




NHL MORNING SKATE – OCT. 15, 2021




MORNING SKATE

Friday, October 15, 2021


 #NHLSTATS



▼ Blue Jackets score eight goals after honoring Kivlenieks



▼ Bertuzzi tallies four times, but Lightning win in overtime



▼ Kraken earn first win in franchise history

* After honoring late goaltender **Matiss Kivlenieks** [in a pre-game ceremony at Nationwide Arena](#), the Blue Jackets scored eight goals en route to winning their home opener.

* **Tyler Bertuzzi** scored four times for the hosts, but Tampa Bay staged a three-goal, third-period comeback to win a thriller in Detroit – one of seven games Thursday that saw teams combine for six or more goals.

* **Anze Kopitar** capped the night with a historic five-point outing for the Kings, while the Kraken edged the Predators at Bridgestone Arena to earn their first regular-season win in franchise history.



THURSDAY'S RESULTS

	1	FINAL	5			2	FINAL	3			4	FINAL	5	
	3	FINAL	2			3	FINAL	6			2	FINAL	8	
	7	FINAL	6			4	FINAL	3			2	FINAL	6	

BLUE JACKETS WIN HOME OPENER AFTER HONORING KIVLENIEKS

Oliver Bjorkstrand (2-2—4) factored on four of Columbus' eight goals – its [most-ever in a season-opening game](#) – and **Elvis Merzlikins** made 36 saves as the Blue Jackets defeated the Coyotes after honoring the memory of **Matiss Kivlenieks** before their home opener at Nationwide Arena.

* Bjorkstrand, who established a single-game career high for points, became the second player in franchise history with four in a season opener. He joined **Rick Nash**, who had 2-2—4 on [Oct. 5, 2007](#).

* Columbus unveiled a banner featuring Kivlenieks' No. 80, which will remain in the rafters at Nationwide Arena for the duration of the 2021-22 season. Kivlenieks' family members also participated in a ceremonial puck drop between new Blue Jackets captain **Boone Jenner** (1-0—1) and Coyotes forward **Andrew Ladd**.



Wearing, in warmups, his last name, it was a weird feeling. It was like he was there with me. This game was my most important game and definitely I'm going to remember forever this game.



ELVIS MERZLIKINS
ON MATISS KIVLENIEKS

LIGHTNING STAGE THIRD-PERIOD RALLY TO SPOIL BERTUZZI'S FOUR-GOAL NIGHT

Tyler Bertuzzi [scored four goals](#) as Detroit built a 6-3 lead, but Tampa Bay tallied three times in the final 6:17 of regulation to pull even and send the game to overtime. **Ondrej Palat** (2-0—2) then potted the winner as the defending Stanley Cup champions completed a thrilling come-from-behind victory at Little Caesars Arena.

* The Lightning, who received four-point efforts from stalwarts **Nikita Kucherov** (1-3—4) and **Victor Hedman** (0-4—4), overcame a three-goal, third-period deficit to win a game for the third time in franchise history. The two other instances were on [Dec. 16, 1992](#) and [Dec. 23, 2006](#).

* Bertuzzi, who skated in his first game since Jan. 30, became the ninth player in NHL history with four or more goals in a season-opening contest.



MOST GOALS IN A SEASON OPENER

► SKATERS, NHL HISTORY


PLAYER	TEAM	DATE	G
BABE DYE	TSP	DEC. 16, 1922	5
HARRY HYLAND	MWN	DEC. 19, 1917	5
JOE MALONE	MTL	DEC. 19, 1917	5
TYLER BERTUZZI	DET	OCT. 14, 2021	4
AUSTON MATTHEWS	TOR	OCT. 12, 2016	4
CHRIS KONTOS	TBL	OCT. 7, 1992	4
GREG ADAMS	VAN	OCT. 8, 1987	4
RICK BLIGHT	VAN	OCT. 6, 1976	4
REG NOBLE	TAN	DEC. 19, 1917	4

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KOPITAR ALSO SCORES HAT TRICK AS KINGS TOP GOLDEN KNIGHTS

Anze Kopitar (3-2—5) scored his [fifth NHL hat trick](#) and matched a [single-game career high with five points](#) as the Kings triumphed in their season opener at STAPLES Center.

* Kopitar became the third player in franchise history with a hat trick in a season-opening game, joining **Luc Robitaille** ([Oct. 6, 1988](#)) and **Jari Kurri** ([Oct. 4, 1991](#)). At 34 years and 51 days old, Kopitar also became the oldest player in League history with five points in a season opener – he eclipsed the previous mark set by **Phil Esposito** (31 years, 232 days) on [Oct. 10, 1973](#) (w/ BOS).





