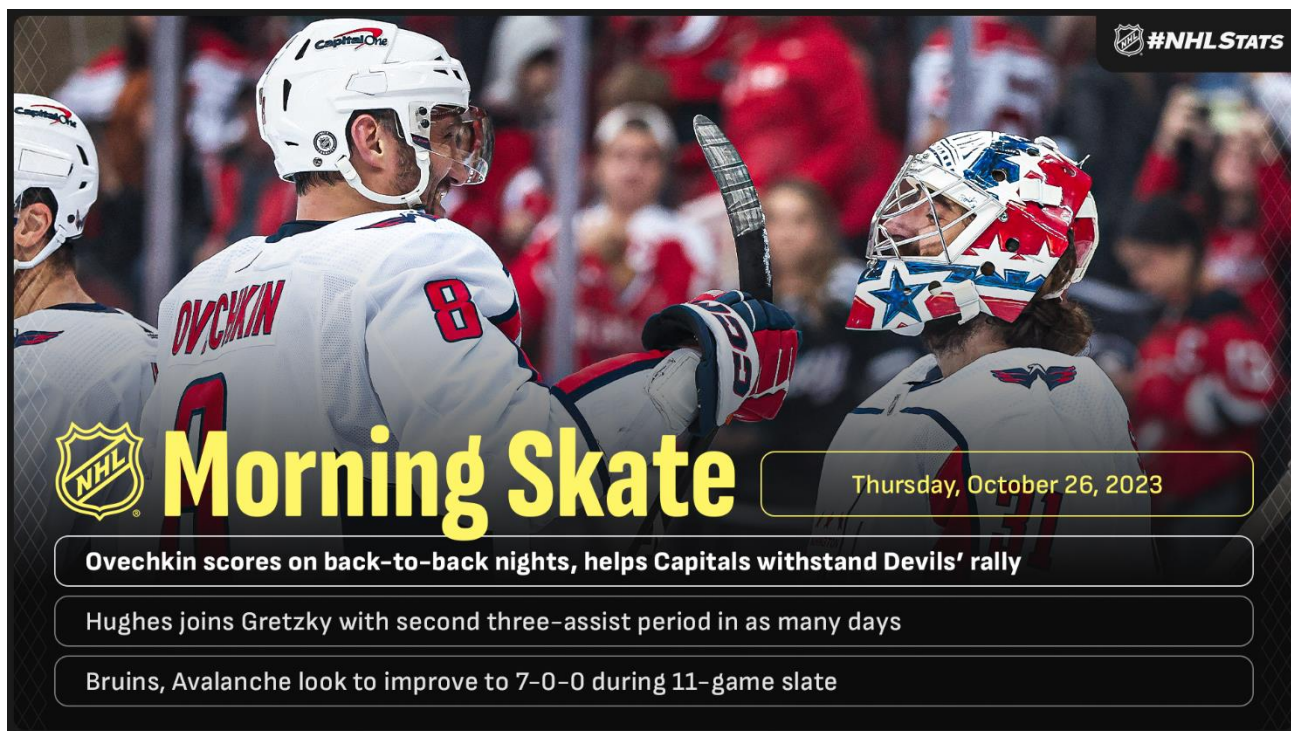


NHL MORNING SKATE – OCT. 26, 2023



The graphic features a photograph of Alex Ovechkin in a white Capitals jersey with the number 8, seen from behind, interacting with a goalie in a red, white, and blue helmet. The NHL logo is in the bottom left, and the text '#NHLSTATS' is in the top right. The main title 'Morning Skate' is in large yellow letters. Below it, three white boxes with black text provide highlights: 'Ovechkin scores on back-to-back nights, helps Capitals withstand Devils' rally', 'Hughes joins Gretzky with second three-assist period in as many days', and 'Bruins, Avalanche look to improve to 7-0-0 during 11-game slate'. The date 'Thursday, October 26, 2023' is in a yellow box on the right.

NHL Morning Skate

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Ovechkin scores on back-to-back nights, helps Capitals withstand Devils' rally

Hughes joins Gretzky with second three-assist period in as many days

Bruins, Avalanche look to improve to 7-0-0 during 11-game slate

* A high-scoring, back-and-forth affair saw the Devils and Capitals score four and three unanswered goals, respectively, and ended with **Alex Ovechkin** adding his name to a couple of lists after scoring for the second straight day.

