



The Kings and Coyotes will play the first-ever NHL games in the Southern Hemisphere during the 2023 *NHL Global Series – Melbourne*, with two preseason contests set to take place at Rod Laver Arena (9Go!, 9Now, ESPN Australia, ESPN App, ESPN+, NHL Network, SN, Sportsnet+). Both games in Melbourne, 17 hours ahead of the Pacific Time Zone, will begin at 2 p.m. local time. That translates to 9 p.m. PT on Friday, Sept. 22 and Saturday, Sept. 23 (or midnight ET on Saturday, Sept. 23 & Sunday, Sept. 24).

Quick Hits:

* The Kings played in the first NHL regular-season game in Europe and now will be part of another historic first during the League's first foray into the Southern Hemisphere.

* In 2021-22, Kings defenseman **Jordan Spence** (Manly, Australia) became the first *Australian-born* player to skate in the NHL. Four and a half years before that, forward **Nathan Walker** (now with the Blues) became the first player of *Australian nationality* to play in the League. Walker scored in his NHL debut with the Capitals in 2017-18.

* The Goodall Cup is nearly as old as the Stanley Cup and is awarded to the champions of the Australian Ice Hockey League (AIHL), which recently concluded its 22nd season with the Melbourne Mustangs defeating the CBR Brave to claim the title.

* No Australian players, based on nationality or birthplace, have their name on the Stanley Cup, but two have ties to Cup-winning teams and one was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

* Timeline: [Click here](#) for a snapshot of historic NHL moments around the world, from the first game in League history in 1917 to the first contests south of the equator more than 105 years later.

Quick Clicks:

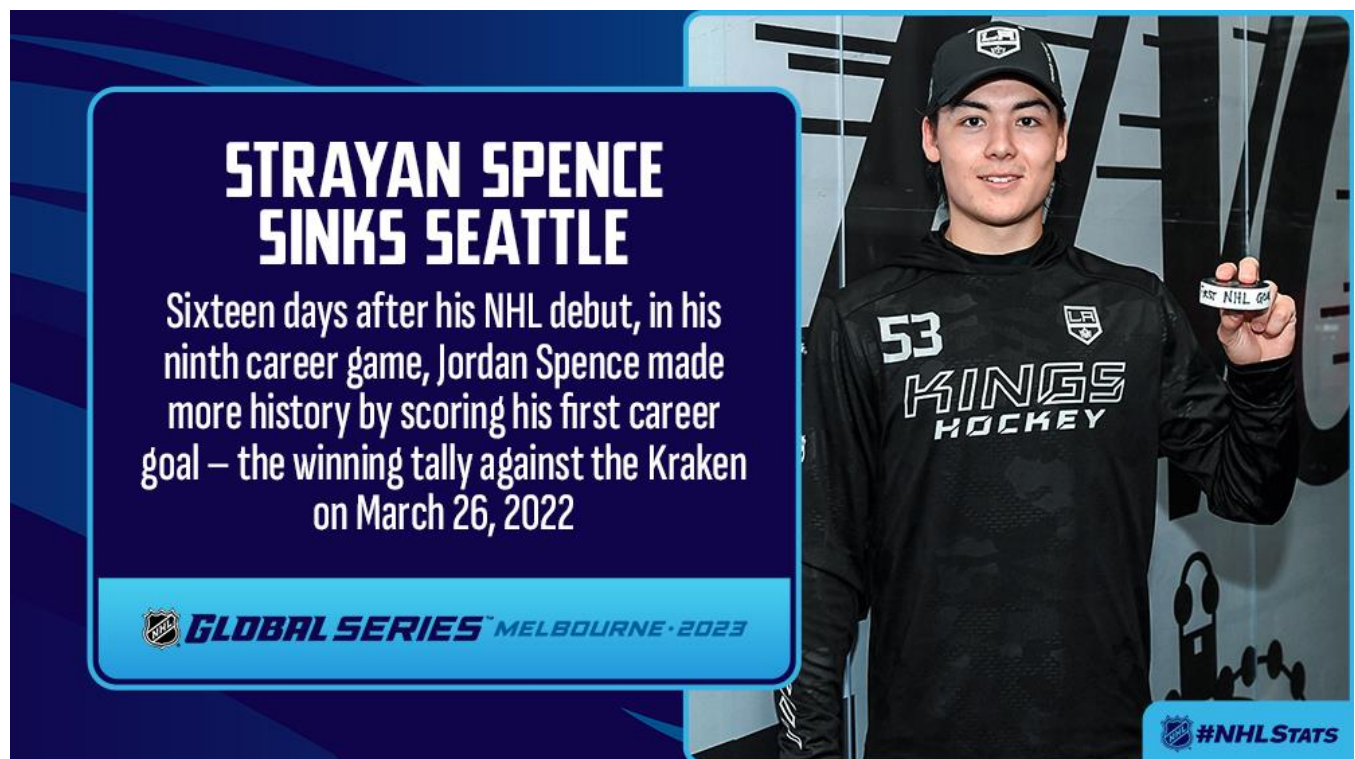
- * [NHL Australia on Instagram \(@nhlaus\)](#)
- * [Preseason Games Outside North America](#)
- * [Regular-Season Games Outside North America](#)
- * [Offseason Games Outside North America](#)

