

## NHL MORNING SKATE – DEC. 10, 2022

**Morning Skate** Saturday, December 10, 2022

- Central Division-leading Jets improve to 7-1-0 in last eight games
- Ovechkin reaches another rare milestone on "Road to 800"
- More than one-third of 2022-23 NHL season will be complete following Saturday's slate

- \* Two division-leading teams tallied wins Friday, while **Lawson Crouse** scored a late go-ahead goal as the Coyotes stunned the League-leading Bruins at Mullett Arena.
- \* **Alex Ovechkin** scored the 500th even-strength goal of his NHL career and is now just four away from reaching the 800-goal milestone.
- \* The 2022-23 NHL season is set to eclipse the one-third mark as 16 teams take to the ice Saturday.

**FRIDAY'S RESULTS**

C 1 FINAL 3 SJS	NYR 6 FINAL 4 NJ	PIT 4 FINAL OT 3 NYI	SJS 1 FINAL 4 WSH
TOR 3 FINAL 1 CHI	BOS 2 FINAL 5 PIT	NYR 2 FINAL SO 1 CAR	BOS 3 FINAL 4 FLA
PIT 1 FINAL OT 2 VAN	TOR 6 FINAL 1 WPG		

### VEGAS, WINNIPEG WIN GAMES AGAINST PHILADELPHIA, CHICAGO

The Western Conference-leading Golden Knights (20-8-1, 41 points) earned an overtime win Friday, while the Central Division-leading Jets (18-7-1, 37 points) also picked up a victory to keep pace:

- \* **Jonathan Marchessault** scored his seventh overtime goal with Vegas to match **Shea Theodore** for

the [most in franchise history](#) and help the Golden Knights open an eight-point lead on the Kraken (15-8-3, 33 points) atop the Pacific Division standings. Vegas, which became the first Western Conference club to reach the 40-point mark this season, plays host to League-leading Boston (21-4-1, 43 points) at T-Mobile Arena on Sunday.

\* **Josh Morrissey** (5-25—30 in 26 GP) recorded two assists to become the [fourth NHL defenseman with 30 points this season](#) and help Winnipeg improve to 7-1-0 in its last eight games while also opening a two-point lead on idle Dallas (15-7-5, 35 points) atop the Central Division standings. Morrissey became the fastest defenseman in Jets/Thrashers franchise history to reach the 30-point or 25-assist mark in a season.



**Josh Morrissey (5-25—30 in 26 GP) became the fastest defenseman in Jets/Thrashers franchise history to reach 30 points in a season, eclipsing the previous mark set by Dustin Byfuglien with Atlanta in 2010-11 (10-20—30 in 29 GP)**

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### **NEW YORK CLUBS WIN AS WILD CARD MOVEMENT CONTINUES IN EAST**

The Islanders (17-11-0, 34 points) and Rangers (14-10-5, 33 points) each won as movement continued in the Eastern Conference Wild Card picture. At least one Eastern Wild Card team has changed by end-of-day 16 times over the past month (since Nov. 10), with nine different clubs as part of that rotation.

\* **Brock Nelson** (2-0—2) extended his point streak to seven games (5-3—8 in 7 GP), establishing a career high. He has not gone consecutive contests without a point this season, finding the scoresheet in 22 of 28 outings. **Mathew Barzal** collected two assists and also has not been held off the scoresheet in consecutive games this season, notching a point in 21 of 28 appearances.



Brock Nelson and Mathew Barzal are among a group of 15 NHL players who have not gone consecutive games without a point this season (min. 20 GP). New York is one of four clubs with multiple players on that list (also NJD, TOR & WPG).



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\* **Igor Shesterkin** made 41 saves and stopped both shootout attempts by Colorado. Shesterkin secured the 11th 40-save win of his NHL career, tying **Mike Richter** and **John Vanbiesbrouck** for the third most among Rangers goaltenders (since 1955-56). The only New York netminders with more in that span are **Gump Worsley** (22) and **Henrik Lundqvist** (21).

### **PITTSBURGH RALLIES PAST BUFFALO IN REMATCH OF FIRST-EVER WINTER CLASSIC**

Ahead of the Penguins and Bruins squaring off outdoors at Fenway Park in the 2023 Winter Classic on Jan. 2, **Jeff Carter** scored the overtime winner while **Tristan Jarry** [made 28 saves](#) as the Penguins earned a come-from-behind road win against the Sabres. Pittsburgh and Buffalo contested the first-ever Winter Classic, which took place roughly 10 miles from KeyBank Center on [Jan. 1, 2008](#), and will celebrate its 15-year anniversary a day before the 2023 edition of the event.

