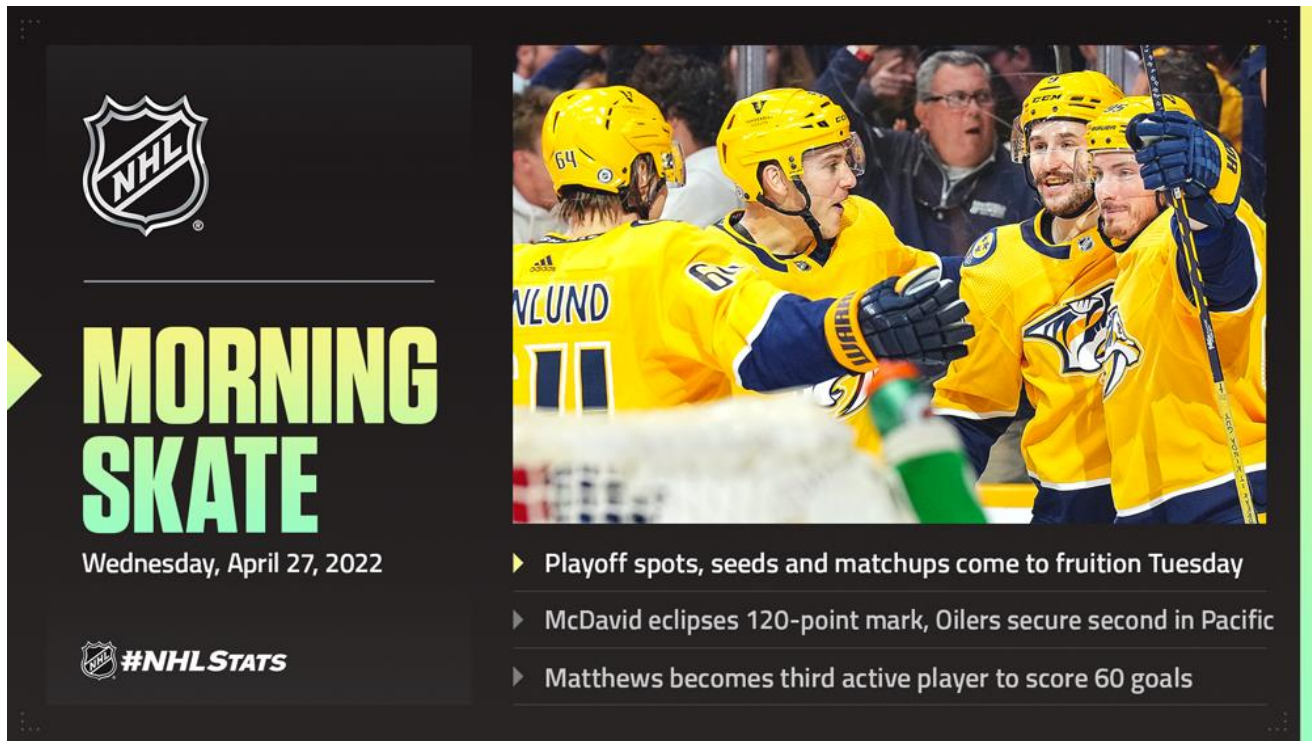


NHL MORNING SKATE – APRIL 27, 2022



NHL

MORNING SKATE

Wednesday, April 27, 2022

#NHLSTATS

- ▶ Playoff spots, seeds and matchups come to fruition Tuesday
- ▶ McDavid eclipses 120-point mark, Oilers secure second in Pacific
- ▶ Matthews becomes third active player to score 60 goals

* Two more tickets to the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs were secured as the Predators and Kings became the 14th and 15th teams to clinch a berth. Now just one spot remains open with three days of regular-season play left in the 2021-22 campaign.



























* The Hurricanes clinched the Metropolitan Division, securing top spot in their division for the second straight season and established franchise records in the process.

