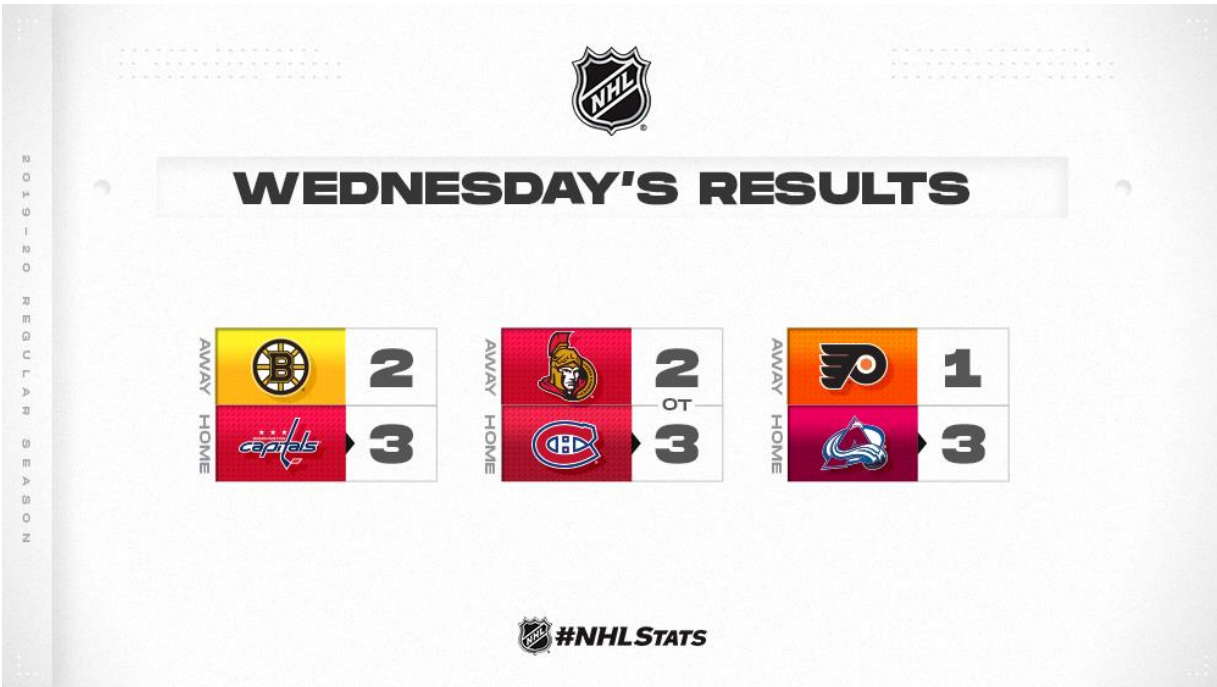


NHL MORNING SKATE – DEC. 12, 2019



THREE HARD LAPS

* **John Carlson's** fifth game-winning goal and 45th point of 2019-20 helped the Capitals topple the Bruins in a showdown of the League's top two clubs.

* Despite surrendering a multi-goal lead in the third period, the Canadiens secured an overtime win as 20-year-old **Cayden Primeau** collected his first NHL victory.

* **Mikko Rantanen** scored twice to record his 19th and 20th points (15 GP) as the Avalanche collected their 20th win and overtook first place in the Western Conference.

CARLSON, CAPITALS TAKE SHOWDOWN OF LEAGUE-LEADERS

John Carlson (1-1—2) scored his [fifth game-winning goal](#) of the season and his 45th point to propel the Capitals (23-5-5, 51 points) past the Bruins (20-6-6, 46 points), who occupy second place in the League's overall standings.

* Carlson (12-33—45 in 33 GP), who recorded his 14th multi-point game of the season and third in his last five contests, required the fewest outings by a defenseman to reach 45 points in a campaign since **Al MacInnis** in 1990-91 (32 GP w/ CGY).