\* Carter's overtime winner marked the 16th of his NHL career, tied with **Brent Burns**, **Jonathan Toews** and **Max Pacioretty** for the [fourth most among active players](#) behind only **Alex Ovechkin** (25), **Sidney Crosby** (19) and **Brad Marchand** (17). Carter is one of six active players who dressed in the [2010 Winter Classic](#) at Fenway Park (also **Patrice Bergeron**, **Claude Giroux**, **David Krejci**, **James van Riemsdyk** & **Blake Wheeler**).

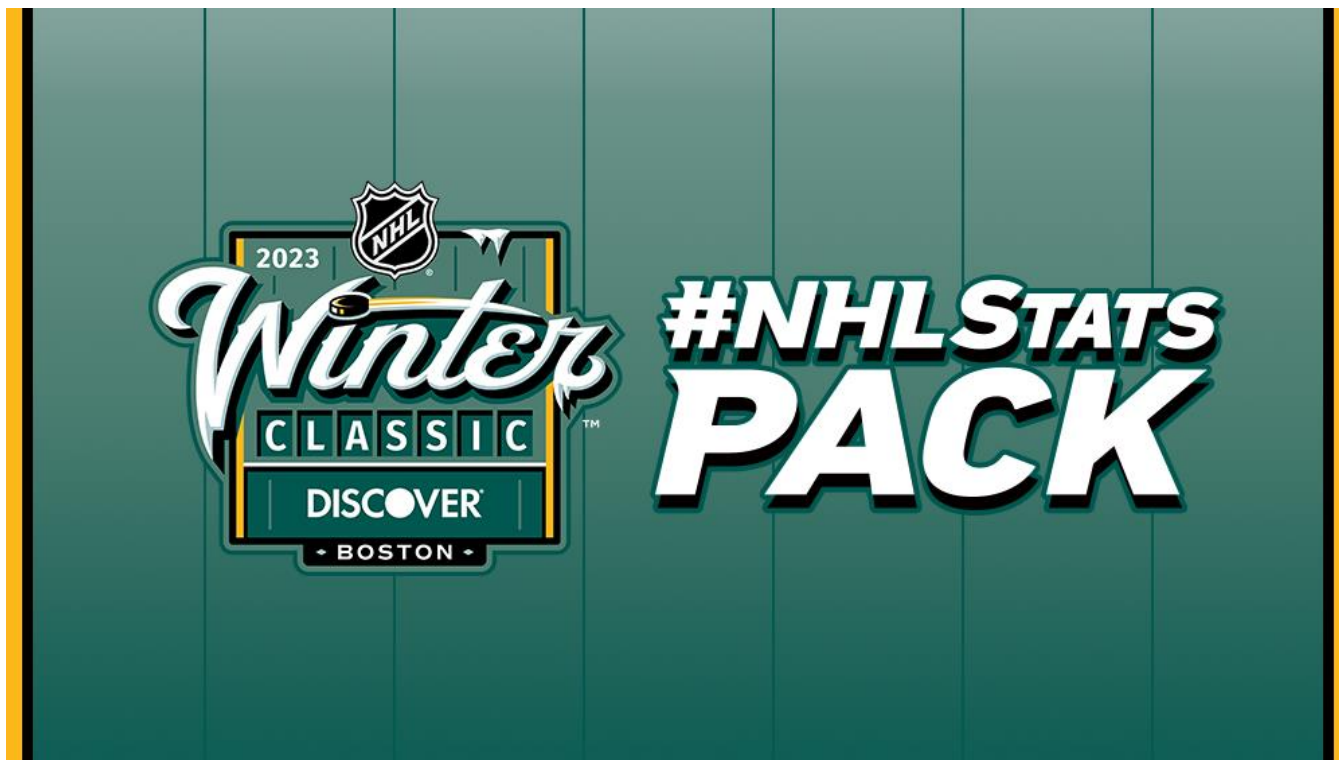
\* [Click here](#) to read the 2023 Winter Classic #NHLStats Pack, which features notes on the Penguins and Bruins, past outdoor games as well as hockey's ties to Fenway Park and the state of Massachusetts. The *2023 Discover NHL Winter Classic Information Guide* is also available to download [via the League's Media site](#).



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### **MORE McDAVID, MORE DRAISAITL, MORE KAPRIZOV & MORE OVECHKIN IN LIVE UPDATES**

The [Friday edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#) featured the League's hottest scorers continuing their recent string of success, while **Alex Ovechkin** (1-1—2) reached yet another NHL milestone with his 500th career even-strength goal.

\* **Connor McDavid** (9-9—18 in 7 GP) extended his goal streak to a [career-high seven games](#) as the Oilers (16-12-0, 32 points) moved past the Kings (14-11-4, 32 points) for third place in the Pacific Division. It marks the first time that a team *other than Vegas, Seattle or Los Angeles* ranks among the top three in the division since entering play Nov. 5, when Edmonton occupied second place.

