

NO. 8 IS NOW THE NO. 2-RANKED GOAL SCORER IN NHL HISTORY

For just over 31 years, two legendary names stood tall as the top two goal scorers in NHL history: **Wayne Gretzky** and **Gordie Howe**. That changed Friday when **Alex Ovechkin** scored his 802nd career regular-season goal to overtake Howe (801) and move within 92 goals of tying Gretzky (894) for the most in League history.

* Ovechkin became the first person other than Gretzky or Howe to occupy a top-two spot on that list since Dec. 21, 1991 – the day Gretzky scored his 732nd career goal to overtake **Marcel Dionne** (731) for second place in League history.

* After beating **David Rittich** with 1:38 remaining in the first period for No. 801, Ovechkin netted No. 802 into an empty net with 60 seconds remaining in regulation (assisted by **Evgeny Kuznetsov**). It marked the 90th time in 192 opportunities Ovechkin has scored against a goaltender he is facing for the first time (regular season and playoffs) and fifth in 2022-23 following **Spencer Martin** (Nov. 29), **Felix Sandstrom** (Nov. 23), **Stuart Skinner** (Nov. 7) and **Vitek Vanecek** (Oct. 24).



EIGHT QUESTIONS ON OVECHKIN'S FUTURE

Will he claim Wayne Gretzky's goals record?

Ovechkin now sits 93 goals shy of passing Gretzky for first on the NHL's all-time list. Using his 2022-23 goals-per-game rate (0.61), equal to his average through the past 10 seasons ([since 2013-14](#)), it would take The Great Eight approximately 153 regular-season games to pass The Great One – somewhere around the halfway mark of the 2024-25 season.

Will he hit 900?

No player in NHL history has ever scored 900 regular-season goals. Ovechkin's current contract takes him to the conclusion of the 2025-26 season (292 more games). Should Ovechkin skate in each of those contests for the balance of his deal, he would need to score at a rate of 0.34 goals-per-game (just over half his G/GP rate over the past 10 seasons) to reach the benchmark. For context, Ovechkin has missed five or more games in a season only three times in his 18-season NHL career – including only once before campaigns impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (2009-10: 10 games missed, including 4 due to suspension). Using the *0.61 goals-per-game rate* referenced above, Ovechkin would hit 900 around the 50-game mark of the 2024-25 season.

But wait, could he score 1,000?

Ovechkin and the Capitals have reached the Stanley Cup Playoffs in all but one of the past 15 seasons, with the captain totaling 72-69—141 in 147 postseason contests. While there's plenty of room for Ovechkin to climb the [all-time playoff goals list](#) – he currently shares 14th place and is within 10 tallies of tying **Maurice Richard** (82) for eighth place – that's not the focus here. [Including regular-season and playoffs](#), Ovechkin has lit the lamp 874 times in his NHL career (1,457 GP) – second only to Gretzky (1,016 in 1,695 GP). That combined goals-per-game rate is once again strong, standing at 0.60 which is equal to the rate Gretzky retired with. That means Ovechkin could collect 1,000 total goals some time over the course of his next 210 NHL games (again, during the 2024-25 campaign).

If Ovechkin plays in every possible game for the balance of his current contract – 404 contests (292 regular-season and 112 playoffs) – and continues scoring at least 0.60 goals-per-game, he could overtake Gretzky for the most *combined goals* in NHL history. He needs 143 to become the all-time leader, which would take him 239 contests to achieve at a rate of 0.60 goals-per-game.

Will he set the record for 50-goal seasons?

Ovechkin is on pace to score 50 goals this season and become the first player in NHL history to record 10 seasons with 50 or more goals – he is currently [tied for the most in League history](#) with **Mike Bossy** and Gretzky (each with 9). He is the only player in NHL history to record a 50-goal season both before age 21 *and* after age 30 – most recently becoming the [oldest NHLer ever with a 50-goal campaign](#) (50 in 2021-22 at age 36). Should Ovechkin reach that milestone again in 2022-23, he would first tie the NHL record for career [30-goal seasons](#) (equaling **Mike Gartner**) and set the League mark for career [40-goal seasons](#) (passing Gretzky).

