

NHL MORNING SKATE – MARCH 4, 2022

MORNING SKATE
Friday, March 4, 2022

#NHLSTATS

- ▶ Eastern Conference playoff positioning heats up
- ▶ Hurricanes to host Capitals in 2023 Stadium Series
- ▶ Wild score four tying goals en route to win

* The Panthers and Penguins each picked up wins and inched closer to the Hurricanes for the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

* **Vitek Vanecek** made 36 stops and posted the highest save total in a shutout by a Capitals goalie in nearly four years to help Washington blank Carolina in a preview of the 2023 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series.

* The Wild overcame four separate deficits en route to victory for the second time this season, becoming just the third team in NHL history to do so.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

5 ◀ FINAL 1	0 FINAL ▶ 3	5 ◀ FINAL 4
0 FINAL ▶ 4	4 ◀ FINAL 3	3 FINAL ▶ 4
5 ◀ FINAL OT 4	1 FINAL ▶ 2	5 ◀ FINAL 2

STATS AND INFORMATION

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CAPITALS SHUT OUT HURRICANES AFTER STADIUM SERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

After the [NHL announced](#) the Capitals as the Hurricanes' opponent for the 2023 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series (Feb. 18, 2023), Washington defeated the Eastern Conference leaders on the strength of a 36-save shutout by **Vitek Vanecek**.

* Vanecek posted the highest save total in a shutout by a Capitals goaltender in nearly four years, recording the fifth clean sheet of his NHL career ([60 starts](#)) and second in his past three starts. **Alex Ovechkin** (1-0—1) scored his 763rd career goal to move within three of tying **Jaromir Jagr** (766) for [third place in NHL history](#).



PANTHERS, PENGUINS INCH CLOSER TO FIRST PLACE WITH WINS IN FLORIDA

The Panthers (36-13-5, 77 points) and Penguins (34-14-8, 76 points) both climbed the Eastern Conference standings and now sit within three points of the Hurricanes (37-12-5, 79 points), who have held the No. 1 spot in the conference since Feb. 25 and have sat atop the Metropolitan Division since Feb. 18. Carolina is set to visit Pittsburgh on Friday.

* **Patric Hornqvist** (1-1—2) and **Ryan Lomberg** (1-0—1) scored 12 seconds apart to propel the Panthers past the Lightning (35-12-6, 76 points) and back into first place in the Atlantic Division. Florida earned its NHL-leading 24th home win of 2021-22, which stands as the sixth [most in a single season in franchise history](#). The Atlantic Division leaders still have 11 contests remaining at FLA Live Arena.

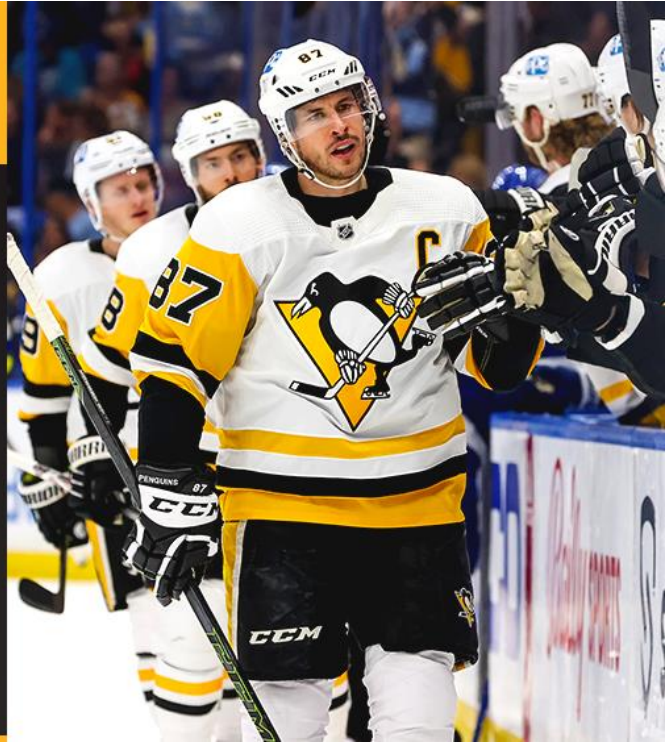
* **Sidney Crosby** (1-1—2) factored on two of his team's five goals, scoring the game winner, as the Penguins bested the Lightning at AMALIE Arena to earn their NHL-leading 41st road point of the season (19-6-3). Pittsburgh required its [fewest games in club history](#) to record 40 road points (28 GP).