"WHO CAN IT BE NOW?" NHL PLAYERS WITH TIES TO AUSTRALIA

When the Australian rock band Men At Work posed the question "[Who Can It Be Now?](#)" back in 1981, it likely wasn't in regard to which Aussie would be the first to play in the NHL – but in the same breath, #NHLStats can't confirm it *wasn't*. Without further ado, a look at NHLers with notable connections to Australia:

* Blues forward **Nathan Walker**, who was born in Cardiff, Wales but raised in Sydney, made history on [Oct. 7, 2017](#) when he became the [first player of Australian nationality to skate in an NHL game](#). He received [congratulatory messages from several prominent countrymen](#) including [then-Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull](#) and was credited with the Capitals' final goal in a 6-1 win against the Canadiens. Walker appeared in a total of eight contests with Washington that season including [Game 6 of the 2018 Second Round](#), where he had an assist in the eventual Cup champions' series-clinching win versus Pittsburgh.

* Kings defenseman **Jordan Spence**, whose birthplace is Manly, New South Wales, became the first *Australian-born* player to skate in an NHL game when he debuted on [March 10, 2022](#). Spence [moved to Osaka, Japan in his youth](#) before eventually ending up in Cornwall, P.E.I., and has represented Canada internationally.



* Spence (No. 95 in 2019) became the second Australian-born player selected in an NHL Draft, with the first being defenseman **Darren Gani** (No. 252 in 1984). Gani, who was born in Perth and moved to Scarborough, Ont., at age four, attended the Oilers' training camps alongside several of their future Hockey Hall of Famers including **Wayne Gretzky** but never reached the NHL.

* Three other NHLers with ties to Australia are Rangers defenseman **Ben Harpur** as well as blueliner **Andrew MacWilliam** and goaltender **Jason Elliott**. Harpur is a dual citizen of Canada and Australia due to his mother, **Margery**, being from the latter country. MacWilliam, also a dual Canadian-Australian citizen, was tabbed by Toronto with the No. 188 pick in the 2008 NHL Draft and appeared in 12 games for the Maple Leafs in 2014-15. Elliott lived in Australia as a teenager before being picked by the Red Wings with the No. 205 selection in 1994, going on to *dress* in 10 games for the club from 2000-01 to 2001-02 – a stretch that culminated with Elliott being part of the club's 2002 Stanley Cup celebrations.

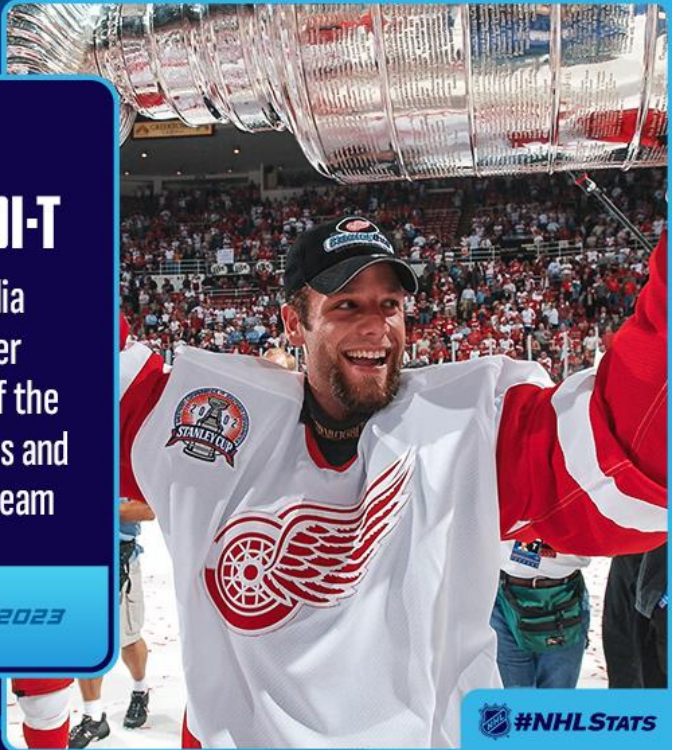
 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