Will he pass Jaromir Jagr for most game-winning goals?

Gretzky isn't the only legendary scorer Ovechkin can surpass for an NHL record. Ovechkin's 124 career game-winning goals [rank second in NHL history](#), 11 back of **Jaromir Jagr** (135). Ovechkin has scored at least five game-winning goals in 14 of 17 seasons entering 2022-23 (including eight of the last nine campaigns) and already has three so far in 2022-23. Even if he doesn't net another winner this season, he would still pass Jagr atop the all-time list by averaging four GWGs per season for the remainder of his contract (through 2025-26).

Will he be the first player in NHL history to lead his team in goals for 20 straight seasons?

Ovechkin has led the Capitals in goals for 17 consecutive seasons entering 2022-23, and currently leads the team so far this season with 22 goals. No player has ever led a team in goals for 20 consecutive seasons, something the lifelong Capitals forward can accomplish by the end of the 2024-25 campaign. In fact, the next closest run to Ovechkin's current 17 straight seasons as Washington's goals leader is 11 consecutive campaigns: Howe (1949-50 to 1959-60 w/ DET) and **Rick Nash** (2003-04 to 2014-15 w/ CBJ).

How long until Ovechkin joins Gretzky in the 400/400 club?

Gretzky is the only player in NHL history to score 400 regular-season goals on home ice (492) *and* 400 on the road (402). Ovechkin, who has surpassed Gretzky for the most road goals in NHL history (409), needs seven home goals to become the [fifth player in NHL history](#) to score 400 times in front of a home crowd. Ovechkin is averaging 0.53 goals-per-game at Capital One Arena this season (9 in 17 GP) and Washington has 24 home games remaining, putting him on pace to hit the 400 mark in about 14 home games from now (around late Feb.).

Will anyone else challenge Gretzky (or Ovechkin)?

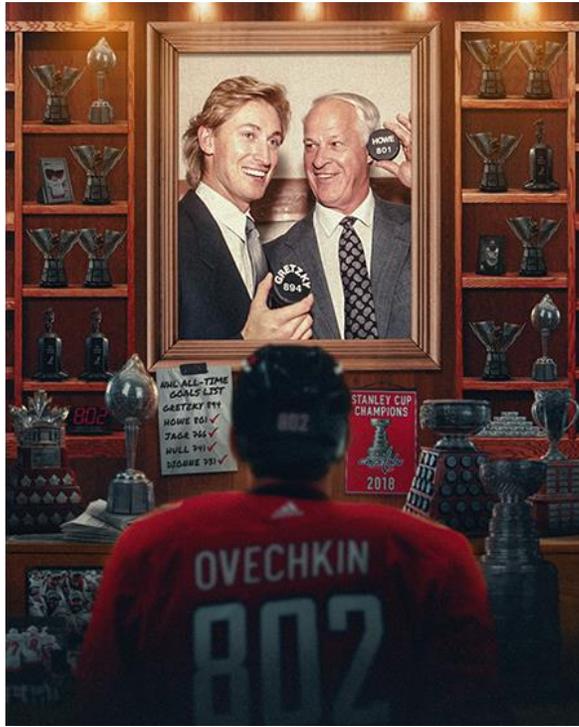
As we follow Ovechkin's pursuit of Gretzky, the question will inevitably shift to the next chase of either The Great Eight or The Great One if No. 99 holds his place atop the list. Ovechkin is currently one of three active players averaging 0.55 goals-per-game or better [in their career](#), the others being **Auston Matthews** (0.63 G/GP) and **Kirill Kaprizov** (0.55 G/GP). If Matthews or Kaprizov can maintain a scoring rate of 0.60 or better for the duration of their career, they would hit 895 goals in 2035-36 and 2038-39, respectively.

A look at some of the other top goal scorers this season and when they would hit the mark if they are able to boost their career goals-per-game rate to 0.60: **Connor McDavid** (0.52 career, 0.86 this season, 895 goals in 2035-36), **Jason Robertson** (0.50 career, 0.69 this season, 895 goals in 2039-40), **Tage Thompson** (0.32 career, 0.81 this season, 895 goals in 2039-40), **Leon Draisaitl** (0.46 career, 0.60 this season, 895 goals in 2035-36) and **David Pastrnak** (0.49 career, 0.73 this season, 895 goals in 2035-36).



