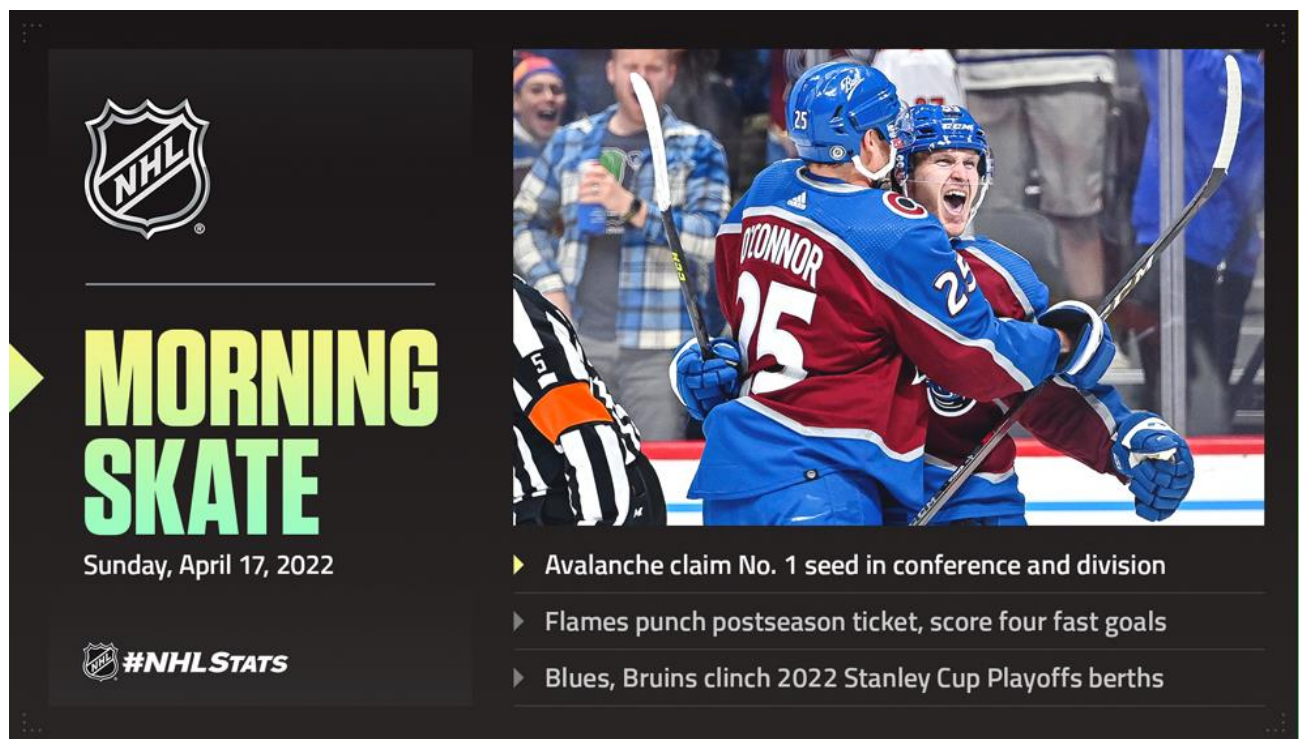


NHL MORNING SKATE – APRIL 17, 2022



MORNING SKATE
Sunday, April 17, 2022

#NHLSTATS

- ▶ Avalanche claim No. 1 seed in conference and division
- ▶ Flames punch postseason ticket, score four fast goals
- ▶ Blues, Bruins clinch 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs berths

* **Nathan MacKinnon** hit the 30-goal mark as the Avalanche clinched the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference for the fourth time in franchise history and the Central Division title for the 13th time.

* “C” you in May! The Flames became the third Western Conference team to clinch a berth in the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs hours before establishing the third-fastest four goals to start a period in NHL history and fastest in 45 years.

* **Brayden Schenn** scored the game’s 11th goal as the overtime winner to send the Blues to the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs after Minnesota rallied from a 4-1 deficit in what is expected to be a First Round preview between two Central Division rivals.

* The Bruins secured their sixth consecutive playoff appearance – now 10 of 16 postseasons berths have been accounted for as we enter the final two weeks of the 2021-22 regular season.

* A total of 102 goals were scored Saturday (including shootout-deciding goals), which is tied for the second most in a single day in NHL history (also 102 on Nov. 16, 2019). The most was 103 on Jan. 23, 1993.



