

NHL MORNING SKATE – APRIL 1, 2022

MORNING SKATE
Friday, April 1, 2022
#NHLSTATS

- ▶ Matthews nets first 50-goal season for Toronto in 28 years
- ▶ Bruins score 6 goals in a period for first time in 38+ years
- ▶ Division leaders Florida, Carolina, Colorado closing in on clinch

* For the first time in 28 years, the Maple Leafs have a 50-goal scorer as **Auston Matthews** reached the mark Thursday and reclaimed sole possession of top spot in the 2021-22 Maurice “Rocket” Richard Trophy race. Edmonton’s **Leon Draisaitl** can follow suit Friday as he enters the night with 49 goals.

* **Brad Marchand** hit the 30-goal mark for the fifth time in his career, during the highest-scoring regular-season period by the Bruins in more than 38 years.

* The Avalanche (48-14-6, 102 points), Panthers (46-15-6, 98 points) and Hurricanes (45-15-8, 98 points) each won Thursday to pad their division leads and move closer to securing their ticket to the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs.



THURSDAY'S RESULTS

1 FINAL 8	3 FINAL 7	0 FINAL 4
2 FINAL 5	0 FINAL 4	4 FINAL OT 3
2 FINAL 4	3 FINAL SO 2	3 FINAL OT 2

MATTHEWS BECOMES TORONTO'S FIRST 50-GOAL SCORER IN 28 YEARS

Maple Leafs forward **Auston Matthews** (50-37—87 in 62 GP) scored his League-leading 50th goal of the season to become the [fourth different player in franchise history](#) to reach the mark and first since **Dave Andreychuk** in 1993-94 (53-46—99 in 83 GP). This is the first season in NHL history in which a Toronto player was the first to score 50 goals.



* Matthews (62 GP) became the fastest NHLer in 26 years to reach the 50-goal mark. About a year-and-a-half before Matthews was born, four players hit 50 goals in 62 or fewer games during the 1995-96 season: Pittsburgh's **Mario Lemieux** (50 GP) and **Jaromir Jagr** (59 GP), Vancouver's **Alexander Mogilny** (60 GP) as well as Washington's **Peter Bondra** (62 GP).

* Matthews (San Ramon, Calif.) also became the 10th different U.S.-born player in League history to



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reach the 50-goal mark in a season and first since **John LeClair** (St. Albans, Vt.) with Philadelphia in 1997-98 (51-36—87 in 82 GP).

FEWEST GAMES TO 50-GOAL MARK

U.S.-BORN PLAYERS, NHL HISTORY

Season	Player	Games Played (GP)
2021-22	Auston Matthews	62 GP
1992-93	Kevin Stevens	62 GP
1991-92	Jeremy Roenick	67 GP
1989-90	Pat LaFontaine	71 GP
1984-85	Bobby Carpenter	72 GP

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* The Maple Leafs (43-19-5, 91 points), who received three points from **William Nylander** (2-1—3), **Ilya Mikheyev** (1-2—3) and **Mitchell Marner** (0-3—3) [as well as a goal by Mark Giordano](#) (1-1—2) Thursday, moved past the idle Lightning (42-18-6, 90 points) for second place in the Atlantic Division.

BRUINS ROUT DEVILS THANKS TO SIX-GOAL SECOND PERIOD

Twelve different skaters found the score sheet for Boston during a six-goal second period as the Bruins put eight past the Devils – the club’s highest-scoring performance on home ice in more than three years (8-2 W vs. DET on [Oct. 13, 2018](#)). The offensive outburst helped Boston (42-20-5, 89 points), which occupies the first Wild Card spot in the Eastern Conference, move within one point of idle Tampa Bay (42-18-6, 90 points) for third place in the Atlantic Division.

* **Marc McLaughlin** (North Billerica, Mass.), who captained Boston College for the past two seasons before signing with the Bruins on March 15, skated in his first NHL game and tallied the fifth marker of the second-period outburst. McLaughlin became the fifth Massachusetts-born player to score in his League debut with Boston, joining **Ryan Donato** (March 19, 2018), **Frank Vatrano** (Nov. 7, 2015), **Shawn Bates** (Oct. 2, 1997) and **Hago Harrington** (Dec. 29, 1925).

* **Brad Marchand** (2-0—2) hit the 30-goal mark for the fifth time in his career and became the ninth player in Bruins history to have as many campaigns. Since his NHL debut in 2009-10, only six players have more 30-goal seasons than Marchand: **Alex Ovechkin** (12), **Steven Stamkos** (7), **Sidney Crosby** (6), **Max Pacioretty** (6), **Auston Matthews** (6) and **Connor McDavid** (6).