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ASSISTS ON OVECHKIN GOALS, REGULAR SEASON

TEAMMATE	A	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TEAMMATE	A	PRIMARY	SECONDARY
Nicklas Backstrom	278	136	142	Richard Zednik	3	2	1
John Carlson	142	92	50	Steve Olesky	3	2	1
Evgeny Kuznetsov	104	65	39	Eric Fehr	3	1	2
Mike Green	70	48	22	John Erskine	3	1	2
Marcus Johansson	57	31	26	Mathieu Biron	3	1	2
Alexander Semin	45	32	13	Travis Boyd	3	1	2
T.J. Oshie	42	19	23	Tyler Sloan	3	1	2
Tom Wilson	39	21	18	Daniel Sprong	2	2	0
Unassisted	39	--	--	David Steckel	2	2	0
Dmitry Orlov	34	21	13	Garnet Hathaway	2	2	0
Brooks Laich	26	17	9	Jay Beagle	2	2	0
Dainius Zubrus	26	17	9	Jonas Siegenthaler	2	2	0
Viktor Kozlov	21	14	7	Kevin Shattenkirk	2	2	0
Karl Alzner	20	12	8	Alexandre Giroux	2	1	1
Jeff Schultz	19	8	11	Aliaksei Protas	2	1	1
Matt Niskanen	18	11	7	Ilya Kovalchuk	2	1	1
Tom Poti	17	10	7	Jack Hillen	2	1	1
Chris Clark	16	12	4	Keith Aucoin	2	1	1
Troy Brouwer	15	7	8	Mathieu Perreault	2	1	1
Mike Knuble	14	7	7	Madison Bowey	2	0	2
Michael Nylander	13	8	5	Martin Erat	2	0	2
Mike Ribeiro	13	7	6	Radko Gudas	2	0	2
Jason Chimera	11	5	6	Zdeno Chara	2	0	2
Shaone Morrisonn	11	5	6	Alex Chiasson	1	1	0
Brian Pothier	10	5	5	Brendan Witt	1	1	0
Jamie Heward	10	4	6	Brenden Dillon	1	1	0
Jakub Vrana	10	3	7	Bryan Helmer	1	1	0
Milan Jurcina	10	3	7	Devante Smith-Pelly	1	1	0
Bryan Muir	9	8	1	Jason Arnott	1	1	0
Dennis Wideman	9	3	6	Joe Motzko	1	1	0
Brooks Orpik	8	6	2	Lawrence Nycholat	1	1	0
Steve Eminger	8	4	4	Matt Hendricks	1	1	0
Joel Ward	8	3	5	Michal Neuvirth	1	1	0
Sergei Fedorov	8	3	5	Sami Lepisto	1	1	0
Brian Willsie	7	5	2	Tomas Vokoun	1	1	0
Jeff Halpern	7	4	3	Aaron Ness	1	0	1
Lars Eller	7	4	3	Braden Holtby	1	0	1
Tomas Fleischmann	7	3	4	Donald Brashear	1	0	1
Conor Sheary	9	5	4	Ivan Majesky	1	0	1
Mikhail Grabovski	6	4	2	Jose Theodore	1	0	1
Andre Burakovsky	6	3	3	Marco Sturm	1	0	1
Ben Clymer	6	2	4	Nolan Yonkman	1	0	1
Christian Djoos	5	5	0	Rico Fata	1	0	1
Brian Sutherby	5	3	2	Scott Hannan	1	0	1
Dylan Strome	6	4	2	Sonny Milano	2	0	2
Jiri Novotny	5	3	2	Taylor Chorney	1	0	1
Matt Bradley	5	3	2				
Anthony Mantha	6	3	3		***		
Justin Williams	5	2	3				
Michal Kempny	5	2	3				
Brett Connolly	5	1	4				
Matt Pettinger	5	1	4				
Olie Kolzig	5	0	5				
Andrew Cassels	4	3	1				
Nic Dowd	4	3	1				
Trevor van Riemsdyk	4	3	1				
Boyd Gordon	4	2	2				
Brendan Morrison	4	2	2				
Nate Schmidt	4	2	2				
Nick Jensen	4	0	4				
Erik Gustafsson	3	2	1				
Justin Schultz	3	2	1				


