



MORNING SKATE

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022

 **#NHLStats**



- ▶ Rangers hand Hurricanes first home loss in Game 7 victory
- ▶ Rangers, Lightning set to meet in Eastern Conference Final
- ▶ MacKinnon, McDavid face off in Game 1 tonight in Denver

* The 2022 Conference Finals are set, with New York securing the lone remaining spot with a 6-2 Game 7 victory against Carolina. The Rangers will face the two-time defending Stanley Cup champion Lightning in the Eastern Conference Final, beginning Wednesday in New York.

* The Western Conference Final begins tonight in Denver, with the Avalanche set to host the Oilers in a matchup between the two highest-scoring clubs this postseason. Game time is 8 p.m. ET on TNT, Sportsnet, TVAS and CBC.

* It has been a combined 81 years since the Avalanche (21), Rangers (28) and Oilers (32) have won the Stanley Cup. Meanwhile, the two-time defending champion Lightning are seeking to become the fourth different NHL franchise to [three-peat](#) and first since the Islanders from 1980-83 (4x).

* **Did You Know?** The Lightning have 17 Stanley Cup winners on their roster while the three remaining clubs have six combined.



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KREIDER PROPELS RANGERS INTO EASTERN CONFERENCE FINAL

A six-goal Game 7 from the Rangers, led by **Chris Kreider** (2-0—2), **Mika Zibanejad** (0-3—3), **Adam Fox** (1-1—2) and **Igor Shesterkin** (37 saves), catapulted New York into the fourth and final spot in the 2022 Conference Finals as the Rangers became the fourth team in Stanley Cup Playoffs history to win [multiple series in one postseason after facing a multi-game deficit in each](#). New York, which handed Carolina its first home loss of the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs, improved to 8-1 in its past nine Game 7s (2-0 in 2022).



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* Shesterkin, who made 16 saves in the first period while the Rangers built a two-goal lead, became the third goaltender in franchise history to win multiple career Game 7s, joining **Henrik Lundqvist** (6-2) and **Mike Richter** (2-0).


* Zibanejad, who tied **James Patrick** (0-3—3 in 1992 DSF) for the most assists in a Game 7 in Rangers history, improved his totals to 4-7—11 in contests when facing elimination in the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs – tied for the most in NHL history in a single postseason with **Justin Williams** (6-5—11 in 7 GP in 2014 w/ LAK) and **Anze Kopitar** (5-6—11 in 7 GP in 2014 w/ LAK).

* Fox recorded his ninth and 10th point in games when facing elimination (2-8—10) to establish an NHL record for most by a defenseman in a single postseason, surpassing **Ray Bourque** in 1980 (2-6—8 in 4 GP), **Ian Turnbull** in 1976 (1-7—8 in 3 GP) and **Denis Potvin** in 1975 (3-5—8 in 9 GP). He also became the fifth blueliner in franchise history to record multiple points in a Game 7 – only **Brian Leetch** (1-2—3 in 1992 DSF) and Patrick (0-3—3 in 1992 DSF) have more.


* Kreider scored his 14th and 15th career goals in games when facing elimination. Only five players in NHL history have as many: **Mark Messier** (16), **Jaromir Jagr** (15), **Maurice Richard** (15), **Gilbert Perreault** (15) and Williams (15). Kreider surpassed Capitals captain **Alex Ovechkin** (13) for the most among active skaters.


* Kreider also became just the fourth Rangers skater to record a multi-goal outing in a Game 7, with the other three all coming in the 1992 Division Semifinals against New Jersey: **Adam Graves** (2), Messier (2) and **Darren Turcotte** (2).

**STANLEY CUP
PLAYOFFS**
2022



Chris Kreider improved to 7-1 in Game 7s – only six players in NHL history have more Game 7 wins: Glenn Anderson (8), Ray Bourque (8), Brad Richards (8), Justin Williams (8), Ryan McDonagh (8) and Carl Hagelin (8)

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RANGERS ADVANCE TO CONFERENCE FINALS FOR FOURTH TIME SINCE 2012

The Rangers have clinched a berth in the Conference Finals for the first time since 2015 and the fourth time in the past 10 years. New York's fourth Conference Final appearance since 2012 is the second most among all teams over that span, trailing only its 2022 Eastern Conference Final opponent, Tampa Bay (6).



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STANLEY CUP
PLAYOFFS
2022



ADVANCE

NEW YORK
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NEW YORK
NEW YORK

* **Chris Kreider** is the only member of New York's 2015 team who remains on the roster – he concluded that postseason with the [second-most goals among Rangers players](#) – and has been with the club in all three Conference Finals appearances over the past 10 years.