BRUINS

The Bruins scored six goals in a regular-season period for the 24th time in franchise history and first time in more than 38 years (6 G in 2nd period on Nov. 3, 1983 vs. STL)

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KAPRIZOV SETS, TIES FRANCHISE MARKS WITH 14TH GOAL OF MARCH

Kirill Kaprizov (1-0—1) found the back of the net for a fifth straight game to help the Wild (41-20-5, 87 points) salvage a point, set a franchise record for goals in a calendar month (14) and equal the club benchmark for [points in a season](#) (83). The 24-year-old now has 38 goals in 2021-22, which trails only two players for the most in a single season in [club history](#): **Marian Gaborik** set the standard with 42 goals in 2007-08, a mark equaled by **Eric Staal** in 2017-18.



WILD

Most goals in a calendar month, franchise history:

14 - Kirill Kaprizov
March 2022 (16 GP)

13 - Eric Staal
February 2018 (13 GP)

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DIVISION LEADERS INCH CLOSER TO PLAYOFF BERTHS WITH SHUTOUT WINS

The top two teams in the Eastern Conference kept pace with each other with shutout victories on home ice Thursday as both the [Panthers](#) (46-15-6, 98 points) and [Hurricanes](#) (45-15-8, 98 points) moved within two points of their second 100-point season.

* Each club is vying to finish as the No. 1 seed in its conference for the first time. The best conference rank to date for Carolina/Hartford is second place (2005-06: Eastern Conference; 1986-87: Prince of Wales Conference), while Florida's best finish was third place (2011-12 and 2015-16: Eastern Conference).

* Florida set a franchise record with its 28th home win of the season, with **Sergei Bobrovsky** posting a 37-save shutout and **Jonathan Huberdeau** notching his [League-leading 71st assist of the season](#). Captain **Aleksander Barkov** scored his 30th and 31st goals of 2021-22, the second time he has hit the 30-goal mark, as he helped Florida open a seven-point lead atop the Atlantic Division as it pursues a third division title (2011-12 Southeast and 2015-16 Atlantic).

* Carolina also continued its success on home ice, collecting its [25th victory of the season at PNC Arena](#) thanks to a [game-winning goal](#) by **Sebastian Aho** and a 32-save shutout by **Frederik Andersen**. In his first season with the Hurricanes, Andersen improved to 33-10-3 with four shutouts (46 GP) to help the club open a five-point lead atop the Metropolitan Division as it chases down a sixth division title and second in as many campaigns after a first-place finish in the Discover Central in 2020-21.



MOST WINS IN FIRST SEASON WITH FRANCHISE
▶ SINCE 2007-08

GOALTENDER	TEAM	SEASON	WINS
CRAIG ANDERSON	AVALANCHE	2009-10	38
JAROSLAV HALAK	ISLANDERS	2014-15	38
MIKE SMITH	COYOTES	2011-12	38
MARTIN JONES	SHARKS	2015-16	37
ANTTI NIEMI	SHARKS	2010-11	35
FREDERIK ANDERSEN	HURRICANES	2021-22	33
FREDERIK ANDERSEN	MAPLE LEAFS	2016-17	33
ILYA BRYZGALOV	FLYERS	2011-12	33
STEVE MASON	BLUE JACKETS	2008-09	33
VESA TOSKALA	MAPLE LEAFS	2007-08	33

*MOST WINS IN FIRST SEASON WITH HURRICANES/WHALERS IS 38 (MARTIN GERBER: 2005-06)

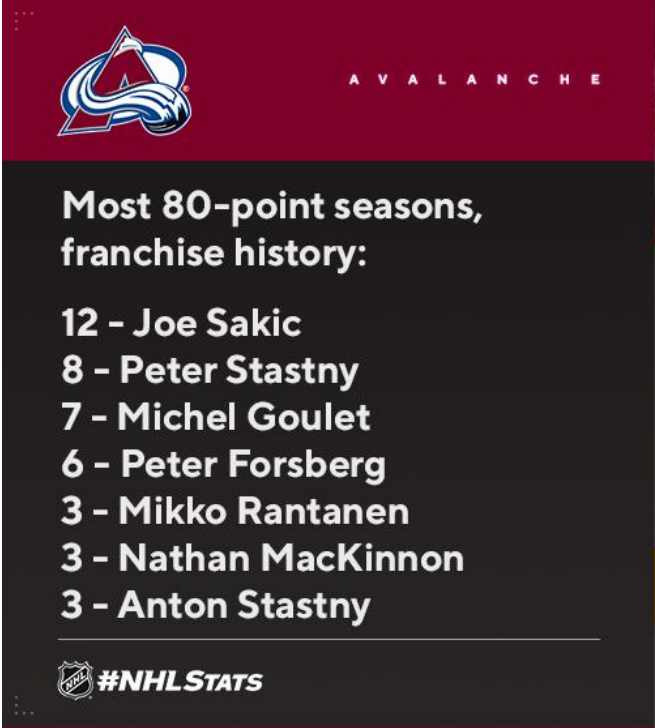
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AVALANCHE CREATE SPACE ATOP WEST, WHILE WILD CARD GETS ANOTHER SHUFFLE