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OVECHKIN VS. NHL GOALTENDERS, REGULAR SEASON (1/4)

GOALIE	GP	G	A	P	SOG	S%
Marc-Andre Fleury	44	25	15	40	226	11.1%
Henrik Lundqvist	42	24	15	39	214	11.2%
Carey Price	27	22	8	30	123	17.9%
Kari Lehtonen	27	22	15	37	155	14.2%
Ryan Miller	34	19	10	29	166	11.4%
Cam Ward	41	19	28	47	204	9.3%
Ondrej Pavelec	31	18	16	34	130	13.8%
Sergei Bobrovsky	30	15	7	22	132	11.4%
Devan Dubnyk	9	12	9	21	48	25.0%
Brian Elliott	22	11	10	21	91	12.1%
Andrei Vasilevskiy	16	11	4	15	98	11.2%
Ben Bishop	13	10	6	16	73	13.7%
Craig Anderson	19	10	6	16	80	12.5%
Tuukka Rask	22	10	8	18	92	10.9%
Jaroslav Halak	25	10	8	18	101	9.9%
Frederik Andersen	12	9	5	14	48	18.8%
Carter Hutton	11	9	4	13	51	17.6%
Roberto Luongo	21	9	12	21	96	9.4%
Alexandar Georgiev	7	8	3	11	23	34.8%
Martin Gerber	10	8	9	17	45	17.8%
Vesa Toskala	10	8	10	18	46	17.4%
Scott Clemmensen	16	8	10	18	53	15.1%
Evgeni Nabokov	13	8	3	11	54	14.8%
Jimmy Howard	13	8	4	12	59	13.6%
Ray Emery	12	8	9	17	60	13.3%
Cory Schneider	15	8	5	13	61	13.1%
Steve Mason	18	8	5	13	72	11.1%
Tomas Vokoun	17	8	9	17	107	7.5%
Tim Thomas	23	8	14	22	113	7.1%
Jean-Sebastien Giguere	6	7	3	10	33	21.2%
Jonathan Bernier	11	7	5	12	37	18.9%
John Grahame	10	7	4	11	46	15.2%
Antero Niittymaki	11	7	9	16	52	13.5%
Thomas Greiss	12	7	3	10	59	11.9%
Semyon Varlamov	17	7	6	13	69	10.1%
Martin Brodeur	21	7	14	21	71	9.9%
Jonathan Quick	16	7	5	12	84	8.3%
Ed Belfour	9	6	7	13	33	18.2%
Cristobal Huet	8	6	8	14	39	15.4%
Mackenzie Blackwood	11	6	5	11	40	15.0%
Miikka Kiprusoff	6	6	6	12	41	14.6%
Cam Talbot	13	6	5	11	48	12.5%
Matt Murray	15	6	5	11	53	11.3%
Petr Mrazek	15	9	6	15	70	12.9%
James Reimer	13	6	5	11	68	8.8%
Dan Ellis	7	5	8	13	22	22.7%
Pascal Leclaire	4	5	2	7	24	20.8%
Robert Esche	4	5	2	7	25	20.0%
Carter Hart	9	5	2	7	30	16.7%
Jacob Markstrom	10	5	7	12	31	16.1%
Curtis McElhinney	10	5	2	7	36	13.9%
Corey Crawford	11	5	5	10	41	12.2%
Martin Jones	12	5	5	10	41	12.2%
Alex Auld	10	5	2	7	45	11.1%
Rick DiPietro	13	5	4	9	48	10.4%
Karri Ramo	10	5	3	8	50	10.0%
Mike Smith	15	5	8	13	51	9.8%
Dwayne Roloson	14	5	6	11	68	7.4%
Scott Darling	6	4	0	4	19	21.1%
Al Montoya	7	4	4	8	19	21.1%
Eddie Lack	4	4	1	5	20	20.0%
Nikolai Khabibulin	4	4	1	5	20	20.0%


