

NHL Morning Skate

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

Bruins, Panthers and Golden Knights, Stars set to clash on NHL on TNT doubleheader

High-scoring defensemen ready to go head-to-head when Hughes, Makar take to the ice

Bedard and Fantilli ready for first NHL meeting as part of 14-game Wednesday

* An NHL on TNT doubleheader features a pair of rematches from the 2023 Stanley Cup Playoffs when **Sam Reinhart** and the Panthers host **David Pastrnak** and the Bruins, while **Jason Robertson** searches for his 250th career point when the Stars and Golden Knights clash.

* **Quinn Hughes** and **Cale Makar** are each producing at a 100-point pace to start 2023-24 and will face off against one another when the Avalanche host the Canucks at Ball Arena.

* As the quarter mark of the 2023-24 season draws closer, #NHLStats examines where we stand entering Wednesday – less than a week from the mark.

FIRST TNT DOUBLEHEADER OF THE WEEK HEADLINES 14-GAME SLATE

A night off from NHL action rebounds with a 14-game schedule Wednesday night, including an NHL on TNT doubleheader. A battle between the first- and second-seeded teams in the Atlantic Division starts the night off at 7 p.m. ET when the Bruins (13-1-3, 29 points) face the Panthers (12-5-1, 25 points), then division leaders in the Western Conference will clash at 9:30 p.m. ET when the Stars (12-4-1, 25 points) host the Golden Knights (13-4-2, 28 points).



SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

7:00 PM ET		BSSO, SNP, SNO, SNE, SN1	7:00 PM ET		BSOH, NBCSCH
7:00 PM ET		MSGSN2, BSDET	7:00 PM ET		MAX, TNT, TVAS
7:00 PM ET		SN-PIT, MSG	7:00 PM ET		BSSUN, SNW
7:00 PM ET		MNMT, MSG-B	7:30 PM ET		MSGSN, NBCSP
9:00 PM ET		SCRIPPS, BSMW	9:00 PM ET		BSSO, SN360
9:30 PM ET		SCRIPPS, MAX, TNT	10:00 PM ET		BSW, TSN2, RDS
10:00 PM ET		ALT, SNP	10:00 PM ET		ROOT-NW, NBCSCA

* A pair of the League's [highest goal scorers in 2023-24](#) will meet at Amerant Bank Arena with **Sam Reinhart** (13 in 18 GP) welcoming **David Pastrnak** (12 in 17 GP). Reinhart (CAN) and Pastrnak (CZE) represent [two of five countries](#) to feature a player with 10 or more goals in 2023-24, a list led by the United States (8) – including the top two scorers in **Auston Matthews** and **Kyle Connor** (both w/ 14).

* **Jason Robertson** (109-140—249 in 227 GP) eyes his 250th career point when he takes to the ice against fellow American **Jack Eichel** (187-278—465 in 495 GP). Robertson can join **Jimmy Carson** (209 GP), **Neal Broten** (219 GP), **Joe Mullen** (222 GP) and **Craig Janney** (225 GP) as the fifth U.S.-born player in NHL history to record 250 career points in 228 contests or fewer.

