

NHL MORNING SKATE – DEC. 17, 2022

NHL #NHLSTATS

Morning Skate

Saturday, December 17, 2022

Zuccarello becomes oldest player in Wild history with a hat trick

Ovechkin set to face Matthews on Hockey Night in Canada

Thompson looks to join LaFontaine, Mogilny on rare Sabres list

- * Will The Great Eight tie Mr. Hockey on the NHL's all-time goals list Saturday? **Alex Ovechkin**, who sits one back of **Gordie Howe**, has tallied eight times in head-to-head games with **Auston Matthews** but will be facing a familiar face who enters the contest with two straight shutouts.
- * Saturday's slate is set to feature several other games involving noteworthy players including this season's first head-to-head contest between **Connor McDavid** and **Trevor Zegras**, who are likely to find themselves on numerous "Plays of the Year" reels as 2022 comes to a close.
- * Wild forward **Mats Zuccarello**, Coyotes forward **Clayton Keller** and Blues forward **Jordan Kyrou** each scored multiple goals in wins Friday.

FRIDAY'S

RESULTS

	1	FINAL	4	
	5	FINAL	2	
	4	FINAL	5	

SATURDAY HIGHLIGHTED BY OVECHKIN VS. MATTHEWS ON HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA

Saturday's 13-game slate is highlighted by the 15th regular-season meeting between the NHL's newest member of the 800-goal club **Alex Ovechkin** and two-time reigning Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy winner **Auston Matthews** as Washington (15-13-4, 34 points) welcomes Toronto (19-6-6, 44 points) to Capital One Arena.



TONIGHT'S SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022

1:00 PM ET		@		BSOH, NHLN, NESN, SN	1:00 PM ET		@		BSDET, TSN5, TVAS
4:00 PM ET		@		SN, BSSC	7:00 PM ET		@		BSSWX, BSSO
7:00 PM ET		@		NBCSP, MSG	7:00 PM ET		@		TVAS, CITY, SNE, BSSUNX
7:00 PM ET		@		NHLN, NBCSWA, SNP, SNW, SNO, CBC	7:30 PM ET		@		MSGSN, BSFL
9:00 PM ET		@		BSAZX, MSG-B	9:00 PM ET		@		BSSO, ALT
10:00 PM ET		@		ATTSN-RM, MSG 2, MSG	10:00 PM ET		@		CBC, SN, CITY
10:30 PM ET		@		BSW, NBCSCA					

Stream on ESPN+, Hulu and SN NOW

Blackouts and other restrictions apply

* Ovechkin (800-645—1,445 in 1,306 GP), who needs one tally to tie **Gordie Howe** (801-1,049—1,850 in 1,767 GP) on the [NHL's all-time goals list](#) and two to leapfrog Mr. Hockey for sole possession of second place in League history, has 8-8—16 in his previous 14 head-to-head games with Matthews. Matthews (6-10—16 in 14 GP) owns the edge for both assists and wins in those contests (TOR: 8-4-2, 18 points; WSH: 6-7-1, 13 points).

* Ovechkin is set to contest his second head-to-head game with Maple Leafs goaltender and former teammate **Ilya Samsonov** (also [Oct. 13](#)), who has [blanked opponents in each of his last two appearances](#) and owns an [active shutout sequence of 152:34](#) dating to Nov. 30. A total of [165 goaltenders have yielded a regular-season goal to Ovechkin](#), but Samsonov is not one of them.

THOMPSON CAN REACH 25-GOAL MARK IN RETURN TO ARIZONA

Tage Thompson (24-22—46 in 30 GP) can join Connor McDavid (27-33—60 in 31 GP) as the second NHL player to score 25 goals this season when the Sabres (14-14-2, 30 points) tangle with the Coyotes (10-14-4, 24 points) in Buffalo's first-ever visit to Mullett Arena. Thompson would become the third-fastest player in franchise history to reach the 25-goal mark, behind **Pat LaFontaine** in 1991-92 (25-23—48 in 26 GP) and **Alexander Mogilny** in 1992-93 (25-19—44 in 28 GP).

* Thompson was born in Arizona after his father, **Brent**, played for the Coyotes and IHL's Phoenix Roadrunners during the 1996-97 campaign. The younger Thompson leads all American players in goals and points this season, with Stars forward **Jason Robertson** (23-20—43 in 31 GP) occupying second place on both lists.