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OVECHKIN VS. NHL GOALTENDERS, REGULAR SEASON (2/4)

GOALIE	GP	G	A	P	SOG	S%
Joey MacDonald	3	4	1	5	22	18.2%
Keith Kinkaid	9	4	4	8	28	14.3%
Dustin Tokarski	6	4	2	6	29	13.8%
John Gibson	9	4	7	11	31	12.9%
Jhonas Enroth	5	4	4	8	34	11.8%
Robin Lehner	8	4	1	5	34	11.8%
Anders Nilsson	8	4	6	10	35	11.4%
Antti Niemi	9	4	4	8	37	10.8%
Johan Hedberg	11	4	6	10	47	8.5%
Martin Biron	11	4	7	11	51	7.8%
Ilya Bryzgalov	10	4	1	5	52	7.7%
Brent Johnson	3	3	1	4	13	23.1%
Ty Conklin	5	3	4	7	14	21.4%
Louis Domingue	4	3	1	4	16	18.8%
Thatcher Demko	3	3	3	6	17	17.6%
Sean Burke	4	3	1	4	18	16.7%
Jose Theodore	5	3	0	3	18	16.7%
Michael Hutchinson	4	3	2	5	19	15.8%
Scott Wedgewood	6	3	2	5	23	13.0%
Mike McKenna	5	3	5	8	24	12.5%
Juuse Saros	7	3	3	6	24	12.5%
Marty Turco	4	3	1	4	25	12.0%
Chad Johnson	6	3	0	3	27	11.1%
Peter Budaj	9	3	2	5	27	11.1%
Andrew Raycroft	7	3	1	4	30	10.0%
Philipp Grubauer	6	3	4	7	39	7.7%
Johan Holmqvist	9	3	3	6	46	6.5%
Anton Khudobin	12	3	3	6	46	6.5%
Connor Hellebuyck	10	3	1	4	48	6.3%
Filip Gustavsson	1	2	0	2	4	50.0%
Viktor Fasth	1	2	0	2	4	50.0%
Jack Campbell	2	2	0	2	4	50.0%
Spencer Martin	1	2	0	2	5	40.0%
Logan Thompson	2	2	1	3	5	40.0%
Spencer Knight	2	2	2	4	5	40.0%
Dany Sabourin	1	2	1	3	6	33.3%
Alex Lyon	2	2	1	3	6	33.3%
Christopher Gibson	2	2	0	2	6	33.3%
Reto Berra	2	2	1	3	6	33.3%
Alex Stalock	2	2	2	4	8	25.0%
Jeff Deslauriers	1	2	1	3	9	22.2%
Garth Snow	2	2	1	3	9	22.2%
Matt Hackett	2	2	1	3	9	22.2%
Darcy Kuemper	4	2	2	4	11	18.2%
Yann Danis	2	2	0	2	12	16.7%
Casey DeSmith	4	2	2	4	12	16.7%
Steve Valiquette	2	2	2	4	13	15.4%
Andrew Hammond	3	2	0	2	14	14.3%
Marcus Hogberg	3	2	0	2	14	14.3%
Mikko Koskinen	2	2	0	2	17	11.8%
Dan Vladar	4	2	2	4	17	11.8%
Brian Boucher	4	2	4	6	18	11.1%
Igor Shesterkin	5	2	0	2	18	11.1%
Mike Dunham	5	2	4	6	19	10.5%
Jake Allen	6	2	4	6	19	10.5%
Marc Denis	6	2	4	6	19	10.5%
Antti Raanta	6	2	1	3	20	10.0%
Niklas Backstrom	4	2	1	3	21	9.5%
Mikael Tellqvist	3	2	1	3	22	9.1%
Pekka Rinne	7	2	0	2	29	6.9%
Chris Mason	6	2	2	4	31	6.5%
Joonas Korpisalo	7	2	5	7	31	6.5%

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OVECHKIN VS. NHL GOALTENDERS, REGULAR SEASON (3/4)

