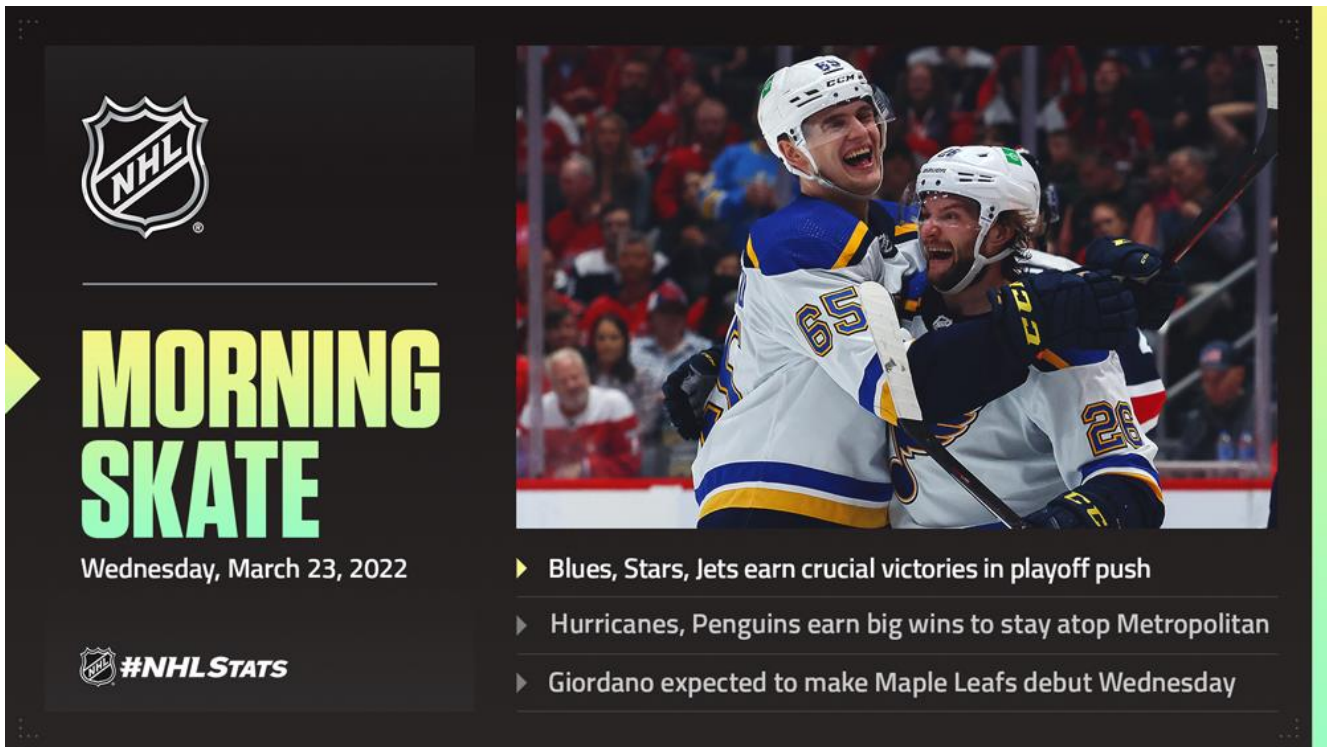


MORNING SKATE – MARCH 23, 2022



MORNING SKATE
Wednesday, March 23, 2022

#NHLStats

- ▶ Blues, Stars, Jets earn crucial victories in playoff push
- ▶ Hurricanes, Penguins earn big wins to stay atop Metropolitan
- ▶ Giordano expected to make Maple Leafs debut Wednesday

* Eight teams in the Western Conference are separated by nine points, with the Blues, Stars and Jets skating to crucial victories in the Central Division standings.

* While the Hurricanes maintained top spot in the Metropolitan Division, the Penguins overtook second place after a win against the Blue Jackets and a Rangers loss to the Devils.

