

NHL MORNING SKATE – DEC. 20, 2021



MORNING SKATE
Monday, December 20, 2021

#NHLSTATS

- ▶ Lehner earns shootout victory in return to Long Island
- ▶ Ehlers records four points in Jets first win under Lowry
- ▶ Wild set sights on win No. 20 on Monday

* Golden Knights goaltender **Robin Lehner** showed off a tattoo paying homage to Long Island while [thanking the Islanders and their fans](#) in his first game back in front of his former home crowd.







* **Nikolaj Ehlers** (1-3—4) recorded his fourth career four-point game as the Jets earned their first win under interim head coach **Dave Lowry**.

* Following several days of meetings with their respective medical experts, the NHL and NHLPA [jointly announced](#) the regular-season schedule would continue under an agreement that resulted in the postponement of all cross-border games through Dec. 23. A discussion regarding Olympic participation continues between the two groups, with a final determination expected in the coming days.

* A full list of NHL postponements to date in 2021-22 is available [here](#), including a Red Wings-Wild game [originally scheduled](#) for Thursday.



SUNDAY'S RESULTS

| | |
|--|---|
|  4 ◀ FINAL SO 3  |  2 FINAL ▶ 4  |
|  3 ◀ FINAL 2  |  3 ◀ FINAL 2  |

STATS AND INFORMATION

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VEGAS WINS FIFTH STRAIGHT IN LEHNER'S RETURN TO LONG ISLAND

On the day that **Robin Lehner** (29 saves) made his [emotional return to Long Island](#), **Shea Theodore** (2-0—2) scored the game-tying goal with 48 seconds remaining in regulation and added a shootout marker as the Golden Knights (20-11-0, 40 points) won their fifth straight contest to climb to the top of the Pacific Division for the first time since opening night.

* Lehner, who [credits Islanders fans](#) for helping him battle his bipolar disorder and addiction, claimed both the William M. Jennings Trophy and Bill Masterton Memorial Trophy with New York in 2018-19 while posting career bests in wins (25), shutouts (6) and goals-against average (2.13) that season (min. 10 GP).



“

What a road trip. Thanks so much New York Islanders and all fans. I love you guys and will forever be in my heart ❤️ Finally got to come back and see you guys. 🙏



ROBIN LEHNER
ON TWITTER AFTER HIS RETURN TO LONG ISLAND

* The Golden Knights, who have mounted an NHL-best five comeback wins in the month of December, have made a habit of coming from behind this season – their 10 comeback victories match the Blues (10) for the most among all teams in 2021-22.


EHLERS RECORDS FOUR POINTS, JETS EARN FIRST WIN UNDER LOWRY


Nikolaj Ehlers (1-3—4) recorded his fourth career four-point game and **Paul Stastny** (2-1—3) secured his 500th career assist as the Jets (14-11-5, 33 points) earned their first win under interim head coach **Dave Lowry**.



STATS AND INFORMATION

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MOST FOUR-POINT GAMES

▶ FRANCHISE HISTORY

| PLAYER | GAMES |
|-------------------|-------|
| ILYA KOVALCHUK | 20 |
| BLAKE WHEELER | 10 |
| VYACHESLAV KOZLOV | 9 |
| MARK SCHEIFELE | 6 |
| MARIAN HOSSA | 6 |
| MARC SAVARD | 5 |
| NIKOLAJ EHLERS | 4 |
| KYLE CONNOR | 4 |

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* Stastny (270-500—770) became the fourth active skater drafted in the second round or later to record 500 career assists – he joined **Patrice Bergeron** (385-555—940), **Duncan Keith** (106-524—630) and **Keith Yandle** (102-508—610).

WIN STREAKS AND COMEBACKS ON #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

The Penguins and Kings, who both earned wins on Sunday, rounded out the [latest edition](#) of #NHLStats: Live Updates.

* **Drew O'Connor** (Chatham, N.J.) celebrated his homecoming in New Jersey by helping Pittsburgh extend its win streak to 7-0-0 – tied with Nashville for the longest active run. O'Connor, who last skated at Prudential Center in a state championship high school hockey game, frequently attended Devils games as a child and was in attendance for [Game 6 of the 2012 Eastern Conference Final](#) when an overtime goal by **Adam Henrique** sent New Jersey to the Stanley Cup Final.

* **Anze Kopitar** (0-1—1) factored on the first of three unanswered goals to help the Kings earn a two-goal comeback win against the Capitals – who sit tied for the League-lead in points with the Hurricanes.



K I N G S

Most assists, Kings history:

- 757 - Marcel Dionne
- 672 - Anze Kopitar
- 672 - Wayne Gretzky

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QUICK CLICKS

- * [Alex Tuch](#) set for season debut, first game with Sabres against Blue Jackets
- * [Blackhawks' Brett Connolly](#) Suspended Four Games for Interference
- * [Teddy Bear Toss](#) back, better than ever around minor league arenas
- * [Maple Leafs Pause Team Activities](#) Through The Holiday Break
- * [Islanders honor Andy Greene's 1,000th-game](#) milestone achieved on Nov. 15



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WILD AIM FOR 20TH WIN OF 2021-22

The Wild (19-8-2, 40 points) aim to become the fourth team to record 20 wins this season when they visit the Stars (14-12-2, 30 points) at American Airlines Center. Should Minnesota earn a victory, they would match their franchise mark for fewest games to reach 20 wins, achieved only once: 2011-12 (30 GP).

TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021

| | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| 7:00 PM ET |  | @ |  | BSOH, MSG-B |
| 8:30 PM ET |  | @ |  | TVAS, BSN, BSWI, BSSW |

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