

NHL MORNING SKATE – FEB. 13, 2022

MORNING SKATE

Sunday, February 13, 2022

#NHLSTATS

- ▶ Demko thwarts Maple Leafs with 51-save outing
- ▶ Wheeler matches career high with five points
- ▶ Ovechkin looks to continue success on Super Bowl Sunday

* A pair of Wild Card hopefuls in the Western Conference received standout performances from their stars to gain two crucial points in the standings.

* **Patrik Laine** continued his recent string of success and lifted the Blue Jackets to victory in the dying seconds of regulation.

* **Alex Ovechkin** and **Nicklas Backstrom** look to boost their career totals on Super Bowl Sunday when the Capitals host the Senators in an afternoon matinee.


SATURDAY'S RESULTS

2 FINAL 4	2 FINAL 0	2 FINAL 1	2 FINAL 3
5 FINAL 2	2 FINAL 3	1 FINAL 5	2 FINAL 5

WILD CARD HOPEFULS BENEFIT FROM STANDOUT PERFORMANCES

The Canucks (22-21-6, 50 points) and Jets (20-17-8, 48 points) received skillful outings from **Thatcher Demko** (51 saves) and **Blake Wheeler** (2-3—5), respectively, to gain two crucial points in the Western Conference Wild Card race. The idle Ducks (23-17-9, 55 points) currently hold the final position.

* Demko, who joined **Elvis Merzlikins** (56 saves on Jan. 26 w/ CBJ) as the second goaltender to post a 50-plus save performance this season, became just the second Canucks netminder to make at least 50 saves in regular-season game *and win* (also **Richard Brodeur**: 51 saves on Feb. 10, 1985).



MOST SAVES IN A GAME
▶ FRANCHISE HISTORY

GOALTENDER	DATE	SAVES
DUNC WILSON	FEB. 25, 1971	52
THATCHER DEMKO	FEB. 12, 2022	51
RICHARD BRODEUR	FEB. 10, 1985	51
CESARE MANIAGO	JAN. 7, 1978	51
ROBERTO LUONGO	MARCH 20, 2010	50
GEORGE GARDNER	OCT. 20, 1971	50
GEORGE GARDNER	DEC. 23, 1970	50

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* Demko is no stranger to big performances after he made a name for himself during the 2020 Stanley Cup Playoffs – posting 42- and 48-save performances as a rookie to help Vancouver erase a 3-1 series deficit and force a Game 7 against Vegas.

* Wheeler posted his second career five-point game (also Nov. 9, 2018) and **Kyle Connor** (1-1—2) [eclipsed the 300-point mark](#) as Winnipeg overcame a multi-goal deficit to win for the third time this season. Seven teams have recorded more such victories in 2021-22: Columbus (5), Minnesota (5), Colorado (4), Edmonton (4), Florida (4), Pittsburgh (4) and Vegas (4).




LAINE SETS FRANCHISE MARK WITH LATE GO-AHEAD GOAL

Patrik Laine (1-1—2) factored on both of his team's goals, scoring the game winner with eight seconds remaining in regulation, and extended his point streak to six games (7-5—12 in 6 GP) – his longest run with the Blue Jackets.

* Laine, with multiple points in five of his past six contests, is averaging a point-per-game this season (13-14—27 in 27 GP) – which [leads all Columbus players](#) – after missing 19 games from Nov. 3 to Dec. 30 due to injury.





LATEST GO-AHEAD GOALS

► BLUE JACKETS HISTORY

PLAYER	DATE	TIME
PATRIK LAINE	FEB. 12, 2022	59:52
MARK LETESTU	OCT. 23, 2014	59:39
RICK NASH	JAN. 17, 2008	59:38
VINNY PROSPAL	FEB. 21, 2013	59:35
OLIVER BJORKSTRAND	JAN. 19, 2020	59:33

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QUICK CLICKS

- * [Saturday edition of the #NHLStats: Live Updates](#)
- * [Save of the Season? Thomas Greiss comes up big with scorpion save](#)
- * [Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl 'all-in on' embracing new Oilers coach's changes](#)
- * [Wild trade goaltender Andrew Hammond to Canadiens](#)