FEWEST GAMES TO 45TH POINT OF A SEASON

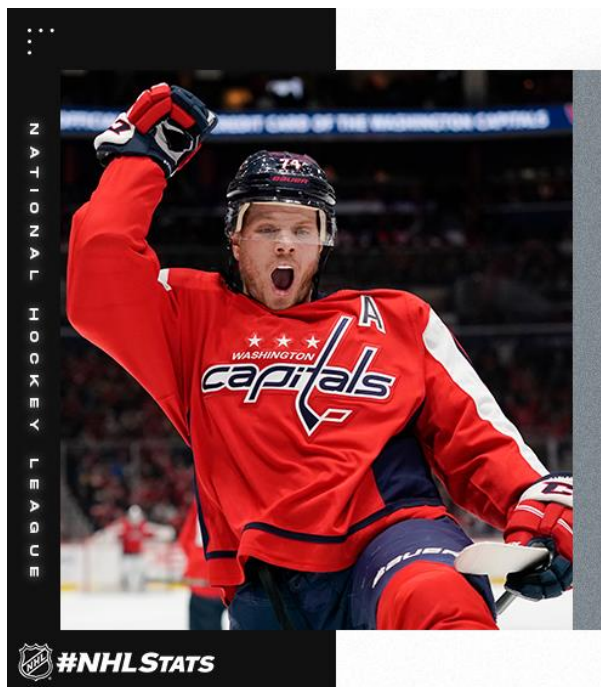
DEFENSEMEN

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	GP
BOBBY ORR	BOS	1974-75	25
BOBBY ORR	BOS	1973-74	25
BOBBY ORR	BOS	1971-72	28
BOBBY ORR	BOS	1972-73	29
BOBBY ORR	BOS	1970-71	29
PAUL COFFEY	PIT	1988-89	31
BOBBY ORR	BOS	1969-70	31
AL MacINNIS	CGY	1990-91	32
PAUL COFFEY	PIT	1987-88	32
JOHN CARLSON	WSH	2019-20	33*

* 2 OTHERS WITH 33

#NHLSTATS

* The 29-year-old defenseman is tied with **Ryan Getzlaf** (31 GP w/ ANA), **David Perron** (32 GP w/ STL), **Leon Draisaitl** (33 GP w/ EDM) and **David Pastrnak** (32 GP w/ BOS) for the most game-winning goals in 2019-20. Only one defenseman in NHL history has recorded more through his first 33 games of a season.



JOHN CARLSON IS THE SEVENTH DEFENSEMEN IN NHL HISTORY WITH 5 GWG THROUGH 33 GP. THE OTHERS:

6 - TIM HORTON
1963-64 W/ TOR

5 - MIKHAIL SERGACHEV
2017-18 W/ TBL

5 - DUSTIN BYFUGLIEN
2010-11 W/ ATL

5 - LOU NANNE
1971-72 W/ MNS

5 - BALDY NORTHCOTT
1932-33 W/ MMR

5 - HARRY CAMERON
1920-21 W/ TSP (24 GP)

#NHLSTATS

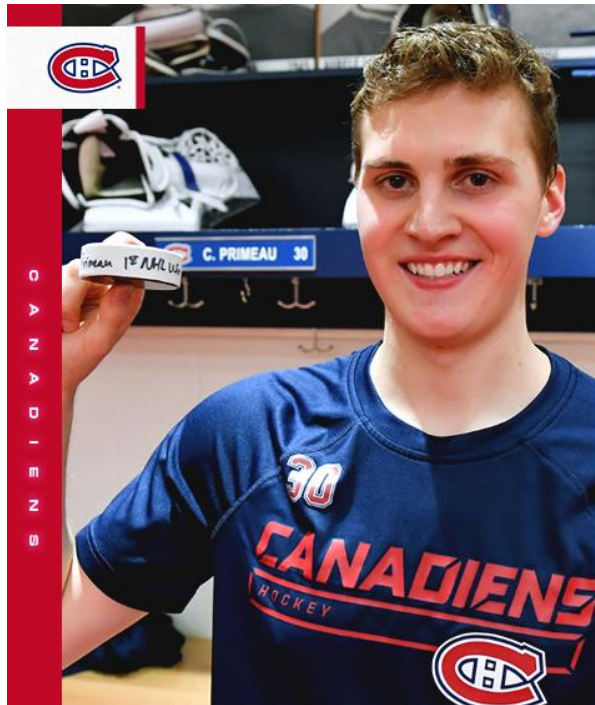
* The Capital seventh win in eight contests helped the club require the second fewest games to 50 standings points in their history. They fell one game shy of the franchise mark set in 2015-16 (32 GP) - a campaign which featured their [second highest single-season point total](#) (56-18-8,

120 points).

CANADIENS WITHSTAND COMEBACK AS PRIMEAU COLLECTS FIRST NHL WIN

After the Senators erased a 2-0 deficit in the third period, Canadiens defenseman **Ben Chiarot** scored 1:11 into overtime to help 20-year-old **Cayden Primeau** (35 saves) earn the first win of his NHL career.

* Cayden (20 years, 122 days), with his father and 15-season NHL veteran **Keith Primeau** in attendance, collected his first NHL win after being called up by the Canadiens 10 days ago. Only four goaltenders in franchise history accomplished the feat at a younger age than Primeau.



YOUNGEST GOALTENDER AT TIME OF FIRST NHL WIN

FRANCHISE HISTORY

PLAYER	SEASON	AGE
LEN BRODERICK	1957-58	19 YEARS, 19 DAYS
PATRICK ROY	1984-85	19 YEARS, 141 DAYS
JOSE THEODORE	1996-97	20 YEARS, 54 DAYS
CAREY PRICE	2007-08	20 YEARS, 55 DAYS
CAYDEN PRIMEAU	2019-20	20 YEARS, 122 DAYS

 #NHLSTATS

* Primeau is the second goaltender in as many seasons to record his first NHL victory at age 21 or younger after **Carter Hart** became the youngest goaltender in Flyers history to win in his NHL debut (20 years, 127 days on Dec. 18, 2018).

