

2019-20 REGULAR SEASON

 **#NHLSTATS**

OCTOBER RECAP

- 5 players with 20+ points is most in October since a Wayne Gretzky-led group in 1993
- Scoring at 6.2 goals-per-game as comeback trend continues at record pace



QUICK HITS

* For the first time in 27 years, two players conclude the month of October with at least 24 points apiece, with **Leon Draisaitl** (12-13—25 in 14 GP) holding the scoring edge over **David Pastrnak** (12-12—24 in 12 GP). Pastrnak is one of five players in the last 23 years to average at least 2.00 points per game through his team's first 12 games of a season.

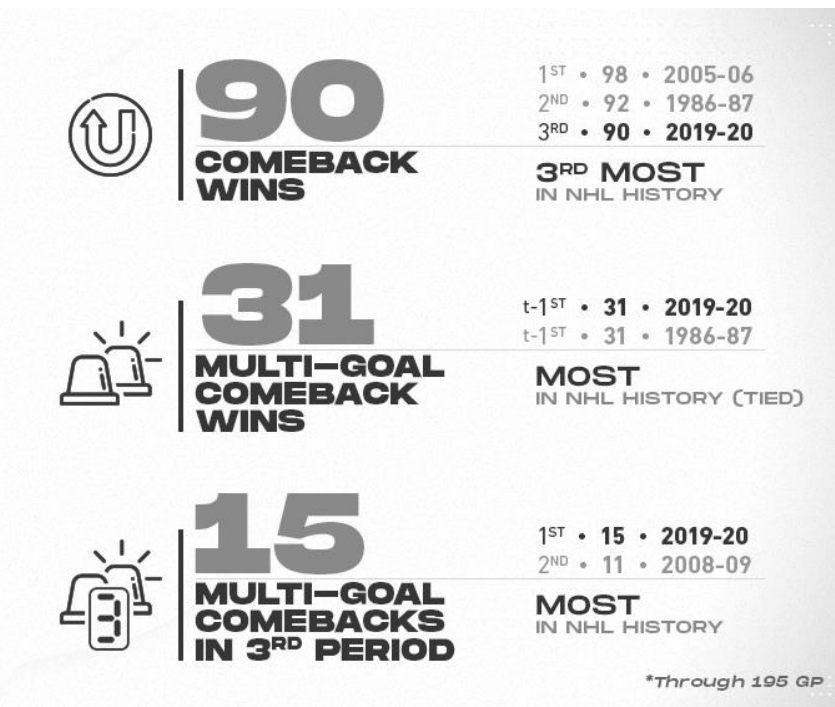
* Arenas have been filled to 94.4% capacity as the NHL is averaging 6.2 goals-per-game, marking the third straight season that games have averaged six or more goals at this stage (195 GP) – a first in the past 25 years.

* The average time of a regulation game has dropped to 2:28 (from 2:32 in 2018-19), while the overall average time of game of 2:30 is down four minutes compared to this stage in each of the past two seasons.

* Overall, six of the top 10 point-getters in the NHL are age 24 or younger.

* There have been 97 lead changes this season, up 13% vs. 2018-19 (86) and up 28% as compared to 2016-17 (76).

* Almost half of all games have featured a team coming from behind to win (46%; 90 of 195 GP), including 31 in which the winning team overcame a *multi-goal deficit* and 15 that featured a *multi-goal rally in the third period*. There has been at least one multi-goal comeback victory each of the past four nights, with the visiting team rallying from a multi-goal, third period deficit in both Halloween contests.



RULE CHANGES MAKING AN IMPACT

Alterations to the coach's challenge have resulted in the following through the first month of the season:

* Overall, there have been 39% fewer challenges in 2019-20 (25) than at this stage in 2018-19 (41) and approximately half as many as the prior two campaigns (2017-18: 47; 2016-17: 46).

* Coaches have been successful on 71% of their challenges (17-of-24) – more than double the success rate compared to this stage last season (33% in 2018-19) and nearly four-times better than 2016-17 (19%).

STARS CONTINUE TO SHINE

Five players have either 10+ goals or 20+ points, with **Leon Draisaitl** and **David Pastrnak** included in both groups.

* This is the first October in 26 years to feature five players with 20+ points - **Wayne Gretzky** topped a list of five skaters who did so in 1993. This is the fourth time it has happened with a *defenseman* (Washington's **John Carlson**) as part of the 20-point club (also 1990-91, 1988-89 and 1981-82).