 @PR_NHL  @PR_NHL  #NHLStats

AN AUSSIE AUSSIE AUSSIE IN DETR-OI OI OI-T

Jason Elliott, who represented Australia internationally during the 1990s, never appeared in an NHL game but was part of the 2002 Red Wings' Stanley Cup celebrations and received a championship ring from the team

 **GLOBAL SERIES™** MELBOURNE • 2023



 **#NHLStats**

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

 @PR_NHL  @PR_NHL  #NHLStats

KINGS, COYOTES HAVE PLAYED OVERSEAS BEFORE

The Kings (7-2-0 in 9 GP) and Coyotes/Jets (4-1-0 in 5 GP) franchises have contested several exhibition and regular-season games outside North America.

2017 NHL China Games

* **Adrian Kempe** and **Jonny Brodzinski** helped Los Angeles sweep its preseason series versus Vancouver, with Kempe corralling one of the Kings' five goals during the opener in Shanghai and Brodzinski burying the shootout winner two days later in Beijing. The two-game set marked the League's first-ever contests played in China and Kempe scored the first NHL goal in the country.

2011 NHL Premiere Series

* **Anze Kopitar** and future Coyotes forward **Brad Richardson** accounted for two of the Kings' five goals as Los Angeles edged the Hamburg Freezers by a 5-4 margin during an exhibition game in Germany. The Kings then opened their Stanley Cup-winning campaign with a 3-2 overtime victory against the Rangers at Ericsson Globe in Stockholm, which was followed by a 4-2 loss versus the Sabres at O2 Arena in Berlin.

2007 NHL Premiere Series

* Kopitar had a hat trick as the Kings rallied from a three-goal deficit to earn a 7-6 win against Salzburg EC Red Bull in Austria. Kopitar, who grew up in Jesenice, Slovenia (roughly 150 miles from Eisarena Salzburg) and had several family members and friends in attendance, capped the exhibition tournament by scoring a go-ahead goal with 46 seconds remaining in regulation to give Los Angeles a 4-3 victory versus Farjestads BK. The Kings then travelled to London, where they named **Rob Blake** captain before splitting a back-to-back set with the reigning Stanley Cup-champion Ducks at O2 Arena during the NHL's first-ever regular-season games contested in Europe.

ANA 0 LA 1 9:50 2nd

BLAKE BEATS BRYZ IN BRITAIN

Kings general manager Rob Blake scored the first-ever winning goal during an NHL regular-season game in Europe, with Anze Kopitar collecting the primary assist

GLOBAL SERIES MELBOURNE 2023

#NHLSTATS

2010 NHL Premiere Series

* **Petr Prucha** and **Radim Vrbata** connected on the winning goal as the Coyotes concluded their exhibition schedule with a 3-1 victory versus Riga Dinamo in Latvia. Phoenix then started its regular season in Czechia – Prucha and Vrbata’s birth country – by splitting a back-to-back set against the Bruins at O2 Arena in Prague.

1994 NHL International Challenge

* **Teemu Selanne** (4-1—5) and future Coyotes forward **Keith Tkachuk** (0-5—5) combined for 10 points as the original Jets opened the exhibition tournament with an 8-2 win against Tappara Tampere in Helsinki. Selanne shone in his birth country once again by scoring the clinching goal on a breakaway to give Winnipeg a 5-3 victory versus HIFK Helsinki during the finale.

EXHIBITION & REGULAR-SEASON GAMES OUTSIDE NORTH AMERICA
COYOTES/JETS FRANCHISE HISTORY

TEAM	OPPONENT	DATE	CITY	RESULT
ARI	LAK	Sept. 24, 2023	Melbourne	·
ARI	LAK	Sept. 23, 2023	Melbourne	·
PHX	BOS	Oct. 10, 2010	Prague	3-0 L
PHX	BOS	Oct. 9, 2010	Prague	5-2 W
PHX	Riga Dinamo	Oct. 6, 2010	Riga	3-1 W
WIN	HIFK Helsinki	Sept. 11, 1994	Helsinki	5-3 W
WIN	Tappara Tampere	Sept. 9, 1994	Helsinki	8-2 W

GLOBAL SERIES™ MELBOURNE · 2023

#NHLSTATS

THE NUMBERS DOWN UNDER

8,227 – Miles separating Tempe and Melbourne.