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CURRENT NHL PLAYERS WHOSE FATHER PLAYED FOR COYOTES

MIN. 1 GP IN 2022-23 FOR CURRENT PLAYERS

PLAYER	FATHER	SEASONS
Jake DeBrusk	Louie DeBrusk	1998-99–2000-01
Brendan Lemieux	Claude Lemieux	2000-01–2002-03
Josh Manson	Dave Manson	1996-97
Jake Sanderson	Geoff Sanderson	2005-06
Cole Sillinger	Mike Sillinger	2003-04
Tage Thompson	Brent Thompson	1996-97
Brady Tkachuk	Keith Tkachuk	1996-97–2000-01
Matthew Tkachuk	Keith Tkachuk	1996-97–2000-01



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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

SAMSONOV'S SHUTOUT SEQUENCE NOT THE ONLY NOTABLE STREAK ON THE LINE

Some other noteworthy player and team streaks on the line Saturday:

* **Connor McDavid** (11-14—25 in 11 GP) can extend the [League's longest active point streak](#) to a dozen contests when the Oilers (17-13-1, 35 points) square off with the Ducks (8-20-3, 19 points) at Rogers Place. McDavid's run is one of two active point streaks of at least 10 games in the NHL, with the other one belonging to Maple Leafs forward **Michael Bunting** (3-9—12 in 10 GP).

* **Igor Shesterkin** and the Rangers (16-10-5, 37 points) can extend their winning streaks to six games when they take on **John Tortorella** and the Flyers (10-14-7, 27 points) at Wells Fargo Center. Tortorella, whose [longest winning streak as New York's head coach](#) was seven contests (Oct. 3-17, 2009 & Oct. 31–Nov. 15, 2011), needs one victory to tie **Pat Quinn** (684) for 13th place on the [NHL's all-time list](#).

* **Brayden Point** (6-1—7 in 5 GP) can extend the [League's longest active goal streak to six games](#) when the Lightning (19-9-1, 39 points) travel to Bell Centre for a clash with the Canadiens (14-14-2, 30 points), who are guided by head coach and Tampa Bay franchise icon **Martin St. Louis**. Point has pocketed the winning goal in three of his last four contests.

* **Brent Burns** can help the Hurricanes (17-6-6, 40 points) [extend their point streak to double digits](#) when they host the Central Division-leading Stars (18-8-5, 41 points) at PNC Arena. It will mark the first head-to-head contest between Burns and **Joe Pavelski** since the former was traded to Carolina – they played eight seasons together with San Jose from 2011-12 to 2018-19, including four when current Dallas head coach **Peter DeBoer** was behind the Sharks' bench.

* **Johnny Gaudreau** and the Blue Jackets (10-17-2, 22 points) visit the League-leading Bruins (23-4-2, 48 points) at TD Garden, where the hosts are 15-0-2 this season. Boston contests three more games at the venue this year (Dec. 19 vs. FLA, Dec. 22 vs. WPG & Dec. 31 vs. BUF) and can match its franchise record for longest season-opening home point streak (19-0-2 in 21 GP from Oct. 10, 1973–Jan. 10,



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1974) before hosting Pittsburgh in the 2023 *Discover NHL Winter Classic* at Fenway Park.

