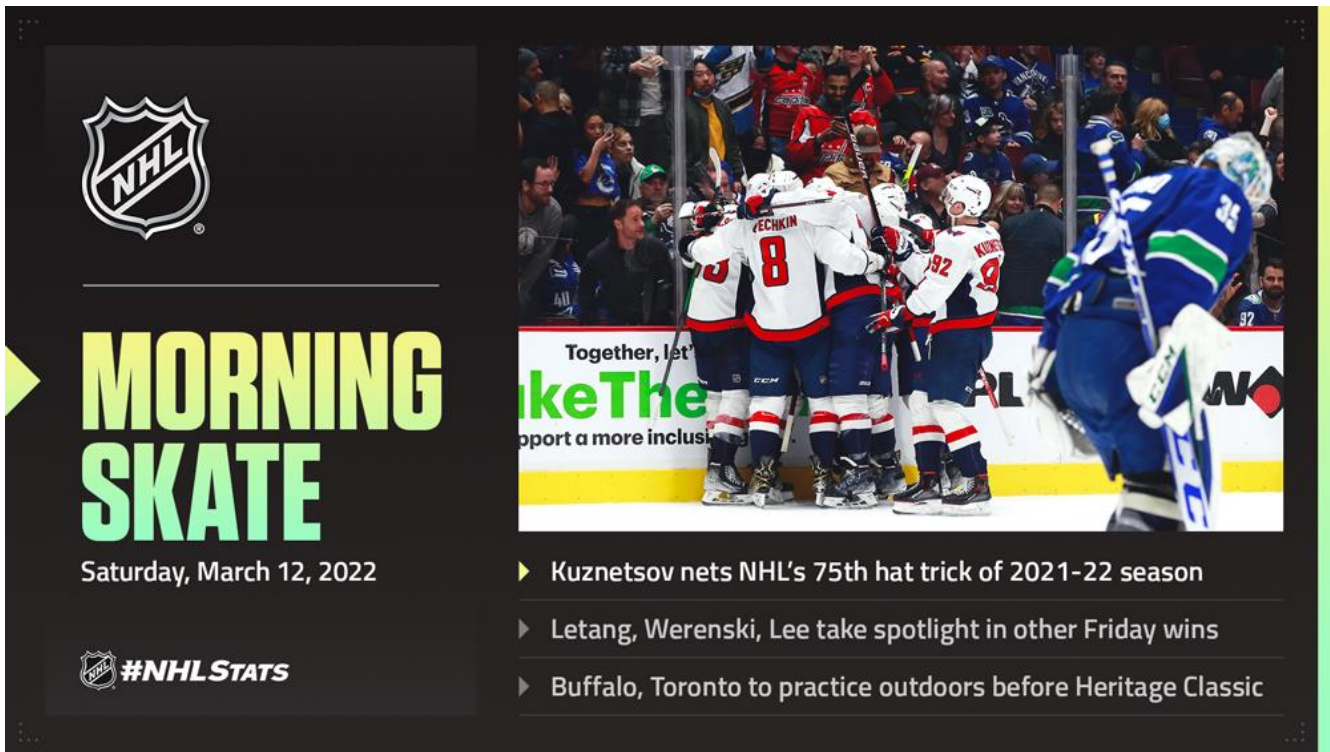


NHL MORNING SKATE – MARCH 12, 2022



The graphic features the NHL logo in the top left. Below it, the text 'MORNING SKATE' is written in large, bold, green letters. Underneath that, it says 'Saturday, March 12, 2022'. To the right of the text is a photograph of hockey players on the ice, with one player in a white jersey (number 8) celebrating. Below the photo is a list of three bullet points. At the bottom left of the graphic is the '#NHLStats' logo.

MORNING SKATE
Saturday, March 12, 2022

#NHLStats

- ▶ Kuznetsov nets NHL's 75th hat trick of 2021-22 season
- ▶ Letang, Werenski, Lee take spotlight in other Friday wins
- ▶ Buffalo, Toronto to practice outdoors before Heritage Classic

* **Evgeny Kuznetsov** scored the 75th hat trick of the 2021-22 season as the Capitals staved off a multi-goal, third-period comeback attempt by the Canucks.

* Friday featured a pair of dramatic finishes, one of which saw **Zach Werenski** score the second-latest tying goal by a defenseman in Blue Jackets history to set the table for another comeback win.