7,932 – Miles separating Los Angeles and Melbourne.

2008 – Draft year of Kings defenseman **Drew Doughty**, selected with the No. 2 pick by Los Angeles, and fellow blueliner **Andrew MacWilliam**, a dual citizen of Canada and Australia tabbed by Toronto at No. 188.

2000 – [Founding year](#) of the AIHL, which recently concluded its 22nd season with the Melbourne Mustangs defeating the CBR Brave to win the 114-year-old Goodall Cup. Notable NHLers who have played in the AIHL include **Nathan Walker** (Sydney Ice Dogs) and **Rob Zamuner** (Brisbane Blue Tongues).

1999 – Year that the sports comedy film *Mystery, Alaska* was released. It stars Australian actor **Russell Crowe** as **Sheriff John Biebe**, who captains an amateur hockey team from the fictional small town of Mystery in an outdoor exhibition game against the New York Rangers.

1984 – Year that **Darren Gani** (Perth, Australia) became the first Australian-born player selected in the NHL Draft. The draft that year began with none other than **Mario Lemieux** hearing his name called with the No. 1 pick and ended with the Oilers – three weeks removed from their first Stanley Cup win – making history by selecting Gani with the No. 252 and final selection.

1,500 – Seating capacity of the Henke Rink at O'Brien Icehouse in the Docklands precinct of Melbourne, which is home to the AIHL's Melbourne Ice and Melbourne Mustangs and hosted the 2011 IIHF World Championship Division II – Group A tournament. The Mighty Roos, Australia's senior men's national team, went undefeated on home ice to grab the gold medal and secure promotion into Division I.

722 – Players to score a goal in their League debut (regular season or playoffs), including **Nathan Walker** who did so [Oct. 7, 2017](#) when he also became the first player of *Australian nationality* to skate in the NHL.



615 – Numbers of points by the AIHL’s all-time leading scorer **Greg Oddy**, who is dubbed by many as the “Australian Wayne Gretzky.” Oddy is a three-time AIHL champion and was coached at the youth, international and AIHL level by **John Botterill**, who is the uncle of three-time Winter Olympics gold medalist **Jennifer Botterill** and Kraken assistant general manager **Jason Botterill**.

376 – Career NHL games played by **Steve McKenna**, an undrafted forward who cracked the Kings’ roster in 1996-97 – a campaign in which he also played 66 games for the Phoenix Roadrunners of the International Hockey League. McKenna appeared in a total of 140 games with Los Angeles (including three during the 1998 Stanley Cup Playoffs) – all during **Rob Blake**’s first tenure as Kings captain – and later played one season in the AIHL with the Adelaide Avalanche (2004-05: 3-16—19 in 19 GP). McKenna returned to Australia to serve as head coach of the Mighty Roos, whom he guided to promotion into Division I via a gold medal at the 2008 IIHF World Championship Division II – Group B tournament.

114 – Age of the Goodall Cup, now awarded to the champions of the AIHL, won in 2023 by the Melbourne Mustangs. It is the [fifth-oldest trophy](#) still awarded in the sport.

55 – Age of “The Great One” when he played in the [Wayne Gretzky Ice Hockey Classic](#), a five-game series of four-on-four exhibition games that took place in Australia during the 2016 NHL offseason. The showcase was designed to promote hockey as well as raise money for charity and featured recently retired and current NHLers including **Adam Cracknell**, **Scott Darling**, **Bryce Salvador**, **John Scott**, **Ben Scrivens** and **Terry Yake**.

54 – Latitude (in degrees south) for the city of Puerto Williams, Chile, which has hosted multiple editions of the [Copa Hermandad Patagonica](#) (believed to be world’s southernmost pond hockey tournament).

40 – Saves by former NHL goaltender **Ilya Bryzgalov** on [Oct. 9, 2010](#), when he led the Coyotes to a 5-2 victory against the Bruins in Prague during the franchise’s first regular-season game played outside North America. Bryzgalov also was part of the first such contest in Kings history – he started for the Ducks in a 4-1 loss to the Kings on [Sept. 29, 2007](#), in London.