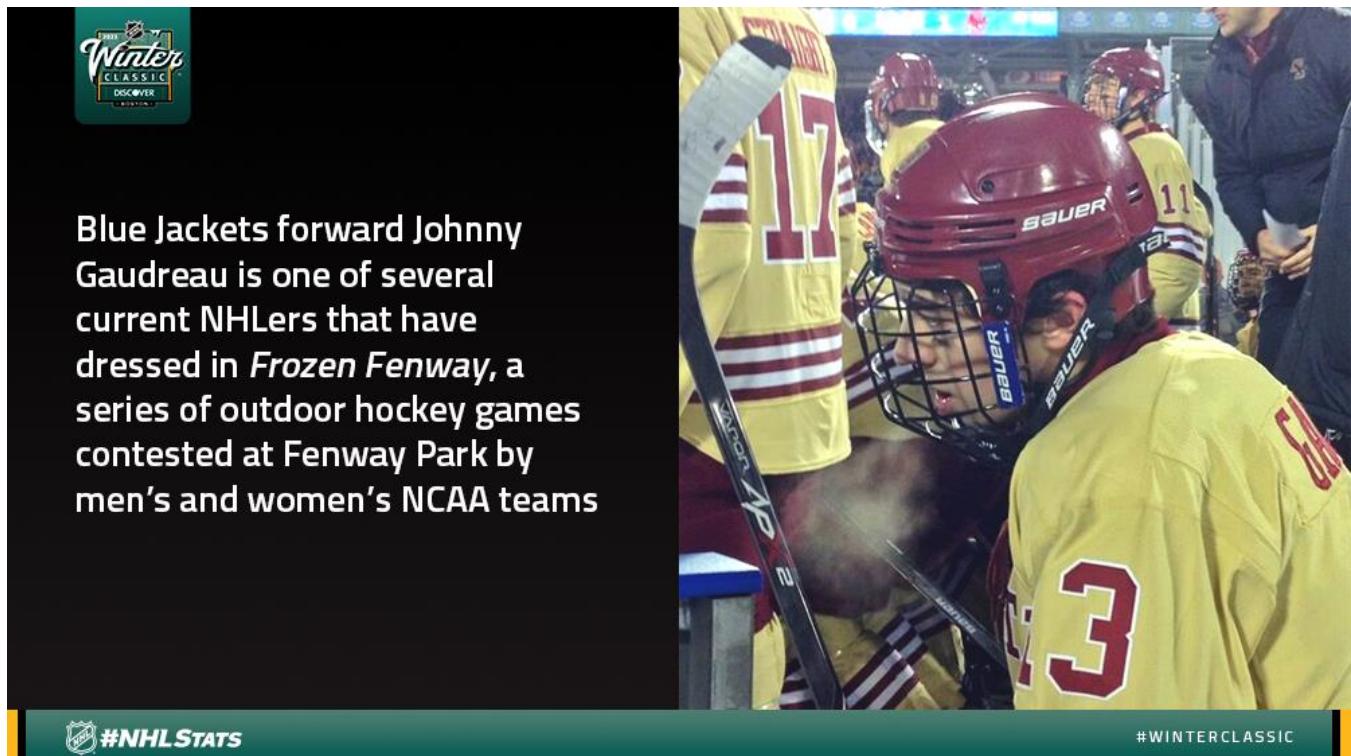


Photo via [@BCAlumni](#)

ZUCCARELLO ZIPS THREE GOALS INTO CHICAGO NET FOR SECOND CAREER HAT TRICK

Mats Zuccarello (3-1—4) scored the second hat trick of his NHL career and **Kirill Kaprizov** (6-13—19 in 11 GP) collected 1-2—3 to [extend his home point streak to 11 games](#) as Minnesota (17-11-2, 36 points) moved to 4-0-0 in its last four contests.

* Zuccarello (Oslo, Norway), whose first three-goal performance was more than seven years ago ([Oct. 30, 2015](#) w/ NYR), became the first Norwegian-born player in NHL history with multiple hat tricks.

Espen Knutsen (Oslo, Norway) is the only other Norwegian-born skater with one ([Jan. 24, 2002](#) w/ CBJ).

* Zuccarello and Kaprizov have combined on the same goal a total of 26 times this season. That's the second most by a pair of NHL teammates behind the Oilers tandem of **Connor McDavid** and **Leon Draisaitl** (32x).



Mats Zuccarello (35 years, 106 days) became the oldest player in franchise history to score a hat trick, eclipsing the previous mark set by Eric Staal (33 years, 121 days) on Feb. 27, 2018



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MINNESOTA WILD

KELLER QUELLS ISLANDERS, KYROU STINGS FLAMES IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

Friday's edition of [#NHLStats: Live Updates](#) featured more notes from the three-game slate, including multi-goal efforts in wins by Coyotes forward **Clayton Keller** and Blues forward **Jordan Kyrou**:

* Keller scored the first of [Arizona's two goals in a 14-second span](#) during the middle frame and added the game winner with 5:11 remaining in regulation. Keller has 5-1-6 in his last three contests, including a hat trick on [Dec. 11](#) and an assist on [Dec. 13](#).

* Kyrou tallied twice after posing for a photo with a young fan in a Sarnia Sting sweater during pre-game warmup. Kyrou skated four seasons with the Sting from 2014-15 to 2017-18 and his brother, **Christian**, was recently traded to the team from the Erie Otters.



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NHL PODCAST WEEKLY ROUNDUP

- * **NHL Fantasy** (Dec. 12): [Fantasy waiver wire pickups: Week 10](#)
- * **NHL Fantasy** (Dec. 12): [Action Network Collab: Week 10](#)
- * **NHL @ The Rink** (Dec. 14): [Tom Gulitti & Brandon Hagel join; Steven Stamkos, Super 16 & more](#)
- * **The Chirp with Daren Millard** (Dec. 14): [Barry Trotz on Alex Ovechkin, coaching future & guitars](#)
- * **La Tasse de café LNH** (Dec. 14): [Entretien avec Yanni Gourde et spécial poolers](#)
- * **NHL Fantasy** (Dec. 15): [Impact of Alex Ovechkin's 800th goal; Week 10 fantasy mailbag](#)

QUICK CLICKS

- * [Alex Ovechkin bid for goal 801 to tie Gordie Howe finds Ilya Samsonov, Maple Leafs in way](#)
- * [Linus Ullmark thrives with Bruins years after struggling with dad's alcoholism](#)
- * [Mason Marchment of Stars fined \\$2,000 for diving/embellishment](#)
- * [Phil and Amanda Kessel score goals at nearly the same exact time](#)
- * [Capitals resume holiday tradition with visit to children in hospital](#)



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