* After being acquired by the Maple Leafs prior to the Trade Deadline, **Mark Giordano** is set to make his debut with his hometown team.



TUESDAY'S RESULTS

4 FINAL 7	1 FINAL 5	5 FINAL 2	2 FINAL 3
3 FINAL 6	0 FINAL 3	0 FINAL 4	3 FINAL 5
4 FINAL 3	4 FINAL 2	1 FINAL 6	

BLUES, JETS, STARS EARN PIVOTAL WINS AS CENTRAL STANDINGS SHUFFLE

A trio of teams earned crucial wins Tuesday, with the Blues (35-18-9, 79 points) leapfrogging the Wild (37-20-4, 78 points) and Predators (37-23-4, 78 points) for second place in the Central Division, while

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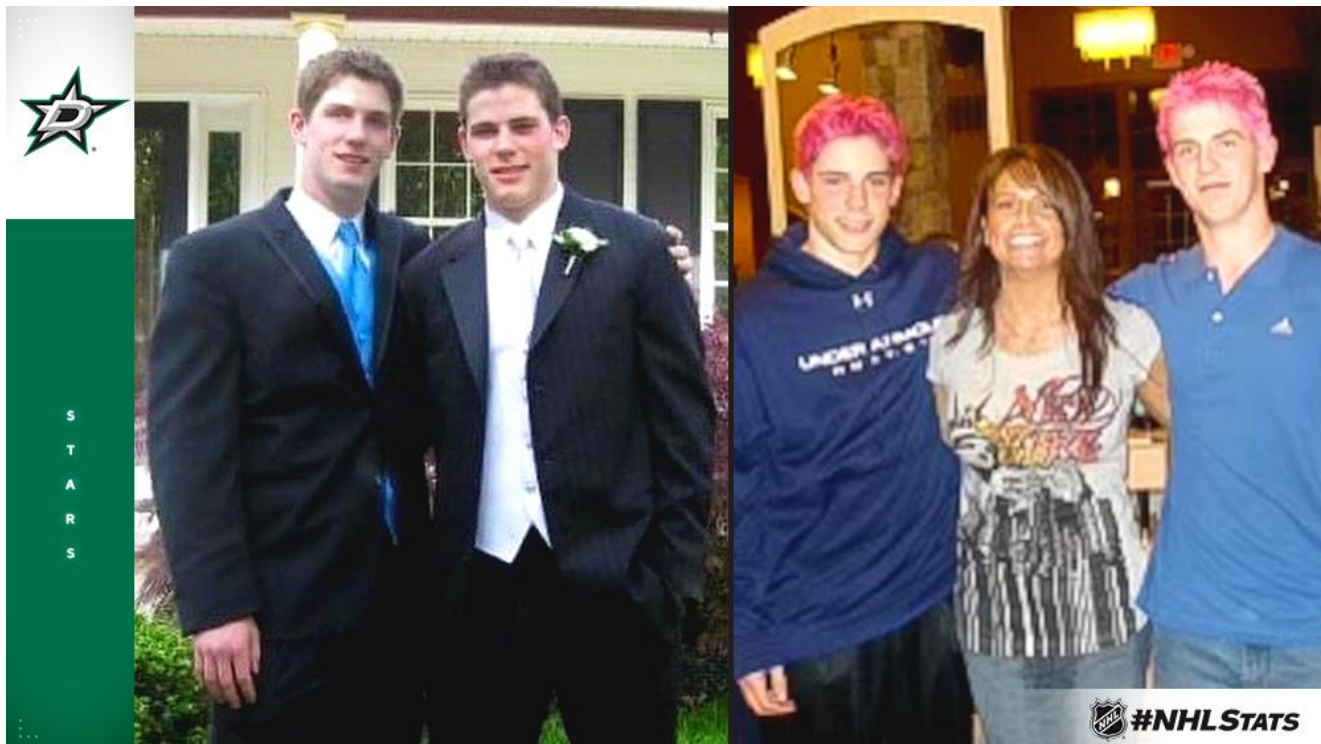
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the Stars (35-24-3, 73 points) moved into the final Wild Card spot after the Jets (30-24-10, 70 points) – who also did themselves a favor – defeated the Golden Knights (34-28-4, 72 points).