RANTANEN'S 20TH POINT LIFTS AVALANCHE TO 20TH WIN

Mikko Rantanen (2-0—2) found the score sheet for the fourth time in six games since returning to the lineup and Colorado [collected its 20th win](#) to overtake St. Louis (18-8-6, 42 points) for top spot in the Western Conference.

* Rantanen (8-12—20 in 15 GP) reached the 20-point mark in 15 or fewer games for the second time in his career (also 11 GP in 2018-19). Only two other players in Avalanche team history have accomplished the feat on multiple occasions: **Peter Forsberg** and **Joe Sakic** (both 3x).

* The 23-year-old forward from Nousiainen, Finland is one of seven players in 2019-20 to collect his 20th point in 15 or fewer games. The others: **Brad Marchand** (11 GP w/ BOS), **David Pastrnak** (11 GP w/ BOS), **Connor McDavid** (11 GP w/ EDM), **John Carlson** (11 GP w/ WSH), **Leon Draisaitl** (12 GP w/ EDM), **Elias Pettersson** (14 GP w/ VAN) and **Evgeni Malkin**

(15 GP w/ PIT).

* Colorado's climb atop the Western Conference standings has benefited from its [eight-game point streak](#) dating to Nov. 27 vs. Edmonton - outscoring its opponents 30-15 in that span. The Avalanche (also 8 GP from Oct. 3-19) joined the Bruins (10 GP from Oct. 12 to Nov. 4 and 13 GP from Nov. 10 to Dec. 5) as the second team to post multiple point streaks of at least eight contests in 2019-20.



QUICK CLICKS

- * [Carter Hart denies Mikko Rantanen with highlight-reel glove save](#)
- * [Canada keeping roster plan consistent for 2020 World Junior Championship](#)
- * [Gary Bettman's efforts to grow game earn him spot in U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame](#)
- * [Joe Thornton reached numerous milestones on way to 1,600th NHL game](#)
- * [U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame inductees honored before Capitals-Bruins game](#)

PREVIEW OF TODAY'S ACTION

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

REGULAR SEASON

7:00PM FS-TN, MSG-B	7:00PM ESPN+, ATTSN-PT, FS-O	8:00PM FS-WI, FS-N, SNOL	10:00PM SNP, FS-CR
7:00PM SUN, NESN, SNP, SNO, SNE, TVAS	7:30PM FS-D+, TSN3	9:00PM SNW, TSN4	10:00PM FS-W, PRIME
7:00PM MSG+, FS-F	8:00PM ESPN+, ATTSN-RM, FS-MW	9:00PM NBCSCH, FS-A PLUS, FS-A	10:30PM NBCSOA, MSG

NHL.TV NBC SN *ALL TIMES EASTERN #NHLSTATS

THORNTON SET TO SKATE IN 1,600TH CAREER GAME

Joe Thornton is expected to skate in his 1,600th career game when the Sharks host the Rangers at SAP Center Thursday.

* Thornton will become the [12th player in NHL history](#) to skate in 1,600 career regular-season games. He skated in his first 532 games with Boston before being traded Nov. 30, 2005 to San Jose; he has since appeared in 1,067 contests with the Sharks, the second-most in franchise history behind **Patrick Marleau** (1,522).

* Thornton (1,599 GP) and Marleau (1,686 GP) are set to become the first teammates in NHL history to play in the same game with each having at least 1,600 regular-season games to their credit.

ONLY TEAMMATES IN NHL HISTORY WHO EACH HAVE

1,600+

CAREER GAMES PLAYED

1997 SJS 2 ND OVERALL	DRAFT	1997 BOS 1 ST OVERALL
40 SEP 15, 1979	AGE	40 JULY 2, 1979
1,686 5 TH ALL-TIME	GP	1,599 12 TH ALL-TIME

PATRICK MARLEAU | **JOE THORNTON**

#NHLSTATS

* The last two players with at least 1,600 regular-season games on their resume to appear in the same game were former Hurricanes captain **Ron Francis** and former Rangers captain **Mark Messier** on [Jan. 8, 2004](#) at Carolina.

EICHEL EYES A POINT FOR 15TH STRAIGHT CONTEST

Sabres captain **Jack Eichel**, one of seven players with at least 40 points this season, looks to extend his point streak to 15 games on Thursday (12-13—25 in 14 GP). Only one player has posted a longer point streak in 2019-20: **Patrick Kane** (15 GP from Nov. 2-30).

* It would mark the third straight season in which multiple players posted a point streak of at least 15 straight games (**Patrick Kane**: 20 GP and **Mike Hoffman**: 17 GP in 2018-19; **Taylor Hall**: 19 GP and **Patrik Laine**: 15 GP in 2017-18).

* Eichel can also become the sixth player in Sabres history to post a point streak of at least 15 games and the first since **Tim Connolly** in 2009-10 (7-18—25 in 16 GP). The longest point streak in franchise history was an 18-game run by **Gilbert Perreault** in 1971-72 (10-21—31 in 18 GP).