PENGUINS

Sidney Crosby scored his 75th career game-winning goal, surpassing Mario Lemieux (74) and tying teammate Evgeni Malkin for the second most in Penguins history behind only Jaromir Jagr (78)

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WILD TALLY FOUR TYING GOALS, FORGO FALLING TO FLYERS AT WELLS FARGO CENTER

Ryan Hartman accounted for two of Minnesota's four tying goals and Jonas Brodin put the Wild up for good with 7:19 remaining in regulation as the visitors rallied for a 5-4 victory against the Flyers. Minnesota overcame four separate deficits to earn a win for the second time this season (also [Oct. 19, 2021](#)).



The Wild won after scoring four tying goals for the second time this season (also Oct. 19, 2021). The only other teams in NHL history with two such victories in a single season are the North Stars in 1985-86 (Oct. 26, 1985 & Feb. 6, 1986) and Penguins in 1989-90 (Dec. 31, 1989 & March 4, 1990).

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SPOILER ALERT: LOWER-RANKED TEAMS CLAIM ONE-GOAL VICTORIES

The Coyotes and Canadiens each defeated a division leader Thursday, while the Blackhawks edged the Oilers despite the League's top goal-scorer and point-getter finding the score sheet:

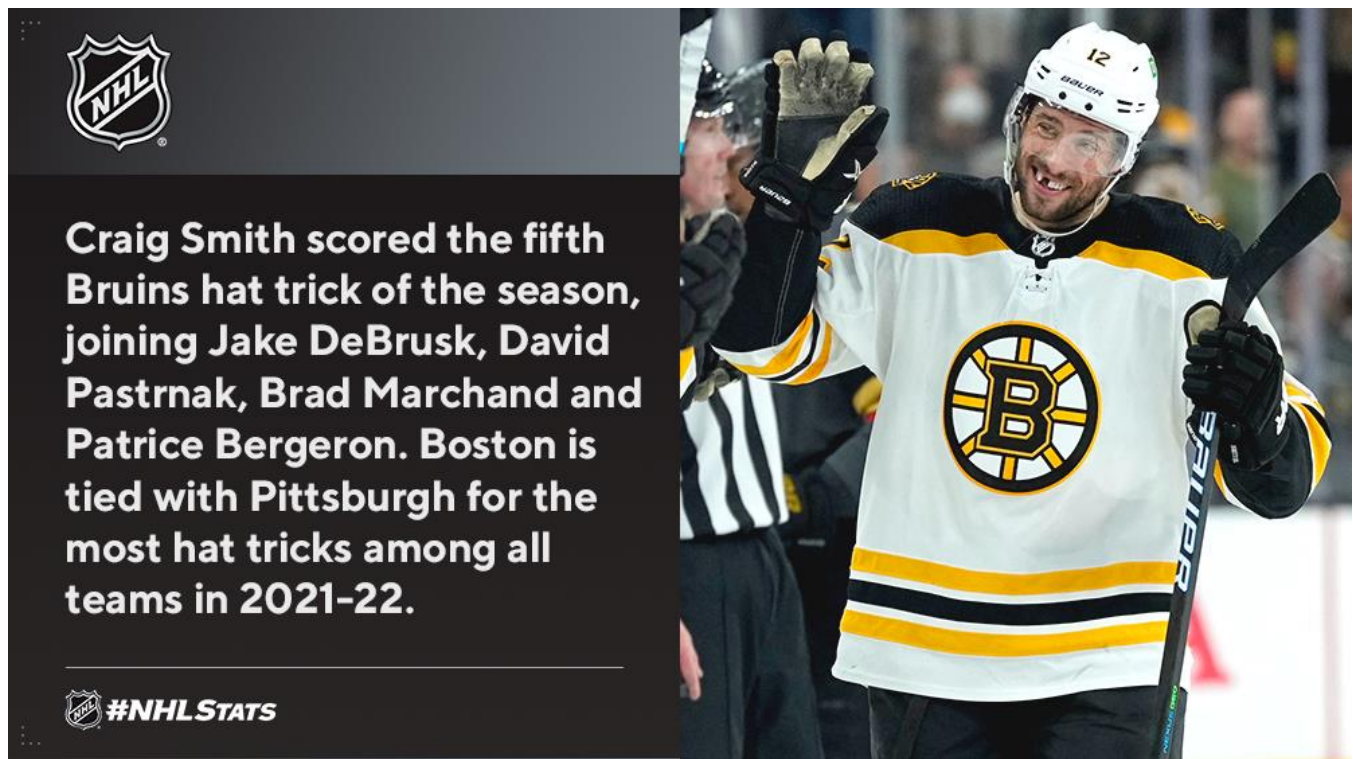
* **Karel Vejmelka** made 42 saves to help the Coyotes become the fourth team this season to earn [two wins against the NHL-leading Avalanche](#). Thursday marked Vejmelka's fifth 40-save performance of 2021-22, tied with **Juuse Saros**, **John Gibson** and **Anton Forsberg** for the most by any goaltender.