* **Brandon Saad** (1-1—2) scored a highlight-reel tally and **David Perron** [extended his goal streak to seven games](#) as St. Louis erased two one-goal deficits to improve to 4-0-1 against Washington dating to Jan. 3, 2019. The Blues secured their 17th comeback win of 2021-22, which trails only the NHL-leading Avalanche (19) for the most among Western Conference clubs.



* **Tyler Seguin** (1-1—2) became the [first player from the 2010 NHL Draft](#) to reach the 300-goal milestone (300-374—674 in 805 GP) after **Roope Hintz** and **Denis Gurianov** scored 24 seconds apart to erase a 3-2 deficit en route to a Stars victory. Seguin recently welcomed long-time friend **Scott Wedgewood** to Dallas, [after he was acquired by the Stars on Sunday](#). The duo met in the hospital at the age of six after Seguin's appendix was taken out in the room beside Wedgewood's brother. The Brampton Ont., natives went to the same high school, attended prom together and played junior hockey in the Ontario Hockey League with the Plymouth Whalers.



* **Connor Hellebuyck** turned aside all 42 shots he faced to backstop the Jets to their fifth consecutive win against the Golden Knights dating to Nov. 2, 2019. Tuesday marked the third time Hellebuyck has made 40 or more saves in a shutout (also [Nov. 27, 2016](#) & [Jan. 14, 2020](#)), tied with **Mike Smith**, **Juuse Saros**, **Jonathan Quick**, **Jacob Markstrom** and **Mackenzie Blackwood** for the [most such performances among all goaltenders](#) since his debut in 2015-16.

HURRICANES, PENGUINS CONTINUE TO JOCKEY FOR POSITION ATOP METROPOLITAN

The race atop the Metropolitan Division standings continued to intensify as the Hurricanes (42-15-6, 90 points) held off a late-game rally by the Lightning to maintain the top spot, while **Sidney Crosby** notched his 13th career 40-assist season as the Penguins (39-16-9, 87 points) overtook second place from the Rangers (40-19-5, 85 points).

* **Sebastian Aho** (1-0—1) netted the game-winning goal as the Hurricanes improved to 4-0-1 against the Lightning dating to March 27, 2021 and continued their pursuit of their sixth division crown in [franchise history](#). Only five players in Hurricanes/Whalers history have more [winning goals](#) than Aho (33): **Ron Francis** (57), **Eric Staal** (47), **Jeff O'Neill** (38), **Kevin Dineen** (37) and **Erik Cole** (34).

* Crosby (0-3—3) posted his 58th career three-assist game and extended the NHL's longest active home point streak to 11 games (5-13—18). Only one active player has registered as many outings with three or more helpers: **Joe Thornton** (58).





MOST CAREER GAMES WITH 3+ ASSISTS

▶ NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	GP
WAYNE GRETZKY	224
MARIO LEMIEUX	108
PAUL COFFEY	82
ADAM OATES	71
RON FRANCIS	65
MARK MESSIER	64
RAY BOURQUE	64
BRYAN TROTTIER	61
BOBBY ORR	60
STEVE YZERMAN	59
JAROMIR JAGR	59
SIDNEY CROSBY	58
JOE THORNTON	58

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YOUNG SKATERS TRIUMPH IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

The [most recent edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#) featured **Quinton Byfield** (2-1—3) posting his first career multi-point game and **Jack Hughes** (39-62—101 in 160 GP) scoring two of seven Devils goals to surpass the 100-point milestone.

