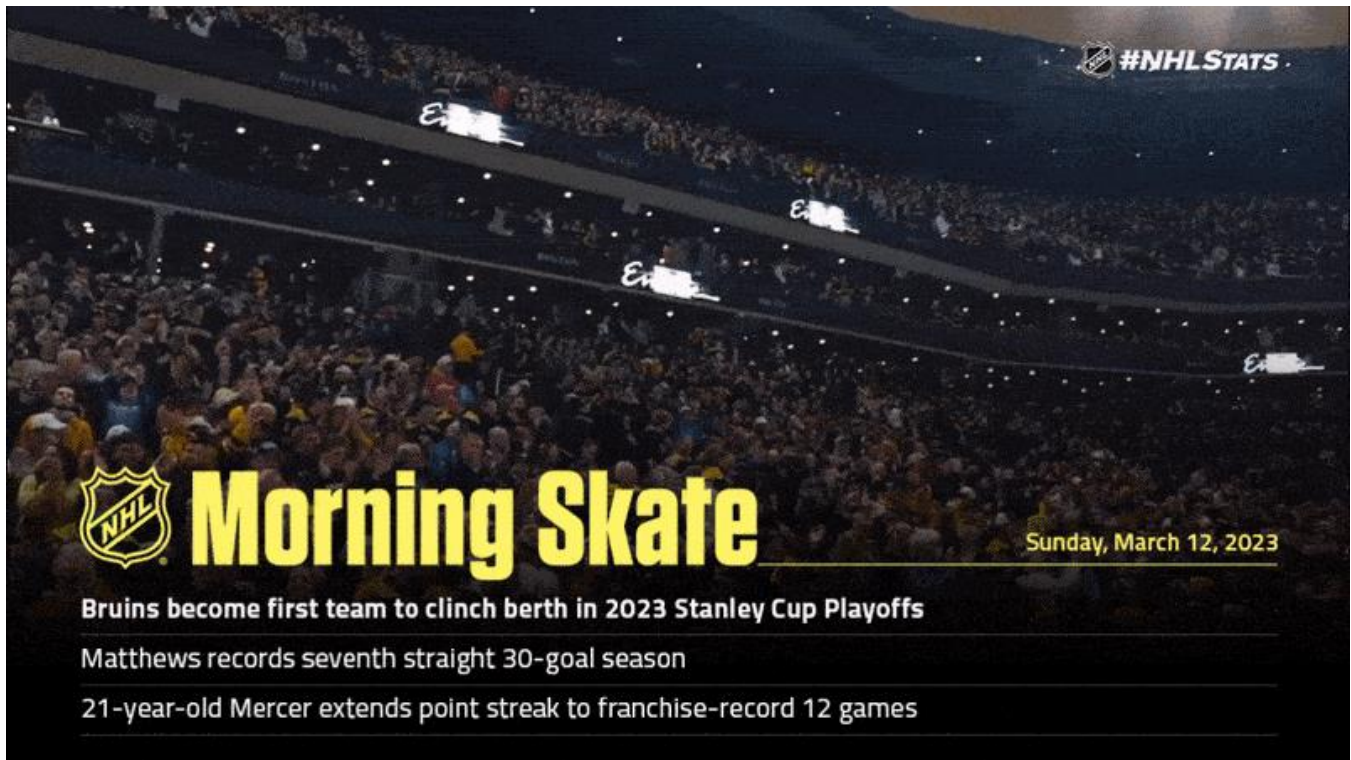



NHL MORNING SKATE – MARCH 12, 2023



#NHLSTATS

 **Morning Skate**

Sunday, March 12, 2023

Bruins become first team to clinch berth in 2023 Stanley Cup Playoffs

Matthews records seventh straight 30-goal season

21-year-old Mercer extends point streak to franchise-record 12 games

* The Bruins became the first team to clinch a berth in the 2023 Stanley Cup Playoffs and the fastest club in NHL history to reach the 50-win mark in a season.

* **Auston Matthews** scored his 30th goal of the season and **Mitchell Marner** tallied a four-point outing as the Maple Leafs outdueled the Oilers and the NHL's top two scorers: **Connor McDavid** and **Leon Draisaitl**.

* **Dawson Mercer** stretched his point streak to a dozen games to help the Devils move within two points of the top-seeded Hurricanes and set up a must-watch game Sunday between the two clubs.

* Sunday's eight-game slate opens with an *NHL on TNT* doubleheader and features several teams looking to "Spring Forward" in the League standings.

