

NHL MORNING SKATE – DEC. 13, 2023

NHL Morning Skate
Wednesday, December 13, 2023

- Matthews, Boeser become first and second players to hit 20 goals this season
- McDavid, Bedard extend streaks in first head-to-head meeting
- Bruins, Devils open doubleheader on NHL on TNT Wednesday

* **Auston Matthews** recorded the 13th four-point game of his NHL career and became the League's first 20-goal scorer this season, while **Brock Boeser** also eclipsed the mark later Tuesday via another natural hat trick. With every hat trick this season, AstraZeneca will donate \$5,000 to the Hockey Fights Cancer Fund of the V Foundation up to \$500,000. [Click here](#) for more information.

* The 2023-24 season marked the second in League history where each of the first two 20-goal scorers were U.S.-born players, following [1998-99](#) (**Tony Amonte & John LeClair**).

* The NHL announced details for the *2024 NHL All-Star Skills presented by DraftKings Sportsbook*, which will take place at 7 p.m. ET on Friday, Feb. 2. [Click here](#) to read more.

* Wednesday's five-game slate is highlighted by an NHL on TNT doubleheader featuring the Bruins-Devils and Sabres-Avalanche.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

 @PR_NHL •  @PR_NHL •  #NHLStats



MAPLE LEAFS' MATTHEWS FIRST TO 20 GOALS IN 2023-24 . . .

Auston Matthews (2-2—4) erupted for four points to push his season totals to 21-11—32 (26 GP) and became the NHL's first 20-goal scorer of the 2023-24 campaign. It marked the second time Matthews has been the first in a season to 20 goals (also 2020-21 in 24 GP), one of three active players to do so multiple times alongside **Steven Stamkos** (3x) and **Alex Ovechkin** (2x).

* Matthews recorded his seventh multi-goal outing of 2023-24, tied with Lightning forward **Nikita Kucherov** for the highest total of any player this season. It stood as his 13th career four-point game – only five other Maple Leafs players have as many: **Darryl Sittler** (26), **Mitchell Marner** (15), **Frank Mahovlich** (15), **Borje Salming** (13) and **Lanny McDonald** (13).

* Matthews has reached the 20-goal mark in all eight seasons of his career and joins **Patrick Kane** (13 from 2007-08 to 2019-20) as the second U.S.-born player to begin his career with eight or more consecutive 20-goal campaigns.

STATS AND INFORMATION

© @PR_NHL • X @PR_NHL • #NHLStats

MOST CONSECUTIVE 20-GOAL SEASONS

FRANCHISE HISTORY

PLAYER	SEASONS
MATS SUNDELIN	13
RON ELLIS	9
DARRYL SITTLER	9
AUSTON MATTHEWS	8
RICK VAIVE	7
DAVE KEON	6
PHIL KESSEL	6
FRANK MAHOVLICH	6
SID SMITH	6



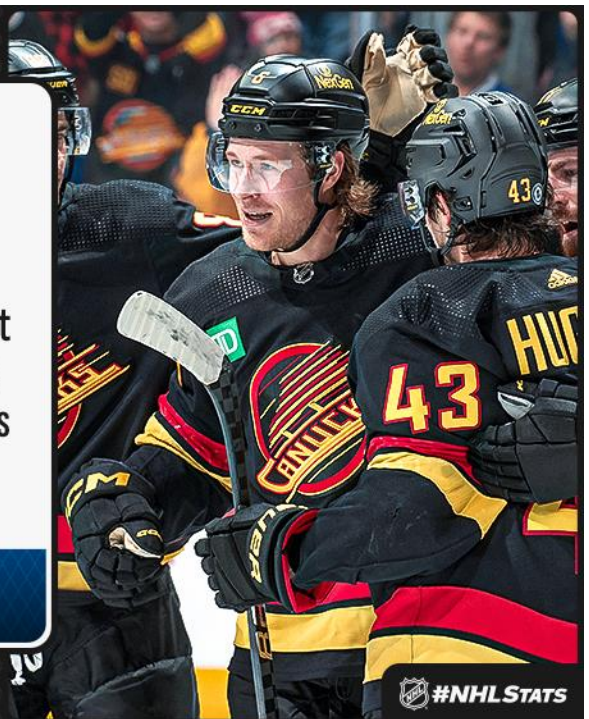
#NHLStats

... WHILE BOESER BECOMES SECOND PLAYER TO HIT 20 GOALS IN 2023-24

Fellow U.S.-born player, **Brock Boeser**, netted a natural hat trick Tuesday and became the second player to reach the 20-goal mark this season following **Auston Matthews** as the Canucks defeated the Lightning at Rogers Arena. Boeser's third goal of the game also tied him with Matthews (21) for the League lead in goals.

BOESER NETS ANOTHER NATTY HATTY

Brock Boeser posted the second natural hat trick of his career (also Oct. 11, 2023). The only other player in Canucks history with as many is Petri Skriko (Nov. 18 & 21, 1986).



#NHLStats

McDAVID, BEDARD EXTEND LENGTHY POINT STREAKS IN FIRST HEAD-TO-HEAD GAME

Connor McDavid (6-19—25 in 10 GP) and **Connor Bedard** (9-5—14 in 10 GP) found the score sheet in their first head-to-head NHL contest to extend their overall and road point streak to 10 games, respectively. McDavid became the [fifth player in League history with 13 or more double-digit point streaks](#), while Bedard became the [NHL's 11th rookie with a road run of at least 10 contests](#).