21 – Career games played in the AIHL for goaltender **Matt Climie**, all with the CBR Brave in 2018-19. Climie played the last of his five career NHL games with the Coyotes in 2010-11 (against **Sidney Crosby**, **Evgeni Malkin** & the Penguins).

16 – Number of Mighty Roos players that were born in Australia and competed in the 2023 IIHF World Championship Division II – Group A tournament in Madrid, Spain.

7 – Players in NHL history who were born in the Southern Hemisphere (min. 1 GP in regular season or playoffs): **Mike Greenlay** (Vitoria, Brazil), **Olie Kolzig** (Johannesburg, South Africa), **Chris Nielsen** (Moshi, Tanzania), **Willi Plett** (Asuncion, Paraguay), **Richie Regehr** (Bandung, Indonesia), **Robyn Regehr** (Recife, Brazil) and **Jordan Spence** (Manly, Australia).

7 – Teams to win the Stanley Cup during the same season where they played an exhibition or regular-season game outside North America, including the Kings in 2011-12.

5 – Number of times that **Wendy Ovenden** won the Joan McKowen Memorial Trophy, which was awarded to the winner of the National Women’s Championship and is currently presented to the Australian Women’s Ice Hockey League champions. The Hockey Hall of Fame Australia elected Ovenden to Honoured Membership in 2020.

4 – Players who dressed at least one contest with the Kings during the *2017 NHL China Games* that remain with the team: **Drew Doughty**, **Adrian Kempe**, **Anze Kopitar** and **Trevor Lewis**. Lewis played for Winnipeg and Calgary since then and returned to Los Angeles when he was signed by the Kings on July 1.

4 – Teams with borders either fully or partially located in the Southern Hemisphere that competed in the [2023 Amerigol LATAM Cup](#), which culminated with a double-overtime winner by Argentina’s **Owen Haiek** in the Division I men’s championship game on Aug. 27 at Florida Panthers IceDen. The tournament provides players from non-traditional hockey markets around the world an opportunity to showcase their talent and raise awareness of the sport in their countries.

3 – Eventual Kings captains who connected on the first-ever game-winning goal scored in an NHL regular-season game in Europe: **Rob Blake**, who was wearing the “C” at the time, scored the winner on [Sept. 29, 2007](#) in London, with assists to **Anze Kopitar** and **Dustin Brown**.

3 – Southern Hemisphere-based countries that are [IIHF Full Members](#) (date joined in brackets): [South Africa](#) (Feb. 25, 1937), [Australia](#) (Feb. 11, 1938) and [New Zealand](#) (May 2, 1977).

1 – Number of [headstand celebrations](#), at a minimum, to come out of the AHL, with Perth Thunder defenseman **Riccardo Del Basso** delivering the viral moment after scoring the shootout winner against the Melbourne Ice on [Aug. 23, 2014](#).

1 – Australian-born players inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Keep scrolling to learn more about **Tommy Dunderdale** (Benalla, Australia) who was posthumously inducted in 1974.

0 – Australian players, based on nationality or birthplace, with their name on the Stanley Cup.

DUNDER-STRUCK

THE STORY OF THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN HOCKEY HALL OF FAME

Another noteworthy player with ties to Australia is **Tommy Dunderdale**, who was posthumously inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1974 and became the [first Australian-born player to receive the honor](#).

* Dunderdale was born in Benalla in 1887 and moved to Canada in 1904. He learned the sport in Winnipeg and developed his skills in Ottawa before playing nearly 20 pro seasons including 12 in the Pacific Coast Hockey Association from 1911-12 to 1922-23 during a time when clubs from the PCHA competed for the Stanley Cup. Dunderdale won PCHA championships with the Victoria Senators (1913), Victoria Aristocrats (1914) and Portland Rosebuds (1916).

* Dunderdale challenged for the Cup multiple times including against the National Hockey Association's Montreal Canadiens in the 1916 Final, with the Rosebuds falling by a 2-1 margin in the winner-take-all Game 5. The Canadiens were one of the NHL's founding franchises a year later.

* Dunderdale is cited as the PCHA's all-time leader in goals. He is also believed to have scored the first penalty-shot goal in pro hockey history, against Vancouver Millionaires goaltender **Hugh Lehman** on Dec. 12, 1921.


NHL GLOBAL SERIES™ MELBOURNE · 2023

TOMMY DUNDERDALE HAS DEVELOPED INTO A FLAWLESS PLAYER

Flaxen-haired Boy of World's
Champion Hockey Team Said to
Be Greatest Centre in the Game
—Easily the Best Goal Getter
in British Columbia League.