The top team in the Western Conference created a 13-point advantage on the next closest club, while the second Wild Card position had an occupancy change for a third straight day:

* **Mikko Rantanen** (34-46—80) reached the 80-point mark with his second game-winning goal of the season to help Colorado (48-14-6, 102 points) move closer to clinching a playoff spot. The Avalanche


are in pursuit of a second straight Presidents' Trophy, a feat last achieved by the Capitals (2015-16 and 2016-17).




AVALANCHE

Most 80-point seasons, franchise history:

- 12 - Joe Sakic
- 8 - Peter Stastny
- 7 - Michel Goulet
- 6 - Peter Forsberg
- 3 - Mikko Rantanen
- 3 - Nathan MacKinnon
- 3 - Anton Stastny

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* After defensemen combined for each of the first four goals of the game in regulation – including both a go-ahead and tying goal with less than five minutes remaining in the third period – it was Stars captain **Jamie Benn** who netted the overtime winner in Anaheim. The victory gave Dallas (38-25-3, 79 points) one point more than idle Vegas (37-28-4, 78 points) as the clubs continue to battle back-and-forth across the playoff line for a 20th straight day.

* If the playoffs started today, Colorado would host Dallas for the opener of their sixth all-time playoff series and second in three seasons after the Stars eliminated the Avalanche in a thrilling, high-scoring seven-game series in the [2020 Second Round](#) en route to the Stanley Cup Final.

QUICK CLICKS

- * [#NHLStats: Live Updates – Thursday, March 31](#)
- * [Start time to Lightning-Panthers game on April 24 changed to 7 p.m. ET](#)
- * [Tuukka Rask honored by Bruins prior to game against Devils](#)
- * [Aho, Aho score goals less than one minute apart for Hurricanes, Islanders](#)
- * [Jonathan Toews' 1,000th game celebrated with Alex DeBrincat's custom, crude artwork](#)





JONATHAN TOEWS
#19 | CENTER

MILESTONE

1,000

CAREER GAMES PLAYED


EIGHTH PLAYER IN FRANCHISE HISTORY
TO REACH MILESTONE



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NUMBER OF NOTABLE STORYLINES IN FRIDAY'S FORECAST


The NHL's 2021-22 regular season enters the homestretch with 232 games remaining over the final four weeks of the campaign set to determine the bracket for the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs, which begin May 2. Friday's slate will see Edmonton's **Leon Draisaitl** put his five-game goal streak on the line as he aims to reach the 50-goal mark for the second time in his career when the Oilers (38-25-5, 81 points) face the Blues (37-20-9, 83 points) at Rogers Place.



TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022

7:00 PM ET		@		BSSO, MSG-B
7:00 PM ET		@		BSSUN, NBCSCH, SNP, SNE, TVAS
7:00 PM ET		@		MSG+, MSG
7:30 PM ET		@		BSDETX, TSN5, RDS
9:00 PM ET		@		SNW, BSMW
10:00 PM ET		@		ROOT-NW, ATTSN-RM, SNP, SNO, SNE
10:30 PM ET		@		BSAZX, BSW



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* Draisaitl enters Friday with 49 goals in 2021-22 (49-48—97 in 68 GP), one shy of his career high set in 2018-19. The Cologne, Germany, native can become the ninth player in NHL history born and trained outside of North America to record multiple 50-goal seasons. To date, only **Alex Ovechkin** (8x), **Pavel Bure** (5x), **Jari Kurri** (4x), **Jaromir Jagr** (3x), **Teemu Selanne** (3x), **Ilya Kovalchuk** (2x), **Peter Bondra** (2x) and **Alexander Mogilny** (2x) have done so.

* **David Perron** (23-23—46 in 52 GP) is tied for the team lead with 23 goals this season, 12 of which were scored in March alone (12-7—19 in 13 GP) – tied for the most by a Blues player in a single calendar month since October 2000 (**Scott Young**: 12 G in 12 GP). Perron needs five goals to match his single-season NHL career high, a mark set with Edmonton in 2013-14 (28 G in 78 GP).

* **Andrew Copp** has recorded a point in each of his last five games since being acquired by the Rangers ahead of the Trade Deadline (2-5—7) and will look to extend his run against the Islanders at Madison Square Garden. He can become the seventh player to post a point streak of six-plus games to start their tenure with the franchise and first since **Marian Gaborik** in 2009-10 (8 GP).