GOALIE	GP	G	A	P	SOG	S%
Linus Ullmark	9	2	5	7	33	6.1%
Daniil Tarasov	1	1	0	1	2	50.0%
Hannu Toivonen	1	1	1	2	2	50.0%
Nico Daws	1	1	0	1	2	50.0%
Chris Driedger	1	1	2	3	4	25.0%
Felix Sandstrom	1	1	1	2	4	25.0%
Fredrik Norrena	1	1	0	1	4	25.0%
Marek Mazanec	1	1	0	1	4	25.0%
Laurent Brossoit	2	1	0	1	4	25.0%
Jamie McLennan	1	1	0	1	5	20.0%
Jordan Binnington	1	1	0	1	5	20.0%
Josh Harding	1	1	0	1	5	20.0%
Aaron Dell	2	1	0	1	5	20.0%
Elvis Merzlikins	2	1	2	3	5	20.0%
Adam Munro	1	1	1	2	6	16.7%
Olie Kolzig	1	1	1	2	6	16.7%
Adin Hill	2	1	1	2	6	16.7%
Curtis Sanford	2	1	1	2	7	14.3%
Kevin Weekes	2	1	1	2	7	14.3%
Harri Sateri	1	1	1	2	8	12.5%
Nathan Lawson	1	1	1	2	8	12.5%
Patrick Lalime	1	1	0	1	8	12.5%
Dominik Hasek	2	1	0	1	8	12.5%
Jeremy Swayman	2	1	0	1	8	12.5%
Jason LaBarbera	3	1	4	5	8	12.5%
Michael Garnett	2	1	3	4	9	11.1%
Sam Montembeault	2	1	1	2	10	10.0%
Stuart Skinner	2	1	1	2	10	10.0%
Ville Husso	3	1	0	1	10	10.0%
Ben Scrivens	3	1	2	3	11	9.1%
Jake Oettinger	3	1	0	1	13	7.7%
Karel Vejmelka	3	1	1	2	13	7.7%
Sebastien Caron	2	1	3	4	14	7.1%
Chris Osgood	3	1	3	4	15	6.7%
Anton Forsberg	6	1	2	3	15	6.7%
Michael Leighton	3	1	4	5	17	5.9%
Jonas Gustavsson	5	1	3	4	21	4.8%
Tristan Jarry	8	1	6	7	25	4.0%
Justin Peters	6	1	4	5	26	3.8%
Anders Lindback	7	1	3	4	31	3.2%
Jonas Hiller	7	1	6	7	31	3.2%
David Rittich	1	1	1	2	6	16.67%
Chris Holt	1	0	0	0	-	-
Gilles Senn	1	0	0	0	-	-
Henrik Karlsson	1	0	0	0	-	-
Kristers Gudlevskis	1	0	0	0	-	-
Magnus Hellberg	1	0	0	0	-	-
Braden Holtby	1	0	0	0	2	0.0%
Collin Delia	1	0	0	0	2	0.0%
Curtis Joseph	1	0	0	0	2	0.0%
David Aebischer	1	0	0	0	2	0.0%
Erik Ersberg	1	0	1	1	5	0.0%
Erik Kallgren	1	0	0	0	4	0.0%
Garret Sparks	1	0	0	0	6	0.0%
Ilya Samsonov	1	0	0	0	4	0.0%
J-F Berube	1	0	2	2	3	0.0%
Jocelyn Thibault	1	0	0	0	5	0.0%
Kaapo Kahkonen	1	0	1	1	4	0.0%
Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen	1	0	1	1	6	0.0%
Calvin Pickard	2	0	1	1	3	0.0%
Jeff Zatkoff	2	0	0	0	4	0.0%
Manny Fernandez	2	0	2	2	10	0.0%

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OVECHKIN VS. NHL GOALTENDERS, REGULAR SEASON (4/4)

GOALIE	GP	G	A	P	SOG	S%
Rob Zepp	2	0	0	0	10	0.0%
Vitek Vanecek	2	0	0	0	9	0.0%
Manny Legace	3	0	4	4	14	0.0%
Michal Neuvirth	4	0	2	2	7	0.0%
Mathieu Garon	7	0	1	1	16	0.0%
Mike Condon	7	0	2	2	18	0.0%

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