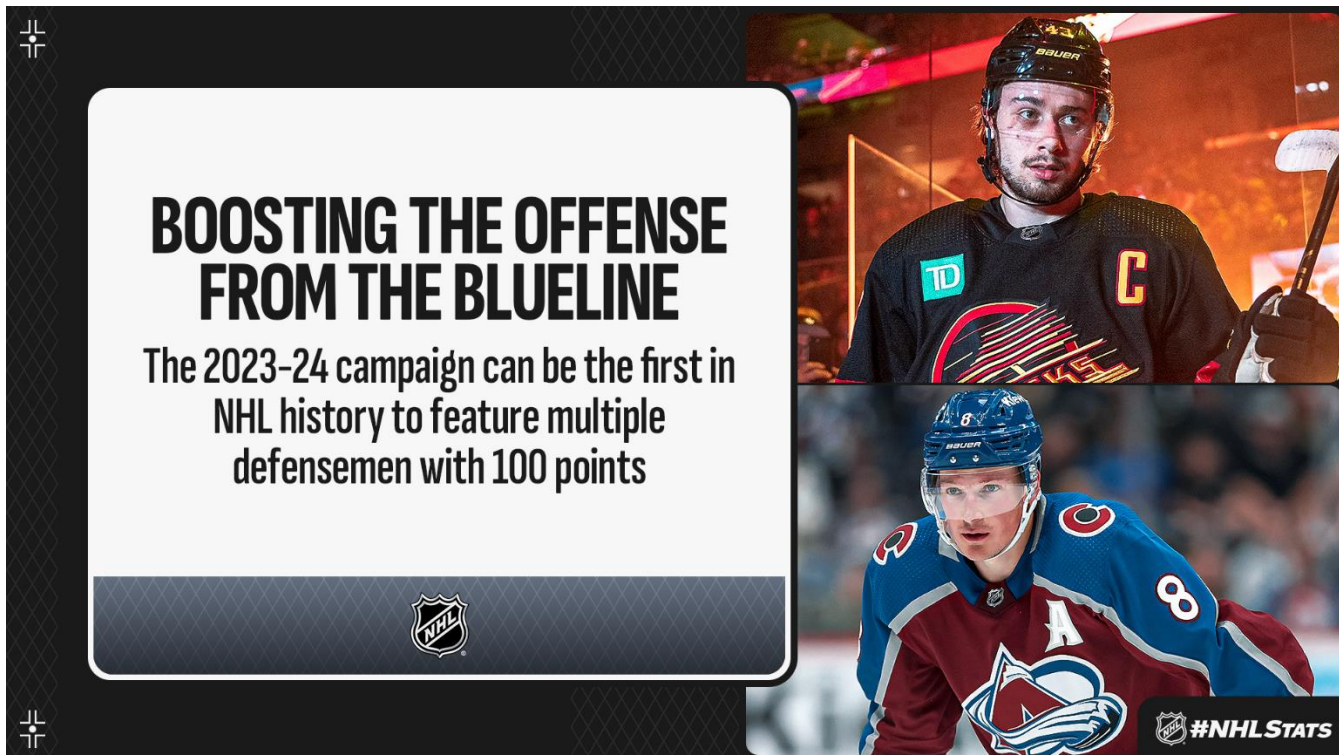
HUGHES vs. MAKAR HIGHLIGHTS BATTLE OF THE BLUELINE IN COLORADO

A pair of high-scoring blueliners on pace to record 120-plus points will go head-to-head when Canucks defenseman **Quinn Hughes** (8-22—30 in 19 GP) and Avalanche defenseman **Cale Makar** (4-23—27 in 17 GP) take to the ice at 10 p.m. ET.



STATS AND INFORMATION

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* Hughes and Makar's strong starts to 2023-24 come on the heels of **Erik Karlsson's** 101-point, Norris Trophy-winning campaign in 2022-23. There have been only three stretches in NHL history to feature a 100-point defenseman in consecutive seasons: [1988-89 to 1991-92](#), [1983-84 to 1985-86](#), and [1969-70 to 1974-75](#).

* Hughes was the first player to reach the 30-point mark in 2023-24 following a 1-1—2 performance that helped Vancouver win its 11th consecutive game against the Sharks dating to Jan. 18, 2020. The Canucks captain is one of just two defensemen in NHL history to be the first player to 30 points in a season, following **Bobby Orr** in 1974-75.

* Makar, with 0-3—3 in each of his past three outings, can become the fifth player in NHL history – and first defenseman – to collect at least three assists in four consecutive games. Hockey Hall of Fame members **Mario Lemieux** (4 GP in 1996-97), **Jari Kurri** (4 GP in 1992-93), **Adam Oates** (4 GP in 1990-91) and **Wayne Gretzky** (4 GP in 1985-86) are the only players to achieve the feat to date.

MORE #NHLSTATS TO KEEP YOUR EYE ON WEDNESDAY

* A pair of selections from the 2023 NHL Draft and teammates from Team Canada's gold medal-winning team at the 2023 World Junior Championship will be going head-to-head for the first time when No. 1 pick **Connor Bedard** (9-6—15 in 16 GP) and the Blackhawks travel to Columbus to take on No. 3 pick **Adam Fantilli** (4-5—9 in 17 GP) and the Blue Jackets.

CONNOR CLOSING IN ON DOUBLE DIGITS

Connor Bedard can join Patrik Laine (14 GP), Steve Yzerman (15 GP), Dale Hawerchuk (17 GP) and Ted Kennedy (17 GP) as the fifth player age 18 or younger in NHL history to reach 10 career goals in 17 GP or fewer

* The Flyers (10-7-1, 21 points) currently occupy second place in the Metropolitan Division and do so thanks in part to the League's longest active win streak (5-0-0 dating to Nov. 10). Philadelphia, which has not trailed at any moment during its current string of victories, ranks third among all teams in total time leading in 2023-24 (537:47) behind Vancouver (548:25) and Boston (545:32).