* Among players to skate in at least one game for the Rangers so far during the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs, five others have Conference Finals experience: **Barclay Goodrow** (2019 w/ SJS, 2020 & 2021 w/ TBL), **Ryan Reaves** (2018, 2020 & 2021 w/ VGK), **Justin Braun** (2016 & 2019 w/ SJS), **Jacob Trouba** (2018 w/ WPG) and **Andrew Copp** (2018 w/ WPG).

EASTERN
CONFERENCE FINAL
2022



TBL

VS

NYR



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* The Rangers and Lightning have met in the postseason once, also during the Conference Finals. Tampa Bay earned a 2-0 shutout win in Game 7 to advance to the 2015 Stanley Cup Final, a contest where Lightning netminder **Ben Bishop** became the third goaltender in NHL history to record multiple Game 7 shutouts in a single postseason (following **Patrick Roy** in 2002 & **Tim Thomas** in 2011).

* The Lightning-Rangers series will pit two of the League's top netminders: **Andrei Vasilevskiy** and **Igor Shesterkin**. Shesterkin, a first-time Vezina Trophy finalist, posted a League-leading 2.07 goals-against average and .935 save percentage in the regular season – the seventh-best save percentage among all NHL goaltenders since the statistic was officially recorded in 1955-56 (min. 25 GP). Vasilevskiy, meanwhile, was tied for the NHL lead in wins during the regular season (39), marking the fifth consecutive campaign he has led or co-led the League in wins.



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HIGHEST CAREER POINTS-PER-GAME

ACTIVE SKATERS, STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS (MIN. 30 GP)

1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH
			
LEON DRAISAITL	CONNOR McDAVID	NATHAN MACKINNON	MIKKO RANTANEN
			
1.61	1.45	1.37	1.19

STANLEY CUP  PLAYOFFS 2022

QUICK CLICKS

- * [2022 NHL Conference Finals schedule](#)
- * [Antti Raanta](#) of Hurricanes leaves Game 7 against Rangers with injury
- * [Brandon Hagel](#) expected to play for Lightning in Game 1 of Eastern Final
- * [Projected No. 1 pick Shane Wright](#) to interview with 12 teams at Combine
- * [Paul Ludwinski's versatility, smarts stand out ahead of 2022 NHL Draft](#)