* **Jack Hughes** achieved a rare NHL feat as he collected three assists in a period for the second straight day and boosted his League-leading points to the highest total by a player through the first six games of a season since **Mario Lemieux** in 1995-96.

* The full [#NHLStats Pack for the 2023 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic](#) is now available, along with an [interactive information guide](#) for the event.

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CAPITALS COME BACK IN ONE FRENETIC HOCKEY GAME

A day after a 16-game Frozen Frenzy was one frenetic hockey game between the Capitals and Devils, which saw New Jersey score four unanswered goals to erase a 3-0 deficit and Washington score three straight to complete their second comeback win of the season. **Alex Ovechkin** (1-1—2) found the score sheet for the second straight day while skating in his 1,500th career game (regular season & playoffs combined), as 27-year-old goaltender **Hunter Shepard** earned a win in his NHL debut.

* Ovechkin scored his 39th career goal against New Jersey (73 GP) and tied **Sidney Crosby** (39 in 82 GP) for the sixth-most tallies against the Devils/Rockies/Scouts franchise in NHL history. He now trails only **Mike Gartner** (57 in 91 GP), **Mario Lemieux** (47 in 74 GP), **Bryan Trottier** (44 in 92 GP), **Marcel Dionne** (40 in 64 GP) and **Mike Bossy** (40 in 53 GP).

* Ovechkin collected two points while playing in his 1,500th NHL game (regular season & playoffs combined) to boost his totals to 896-735—1,631 through those contests. The only players in NHL history with more points with a single franchise than the Capitals captain through that milestone are Lemieux (766-1,129—1,895 in 1,022 GP w/ PIT), **Steve Yzerman** (715-1,083—1,798 w/ DET), **Joe Sakic** (697-1,088—1,785 w/ COL & QUE) and Crosby (624-1,085—1,709 in 1,376 in 1,376 GP w/ PIT).



OVECHKIN GOES BACK-TO-BACK

Alex Ovechkin scored on back-to-back days for the 54th time. The only players in NHL history with more: Gordie Howe (72), Phil Esposito (63), Wayne Gretzky (62), Bobby Hull (61) & Frank Mahovlich (55).



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* With his family in attendance, Shepard earned a victory in his first career game after being called up Tuesday and became the fourth Capitals goaltender in the past ten years to win his NHL debut, joining **Ilya Samsonov** (Oct. 4, 2019), **Vitek Vanecek** (Jan. 15, 2021) and **Zach Fucale** (Nov. 11, 2021). His road to the NHL included winning the 2023 Calder Cup Championship with the AHL's Hershey Bears and being named the playoff MVP after posting a 14-6 record (2.27 GAA, .914 SV%, 3 SO). His trophy case also includes back-to-back NCAA championships with Univ. of Minnesota-Duluth in 2018 and 2019 – he was named team captain the following season (2019-20).

HUGHES ONCE AGAIN FILLS #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

Jack Hughes (0-3—3) has been a staple this season in the Morning Skate and once again accounted for multiple notes in [#NHLStats: Live Updates](#) with his fifth multi-point game of the campaign. Hughes improved his NHL-leading totals to 4-13—17 (6 GP) – the most points through the first six games of a season since **Mario Lemieux** in 1995-96 (6-11—17) and seven more than **Connor McDavid** through that game count in 2022-23 (5-5—10), a campaign the Oilers captain finished with 64-89—153 (82 GP) and his fifth Art Ross Trophy.

* ICYMI: Jack's brother **Quinn** [joined the TNT crew](#) to talk about how special it is to be in the NHL with his brothers.