NHL PODCAST WEEKLY ROUNDUP

- * [The Chrip \(2/7\): Host Daren Millard joined by Paul Coffey and Gary Lawless](#)
- * [NHL @TheRink \(2/9\): Dan Rosen and Shawn Roarke with NHL.com's Nick Cotsonika](#)
- * [Fantasy on Ice \(2/10\): Fantasy reaction to some big news around the NHL](#)

BLACK HOCKEY HISTORY HIGHLIGHT: SHANDOR ALPHONSO

NHL linesman **Shandor Alphonso** traded his suit and tie for stripes and a whistle. After playing three years of junior hockey with the Sudbury Wolves in the Ontario Hockey League, Alphonso pursued an on-ice career which landed him in an unexpected place: as an NHL linesman. His path began while working 9-5 as a financial advisor, where he would then leave for the rink for his "other" job, sometimes officiating three games in a night. Alphonso's hard work paid off when he became the second-ever Black Official in the NHL in 2014.




HONOR. CELEBRATE. INSPIRE.

“My responsibility is to inspire. I look at myself and I had a dream, I chased it and made it happen. If I can inspire a kid of color, a kid who maybe doesn’t think they have what it takes to get there. If I can inspire just one kid, I feel I’ve done my job.”
- Shandor Alphonso









PLENTY OF AFTERNOON HOCKEY BEFORE SUPER BOWL LVI





Sunday will see four matinee games on the NHL schedule prior to kickoff of Super Bowl LVI. Ottawa visits Washington in a contest between Canadian and U.S. national capitals, while Montreal hosts Buffalo at Bell Centre.



TODAY'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2022

12:30 PM ET		@		NBCSWA, SN1
12:30 PM ET		@		TVAS, SN, MSG-B
1:30 PM ET		@		ATTSN-PT, MSG+
2:00 PM ET		@		BSSW+, ALT

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

* The Canadiens, Capitals and Sabres all rank among the top five in NHL history for wins on Super Bowl Sunday. A team has recorded a “touchdown” (7+ goals) on Super Bowl Sunday 16 times, but only four have done so over the past 30 years. The Flyers were the most recent to do so in 2021 ([7-4 W vs. WSH](#)). The Islanders (8-1 W vs. EDM on [Feb. 7, 2016](#)) have also done so, as well as the Capitals, who account for the two other instances over that span (7-4 W vs. OTT on [Feb. 1, 2009](#) and 7-2 W vs. NYR on [Jan. 26, 2003](#)).





MOST WINS ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY


▶ NHL HISTORY

TEAM	RECORD
MONTREAL CANADIENS	20-12-3
WASHINGTON CAPITALS	17-12-2
BOSTON BRUINS	14-4-2
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS	14-3-2
BUFFALO SABRES	8-5-3
NEW YORK RANGERS	6-8-2
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS	6-9-3
EDMONTON OILERS	5-3-2
ST. LOUIS BLUES	5-1-2

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* **Alex Ovechkin** has had a history of big games on Super Bowl Sunday and ranks second all-time in goals and points (tied) in games that take place on the same day as the NFL championship. Ovechkin has recorded a point in eight of his 14 all-time appearances on Super Bowl Sunday, including four instances of three or more points. In 2021, he factored on all four Washington goals in a [7-4 loss to Philadelphia](#).

* Capitals teammate **Nicklas Backstrom**, meanwhile, has recorded 12 assists in 13 games on Super Bowl Sunday – only **Phil Esposito** (16 in 12 GP) and **Johnny Bucyk** (13 in 9 GP) have more.



Alex Ovechkin is shown in a red Washington Capitals jersey with a white 'C' on the chest, indicating he is the captain. He is wearing a black helmet and holding a hockey stick. The background is a blurred arena setting.

Alex Ovechkin has the second-most career goals (12) and points (18; tied) by a player on Super Bowl Sunday (14 GP), trailing only Phil Esposito (16-16–32 in 12 GP) in both categories.

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* Super Bowl LVI will see the Cincinnati Bengals face the Los Angeles Rams. The Kings have never faced an Ohio-based team in the Stanley Cup Playoffs, but do own all-time winning records in the regular season against both the Blue Jackets (34-21-6 in 61 GP) and Barons (5-2-3 in 10 GP).

* **ICYMI:** The Blue Jackets arrived to Bell Centre prior to their game against the Canadiens on Saturday [dressed in Bengals gear](#) to support Cincinnati's bid for the franchise's first Super Bowl title (Photos: [@BlueJacketsNHL](#)).



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