SATURDAY'S RESULTS

1 FINAL 2	0 FINAL 4	3 FINAL 4	5 FINAL OT 6
0 FINAL 4	3 FINAL 4	8 FINAL 4	5 FINAL OT 4
4 FINAL 7	1 FINAL 2	4 FINAL 7	1 FINAL 9
3 FINAL SO 4	1 FINAL 2		

COLORADO CLINCHES NO. 1 SEED IN WESTERN CONFERENCE AND CENTRAL DIVISION

Nathan MacKinnon scored two of his team's seven goals to [reach the 30-goal mark for the fourth time in his career](#) as the Avalanche (55-14-6, 116 points) bested the Hurricanes (48-20-8, 104 points) to clinch both the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference and the Central Division title. Colorado, which extended its win streak to nine games, leads the NHL with nine seven-goal outings in 2021-22.

* The Avalanche clinched the top spot in the Western Conference, despite facing a 10-point deficit behind the No. 1 seed on Dec. 3, 2021. The last team to win their conference after overcoming a deficit of 10 or more points was the Rangers in 2014-15 (13), also collecting the Metropolitan Division title.

* Of note, Colorado won the Presidents' Trophy in 2020-21, when the League temporarily suspended conferences for the duration of the season.



STATS AND INFORMATION

@PR_NHL @PR_NHL #NHLStats



AVALANCHE

The Avalanche have clinched the No. 1 seed in their conference for the fourth time in franchise history and first since 2000-01. The club also claimed back-to-back division titles for the first time since its run of nine straight from 1994-95 to 2002-03.

 #NHLSTATS



FAST FOUR: CALGARY ACHIEVES RARE FEAT, PLAYOFF BOUND

After being held off the score sheet in the first period, Calgary scored four goals in the opening 3:11 of the second – before totaling nine unanswered – led by **Matthew Tkachuk** (2-2—4), **Johnny Gaudreau** (2-2—4) and **Elias Lindholm** (1-3—4). Hours earlier, by virtue of an Oilers regulation win, the Flames clinched a postseason berth for the third time in four seasons and 31st time in franchise history.



* The Flames (46-20-9, 101 points) earned 100 points for the sixth time in franchise history and tied their second-fewest contests required to hit the mark (75 GP). Their fastest came in 1988-89 (69 GP) en route to the franchise's first Stanley Cup.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

 @PR_NHL  @PR_NHL  #NHLStats



Fastest four goals to start a period, NHL history:

2:08 (P2) - Bruins on Dec. 19, 1974
3:04 (P2) - Canadiens on April 2, 1977
3:11 (P3) - Flames on April 16, 2022

 #NHLSTATS



SCHENN SENDS BLUES TO PLAYOFFS WITH OVERTIME WINNER

A thrilling 11-goal contest between the Blues and Wild featured St. Louis skating to a 4-1 lead and Minnesota tying the game at 5-5 to set up a **Brayden Schenn** (1-2—3) overtime winner to send his team to the playoffs for the fourth consecutive campaign, 10th time in the past 11 seasons and 45th time in franchise history.

* The back-and-forth game is expected to be a First Round preview between the Central Division clubs as the second-place Blues (45-20-10, 100 points) and third-place Wild (46-21-7, 99 points) have been jockeying between No. 2 and No. 3 for 57 of the past 61 days (dating to Feb. 15).



CLINCHED

* The Blues' 45 all-time playoff appearances are the most among non-Original Six clubs (ahead of PHI: 40) and second most among all clubs since 1967-68, behind the Bruins (47, including 2022). St. Louis made 25 of its 45 appearances from 1980 to 2004, tied for the third-longest stretch of [consecutive playoff appearances](#) in NHL history.

* Schenn is one of ten members of the Blues' Stanley Cup-winning team who remains with the club – St. Louis' roster features a total of 12 Stanley Cup winners overall, which is the third most among all clubs behind Tampa Bay (17) and Washington (13).



STATS AND INFORMATION

 @PR_NHL  @PR_NHL  #NHLStats



BRUINS CLINCH, ATLANTIC FOES MAINTAIN LEADS

Two goals in the opening 2:01 of the first period from **Trent Frederic** and **Erik Haula** were all the Bruins needed Saturday to punch their ticket to the 2022 postseason, marking their sixth consecutive playoff appearance, the 13th time in 15 years and 75th instance in franchise history (second all-time behind Montreal, 85).