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HUGHES JOINS GRETZKY WITH RARE FEAT

Jack Hughes became the third player in NHL history to record three assists in a single period *on consecutive days*, joining Wayne Gretzky (Oct. 10-11, 1986 w/ EDM) and Dan Daoust (Jan. 1-2, 1983 w/ TOR)

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FULL RELEASE OF #NHLSTATS PACK: 2023 TIM HORTONS NHL HERITAGE CLASSIC

After a teaser #NHLStats Pack for the 2023 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic was released late last week, [the full document was made available Wednesday](#) along with an [interactive information guide](#) for the event. The countdown to the 2023 Tim Hortons NHL Heritage Classic which will be contested at Commonwealth Stadium, the home of the CFL's Edmonton Elks, is down to three days (Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. ET on SN, TVAS, TBS, MAX).



NHL 20TH ANNIVERSARY
HERITAGE CLASSIC
2003 EDMONTON 2023
Tim Hortons

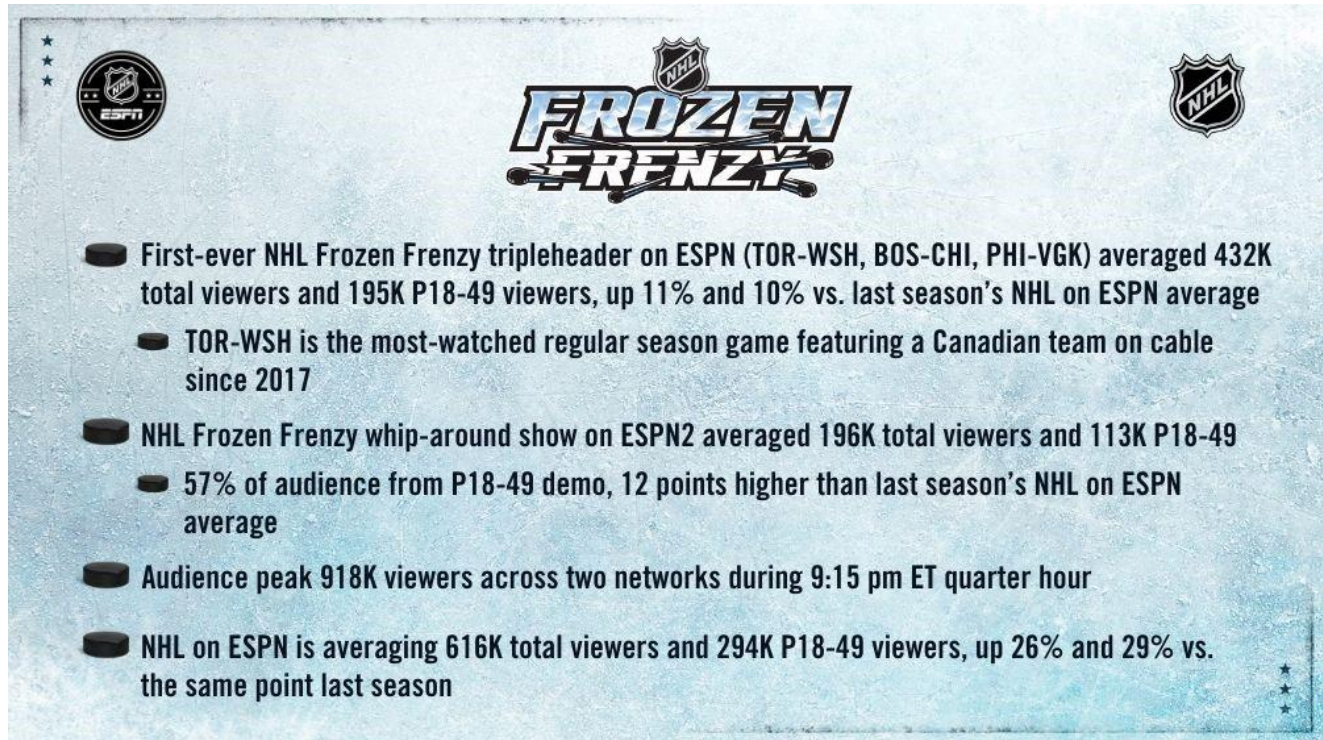
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PACK

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QUICK CLICKS

- * [Auston Matthews](#) talks popularity of NHL, its players in U.S. on 'The Pat McAfee Show'
- * [Nathan MacKinnon](#) aiming to mirror [Sidney Crosby](#)'s continued hunger for success
- * With wife, [Connor Hellebuyck](#) brings Taylor Swift craze to NHL in latest Halloween costume
- * [Macklin Celebrini](#), [Cole Eiserman](#) earn A rating from NHL Central Scouting
- * [ESPN's 'NHL Frozen Frenzy'](#) debuted with impressive viewership



The graphic features the NHL logo at the top center, flanked by the ESPN logo on the left and the NHL logo on the right. Below the NHL logo is the stylized text 'FROZEN FRENZY' with hockey sticks. The background is a light blue, textured surface. The statistics are listed in a column on the left, each preceded by a small black circle icon. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.

