

NHL MORNING SKATE – APRIL 15, 2022

MORNING SKATE
Friday, April 15, 2022

#NHLSTATS

- ▶ Crosby hits 80-point mark as Penguins clinch postseason berth
- ▶ Lightning earn playoff spot, seek third straight Stanley Cup
- ▶ Matthews becomes 5th player to reach 100 points in 2021-22

* **Sidney Crosby** led the Penguins to their 16th straight postseason berth with a three-point outing on a night he achieved a feat an active player had not yet accomplished.

* The Lightning's quest for a third consecutive championship reached a necessary checkpoint as Tampa Bay clinched a berth in the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

* **Auston Matthews** became the [fifth player in 2021-22](#) to record 100 points and just the third U.S.-born player in 25 years to achieve the feat.

* **Robert Thomas** and **Vladimir Tarasenko** became the first Blues players to each record five-plus points in a game since Oct. 18, 1989.

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

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

STATS AND INFORMATION

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CAPTAIN CROSBY LEADS PENGUINS INTO 2022 STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

Sidney Crosby (1-2—3) recorded his 159th career three-point game – the 11th most in NHL history – to reach 50 assists and 80 points in 2021-22 as the Penguins clinched their 16th consecutive postseason berth and 37th in franchise history.


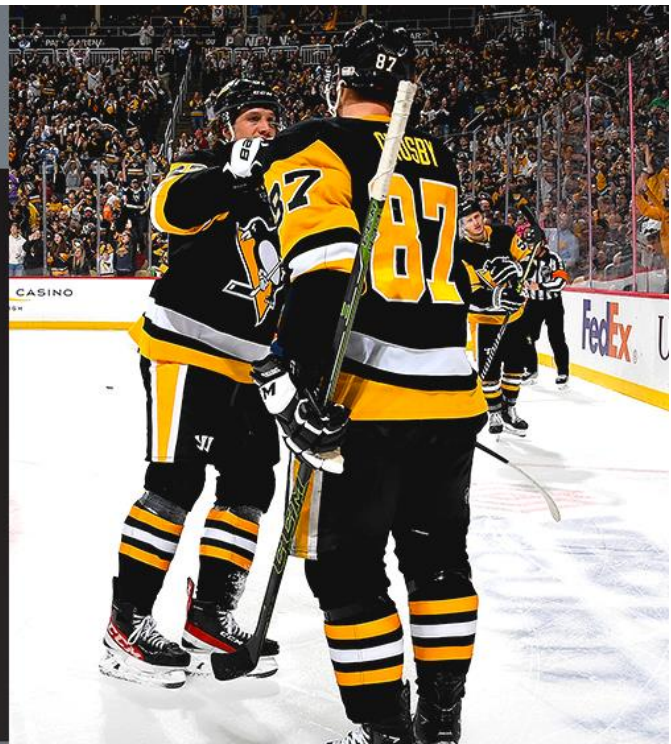


* Crosby and **Evgeni Malkin** each are set to make their 11th consecutive postseason appearance (both missed the 2011 Stanley Cup Playoffs due to injury), which would tie **Jaromir Jagr** for the [longest stretch in franchise history](#). The last NHL players to make 11 or more consecutive trips to the postseason with one franchise were **Pavel Datsyuk** (14; 2002–2016) and **Henrik Zetterberg** (13; 2003–2016) with the Red Wings.

* Crosby (69-122—191 in 174 GP) needs five points to tie **Paul Coffey** (59-137—196 in 194 GP) for sixth place in [career points](#) during the Stanley Cup Playoffs and nine to become the sixth player in NHL history to accumulate 200 career postseason points. He also [needs one assist](#) to tie **Jaromir Jagr** (123) for ninth place in playoff history. Crosby's next playoff goal will move the Penguins captain into a tie with **Steve Yzerman** (70) on the [all-time NHL list](#); he trails only **Alex Ovechkin** (71) among active NHL players.



Sidney Crosby (29-51—80 in 63 GP) recorded his 11th career 80-point season, which trails Wayne Gretzky (17), Mark Messier (13), Dale Hawerchuk (13), Marcel Dionne (13), Joe Sakic (12) and Steve Yzerman (12) for the most in NHL history

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TWO-TIME DEFENDING-CHAMPION LIGHTNING CLINCH POSTSEASON BERTH

Tampa Bay surrendered a 2-0 lead at AMALIE Arena, but **Nikita Kucherov** pulled the hosts even [with 12.3 seconds remaining in regulation](#) and **Anthony Cirelli** (1-1—2) scored the overtime winner as the Lightning rallied past the Ducks to clinch a berth in the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs.



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* Cirelli is no stranger to scoring big overtime winners, especially in the postseason. He had overtime goals to clinch the Memorial Cup in 2015 and J. Ross Robertson Cup in 2017 – Cirelli also beat Islanders goaltender **Semyon Varlamov** at 13:18 of extra time in [Game 6 of the 2020 Stanley Cup Semifinals](#), powering Tampa Bay to its first of two straight Final appearances.

* The Lightning will aim to become the fourth franchise in NHL history – and first in nearly 40 years – to claim at least three [consecutive Stanley Cup wins](#). The last club to do so was the Islanders dynasty (4x: 1980-1983), and before them the Canadiens (5x: 1956-1960; 4x: 1976-1979) and Maple Leafs (3x: 1947-1949; 3x: 1962-1964) each did so twice.