Lester Patrick's return to the form
that made him famous as a Montreal
Wanderer, Fred "Cyclone" Taylor,
Erne Johnson, Goldie Prodgers, Edsie
Oatman and numerous other individual
stars and a bristling two-club race
for the championship were outstanding
features of the 1912-13 season of
the British Columbia hockey league.
Another was Tommy Dunderdale, the
flaxen-haired centre of the world
champion Victoria team.

Since directing serious attention
upon the premier winter sport, which
happened four seasons ago when he



TOMMY DUNDERDALE

THE WINNIPEG TRIBUNE
APRIL 9, 1913

VET'S PLAYING PROVES SURPRISE



TOMMY DUNDERDALE

FANS who witnessed last night's
game between Vancouver and
Victoria received quite a surprise
in the showing of Tommy Dunder-
dale, one of the original stars of
the Coast League. The veteran
played a whirlwind game and was
a big factor in the Caps' success.
He scored both goals for his team
and has the distinction of regis-
tering the first goal under the new
penalty shot system. His drive had
Lehman beaten all the way.

THE VANCOUVER SUN
DEC. 13, 1921

NHL STATS AND INFORMATION

@PR_NHL @PR_NHL #NHLStats

EXPLORERS BURNED MIDNIGHT OIL BY PLAYING HOCKEY ON "MAD MAX"-ESQUE WASTELAND

Some of the earliest examples of hockey being played in the Southern Hemisphere can be traced to successful and ill-fated early-1900s Antarctic expeditions led by famed British explorers **Robert Falcon Scott** and **Ernest Shackleton**.

* Scott's second and final voyage was the *Terra Nova Expedition*, which saw crewmen build a shelter at Cape Evans' north shore on Ross Island in 1911. *Scott's Hut* has since been designated an *Antarctic Historic Site or Monument* and still includes many artifacts from the expedition, including several wooden hockey sticks.

* Shackleton's *Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition* became an epic story of human survival after its ship, fittingly named *Endurance*, became trapped in pack ice before eventually sinking on Nov. 21, 1915. Expedition photographer and Australian **Frank Hurley** kept the camera rolling during the several months leading up to the wreck, which included capturing footage of crewmen playing hockey on the Weddell Sea ice.

 **GLOBAL SERIES™** MELBOURNE • 2023

"A new and healthy pastime this autumn has been the games of hockey on the ice. Notwithstanding the low temperatures, the occasional biting wind, and the unstinted generosity with which bruised shins and black eyes have been bestowed, the enthusiasm is unabated and the game still remains popular."

— Excerpt from a *South Polar Times* article written during the *Discovery Expedition* in 1903

* Today, the Mighty Roos and Rhinos (South Africa's senior men's national team) have appeared in over 60 combined World Championship tournaments since both countries became IIHF Full Members in the 1930s. The Mighty Roos also competed in the 1960 Winter Olympics.

* New Zealand's senior men's national team are the Ice Blacks and their pre-game warmup at international competitions have frequently involved players performing a haka, a ceremonial dance in Māori culture used to welcome distinguished guests or to acknowledge great achievements, occasions and funerals. A haka was also performed by members of *The Lord of the Rings* film series' stunt team during the final day of shooting for actor and [Canadiens fan](#) **Viggo Mortensen**, who portrayed the character **Aragorn** in the New Zealand-based production.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

 @PR_NHL  @PR_NHL  #NHLStats

ARAGORN & THE LORDS OF THE STANLEY CUP RINGS

Viggo Mortensen, who filmed *The Lord of the Rings* in New Zealand during the late 1990s and early 2000s, is a Canadiens fan and paid tribute to the late Guy Lafleur at a movie premiere in 2022

 **GLOBAL SERIES™** MELBOURNE • 2023



* In addition to those named in other sections of this document, several other NHL players have skated in exhibition series in the Antipodes over the last 10 years, with the format pitting Canada against the United States and rosters comprised of pro and collegiate players. The list of participants include **Colin Blackwell, Brandon Bollig, Rene Bourque, Brent Burns, Ian Cole, Mike Commodore, Emerson Etem, Garnet Exelby, Andrew Gordon, Scott Hannan, Peter Holland, Zenon Konopka, Nicholas Paul** and **Tim Stapleton**.

###

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

 @PR_NHL  @PR_NHL  #NHLStats