




NHL MORNING SKATE – APRIL 14, 2022



MORNING SKATE

Thursday, April 14, 2022

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- ▶ Avalanche roll past Kings for 53rd win of the season
- ▶ Kakko tallies two as Rangers blank Flyers
- ▶ Johnson, Blankenburg make NHL debuts with Columbus

* **Nathan MacKinnon** and **Cale Makar** combined for nine points as the League-leading Avalanche set a [new franchise record for wins in a season](#) while reestablishing a two-point lead atop the NHL standings.



* **Kaapo Kakko** tallied twice and joined a rare franchise list of Rangers players with six multi-goal games before age 22.



* Less than a week after helping the University of Michigan Wolverines reach the *Frozen Four*, **Kent Johnson** and **Nick Blankenburg** made their League debuts with Columbus.



* **Auston Matthews** will have another opportunity to inch closer to 60 goals Thursday as he goes head-to-head with **Alex Ovechkin**, who is [one of two active players to reach the mark in a season](#) (also **Steven Stamkos**).



WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

**4** ◀ FINAL **0** 

**1** FINAL **5** 

**3** FINAL **9** 

MacKINNON, MAKAR AMASS 4-5—9 AS COLORADO CRUISES TO RECORD-SETTING WIN

Nathan MacKinnon (3-2—5) factored on five goals and **Cale Makar** (26-55—81 in 69 GP) had 1-3—4




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to eclipse the 80-point mark as the Avalanche (53-14-6, 112 points) established a franchise record for most wins in a season, besting their previous high of 52 from 2000-01 and 2013-14.


* MacKinnon, who scored his third career regular-season hat trick (also [Feb. 22, 2015 vs. TBL](#) & [Dec. 28, 2015 at SJS](#)), recorded his [fourth career five-point NHL game](#) and second of 2021-22 (also [Jan. 6 vs. WPG](#)). The only player with more five-point outings this season is Panthers forward **Jonathan Huberdeau** (3x: [Dec. 2, 2021 vs. BUF](#), [Dec. 30, 2021 vs. TBL](#) & [April 5 vs. TOR](#)).

* Makar, who [leads all defensemen with 26 goals this season](#), became the eighth different NHL blueliner to record 80 points in a campaign before age 24 and the first since **Sergei Zubov** with the Rangers in 1993-94 (12-77—89 in 78 GP).



The Avalanche blueline has scored a combined 60 goals in 2021-22. The last team to feature 60 or more combined goals by defensemen in a single season was the Capitals in 1993-94 (62).

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A photograph of two Colorado Avalanche players on the ice. The player in the foreground is wearing a blue jersey with the number 8 and is looking towards the right. The player in the background is wearing a red jersey with the number 29 and the name 'MACKINNON' on the back, and is looking towards the left. The background shows a crowd of fans in a stadium.

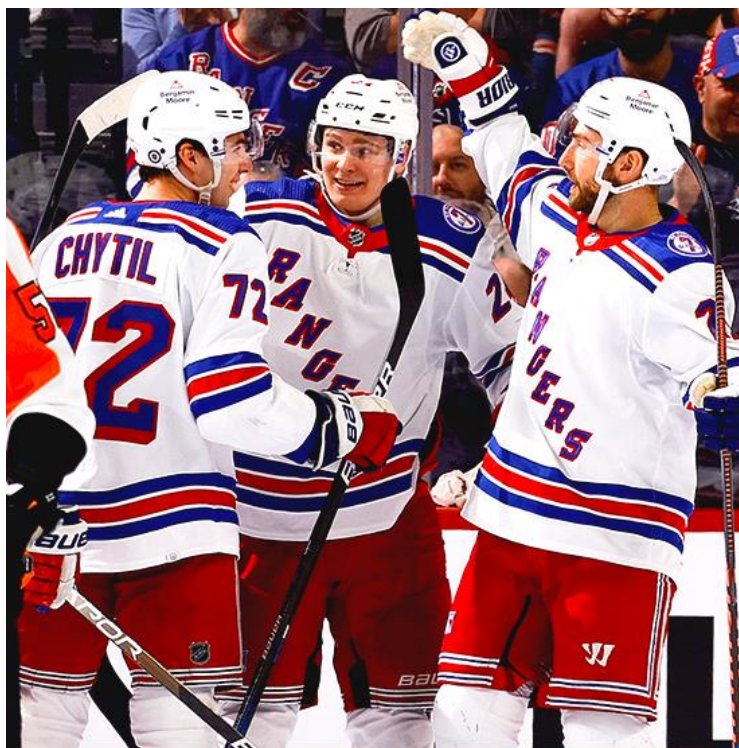
KAKKO, GEORGIEV HELP RANGERS GAIN GROUND ON IDLE HURRICANES

Kaapo Kakko scored two of four New York goals and **Alexandar Georgiev** turned aside all 28 shots he faced to improve to 6-0-0 in each of his last six starts as the Rangers (48-21-6, 102 points) blanked the Flyers to move within two points of the Metropolitan Division-leading Hurricanes (48-18-8, 104 points). Wednesday marked the first time in franchise history that multiple goaltenders have posted wins in six or more consecutive *starts* within a single season (also **Igor Shesterkin**: 7-0-0 from Dec. 31, 2021–Jan. 24, 2022).