* **Mark Giordano** (1-2—3) recorded a game-high three points and scored the overtime winner to help Toronto (49-20-6, 104 points), which holds second place in the Atlantic Division, match the franchise record for most wins in a season (49 in 2017-18). Giordano (38 years, 195 days) became the third Maple Leafs defenseman age 38 or older to record three points in a game, joining **Carl Brewer** (0-3—3 on Jan. 7, 1980) and **Tim Horton** (1-2—3 on March 5 & 6, 1969), as well as the oldest player in franchise history to score in overtime, a mark previously held by **Art Duncan** (38 years, 170 days on Dec. 21, 1929).



OLDEST DEFENSEMEN TO SCORE AN OVERTIME GOAL

► REGULAR SEASON, NHL HISTORY

DEFENSEMAN	TEAM	DATE	AGE (Y, D)
NICKLAS LIDSTROM	DET	NOV. 21, 2010	40, 207
CHRIS CHELIOS	DET	MARCH 13, 2002	40, 47
LARRY MURPHY	DET	DEC. 18, 2000	39, 285
MATHIEU SCHNEIDER	MTL	FEB. 27, 2009	39, 260
SERGEI GONCHAR	OTT	APRIL 25, 2013	39, 12
SCOTT STEVENS	NJD	MARCH 1, 2003	38, 334
PHIL HOUSLEY	CHI	OCT. 31, 2002	38, 236
NICKLAS LIDSTROM	DET	DEC. 10, 2008	38, 226
MARK GIORDANO	TOR	APRIL 16, 2022	38, 195

#NHLStats

* **Victor Hedman** (0-4—4) and **Nikita Kucherov** (2-2—4) each posted four points as the third-place Lightning (46-21-8, 100 points) recorded 100 points in a season for the seventh time in franchise history – five of those instances have come under head coach **Jon Cooper**. Saturday marked Hedman's third career four-assist outing, which tied **Tyson Barrie** for the second most among active defensemen behind **Morgan Rielly** (4), while Kucherov tied **Steven Stamkos** (17) for the most four-point games in franchise history.

* [Click here](#) to read more on Calgary, St. Louis and Boston 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.

SHESTERKIN, SMITH SHOW OUT WITH SHUTOUTS ON #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

A couple of goaltenders posted notable shutouts Saturday to highlight the latest edition of [#NHLStats: Live Updates](#):

* **Igor Shesterkin** (20 saves) blanked the Red Wings to follow up **Alexandar Georgiev's** shutout against the Flyers on Wednesday. The tandem became the fifth pair of goaltenders in franchise history to [post shutouts in consecutive team games](#) and first since 2014-15 when **Cam Talbot** and **Henrik Lundqvist** combined for the feat.

* **Mike Smith** (39 saves) recorded his second straight shutout and became the fifth netminder in franchise history to accomplish the feat, joining **Curtis Joseph** (2x), **Cam Talbot**, **Dwayne Roloson** and **Tommy Salo**.



STATS AND INFORMATION

@PR_NHL @PR_NHL #NHLStats



Mike Smith (40 years, 25 days) became the sixth goaltender in NHL history to record consecutive shutouts at age 40 or older. The others: Dominik Hasek (2x), Johnny Bower (2x), Martin Brodeur, Dwayne Roloson and George Hainsworth.

 **#NHLSTATS**




QUICK CLICKS

- * [Predators hang on against Blackhawks, strengthen hold on West wild card](#)
- * [Capitals score eight in win against Canadiens, close in on playoff berth](#)
- * [Bills QB Josh Allen gives out fist bumps in Sabres locker room](#)
- * [Blues superfan Laila Anderson writes Fleury letter, brings him flower](#)
- * [Brad Meier officiates last NHL game](#)












HOP IN TO EASTER SUNDAY





Easter Sunday features twelve teams in action, including the NHL's longest active point and win streak, when **Jonathan Huberdeau's 13-game point streak** is put on the line as the Panthers (53-15-6, 112 points) visit the Red Wings (29-36-10, 68 points). Florida, which is 9-0-0 dating to March 29, will aim to post a [double-digit win streak for the second time in franchise history](#).



TODAY'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022

1:00 PM ET		@		ESPN, TVAS
5:00 PM ET		@		NBCSP, MSG-B
6:00 PM ET		@		BSSO, BSMW, NHLN
6:00 PM ET		@		BSWI, BSN, NBCSCA
7:30 PM ET		@		SNO, MSG+
8:30 PM ET		@		BSSD, BSOH, BSSC

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

STATS AND INFORMATION

@PR_NHL
 @PR_NHL
 #NHLStats