- First-ever NHL Frozen Frenzy tripleheader on ESPN (TOR-WSH, BOS-CHI, PHI-VGK) averaged 432K total viewers and 195K P18-49 viewers, up 11% and 10% vs. last season's NHL on ESPN average
- TOR-WSH is the most-watched regular season game featuring a Canadian team on cable since 2017
- NHL Frozen Frenzy whip-around show on ESPN2 averaged 196K total viewers and 113K P18-49
- 57% of audience from P18-49 demo, 12 points higher than last season's NHL on ESPN average
- Audience peak 918K viewers across two networks during 9:15 pm ET quarter hour
- NHL on ESPN is averaging 616K total viewers and 294K P18-49 viewers, up 26% and 29% vs. the same point last season

22 TEAMS IN ACTION, ALL AT ONCE

An 11-game Thursday will feature every contest being played simultaneously for a brief period as the first puck drop of the night goes at 7 p.m. ET with the final ones at 9 p.m. ET. Thursday will feature three national broadcasts, starting with the Ducks visiting the Bruins across Sportsnet channels, the Flyers welcoming the Wild on HULU and ESPN+ and finishing with the Rangers meeting the Oilers at Rogers place on Sportsnet One and TVA Sports.



SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

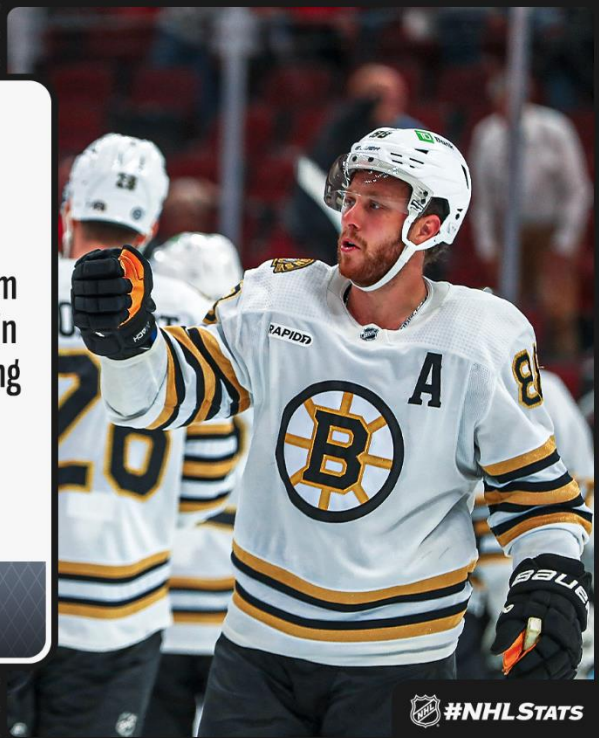
7:00 PM ET		SNP, SNO, SNE, BSSD, BSSC, NESN	7:00 PM ET		ROOT-NW, BSSO
7:00 PM ET		BSDet, TSN3	7:00 PM ET		RDS, TSN2, BSOH
7:00 PM ET		SN-PIT, ALT, TVAS-D	7:00 PM ET		BSSUN, NBCSCA
7:30 PM ET		HULU, ESPN+	7:30 PM ET		MSGSN, TSN5, RDS2
8:00 PM ET		BSSW, TSN4	9:00 PM ET		SNW, BSMW
9:00 PM ET		TVAS, SN1, MSG			

* The Bruins will aim to remain undefeated this season when the Ducks make their only appearance at TD Garden with Anaheim coming off an overtime victory that saw the club overcome two deficits en route to victory. Boston (6-0-0) can establish a franchise record for the longest season-opening win streak should they earn a victory Thursday – the only other time the club started a campaign 6-0-0 was 1937-38.