\* **Leon Draisaitl** (19-27—46 in 28 GP), who ranks second in the [2022-23 Art Ross Trophy race](#) behind McDavid (25-29—54 in 28 GP), scored the 105th power-play goal of his NHL career to move within two of tying **Jari Kurri** (107) for fourth place in [franchise history](#).

\* **Kirill Kaprizov** (9-12—21 in 14 GP) collected an assist to extend his [franchise-record point streak](#) to 14 games. Kaprizov's run is the [third-longest point streak in the NHL this season](#).

\* **Erik Karlsson** (1-1—2) and **Nico Sturm** scored goals eight seconds apart during the Sharks' 6-1 win. They were one second shy of the [franchise record for fastest two goals](#) (0:07), achieved on [Dec. 28, 2021](#) (**Radim Simek & Jeffrey Viel**) and [Nov. 5, 1992](#) (**Larry Depalma & Dave Snuggerud**).

\* **Lawson Crouse** scored twice, including the game winner in the final 14 seconds of regulation (59:46), to lift the Coyotes past the League leading-leading Bruins at Mullett Arena. It marked the [latest go-ahead goal by a Coyotes player](#) since **Keith Tkachuk** found the back of the net with one second remaining in Phoenix's game against Detroit on [March 17, 1999](#) (59:59).



Alex Ovechkin became the fourth player in NHL history to score 500 even-strength goals, joining Wayne Gretzky (617), Gordie Howe (566) and Jaromir Jagr (538)



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## **QUICK CLICKS**

- \* [Maple Leafs' Pierre Engvall suspended one game for high-sticking](#)
- \* [Jeff Skinner to have hearing for actions in Sabres game](#)
- \* [NHL's bright young stars focus of new 'Next Golden Era is Now' campaign](#)
- \* [Islanders bringing back Fisherman logo for first time since 1997](#)

## **SATURDAY SKATES US THROUGH THE FIRST THIRD OF THE 2022-23 SEASON**

More than one-third of the 2022-23 NHL season will be complete following Saturday's slate, with offense, comebacks and resurgence by teams that missed the 2022 Stanley Cup Playoffs defining the first 65 days of the campaign.

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# TODAY'S SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2022

1:30 PM ET		@		BSSO, TSN5, TVAS
2:00 PM ET		@		BSDET, BSSW, NHLN
4:30 PM ET		@		BSSUNX, BSFL, SN360
7:00 PM ET		@		ATTSN-PT, MSG-B
7:00 PM ET		@		CBC, SNO, SNW, SNP
7:00 PM ET		@		TVAS, CITY, SNE, NHLN, BSW
7:30 PM ET		@		MSGSN, BSSO
10:00 PM ET		@		CBC, SN, CITY, BSN, BSWI

ESPN

UNI

SN

TVA  
SPORTS

Stream on ESPN+, Hulu and SN NOW

Blackouts and other restrictions apply

\* Four of the League's top 10 teams missed the playoffs last season (NJD, VGK, WPG & NYI). Only five other campaigns since 1970-71 were this way at the one-third mark: 2017-18 (**TBL, LAK, WPG, NJD & NYI**), 2009-10 (**LAK, COL, BUF & NSH**), 2002-03 (**DAL, MIN, EDM & TBL**), 2001-02 (NYR, CGY, **NYI, CHI & BOS**) and 1996-97 (**DAL, HFD, NJD & EDM**). Bold in the brackets means that club went on to reach the playoffs.

\* Two teams are on pace for an improvement of 40 or more points relative to their 2021-22 total (NJD: +68 & SEA: +44). Only six clubs in NHL history have had a +40-point improvement YOY (min. 80 GP in each season), with the largest standing at +58 points by the Sharks in 1993-94.

\* Three of four division leaders missed the playoffs last season, with the Devils, Golden Knights and Jets pacing the Metropolitan, Pacific and Central Divisions, respectively.

\* Both conferences have seen a shift in Wild Card positioning at the end of a game day 16 times over the past month (since Nov. 10). In the East, nine clubs have factored into that movement; in the West, eight.

\* There has been at least one comeback victory on 93% of *game days* this season (56 of 60 game days). Overall, 44% of contests in 2022-23 have seen the winning club overcome a deficit (188 of 431 GP).

\* The 6.4 goals-per-game scoring rate is the highest at this stage of a season since 1995-96 (6.4). There are 23 clubs averaging 3.00 goals-per-game or higher (excluding shootout-deciding goals).

\* Seven different birth countries are represented among the top 15 point-getters, led by the U.S. with four representatives. Furthermore, there are six U.S.-born players among the top 25 in scoring – all of whom were born in California (**Jason Robertson**, 1st; **Auston Matthews**, 5th), Arizona (**Tage Thompson**, 2nd; **Matthew Tkachuk**, 3rd; **Brady Tkachuk**, 6th) or Florida (**Jack Hughes**, 4th) and are age 25 or younger. Player ranks are relative to other U.S.-born skaters.



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