* **Ben Chiarot** (2-1—3) and **Mike Hoffman** (1-3—4) each scored in the third period to put the Canadiens on top in what would become a comeback win, but **Elias Lindholm** scored with 28 seconds left in regulation to send the game to overtime. Chiarot then established a career high with his third point of the game, capping his first multi-goal performance in more than two years and preventing Calgary from setting a new [franchise record](#) for consecutive home wins.

* **Leon Draisaitl** (1-1—2) regained sole possession of the League lead in goals (38) and **Connor McDavid** (0-2—2) moved within one of 80 points this season, but **Alex DeBrincat** netted his 30th goal of the campaign to give Chicago an overtime win against Edmonton. The Oilers tied the game with 50 seconds left in regulation to salvage a point – moving back into a playoff spot – in **Duncan Keith's** return to United Center.

#NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES: PASTRNAK HITS 30 GOALS ON ESPN

A couple Bruins skaters were featured in the [Thursday edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#) as **Craig Smith** (3-0—3) scored his third career hat trick while **David Pastrnak** (2-0—2) became the eighth player in franchise history to [post at least five 30-goal seasons](#).



Craig Smith scored the fifth Bruins hat trick of the season, joining Jake DeBrusk, David Pastrnak, Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron. Boston is tied with Pittsburgh for the most hat tricks among all teams in 2021-22.

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HUDSPETH DEVELOPING GIRLS HOCKEY IN LAS VEGAS

Sheri Hudspeth, the girls hockey coach and manager for the Vegas Jr. Golden Knights, joined "[The Chirp with Daren Millard](#)" podcast to discuss her role in growing the game of hockey in Las Vegas. Hudspeth is a former NCAA Division I women's hockey forward from Minnesota State University.



CELEBRATING
**GENDER
EQUALITY**
MONTH

Since the Golden Knights joined the NHL for the 2017-18 season, hockey in Nevada has seen increases in enrollment (+171%) as well as more involvement by players under age 8 (+668%) and by girls and women (+327%)

QUICK CLICKS

- * [Ducks prospect Lukas Dostal scores goalie goal in AHL game](#)
- * [Rick Nash's Blue Jackets legacy comes full circle, number retirement Saturday](#)
- * [You Can Play celebrates 10 years of helping LGBTQ+ community in hockey](#)
- * [Kraken coach Dave Hakstol catches fish at famous Pike Place Fish Market](#)
- * [Flyers sport jerseys of high school teams competing in 2022 Flyers Cup Scholastic Championships](#)

KINGS, BLUE JACKETS CLASH IN COLUMBUS ON EVE OF NASH'S JERSEY RETIREMENT

A seven-game Friday in the NHL features the Kings visiting the Blue Jackets at Nationwide Arena, with the hosts looking to continue their pursuit of an Eastern Conference Wild Card spot before retiring the No. 61 of franchise icon **Rick Nash** on Saturday.



TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2022

7:00 PM ET		@		BSNX, MSG-B
7:00 PM ET		@		BSSUN, BSDET
7:00 PM ET		@		MSG+, MSG
7:00 PM ET		@		BSSO, ATTSN-PT, SN
7:00 PM ET		@		BSW, BSOH
8:00 PM ET		@		TSN3, BSSW
10:00 PM ET		@		BSSD, BSSC, ATTSN-RM, SN1, SN



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

* Los Angeles outshot opponents in 21 consecutive games from [Jan. 6–Feb. 28](#) before the streak was snapped in its [contest against Dallas on Wednesday](#). The Kings were the third NHL club to outshoot opponents in 21 or more straight games within a regular season (since 1959-60 when shots by team have been consistently tracked), joining the Rangers (22 GP from [Oct. 16–Dec. 5, 1971](#)) and Blues (21 GP from [Nov. 29, 2001–Jan. 12, 2002](#)).

* Columbus has collected an 8-3-0 (16 points) record since All-Star Weekend to move within 10 points of Washington (29-18-9, 67 points), which occupies the final Wild Card spot in the Eastern Conference standings. **Patrik Laine** has 10-7—17 in the Blue Jackets' 11 contests since returning from the break, including four game-winning goals (tops in the NHL [over that span](#)).



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