**MOST POINTS
IN A SEASON OPENER**
 ▶ SKATERS, NHL'S EXPANSION ERA (SINCE 1967-68)


PLAYER	TEAM	DATE	P
KEVIN STEVENS	PIT	OCT. 5, 1990	6
ANZE KOPITAR	LAK	OCT. 14, 2021	5
RYAN HARTMAN	CHI	OCT. 5, 2017	5
BRAD MARCHAND	BOS	OCT. 13, 2016	5
THOMAS VANEK	BUF	JAN. 20, 2013	5
STEVE REINPRECHT	PHX	OCT. 5, 2006	5
JOHN CULLEN	PIT	OCT. 5, 1990	5
TOM FERGUS	TOR	OCT. 9, 1986	5
GREG ADAMS	NJD	OCT. 10, 1985	5
MICHEL GOULET	QUE	OCT. 4, 1983	5
GILBERT PERREAULT	BUF	OCT. 10, 1974	5
PHIL ESPOSITO	BOS	OCT. 10, 1973	5

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SEATTLE SECURES FIRST WIN IN FRANCHISE HISTORY

Brandon Tanev tallied twice, including the game-winning goal with 1:21 remaining in regulation, as the Kraken edged the Predators to earn their first regular-season win in franchise history.




K R A K E N

Thursday marked the first time that a Seattle-based club earned a win against an NHL team since Game 4 of the 1920 Stanley Cup Final, when the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans defeated the original Ottawa Senators by a 5-2 margin

 #NHLSTATS

NHL ON TNT DELIVERS MOST-WATCHED SECOND DAY OF NHL COVERAGE EVER

TNT's first-ever NHL regular-season telecast was the most-watched game to ever air on the second night of nationally televised NHL coverage, among total viewers and all key adult and

male demos. [Click here](#) for the full release from Turner Sports PR. (Image: [@TurnerSportsPR](#))



NHL on TNT's Exclusive Opening Night Regular Season Doubleheader Delivers Most-Watched Second Day of NHL Coverage Ever

- TNT's first-ever NHL regular season telecast - Rangers/Capitals - is the most-watched game to ever air on the second night of nationally televised NHL coverage, among total viewers and all key adult and male demos.
- The Rangers/Capitals telecast delivered an average of 817,000 total viewers, up 139% vs. the comparable game window in 2020-21 & up 210% over the primetime game televised on the second night of NHL coverage in 2019-20
- Blackhawks/Avalanche averaged 522,000 viewers, up 284% vs. the same telecast window on the second day of NHL coverage in 2020-21

CARTER MILESTONE HIGHLIGHTS THURSDAY'S #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

Thursday's edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates featured several more notes from the nine-game slate, including Penguins forward **Jeff Carter** scoring the 400th regular-season goal of his NHL career. [Click here](#) to read more.



 **JEFF CARTER**
#77 | CENTER

MILESTONE

400

CAREER GOALS

SEVENTH ACTIVE PLAYER TO REACH THE MILESTONE

 #NHLSTATS

QUICK CLICKS

- * [Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation donates \\$80,000 to Latvian Ice Hockey Federation](#)
- * [Rangers honor Rod Gilbert in pre-game ceremony at Madison Square Garden](#)
- * [Gabriel Landeskog suspended two games for actions in Avalanche game](#)
- * [Brady Tkachuk signs seven-year, \\$57.5 million contract with Senators](#)

HAMILTON, YANDLE TO MAKE TEAM DEBUTS; CALDER WINNER KAPRIZOV RETURNS

Offseason additions **Dougie Hamilton** and **Keith Yandle** are set to debut with their new teams while 2020-21 Calder Memorial Trophy winner **Kirill Kaprizov** opens his sophomore campaign as the Devils, Flyers and Wild contest season-opening games Friday.

FACE-OFF 2021 **TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE** FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2021

7:00 PM ET		@		NHLN, NBCSCH, MSG+, TVAS
7:00 PM ET		@		NBCSP, SN1
10:00 PM ET		@		HULU, ESPN+

ESPN TNT SN TVA SPORTS

Stream on ESPN+ and NHL LIVE. Blackouts and other restrictions apply.

* Hamilton, who signed a seven-year contract with New Jersey, has reached the 10-goal mark in each of his last seven seasons dating to 2014-15. He can become the first NHL defenseman with a double-digit total in eight or more consecutive campaigns since **Sergei Gonchar**, whose run of nine straight seasons ended in 2007-08.

* Yandle inked a one-year deal with Philadelphia, ensuring that his “Ironman” streak of 922 consecutive regular-season games will continue in 2021-22. His run, which dates to March 26, 2009, is the [second-longest in League history](#) behind **Doug Jarvis** (964 GP from Oct. 8, 1975–Oct. 10, 1987).

* Kaprizov re-signed with Minnesota after leading all rookies in [goals](#) and [points](#) last season en route to becoming the first player in franchise history to win the Calder Trophy. Kaprizov (27-24—51 in 55 GP) is just three regular-season goals shy of 30 in his NHL career.



FEWEST GAMES TO 30 CAREER GOALS

► NHL SKATERS TO DEBUT SINCE 1991-92

PLAYER	TEAM	DATE	GP
TEEMU SELANNE	WIN	JAN. 2, 1993	38
ALEX OVECHKIN	WSH	JAN. 13, 2006	43
ERIC LINDROS	PHI	MARCH 16, 1993	46
MAREK SVATOS	COL	JAN. 19, 2006	51
PATRIK LAINE	WPG	FEB. 21, 2017	55
BROCK BOESER	VAN	FEB. 8, 2018	60
BRIAN SAVAGE	MTL	NOV. 22, 1995	60
PAVEL BURE	VAN	MARCH 26, 1992	60

*KIRILL KAPRIZOV (27 G IN 55 GP) CAN JOIN THIS LIST

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