* The Sabres and Maple Leafs are set to practice at Tim Hortons Field on Saturday in their first taste of the outdoor setting in Hamilton.



FOUR-GAME FRIDAY PACKS PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT

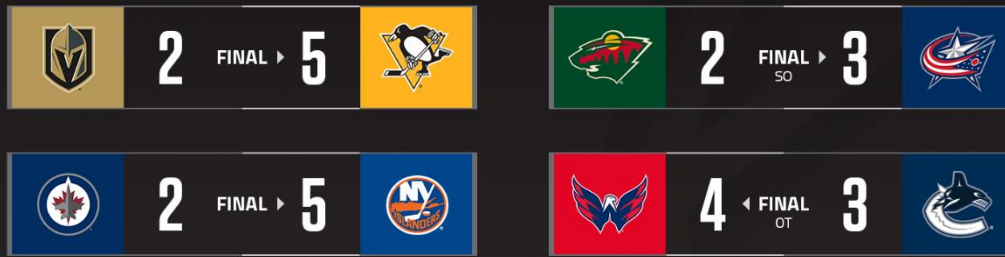
The 75th hat trick of 2021-22 was scored Friday, marking the highest such total at this stage of a season since 1995-96 when hats rained down 85 times within the first 928 games.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

 @PR_NHL  @PR_NHL  #NHLStats



FRIDAY'S RESULTS



* **Evgeny Kuznetsov** (3-0—3) scored his second career hat trick – and first in more than six years ([Oct. 23, 2015](#)) – including a tying goal in the final five minutes of regulation to set the stage for an overtime winner by **Lars Eller**. The Capitals (32-18-10, 74 points), who won despite surrendering a 2-0 lead in the third period, moved within one point of the idle Bruins (35-18-5, 75 points) for the first Wild Card position in the Eastern Conference. **Alex Ovechkin** (0-1—1) was [inches away](#) from surpassing **Jaromir Jagr** for sole possession of third place on the all-time goals list, but did tie **Brett Hull** for [23rd place on the League's points list](#).

* The second-place Penguins (35-15-9, 79 points) moved two points clear of the idle Rangers (36-17-5, 77 points) in the Metropolitan Division as they quelled a Golden Knights comeback attempt with a three-goal third period. **Kris Letang**, who boosted his totals to 6-44—50 in 2021-22 (55 GP), reached the 50-point mark for the sixth time in his NHL career – tied for the most such campaigns [among active defensemen](#).

* **Zach Werenski** scored with 32 seconds remaining in regulation to force overtime and help the Blue Jackets claim their 19th comeback win of the season – one shy of the franchise record (20 in 2005-06 and 2018-19). Werenski's tally was the second-latest tying goal by a defenseman in Blue Jackets history (**Seth Jones**: 19:31 of third period on [March 20, 2021](#)).

* **Anders Lee** scored for the sixth time in three games and **Brock Nelson** pushed his goal streak to four contests – his second such run in as many months – as New York won to give **Barry Trotz** his [900th victory as an NHL head coach](#). Lee, who scored six times over his prior 27 games before his current stretch, reached the 20-goal mark and became the first Islanders player with six or more goals over the course of three games since **John Tavares** in 2017-18 (6 G in 3 GP).

SABRES, MAPLE LEAFS SET TO PRACTICE OUTDOORS IN HAMILTON

The third and final [outdoor game](#) of the 2021-22 regular season is one day away, with the host Sabres and visiting Maple Leafs set to get their first glimpse of the setting at Tim Hortons Field during practice Saturday. Buffalo is scheduled to hit the ice at 3:30 p.m. ET, followed by Toronto at 5:30 p.m. ET.