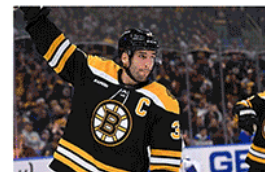
NHL SATURDAY'S RESULTS

2 FINAL 3	1 FINAL 5	2 FINAL OT 1	2 FINAL OT 3
1 FINAL 3	4 FINAL 7	3 FINAL 1	5 FINAL 2
4 FINAL 0	5 FINAL OT 4	5 FINAL 1	4 FINAL OT 3
2 FINAL 5	5 FINAL 2	2 FINAL SO 1	

BRUINS HISTORIC SEASON CONTINUES WITH PLAYOFF CLINCH IN 64TH GAME

Hampus Lindholm and Patrice Bergeron scored [second-period goals 1:28 apart](#) and Garnet Hathaway had the go-ahead marker with 6:06 remaining in regulation as Boston (50-9-5, 105 points) became the first team to clinch a berth in the 2023 Stanley Cup Playoffs as well as the [fastest club in NHL history to reach the 50-win mark in a season](#).

CLINCH
BOSTON
BRUINS



* The Bruins, who clinched a postseason berth by virtue of their victory and the Capitals defeating the Islanders on Saturday, became the third team to do so in 64 games or fewer [during an 82-game season](#). They joined the 1995-96 Red Wings (59 GP) and 1998-99 Stars (63 GP).

* [Click here](#) to read more #NHLStats about Boston, which is headed to the Stanley Cup Playoffs for a seventh straight year and 76th time in franchise history.

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MATTHEWS, MARNER AND MAPLE LEAFS OUTDUEL McDAVID, DRAISAITL

Auston Matthews (1-1—2) reached the 30-goal mark for the seventh consecutive season to begin his career and **Mitchell Marner** (1-3—4) notched his 13th career four-point game as the Maple Leafs (40-17-8, 88 points) defeated **Connor McDavid** (1-2—3) and **Leon Draisaitl** (1-0—1) for their 40th win of 2022-23.

* Matthews, who became just the [third player in Maple Leafs history](#) with at least seven consecutive 30-goal seasons, also joined elite company among [U.S.-born players in NHL history](#) to register a stretch of at least that length (**Pat LaFontaine**: 8 from 1985-86 – 1992-93 & **Joe Mullen**: 7 from 1983-84 – 1989-90).



MOST CONSECUTIVE 30-GOAL SEASONS TO BEGIN NHL CAREER

NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM(S)	SPAN	STREAK
Mike Gartner	WSH, MNS, NYR, TOR	1979-80 - 1993-94	15
Alex Ovechkin	WSH	2005-06 - 2019-20	15
Wayne Gretzky	EDM, LAK	1979-80 - 1991-92	13
Jari Kurri	EDM	1980-81 - 1989-90	10
Mike Bossy	NYI	1977-78 - 1986-87	10
Bryan Trottier	NYI	1975-76 - 1983-84	9
Luc Robitaille	LAK	1986-87 - 1993-94	8
Dale Hawerchuk	WIN	1981-82 - 1988-89	8
Glenn Anderson	EDM	1980-81 - 1987-88	8
Auston Matthews	TOR	2016-17 - 2022-23	7



#NHLStats

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

* Marner (24-59—83 in 65 GP), who initiated Toronto’s multi-goal comeback with a highlight-reel individual effort, potted his 13th career four-point game – tied with **Borje Salming** and **Lanny McDonald** for the third most in Maple Leafs history. **Darryl Sittler** (26 GP) and **Frank Mahovlich** (15 GP) rank first and second, respectively.



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CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN: MERCER EXTENDS POINT STREAK TO 12 CONTESTS

Dawson Mercer and **Dougie Hamilton** each collected assists to help the Devils (43-16-6, 92 points) earn their 25th road win of the season – the second most in a campaign behind only 1998-99 (28). New Jersey moved within two points of Carolina (43-13-8, 94 points) for top spot in the Metropolitan Division to set up a must-watch game for Sunday when the two teams face off.

* Mercer (21 years, 135 days) extended his point streak to 12 games (11-9—20) and surpassed **Brendan Shanahan** (11 GP from March 8-29, 1990) for the longest run by a player at age 21 or younger in Devils/Rockies/Scouts history.



Dawson Mercer extended his point streak to 12 games. Only four players in franchise history have posted a longer run: Taylor Hall (19 GP in 2017-18), Brian Gionta (15 GP in 2005-06), Patrik Elias (15 GP in 1999-00 & 13 GP in 2000-01) and Petr Sykora (13 GP in 2000-01)


#NHLSTATS NEW JERSEY DEVILS

* Hamilton improved his season totals to 18-44—62 (65 GP) and tied **Rob Ramage** (20-42—62 in 79 GP) for the [third-most points by a defenseman in a season in Devils/Rockies/Scouts history](#). He trails **Scott Stevens** (18-60—78 in 83 GP; 1993-94) and **Tom Kurvers** (16-50—66 in 74 GP; 1988-89).