MOST CONSECUTIVE SERIES WINS

▶ NHL HISTORY

FRANCHISE	FIRST SERIES	LAST SERIES	STREAK
NEW YORK ISLANDERS	1980 PRLM	1984 CF	19
MONTREAL CANADIENS	1976 QF	1980 PRLM	13
MONTREAL CANADIENS	1956 SF	1960 SCF	10
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS	2016 R1	2018 R1	9
DETROIT RED WINGS	1997 CQF	1999 CQF	9
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS	1991 DSF	1993 DSF	9
EDMONTON OILERS	1984 DSF	1986 DSF	9
MONTREAL CANADIENS	1968 QF	1971 SCF	9
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING	2020 R1	2021 SCF	8*

*3 OTHER INSTANCES OF A FRANCHISE WITH 8 STRAIGHT SERIES WINS

* [Click here](#) to read more on Tampa Bay and Pittsburgh in #NHLStats Pack: Team Clinching Notes, a running document of notes for all teams as they clinch a berth in the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs.


MATTHEWS HITS 100, CONTINUES HISTORIC SEASON

Auston Matthews (0-2—2) surpassed the 100-point mark, while **William Nylander** (2-0—2), **Ilya Mikheyev** (2-0—2) and **Michael Bunting** (2-0—2) all posted multiple goals as the Maple Leafs (48-20-6, 102 points) recorded 102 points for the third time in franchise history (also 105 in 2017-18 & 103 in 2003-04).


* Matthews (58-42—100 in 69 GP) became the third player in Maple Leafs history to hit 100 points in a season and the first in 28 years. He joined **Doug Gilmour** (127 in 1992-93 & 111 in 1993-94) and **Darryl Sittler** (117 in 1977-78 & 100 in 1975-76).



* Matthews became the third U.S.-born player in 25 years to record 100 points in a season, joining **Patrick Kane** (2018-19 & 2015-16) and **Johnny Gaudreau** (2021-22).



Auston Matthews (69 GP) became the third U.S.-born player in NHL history to reach 100 points in a season in 69 games or fewer, joining Pat LaFontaine (55 GP in 1992-93 w/ BUF) and Kevin Stevens (63 GP in 1992-93 & 66 GP in 1991-92 w/ PIT)

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* Matthews joined **Leon Draisaitl** (54-51—105 in 74 GP) as the second player this season to record 50 or more goals and 100 or more points. The 2021-22 campaign is the third in the past 15 years to feature multiple players with 50-plus goals and 100-plus points. The others: 2009-10 (**Alex Ovechkin & Sidney Crosby**) and 2006-07 (**Vincent Lecavalier & Dany Heatley**).

THOMAS, TARASENKO POST RARE FIVE POINT-PERFORMANCES FOR BLUES

Robert Thomas (0-5—5) and **Vladimir Tarasenko** (3-2—5) became the first Blues skaters to post five-point performances since **Dallas Drake** on [Oct. 29, 2003](#) as St. Louis won its seventh straight game and extended its point streak to 10 contests (9-0-1 dating to March 28). The Blues (44-20-10, 98 points), who occupy third place in the Central Division, kept pace with the second-place Wild (46-21-6, 98 points), who were also victorious Thursday.

* St. Louis featured two players record five-plus points in the same game for the fourth time in franchise history and first since Oct. 18, 1989 (**Sergio Momesso**: 2-4—6 & **Brett Hull**: 3-2—5).

* Thomas, who extended his career-high point streak to 11 games (6-17—23), became just the fifth player in franchise history to record a five-assist performance. The others: **Dallas Drake** (Oct. 29, 2003), **Adam Oates** (Jan. 26, 1991), **Bernie Federko** (Feb. 27, 1988) and **Brian Sutter** (Nov. 22, 1983).



B L U E S

Robert Thomas (22 years, 286 days) became the second-youngest Blues skater to record five points in a game behind only Bernie Federko (22 years, 166 days on Oct. 25, 1978)

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* Tarasenko recorded his fifth NHL hat trick – and first in more than three years – as he reached the 30-goal mark for the sixth time in his career. Only three active skaters have posted more 30-goal seasons: **Alex Ovechkin (16), Sidney Crosby (9) and Steven Stamkos (7)**.

DRAISAITL'S HAT TRICK FEATURED IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

[Thursday's edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#) featured more notes from the 12-game slate, including Oilers forward **Leon Draisaitl** (54-51—105 in 74 GP) scoring the [sixth hat trick of his NHL career](#) (and [second at Bridgestone Arena](#)) to reach 54 goals on the season.



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NHL PODCAST WEEKLY ROUNDUP

- * [Fantasy on Ice \(4/11\): Pete & Nick w/ **James Harding** highlighting best fantasy pickups](#)
- * [NHL @TheRink \(4/14\): Dan & Shawn w/ NHL.com's **Mike Zeisberger**](#)
- * [Fantasy on Ice \(4/14\): Pete & Nick w/ **John Hahn** \(Sirius XM\) talk West playoff races](#)

QUICK CLICKS

- * [2023 Winter Classic will pit Penguins against Bruins on Jan. 2](#)
- * [Kori Cheverie to make history as assistant coach for Canada at U-18 Worlds](#)
- * [Alex Nedeljkovic shuts out former team with 46-save performance](#)
- * [Bruins honor 1972 Stanley Cup championship team](#)
- * [Ryan Getzlaf gets two assists in final head-to-head game with longtime teammate **Corey Perry**](#)



Photo via [@AnaheimDucks](#)

THE GOOD FRIDAY EDITION

Jonathan Huberdeau (9-12—21 in 12 GP) will aim to become the [third player in franchise history](#) to record a point streak of 13 or more games on a two-game Friday when the Eastern Conference-leading Panthers (52-15-6, 110 points) welcome the Jets (35-28-11, 81 points) to FLA Live Arena.



TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2022

7:00 PM ET



@



RDS, TSN2, MSG+

7:00 PM ET



@



BSFL, NHLN, TSN3



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



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