* Another First Round matchup has been locked in as the Oilers and Kings are set to meet in the playoffs for the eighth time and first in 30 years.

* **Connor McDavid** increased his lead in the Art Ross Trophy race with his third four-point performance of the campaign and recorded the highest single-season total by an Oilers skater in 31 years.

* **Auston Matthews** became the first U.S.-born skater in NHL history to score 60 goals in a single campaign and helped the Maple Leafs secure home-ice advantage in the First Round of the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

 TUESDAY'S
RESULTS

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

PREDATORS, KINGS CLINCH NHL'S 14TH & 15TH BERTHS IN 2022 STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

By virtue of the Stars defeating the Golden Knights, both the Predators (44-29-7, 95 points) and idle Kings (43-27-10, 96 points) clinched a berth into the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

* [Click here](#) to read more on Nashville and Los Angeles 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.



* On the night captain **Roman Josi** (1-1—2) collected his 400th career assist, the Predators secured a point and clinched a berth into the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the eighth straight season and 15th time in franchise history.

* The Predators' streak of eight consecutive postseason appearances is tied with the Capitals for the second longest active stretch in the NHL, behind only the Penguins (16, including 2022). Nashville has reached the postseason in 15 of its 23 campaigns since entering the NHL in 1998-99 (65%), reaching the Final once (2017).



* The idle Kings became the 15th team – and seventh Western Conference club – to clinch a berth in the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs and solidified a First Round matchup against the Oilers. Los Angeles will be making its first postseason appearance since 2018 and 31st in franchise history. Six players remain with the club from their last playoff appearance: **Dustin Brown, Drew Doughty, Alex Iafallo, Adrian Kempe, Anze Kopitar** and **Jonathan Quick**.

* The 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs will mark the first time the Kings serve as the lone California-based club in the postseason since 1993-94, the first season in which the NHL had three California-based clubs.



* After an Edmonton victory secured the No. 2 seed in the Pacific Division, Los Angeles enters the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs with the No. 3 seed – securing the second First Round matchup of the postseason. The two teams will meet in the playoffs for the eighth time ever and first time in 30 years, with the Oilers owning a 5-2 series edge after eliminating the **Wayne Gretzky**-led Kings in their last meeting.

[1992 Division Semifinals – EDM 4, LAK 2](#)

The 1992 Division Semifinals marked the last of four consecutive head-to-head meetings in the Stanley Cup Playoffs between the two clubs since **Wayne Gretzky** was traded to Los Angeles from Edmonton ahead of the 1988-89 season (also [1991 DSF](#), [1990 DF](#) & [1989 DSF](#)). The 1992 postseason (2-5—7 in 6 GP) marked just the second playoff year of Gretzky's career in which he collected fewer than 10 points after he notched 2-1—3 (3 GP in 1980) during his first-ever appearance.

HURRICANES CLINCH METROPOLITAN DIVISION TITLE

Pyotr Kochetkov (31 saves) joined **Justin Peters** (3-0-0 in 2009-10) as the second goaltender in franchise history to start their career with three straight wins as the Hurricanes (53-20-8, 114 points) clinched the Metropolitan Division and captured their second straight division title. Carolina still awaits its First Round opponent, with Boston (50-25-5, 105 points) currently sitting in the first Wild Card spot with two games remaining in 2021-22.

* Carolina (53-20-8, 114 points) established a Hurricanes/Whalers record for wins and points in a season, surpassing its previous best set in 2005-06 (52 wins & 112 points) en route to the franchise's first and only Stanley Cup.

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2022

Carolina earned its sixth division title in Hurricanes/Whalers history and has done so in consecutive seasons for the first time in franchise history

#NHLSTATS



STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS BEGIN MAY 2 ESPN TNT SN TV SPORTS

McDAVID OPENS UP SEVEN-POINT CUSHION IN ART ROSS TROPHY RACE

Connor McDavid (1-3-4) recorded his 22nd career four-point game to boost his season totals to 44-78-122 (79 GP) and move seven points ahead of Florida's Jonathan Huberdeau (30-85-115) in the NHL's 2021-22 Art Ross Trophy race. He can become the seventh player in NHL history to win the Art Ross Trophy at least four times (Wayne Gretzky: 10x; Mario Lemieux: 6x; Gordie Howe: 6x; Phil Esposito: 5x; Jaromir Jagr: 5x; & Stan Mikita: 4x).