* **Antti Raanta** and the Hurricanes (10-7-0, 20 points) welcome **Connor McDavid**, **Leon Draisaitl** and the Oilers (5-11-1, 11 points) to PNC Arena for a 7 p.m. ET puck drop on Sportsnet. Raanta has earned a win in each of his past 13 *decisions* at home for Carolina dating to Nov. 26, 2022 (1.75 GAA, .929 SV%, 4 SO). Only two active goaltenders have had a stretch of 14 or more consecutive regular-season decisions with a win at home (spanning seasons or otherwise): **Linus Ullmark** (15 from 2021-22 – 2022-23) and **Andrei Vasilevskiy** (15 from 2019-20 – 2020-21).

2023-24 CLOSING IN ON QUARTER MARK

The 2023-24 season will officially hit the quarter mark Tuesday, Nov. 28 when the Panthers and Maple Leafs meet in the League's 328th contest. Ahead of that milestone, #NHLStats is taking a look at where we stand entering Nov. 22 (278 GP):

* The 6.4 goals per game (including shootout-deciding goals) are on par with last season, which ended as the highest-scoring campaign in 29 years. Along with 2022-23, only two other seasons in the past 30 years had a goals-per-game average of 6.4 or higher at this stage: 1995-96 (6.4 G/GP) and 1993-94 (6.7 G/GP).

* A come-from-behind victory has been featured in 47% (130 GP) of games in 2023-24 – tied with 2022-23 and 1986-87 for the highest percentage at this stage of any campaign. This includes 55 third-period comeback victories, which is the second most at this stage of a season behind 2019-20 (59).



* Four teams who did not compete in the 2023 Stanley Cup Playoffs sit in a postseason position as we near the quarter mark: Washington (9-4-2, 20 points), Philadelphia (10-7-1, 21 points), Vancouver (13-5-1, 27 points) and St. Louis (9-7-1, 19 points). Five other teams who were not in the postseason last year sit within two points of a playoff position: Detroit (8-6-3, 19 points), Pittsburgh (9-8-0, 18 points), Anaheim (9-9-0, 18 points), Arizona (8-8-2, 18 points) and Calgary (7-8-3, 17 points).

* Four of the five players who are in the top five for points in 2023-24 were outside of the position at the quarter mark of last season, with the exception of **David Pastrnak** (4th in 2022-23). Through the quarter mark of 2022-23 (entering games played Nov. 25), **Quinn Hughes** was tied for 64th place, **J.T. Miller** was tied for 51st, **Nikita Kucherov** was tied for sixth and **Elias Pettersson** was tied for 13th.


MOST POINTS

2023-24


PLAYER	TEAM	POINTS
QUINN HUGHES	VAN	30
J.T. MILLER	VAN	29
DAVID PASTRNAK	BOS	29
NIKITA KUCHEROV	TBL	28
ELIAS PETERSSON	VAN	28

* All five players in the top five for goals this season are new faces from the quarter mark a year ago (entering games played Nov. 25) – **Kyle Connor** and **Sam Reinhart** sat tied for 85th, **Auston Matthews** was tied for 32nd, **Nikita Kucherov** was tied for 19th and **Brock Boeser** was tied for 302nd.





MOST GOALS



2023-24

PLAYER	TEAM	GOALS
KYLE CONNOR	WPG	14
AUSTON MATTHEWS	TOR	14
NIKITA KUCHEROV	TBL	13
SAM REINHART	FLA	13
BROCK BOESER	VAN	13



 #NHLStats

NHL PODCASTS WEEKLY ROUNDUP

- * NHL Fantasy on Ice (11/20): [Fantasy waiver wire pickups & mailbag: Week 7](#)
- * NHL @TheRink (11/20): [Amalie Benjamin joins; State of Bruins, Nylander's World, Kane's destination](#)
- * The Chirp (11/21): [Doug MacLean joins; Storytime, Leafs, Oilers, Bruins & more](#)

QUICK CLICKS

- * [NHL.com writers debate best games to watch on Thanksgiving eve](#)
- * [Adam Fantilli improving game heading into showdown with Connor Bedard](#)
- * [Dave Keon talks Maple Leafs taking next step in Q&A with NHL.com](#)
- * [Canucks' Nils Hoglander fined for slew-footing](#)
- * [NHL teams with NBA, MLB to launch responsible gaming campaign](#)