SCHEIFELE NETS OVERTIME WINNER AS JETS HOLD OFF PANTHERS

The Jets built a 4-2 lead through 40 minutes and the Panthers rallied back to force overtime in search of their second multi-goal, third-period comeback win in as many days, but **Mark Scheifele** (2-0—2) scored with 29 seconds remaining in the extra frame to help Winnipeg (37-26-3, 77 points) stay within a point of Colorado (36-22-6, 78 points) in their race for third place in the Central Division.

* Scheifele's overtime winner was the 13th of his career – the most in [Jets/Thrashers history](#) and four more than **Ilya Kovalchuk** (9) who sits second.



**Most game-winning goals,
Jets/Thrashers history:**

42 - Kyle Connor
41 - Blake Wheeler
41 - Mark Scheifele

#NHLSTATS WINNIPEG JETS

* At the other end of the rink, **Matthew Tkachuk** (2-1—3) recorded his 10th three-point outing of 2022-23 and tied **Pavel Bure** (10 GP in 1999-00) for the second most by a Panthers skater in a single season behind **Jonathan Huberdeau** (13 GP in 2021-22). Tkachuk's 29 multi-point games this season trail only **Connor McDavid** (37 GP) for the most among all players.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS FROM SATURDAY'S #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

A jam-packed Saturday [featured notes from 30 teams](#), here are some of the highlights:

* **Erik Karlsson** continued his case toward a third Norris Trophy as he recorded his 84th point of 2022-23, surpassing **Brent Burns** (83 in 2018-19) for the [most in a season by Sharks defenseman](#). Karlsson also recorded the 744th point of his career to overtake **Mathieu Schneider** for sole possession of 22nd place on the NHL's [all-time points list among defensemen](#).

* After **Nathan MacKinnon** tied the game to extend his home goal streak to a [franchise-record nine games](#), **Cale Makar** ended the night with his fifth career overtime goal, surpassing **Tyson Barrie** for the [most by an Avalanche/Nordiques defenseman](#).

* The second-seeded Wild (38-21-7, 83 points) earned a win to keep pace with the Stars (36-17-13, 85 points), who top the Central Division and also collected two points Saturday via a comeback win. Minnesota improved to 10-0-2 in its past 12 games and have posted a 12-game point streak for the second time in franchise history. The franchise-record, 13-game run was set in 2016-17 (12-0-1 from Dec. 2-29, 2016).

* **Jonathan Quick** blanked the Metropolitan Division-leading Hurricanes to record his first shutout with Vegas and the 58th of his career, tying **John Ross Roach** for 21st place on the [NHL's all-time list](#). Quick also earned his 373rd career win, surpassing **Andy Moog** for sole possession of 18th most in [NHL's history](#).



Jonathan Quick recorded his first shutout with the Golden Knights in his third game.

Only Robin Lehner (2 GP in 2019-20) required fewer games to post his first shutout with Vegas.



#NHLSTATS

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

QUICK CLICKS

- * [WWE superstar Big E takes in Blue Jackets game, rides Zamboni](#)
- * [Sonny Milano's dad reads starting lineup before game against Islanders](#)
- * [Jordan Kyrou gets hat trick, Blues defeat Blue Jackets](#)
- * [Jordan Binnington poses with young Blues fan 4 years apart](#)
- * [Kraft Hockeyville 2023 community finalists named](#)




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SUNDAY FEATURES NHL ON TNT DOUBLEHEADER, HURRICANES-DEVILS AT "THE ROCK"
 Sunday's eight-game slate is highlighted by an *NHL on TNT* doubleheader and the top two teams in the Metropolitan Division squaring off at Prudential Center.



TODAY'S SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

1:30 PM ET		@		TNT, NESN, SN360, TVAS
4:00 PM ET		@		TNT, SN360, TVAS
7:00 PM ET		@		MSGSN, BSSO, SNP, SNO, SNE, SN360
7:00 PM ET		@		BSMW, NHLN, ATTSN-RM
7:00 PM ET		@		BSSUN, TSN3
9:00 PM ET		@		RDS, SNW, TSN5
9:30 PM ET		@		BSWI, BSN, BSAZ, SN360
9:30 PM ET		@		BSSO, BSSC

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