* Byfield, who potted the first multi-goal game by a Kings teenager since **Oscar Moller** on Nov. 1, 2008 (2-0—2), propelled Los Angeles (35-22-8, 78 points) to its [fourth outing with six goals in 2021-22](#). With Dallas' victory over Edmonton, the Kings opened up a three-point cushion on the Oilers (35-24-5, 75 points) for second place in the Pacific Division.



K I N G S

Quinton Byfield became the sixth teenager to notch three-plus points in a game for the Kings, joining Jimmy Carson (21x; last: March 30, 1988), Larry Murphy (2x), Doug Smith (2x), Anze Kopitar (2x) and Craig Redmond (Nov. 21, 1984)

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* Hughes (20 years, 213 days) became the fourth Devils player to reach the 100-point milestone before age 21, joining **Kirk Muller** (20 years, 12 days), **Nico Hischier** (20 years, 274 days) and **Brendan Shanahan** (20 years, 306 days).

GENDER EQUALITY MONTH: BLUES GIRLS HOCKEY DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE

The Blues partnered with the [NHL](#), [NHLPA](#) and [Bauer](#) to launch the [St. Louis Blues Girls Hockey Development League](#) during the 2020 NHL All-Star Weekend. The three-phase youth hockey program provides low-cost opportunities for girls, ages 4-17, to begin their youth hockey playing career and develop skills at an accelerated rate, while also providing families and players consistency in their schedule in a competitive and fun environment.

* More than 110 girls participated in the first year of the Blues Girls Development League, and more than 225 new girls are estimated to begin their youth hockey careers this season.



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CELEBRATING
**GENDER
EQUALITY**
MONTH



“I've been able to see first-hand how valued girls' hockey is here in St. Louis. There's a focus specifically on growing the girls' and women's game, along with the sport overall. Having the support of the Blues behind that obviously helps, and there are people in every organization who care and make sure the girls have opportunities.”

- Jessica Knox, Blues Youth Hockey Coordinator



QUICK CLICKS:

- * [NHL top storylines for stretch run toward Stanley Cup Playoffs](#)
- * [Mark Giordano](#) relishes first practice with Maple Leafs since trade
- * [Shane Wright, Matt Savoie](#) looking to impress at CHL/NHL Top Prospects Game
- * [CHEL Intel: First set of NHL Gaming World Championships wrapped up on the weekend](#)

GAMING



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MAPLE LEAFS SET TO REP JUSTIN BIEBER DREW JERSEYS FOR NEXT GEN GAME

Mark Giordano will be making his Maple Leafs (39-18-5, 83 points) debut in the club's Next Gen game against the Devils (23-35-5, 51 points). Toronto will be wearing a unique alternate uniform made in collaboration with drew house and **Justin Bieber** to celebrate youth and the future of hockey through a reimagined design.

Time	Home Team	Visitor Team	Broadcast
7:00 PM ET	Devils	Maple Leafs	TVAS, SN, MSG+
7:30 PM ET	Penguins	Sabres	TNT
9:30 PM ET	Coyotes	Flames	ALT, SNP, SN1, TVAS
10:00 PM ET	Blackhawks	Canucks	TNT

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

* The Maple Leafs Next Gen jersey was designed in partnership with drew house, Bieber, adidas and NHL as the first reversible sweater ever in North American professional sports. The jerseys are made with adidas' Primegreen innovation – a series of high-performance materials containing a minimum of 50 per cent recycled content, continuing adidas' ongoing mission to end plastic waste. Full details of the jersey can be [found here](#).

* While Toronto will wear blue Wednesday, fans may choose to flip the sweater to feature a drew house inspired version with gold trim underneath, and elements of the drew house motif inside the classic Maple Leaf logo, to create a uniform that has never been seen in sport.

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“

My love for the Maple Leafs has always been a big part of who I am, and my passion for the team, and the passion of millions of fans, is stitched into this Next Gen sweater. I'm grateful to the Leafs for the chance to team up again to create something so authentic for the team and its fans.



JUSTIN BIEBER
DREW HOUSE



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