ART ROSS TROPHY RACE

2021-22 SEASON

1ST	2ND	3RD
		
CONNOR McDAVID	JONATHAN HUBERDEAU	JOHNNY GAUDREAU
122 POINTS	115 POINTS	113 POINTS

#NHLSTATS

* The Oilers captain has notched the [highest single-season point total by an Edmonton skater](#) since **Mark Messier** in 1989-90 (45-84—129 in 79 GP). Only three players in McDavid's lifetime have collected more points in a single campaign: **Nikita Kucherov** (41-87—128 in 2018-19), **Jaromir Jagr** (54-69—123 in 2005-06 & 44-83—127 in 1998-99) and **Joe Thornton** (29-96—125 in 2005-06).

* McDavid, in the midst of his fifth career 100-point campaign, can become the fifth player in NHL history to win his first Stanley Cup after posting five or more 100-point seasons – Lemieux (6x; 1991 PIT), **Steve Yzerman** (6x; 1997 DET), Gretzky (5x; 1984 EDM) and **Denis Savard** (5x; 1993 MTL) are the only players to have done so to date.

ICYMI: Mike Smith (40 years, 35 days) made 33 saves to earn his ninth straight win and tied **Jacques Plante** (41 years, 357 days & 9-0-0 in 1970-71 w/ TOR) for the longest win streak in NHL history by a goaltender age 40 or older. With two games remaining on Edmonton's schedule (April 28 vs. SJS & April 29 vs. VAN), Smith also has a chance to match **Grant Fuhr**'s franchise record (10 GP in 1985-86) for the [longest win streak by an Oilers netminder](#).

MATTHEWS HITS 60 GOALS AS MAPLE LEAFS CLINCH NO. 2 SEED IN ATLANTIC DIVISION

With the chants of MVP echoing throughout Scotiabank Arena, **Auston Matthews** (2-0—2) became the NHL's first 60-goal scorer in a decade and helped the Maple Leafs (53-21-7, 113 points) clinch second place in the Atlantic Division, securing home-ice advantage in the First Round of the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

* Toronto has won 22 of 29 best-of-seven series that began on home ice, claiming a Game 1 victory 18 times in those matchups. Their last series win came in a matchup that began on home ice, during the [2004 Conference Quarterfinals](#) (4-3 W vs. OTT).

* Matthews (60-46—106 in 73 GP) became the 10th different NHL player in the past 30 years to hit 60 goals in a campaign and the third active, joining **Alex Ovechkin** (65 in 2007-08) and **Steven Stamkos** (60 in 2011-12). Among that list, only [five required fewer games](#) to reach the benchmark.



STATS AND INFORMATION

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FIRST-EVER PLAYER TO 60 GOALS IN A SEASON BY BIRTH COUNTRY

CANADA	CZECHIA	FINLAND	RUSSIA	UNITED STATES
				
PHIL ESPOSITO	JAROMIR JAGR	JARI KURRI	ALEXANDER MOGILNY	AUSTON MATTHEWS
				
1970-71	1995-96	1984-85	1992-93	2021-22

 #NHLSTATS

* Matthews, who [tied the Maple Leafs record](#) for most multi-goal games in a season, also became the [ninth different player in the past 30 years](#) to record 60 or more goals and 100 or more points in a single campaign – the only active player to do so is Ovechkin in 2007-08 (65-47—112).



“

It was pretty special, honestly. The reception from my teammates, the crowd, everything. It sends chills down your bones. It's kind of hard to put into words, you know?