WILL BOSTON START 7-0-0?

Boston (or COL) can join Vegas as the second team this season to begin 7-0-0. Only two campaigns in NHL history have started with two clubs recording a winning streak of 7+ games:

- 2021-22: CAR w/ 9-0-0 & FLA w/ 8-0-0
- 1993-94: TOR w/ 10-0-0 & NJD w/ 7-0-0



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* The Wild and Flyers, two teams with identical 3-2-1 records to start the season, will take center stage on Hulu and ESPN+ at 7:30 p.m. ET. **Ryan Hartman** is coming off of a 3-2—5 performance Tuesday and with two points Thursday would match the Wild franchise record for most points through a two-game span, a feat last achieved by **Kevin Fiala** on April 22-24, 2022 (1-6—7 in 2 GP). Meanwhile, teammate **Mats Zuccarello** enters play on a six-game point streak and can match **Andrew Brunette** (7 GP in 2009-10) for the longest season-opening run in Wild history.

* In Edmonton's final game before they head outdoors for a historic "Battle of Alberta" showdown, the club will welcome the Rangers to Rogers Place in a contest featured on Sportsnet ONE and TVA Sports. New York is playing in its third of a five-game Western Conference road trip and has recorded a win in each of the first two contests. **Artemi Panarin** will enter the meeting on a six-game season-opening point streak (3-5—8 in 6 GP) and can become the third Rangers player in the past 30 years to extend their run to seven games should he find the score sheet. The only players to do so: **Marian Gaborik** (8 GP in 2009-10) and **Mark Messier** (7 GP in 1993-94).

MacKINNON'S AVALANCHE PUT WIN STREAKS ON THE LINE VS. CROSBY'S PENGUINS

Colorado will put its perfect 6-0-0 record on the line when fellow Nova Scotia natives **Sidney Crosby** and **Nathan MacKinnon** go head-to-head for the first time this season and 16th overall. Colorado can start a season with seven straight wins for just the second time in franchise history after the Quebec Nordiques did so in 1985-86.



AVALANCHE AIM TO EXTEND ROAD STREAK

The Avalanche have won 15 straight road games dating to March 13 – the longest road win streak in NHL history (spanning seasons or otherwise)

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The image shows two Colorado Avalanche players on the ice. One player is wearing a white jersey with red and blue accents, and the other is wearing a white jersey with red and blue accents. They are both wearing helmets and holding hockey sticks. The background is a dark arena with some lights visible.

RED HOT RED WINGS LOOK TO CONTINUE STRONG START

Dylan Larkin (4-10—4 in 7 GP) and **Alex DeBrincat** (9-4—13 in 7 GP) will both look to achieve notable feats and help the Red Wings (5-1-1, 11 points) continue their hot start to the season when Detroit welcomes Winnipeg to Little Caesars Arena.


* Larkin comes into Thursday's contest with four straight multi-point outings and can become the first Red Wings skater to extend that streak to five since **Johan Franzen** in 2008-09.

* DeBrincat, who enters Thursday as the League leader in goals, can match the franchise mark for fewest games to 10 tallies in a season – a pace set by **Mud Bruneteau** (12-3—15 in 8 GP in 1943-44). DeBrincat could also become just the sixth player in the past 30 years to score 10 goals through the first eight games of a campaign alongside **Auston Matthews** (2018-19 w/ TOR), **Alex Ovechkin** (2017-18 w/ WSH), **Ilya Kovalchuk** (2003-04 w/ ATL), **Mario Lemieux** (1995-96 w/ PIT) and **Cam Neely** (1993-94 w/ BOS).

MOST POINTS THROUGH FIRST EIGHT GAMES IN A SEASON

FRANCHISE HISTORY

SEASON	RECORD	POINTS
2005-06	7-1-0	14
2001-02	7-1-0	14
1962-63	6-0-2	14
2008-09	6-1-1	13
1999-00	6-1-1	13
1997-98	6-1-1	13



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*The 2023-24 Red Wings can join this list (5-1-1, 11 points through 7 GP)