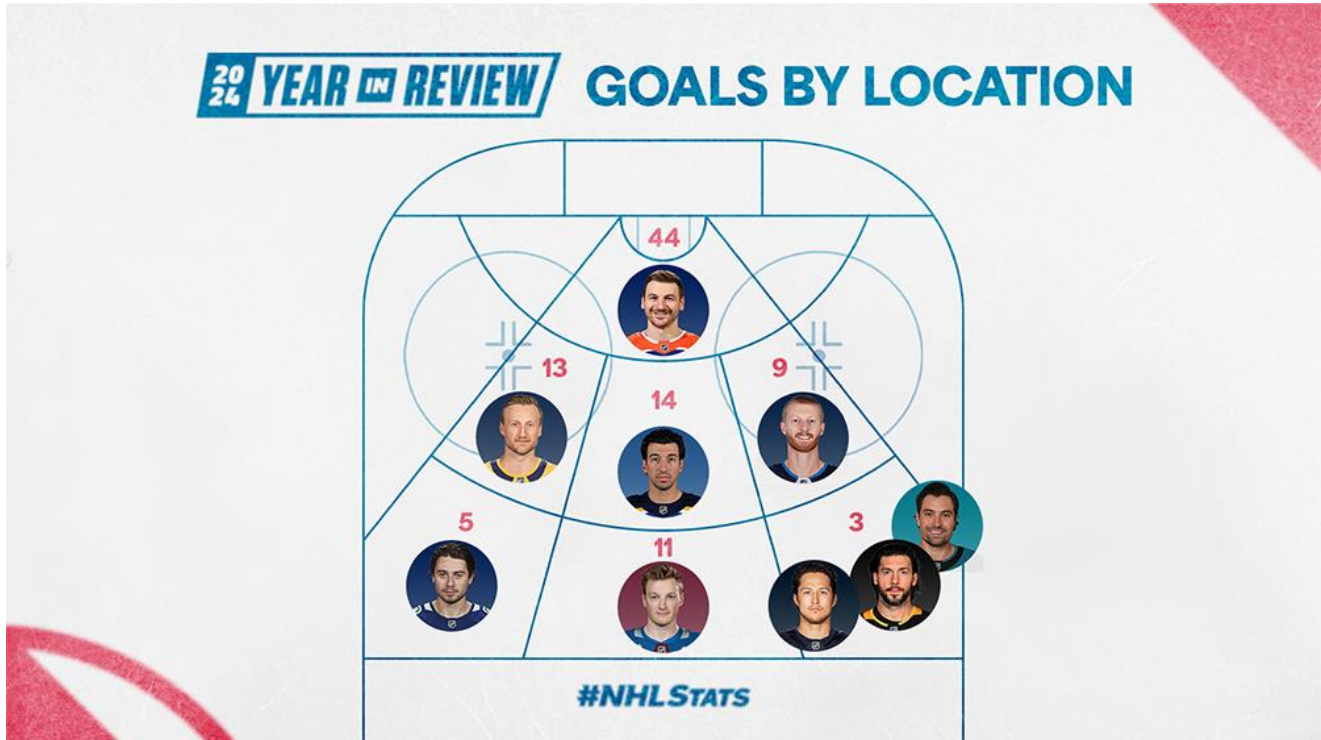


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## DATA POINTS STACKING UP COURTESY OF NHL EDGE

The League is capturing more information on each play than ever before as the fourth calendar year with NHL EDGE data draws to a close. The hardest shot in 2024 was by Sabres forward **Tage Thompson** (104.69 mph) [on Oct. 26 against the Red Wings](#), while the fastest skating speed recorded was by Hurricanes forward **Martin Necas** (24.49 mph) [on Dec. 5 against the Avalanche](#).

\* NHL EDGE data shows which players had the most goals by location in the offensive zone, including **Zach Hyman**, who scored 44 goals from the high danger zone this year — almost 75% of his goals in 2024 (44 of 60).



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## PLAYS YOU'LL WANT TO PLAY AGAIN

From jaw-dropping to awe-inspiring, 2024 saw plenty of eye-catching goals, some of “Save of the Year” candidates in the early goings of 2024-25 and the third goalie goal in a span of two calendar years.

- \* [Aleksander Barkov juggles puck mid-air for assist against Rangers](#)
- \* [Barkov fakes between-the-legs to score in shootout against Kraken](#)
- \* [Andrei Svechnikov scores another lacrosse goal against Bruins](#)
- \* [Quinton Byfield scores highlight-reel goal against Blue Jackets](#)
- \* [Jacob Markstrom makes incredible save in Global Series](#)
- \* [Jordan Binnington robs Sean Couturier of the Flyers](#)
- \* [Connor McDavid splits Panthers' defense to set up goal in the Cup Final](#)
- \* [McDavid stick handles around Stars defenders for goal to help send Oilers to the Final](#)



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- \* [Sergei Bobrovsky](#) diving save with his back to the play in Round 1 of playoffs
- \* [Filip Gustavsson](#) scores a goalie goal