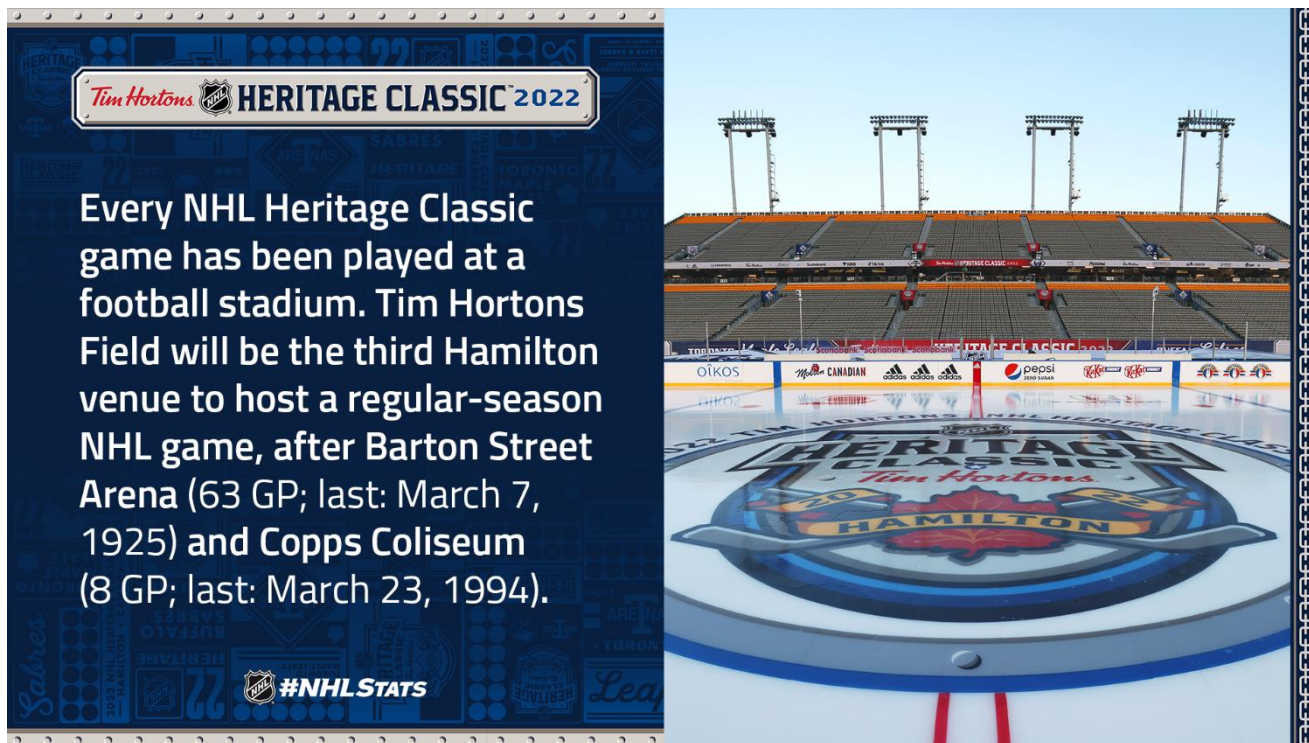
* The clubs will then meet for a late-afternoon showdown Sunday in the *2022 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic* (4 p.m. ET on TNT, SN, TVAS).

* **REMINDER:** The Heritage Classic Information Guide, which features 100+ pages, now is available for registered users on the League's media site. A few other handy resources are below ahead of the 35th regular-season outdoor game in League history:

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

[@PR_NHL](#) [@PR_NHL](#) [#NHLStats](#)

- * [Fan Reminders](#)
- * [#NHLStats Pack](#)
- * [Outdoor Team Records](#)
- * [Outdoor Skater Records](#)
- * [Outdoor Goaltender Records](#)



#STANLEYCUP PLAYOFFS RACE: ATLANTIC DIVISION

Every Saturday for the balance of the regular season, the #NHLStats team will place a weekly spotlight on one of the League's postseason races. With the return of the typical playoff structure and divisional alignment in 2021-22, it seems fitting to start the #StanleyCup Playoffs Race series with the Atlantic Division – one whose top four is made up of the same clubs it was exactly two years ago when the NHL hit “pause” through games played March 11, 2020.

* Atop the Atlantic Division standings when the season paused in 2019-20, the Bruins have swapped positions with the No. 1-ranked Panthers relative to the same date two years ago while Tampa Bay and Toronto remain in the same positions they held on that date.

* Vying for its 75th all-time playoff appearance, Boston sits within four points of cracking the top three in the division – something they have yet to do in 2021-22. In fact, only two clubs other than Florida, Tampa Bay and Toronto have managed to break into the top three in the Atlantic since the sixth day of the season: Detroit (Oct. 19-31 and Nov. 9-14) and Buffalo (Oct. 16 – Nov. 3).

* Florida, which has spent a division-best 110 days in first place this season (TBL: 31 days; TOR: 7 days; BUF: 2 days), is in search of its third division crown in [franchise history](#) after topping the Southeast in 2011-12 and the Atlantic in 2015-16.