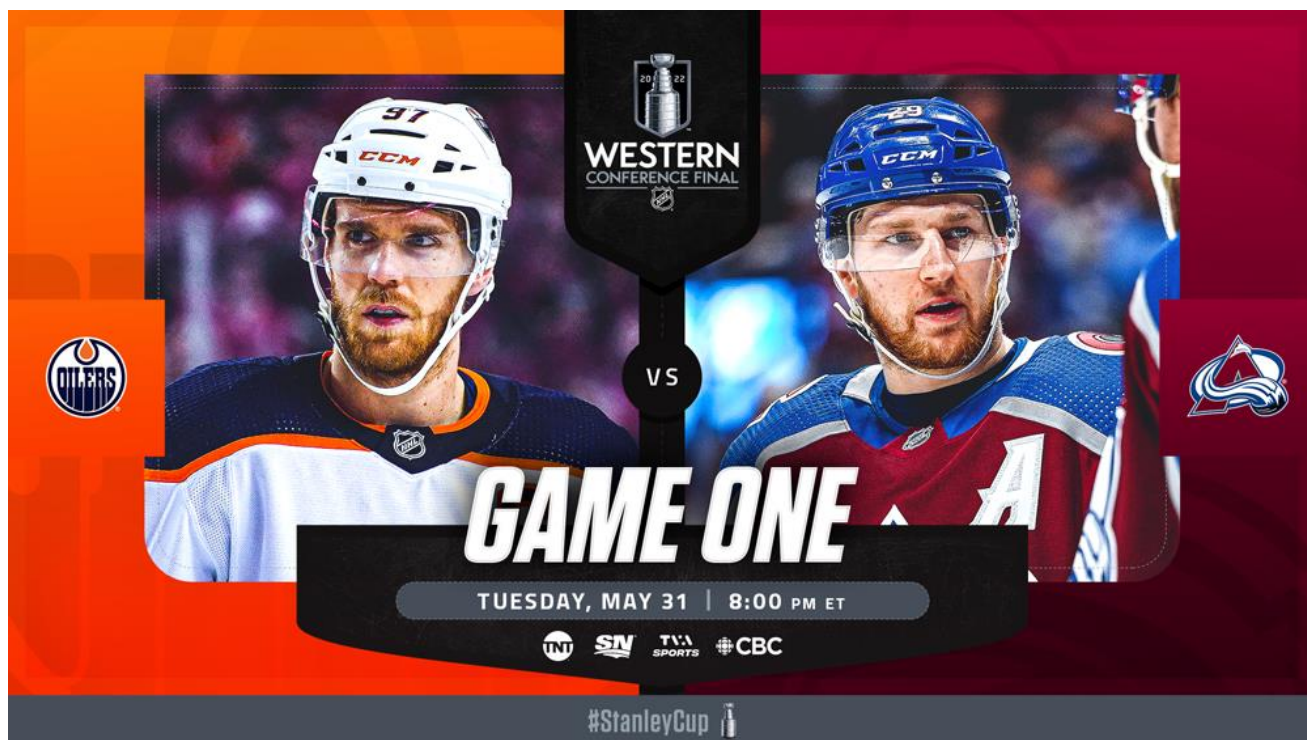
HIGH-SCORING OILERS, AVALANCHE READY FOR GAME 1 IN DENVER

After combining for 29 points in the Second Round and 52 overall this postseason, **Leon Draisaitl** and **Connor McDavid** take their identical 7-19—26 stat lines into Game 1 in Denver, where the home team also enters the Conference Finals with a star-powered duo tied for the team lead in points (**Nathan MacKinnon**: 8-5—13 and **Cale Makar**: 3-10—13).



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* McDavid sits one point from 150 in 2021-22 (regular season and playoffs combined) and two from 50 in his Stanley Cup Playoffs career. He can become the first player in 26 years to accumulate at least [150 total points in a season including playoffs](#) and, should he notch two points in Game 1, become the sixth player ever to record 50 postseason points in 34 or fewer career games.

* Draisaitl heads into his first Conference Finals with at least three points in each of the past five games (making up the entire Second Round, where he recorded 17 points). That is a Stanley Cup Playoffs record and one shy of the longest such run ever recorded during a single *regular season*. Teammate **Zach Hyman** enters on a hot stretch of his own as he sits one shy of equalling the [longest goal streak in franchise playoff history](#).

STANLEY CUP
PLAYOFFS
2022



Leon Draisaitl has an active streak of five consecutive games with 3+ points (a playoff record). The longest stretch of games with 3+ points within a *regular season* is six contests, achieved by Jari Kurri (1992-93), Wayne Gretzky (1985-86) and Bobby Orr (1970-71).

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* MacKinnon scored a goal in all three games against Edmonton in 2021-22 and has a four-game goal streak against the club dating to Nov. 27, 2019 (4-3—7 in 4 GP). One of those tallies was an overtime marker in the first meeting between the Oilers and Avalanche this season, when [Makar set up MacKinnon for the winner off a 2-on-1 rush against McDavid](#).

SMITH, KUEMPER HAVE HISTORY OF SUCCESS AGAINST OPPOSING CLUB

Oilers goaltender **Mike Smith** is set to play in the third Conference Finals of his career (also 2011 w/ TBL & 2012 w/ PHX) while Avalanche netminder **Darcy Kuemper** readies for his debut in the round. Kuemper holds the edge over Smith in their seven head-to-head meetings, but both goaltenders have had regular season success against the club they're set to face.



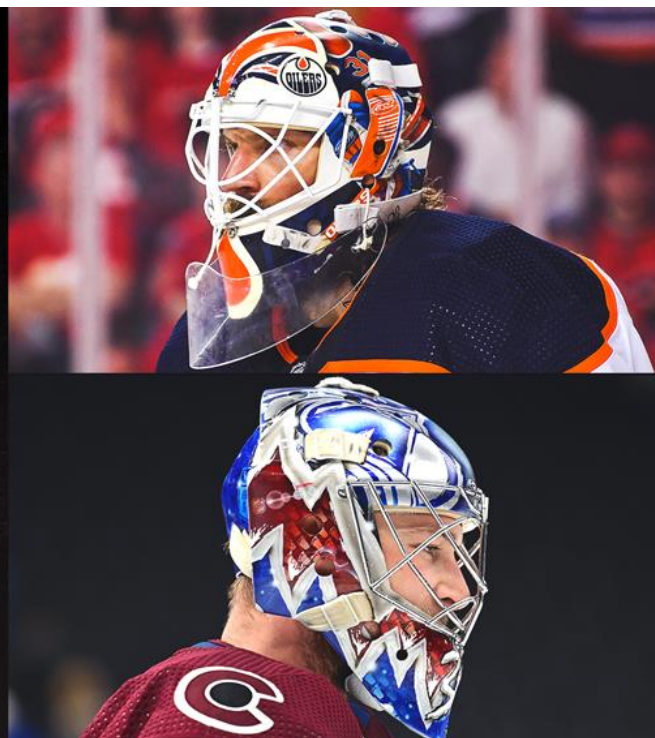
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Mike Smith has a career record of 13-1-5 against the Avalanche – the only club he has fewer than two regulation losses against. Kuemper owns a 10-2-4 record in 16 career regular season appearances versus the Oilers.

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