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MOST CAREER MULTI-GOAL GAMES BEFORE AGE 22

► FRANCHISE HISTORY

PLAYER	TOTAL
DON MURDOCH	11
WAYNE DILLON	8
NIKLAS SUNDSTROM	7
TONY AMONTE	7
TOMAS SANDSTROM	7
STEVE VICKERS	7
KAAPU KAKKO	6
ALEX KOVALEV	6
ULF DAHLEN	6

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MORE DEBUTS BY MICHIGAN WOLVERINES FEATURED IN #NHLStats: LIVE UPDATES

[Wednesday's edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#) featured more notes from the three-game slate, including **Kent Johnson** and **Nick Blankenburg** (0-1—1) making their League debuts with the Blue Jackets. Johnson and Blankenburg became the third and fourth members of the 2021-22 University of Michigan Wolverines to make their NHL debuts this week, following **Owen Power** and **Matty Beniers** [on Tuesday](#).

NHL DEBUTS THIS SEASON

MEMBERS OF THE 2021-22 UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN WOLVERINES

No. 1 PICK IN 2021	No. 2 PICK IN 2021	No. 5 PICK IN 2021	UNDRAFTED
OWEN POWER	MATTY BENIERS	KENT JOHNSON	NICK BLANKENBURG
April 12	April 12	April 13	April 13

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QUICK CLICKS

- * [Ryan Hartman](#) fined for unsportsmanlike conduct in Wild game
- * [Alex Ovechkin](#) vs. [Auston Matthews](#) debated by [Wayne Gretzky](#), others
- * [Dallas Eakins](#) will return as Ducks coach next season
- * [Jerry York](#) retires from Boston College, winningest coach in NCAA hockey history
- * [2023 Winter Classic](#) will pit Penguins against Bruins on Jan. 2



FIVE PLAYERS EYE THEIR 40TH GOAL THURSDAY . . .

Two nights after Rangers forward **Chris Kreider** netted his first career 50-goal NHL season, the likes of **Alex DeBrincat** (39-28—67 w/ CHI), **Matt Duchene** (38-37—75 w/ NSH), **Filip Forsberg** (38-34—72 w/ NSH), **Elias Lindholm** (38-36—74 w/ CGY) and **David Pastrnak** (38-33—71 w/ BOS) can join the 40-goal club Thursday.



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







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TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022

7:00 PM ET	 @ 	NESN, TSN5, RDS	7:00 PM ET	 @ 	BSMWX, MSG-B
7:00 PM ET	 @ 	TVAS, TSN4, NBCSWA	7:00 PM ET	 @ 	BSSD, BSSUN, BSSC, SNP
7:00 PM ET	 @ 	ATTSN-PT, MSG+	7:00 PM ET	 @ 	HULU, ESPN+
8:00 PM ET	 @ 	BSSO, SNW	8:00 PM ET	 @ 	ESPN
8:30 PM ET	 @ 	NBCSCH, NBCSCA	9:00 PM ET	 @ 	MSG, ALT
9:00 PM ET	 @ 	SN360, ATTSN-RM	10:00 PM ET	 @ 	SNP, BSAZ



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

* With [seven players](#) having already netted 40 goals this season, the 2021-22 campaign can mark the fourth in 25 years to feature at least a dozen 40-goal scorers following [2018-19](#) (13), [2000-01](#) (13) and [1996-97](#) (12). The most in any season in NHL history is 29 ([1987-88](#)).

... WHILE MATTHEWS TAKES SECOND CRACK AT 60 IN SHOWDOWN WITH OVECHKIN

After being held off the score sheet for the first time since March 2, Maple Leafs forward **Auston Matthews** (58-41—99 in 68 GP) will have another opportunity at collecting his [60th goal](#) and [100th point](#) in a matchup with Capitals captain **Alex Ovechkin** (46-39—85 in 71 GP) – who recorded his lone 60-goal campaign in 2007-08 (65 in 82 GP).

* The pair have gone head-to-head in the regular season 11 times, with Washington holding the edge in wins over Toronto during those contests (WSH: 6-5-0; TOR: 5-4-2). The Capitals captain (8-8—16) also holds the statistical advantage against the Maple Leafs forward (5-6—11).

* Matthews, with his sights set on the first 60-goal season by a U.S.-born player in NHL history, can join Flames forward **Johnny Gaudreau** (34-67—101 in 73 GP) as the second to record 100-plus points in 2021-22. Only three campaigns in NHL history have featured multiple U.S.-born players hitting the century mark: 1992-93 (**Pat LaFontaine**, **Kevin Stevens**, **Craig Janney** & **Jeremy Roenick**), 1991-92 (Stevens, Roenick & **Brian Leetch**) and 1988-89 (**Joe Mullen** & **Jimmy Carson**).

* Ovechkin, in pursuit of an [NHL record-tying ninth career 50-goal season](#) (which would also make him the oldest player in League history to notch a 50-goal campaign), enters the showdown having found the back of the net in each of his previous four outings.



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LONGEST GOAL STREAKS

► PLAYERS AGE 36 OR OLDER, NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	AGE AT END (Y, D)	GP
BRETT HULL	DET	2003-04	39, 121	7
KEITH TKACHUK	STL	2008-09	36, 208	6
JOHNNY BUCYK	BOS	1974-75	39, 221	6
JUSTIN WILLIAMS	CAR	2019-20	38, 158	5
JUSTIN WILLIAMS	CAR	2018-19	37, 101	5
DANIEL SEDIN	VAN	2017-18	37, 157	5
MIKE KNUBLE	PHI	2008-09	36, 121	5
KRIS DRAPER	DET	2007-08	36, 144	5
JOE MULLEN	PIT	1993-94	36, 293	5
PHIL ESPOSITO	NYR	1979-80	37, 347	5
PHIL ESPOSITO	NYR	1977-78	36, 37	5
GORDIE HOWE	DET	1965-66	37, 256	5

*ALEX OVECHKIN CAN JOIN THIS LIST

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