**STANLEY CUP
PLAYOFFS**
2022

PLAYOFF RACE

#NHLSTATS

ATLANTIC		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	P%
	FLORIDA	58	40	13	5	85	.733
	TAMPA BAY	57	37	14	6	80	.702
	TORONTO	58	37	16	5	79	.681

WILD CARD		GP	W	L	OT	PTS	P%
	BOSTON	58	35	18	5	75	.647

NHL PODCAST WEEKLY ROUNDUP

- * [Fantasy on Ice \(3/7\): Highlighting the best pickups entering Week 20 of the fantasy season](#)
- * [NHL @TheRink \(3/9\): Sabres leading scorer **Tage Thompson** joins Dan and Shawn](#)
- * [The Chirp \(3/10\): Guest **Cassie Campbell-Pascall** talks about her new role with ESPN](#)
- * [Fantasy on Ice \(3/10\): Guest **Tom Vecchio** \(FanDuel, @NHL's "Going All In"\) talks fantasy and DFS](#)

QUICK CLICKS

- * [#NHLStats: Live Updates for Friday, March 11](#)
- * [Get to Know: Stars forward **Jason Robertson**](#)
- * [Joe Pavelski signs one-year, \\$5.5 million contract with Stars](#)
- * [2022 NHL Draft Diary: Forward **Brad Lambert** of Pelicans in Liiga](#)
- * [Willie O'Ree joins Boston Pride ownership group in women's league](#)





















STAALS SET TO MAKE HISTORY ON 10-GAME SATURDAY

Red Wings defenseman **Marc Staal** is expected to skate in his 1,000th regular-season NHL game when Detroit visits the Pacific Division-leading Flames. Marc will join brothers **Eric** (1,293 GP) and **Jordan** (1,069 GP) in reaching the benchmark, making the Staals the first trio of brothers in NHL history to [each reach the 1,000-game milestone](#). Jordan is set to bring his total to 1,070 when he captains the Hurricanes against the Flyers in what is set to be the 998th career game for Philadelphia's **Claude Giroux**.



TODAY'S SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022

12:30 PM ET	 @ 	BSSO, BSMW, NHLN, SN	3:00 PM ET	 @ 	ABC, ESPN+, SN
7:00 PM ET	 @ 	BSAZ, NESN	7:00 PM ET	 @ 	CBC, TVAS, SNE, SNP, NHLN, ROOT-NW
7:00 PM ET	 @ 	CITY, SNO, TVAS2, NBCSCH	7:00 PM ET	 @ 	BSSD, BSSC, MSG+
7:00 PM ET	 @ 	SN360, SNW, BSET	8:00 PM ET	 @ 	BSSW, MSG
9:30 PM ET	 @ 	BSW, NBCSCA	10:00 PM ET	 @ 	CBC, SN, SN360, CITY, BSSUN



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

MORE SATURDAY LOOK-AHEADS

* **Elias Lindholm** (29-32—61 in 57 GP) and **Andrew Mangiapane** (29-14—43 in 57 GP) will each look to reach the 30-goal mark Saturday against the Red Wings. The Flames have had multiple players score 30 goals at this stage of a season (58 GP, including their game Saturday) just twice in franchise history: 1988-89 (**Joe Nieuwendyk & Joe Mullen**) and 1987-88 (**Hakan Loob, Mike Bullard & Nieuwendyk**).

* The Hurricanes take a 12-game home point streak (11-0-1) into their contest against the Flyers, tied for the second-longest stretch in club history behind a 15-game run at home in 2005-06 (14-0-1). It is the longest active home point streak in the NHL and could equal the second-longest of the season (COL: 22 GP, 20-0-2; CGY: 13 GP, 12-0-1; STL: 13 GP, 12-0-1).

* The Bruins carry a 17-game winning streak against the Coyotes into Saturday's meeting, tied for the [second longest against one opponent in NHL history](#). To extend that run, Boston will have to contend with an Arizona team that has scored 22 goals over its past three contests. The Coyotes will look to close in on the franchise benchmark for goals over a four-game span (29 G in 4 GP from Oct. 20-29, 1985 as the Jets).



STATS AND INFORMATION

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**Longest win streaks vs. one
opponent, NHL history:**

**23 GP - Canadiens vs. Capitals
1974-1978**

**17 GP - Bruins vs. Coyotes
2010-present**

**17 GP - Bruins vs. Senators
1992-1995**

 **#NHLSTATS**