AUSTON MATTHEWS
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

ICYMI: [Auston Matthews had NHL Shop's top-selling player jersey for the 2021-22 season](#)

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

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STAMKOS CONTINUES STRING OF SUCCESS EN ROUTE TO FIRST 100-POINT SEASON

Steven Stamkos (2-2—4) registered his fifth consecutive outing with three-plus points to reach the 100-point mark in a single season for the first time in his career and helped the Lightning (50-22-8,108 points) inch closer to securing the No. 3 seed in the Atlantic Division.



MOST CONSECUTIVE GAMES WITH 3+ POINTS
▶ NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	GP
JARI KURRI	LAK	1992-93	6
WAYNE GRETZKY	EDM	1985-86	6
BOBBY ORR	BOS	1970-71	6
STEVEN STAMKOS	TBL	2021-22	5
MARIO LEMIEUX	PIT	1988-89	5
BERNIE NICHOLLS	LAK	1988-89	5
WAYNE GRETZKY	EDM	1984-85	5
WAYNE GRETZKY	EDM	1981-82	5
KENT NILSSON	CGY	1980-81	5
GILBERT PERREAULT	BUF	1975-76	5

#NHLSTATS

* Stamkos became the sixth player in 2021-22 to notch his first career 100-point campaign, joining **Jonathan Huberdeau, Johnny Gaudreau, Auston Matthews, Kirill Kaprizov** and **Matthew Tkachuk**. Only two seasons in NHL history have featured more first-time 100-point getters: 1992-93 (7: **Teemu Selanne, Alexander Mogilny, Mats Sundin, Pavel Bure, Rick Tocchet, Craig Janney & Joe Juneau**) and 1984-85 (7: **John Osgroednick, Mike Gartner, Brent Sutter, Paul MacLean, Bernie Nicholls, Mario Lemieux & John Tonelli**)

#NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES – BRUINS STRIKE IN A SIX-SECOND SUCCESSION

The [Tuesday edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#) features a number of notes from the 13-game slate, including **Erik Haula** and **Taylor Hall** scoring six seconds apart to match the [second-fastest two goals in franchise history](#). The duo helped the Bruins keep pace with the Lightning for third place in the Atlantic Division and prevented the Panthers from securing the franchise's first Presidents' Trophy.



QUICK CLICKS

- * [Gabriel Landeskog](#) could return in Game 1 for Avalanche
- * [Alex Ovechkin](#) honored by Capitals for becoming third-highest goal scorer
- * Trophy Tracker: [Darryl Sutter](#), [Gerard Gallant](#) top Adams Award picks for coach of year
- * CHEL Intel: Weekly NHL Gaming World Championship newsletter
- * [NHL on TNT's inaugural season delivers significant viewership gains](#)

NHL on TNT's Inaugural Regular Season Delivers Significant Viewership Gains

- Viewership for NHL on TNT's regular season live game coverage was up 29% vs. 2020-21 NHL regular season games on cable and up 24% vs. 2019-20.
- Female viewership for NHL on TNT's regular season live game coverage was up 56% vs. 2020-21 NHL regular season games on cable.
- Bleacher Report's hockey content vertical - B/R Open Ice - has grown 46% on social since Jan. 1 and B/R app and website users spent nearly 20 hours per person engaging with NHL-related content this season, up 12% year over year.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT HOCKEY


With 15 of 16 postseason berths accounted for, all eyes will be on the Stars (45-30-5, 95 points) who have a chance to clinch the final Wild Card spot in the Western Conference when they welcome the Coyotes (23-50-7, 53 points) to American Airlines Center on a five-game Wednesday.



TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022

7:30 PM ET		@		MSG, SNO, SNE, RDS
7:30 PM ET		@		TVAS, SNW, SNP, NBCSP
8:30 PM ET		@		NBCSCH, ATTSN-RM
8:30 PM ET		@		BSSWX, BSAZX
10:00 PM ET		@		ROOT-NW+, BSW, TVAS

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

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