OCTOBER SCORING LEADERS

5 PLAYERS WITH 20+ POINTS

2019-20		1993-94
LEON DRAISAITL 12-13-25 (14 GP)	SCORING LEADER	WAYNE GRETZKY 8-21-29 (13 GP)
DAVID PASTRNAK 12-12-24 (12 GP)	SECOND	ERIC LINDROS 11-10-21 (12 GP)
JOHN CARLSON 7-16-23 (14 GP)	THIRD	SERGEI FEDOROV 10-11-21 (12 GP)
CONNOR McDAVID 6-17-23 (14 GP)	FOURTH	JOE SAKIC 6-15-21 (12 GP)
BRAD MARCHAND 7-14-21 (12 GP)	FIFTH	MARK RECCHI 6-14-20 (12 GP)

#NHLSTATS

* Carlson leads all defensemen with 23 points (7-16—23 in 14 GP), the most by a Capitals defenseman in *any calendar month* and the [second-most by a blueliner in a single October in NHL history](#). Carlson also matched the franchise record for *points in October by any player*, equaling a mark set 10 years ago by **Alex Ovechkin** (14-9—23 in October 2009).

* This is the third time in NHL history that five or more players have scored *11 goals* apiece in October – the other instances came in 1981-82 and 1982-83 (two of the top-five highest-scoring seasons in the League’s expansion era).

* Additionally, this is the second consecutive season that five players accumulated *at least 10 goals* in October – a first in back-to-back campaigns since it happened to start [1992-93 \(9\)](#) and [1993-94 \(7\)](#).

* Draisaitl and Pastrnak share the NHL lead with 12 goals apiece, [one](#) and [two](#) shy of the Oilers’ and Bruins’ franchise records for October, respectively. Draisaitl also is the first player since Gretzky in 1993-94 to record 25 or more points in October.

* Colorado’s **Nathan MacKinnon** (7-10—17 in 12 GP) is the second player in as many years to open a season with a point streak of at least 12 games, following Carolina’s **Sebastian Aho** in 2018-19 (12 GP). MacKinnon enters November with a chance to extend that streak to 13 games, a feat achieved 25 times in League history (most recently by **Henrik Zetterberg** in 2007-08: 17 GP).

* Highlight-reel goals have been a consistent sight. Teenager [Andrei Svechnikov \(CAR\)](#) scored a lacrosse-style goal Tuesday, while 23-year-olds [Pastrnak \(BOS\)](#) and [Sonny Milano \(CBJ\)](#) went between the legs for their ‘Goal of the Year’ submissions before 21-year-old [Matthew Tkachuk \(CGY\)](#) closed the month with one of his own on Halloween.

COMPETITIVE BALANCE ACROSS THE LEAGUE

* The highest-scoring contest to date in 2019-20 (13 goals) was between the reigning Presidents' Trophy-winning Lightning and the Devils, the club that won the No. 1 pick in the 2019 NHL Draft Lottery. That game was one of two this season to feature five tying goals (also [Oct. 5: EDM vs. LAK](#)), bringing the total to eight such contests since the start of last season – one shy of the total across a span of seven campaigns from 2011-12 to 2017-18 (9).

* After falling 11 points shy of a playoff spot in 2018-19 and finishing 25th in the League standings, Edmonton opened the season 5-0-0 and now sit atop the Pacific Division. The Oilers' five-game win streak marked the first time in NHL history that a team won each of its first five games of a season, each by virtue of a comeback win.

HUGHES BROTHERS HIGHLIGHT 2019-20 ROOKIE CLASS

Brothers **Quinn** and **Jack Hughes** highlight the 2019-20 rookie class through October:

* Each of the top three picks from the 2019 NHL Draft have scored their first NHL goal, with **Kaapo Kakko** first accomplishing the feat Oct. 12, followed by **Jack Hughes** (Oct. 19) and **Kirby Dach** (Oct. 22). This marks the first time in 35 years that each of the top three picks from the previous draft scored a goal in the opening month of the season – the 1984 class of **Mario Lemieux**, **Kirk Muller** and **Eddie Olczyk** combined for the feat in October 1984.

* Canucks defenseman **Quinn Hughes** (1-9—10) is one of two rookie blueliners to hit the 10-point mark in the month of October, joining **Cale Makar** (1-9—10) of the Avalanche. This marks the third time in NHL history that multiple rookie defensemen hit the 10-point mark in October. The others: **Will Butcher** (0-11—11) and **Mikhail Sergachev** (4-7—11) in 2017-18 and **Phil Housley** (2-8—10) and **Hannu Virta** (4-6—10) in 1982-83.