* McDavid's point streak is the third-longest active run in the NHL behind Avalanche forward **Nathan MacKinnon** (6-13—19 in 12 GP) and teammate **Evan Bouchard** (5-13—18 in 12 GP), while the [Oilers' eight-game winning streak](#) is the lengthiest by a team at any point this season and one back of the franchise record. Bouchard now owns sole possession of the [second-longest point streak by a defenseman in club history](#) behind **Paul Coffey's** [League-record 28-game run in 1985-86](#).

STONE, GUENTZEL, CARTER, AHO, HAYES ALSO HAVE MULTI-GOAL GAMES

Auston Matthews and **Brock Boeser** weren't the only players with notable multi-goal games Tuesday:

* **Mark Stone** (2-2—4) tallied a tying goal in the third period and scored the overtime winner as the League-leading Golden Knights (20-5-5, 45 points) became the first team to reach 20 victories this season. The 2023-24 campaign marked the first where a reigning Stanley Cup champion was the first NHL team to reach the 20-win mark since [2013-14](#), when Chicago achieved the feat.

* **Jake Guentzel** and **Jeff Carter** collected two goals apiece as the Penguins snapped a four-game slide (0-2-2). Carter (38 years, 345 days) became the oldest Pittsburgh player with a multi-goal game since **Matt Cullen** (39 years, 157 days on [April 7, 2016](#)).

* **Sebastian Aho** (2-1—3) factored on three of his team's four goals as the Hurricanes defeated the Senators at Canadian Tire Centre. All three of Aho's points came in the second frame, marking his fifth career three-point period – tied with **Kevin Dineen**, **Blaine Stoughton** and **Sylvain Turgeon** for the fourth most in franchise history behind only **Ron Francis** (17), **Eric Staal** (12) and **Pat Verbeek** (7).

* **Kevin Hayes** had both of his goals 31 seconds apart, marking the [fastest two tallies by a Blues player in over 23 years](#) and the fourth quickest by a skater this season behind **Pierre-Luc Dubois** (0:12 on [Oct. 19](#)), **Michael Rasmussen** (0:13 on [Dec. 7](#)) and **Bo Horvat** (0:20 on [Dec. 7](#)). St. Louis hosted its Hockey Fights Cancer Night, which saw the team [show its support for former forward Kelly Chase](#) and launch a new collaboration with the V Foundation for Cancer Research to fund a \$200,000 grant for Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine.



STATS AND INFORMATION

© @PR_NHL • X @PR_NHL • #NHLStats

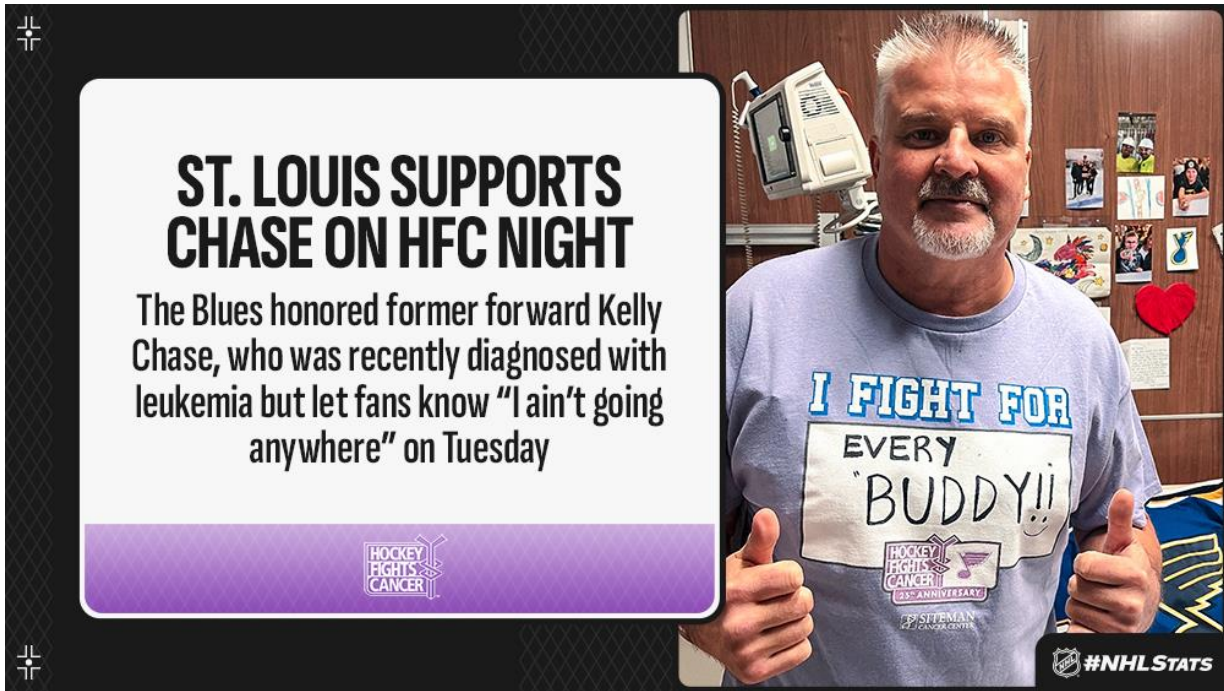


Photo via [@StLouisBlues](#)

CROSBY CLIMBING ALL-TIME ASSISTS LIST FEATURED IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

[Tuesday's edition of Live Updates](#) featured more notes from the 10-game slate, including Penguins captain **Sidney Crosby** collecting the 965th assist of his NHL career to pass **Doug Gilmour** (964) for sole possession of 14th place on the [League's all-time list](#). Crosby [lined up for the opening faceoff in a full-circle moment](#) across from Coyotes rookie and Pittsburgh native **Logan Cooley**, who is an [alumnus of Crosby's Little Penguins Learn to Play Program](#).

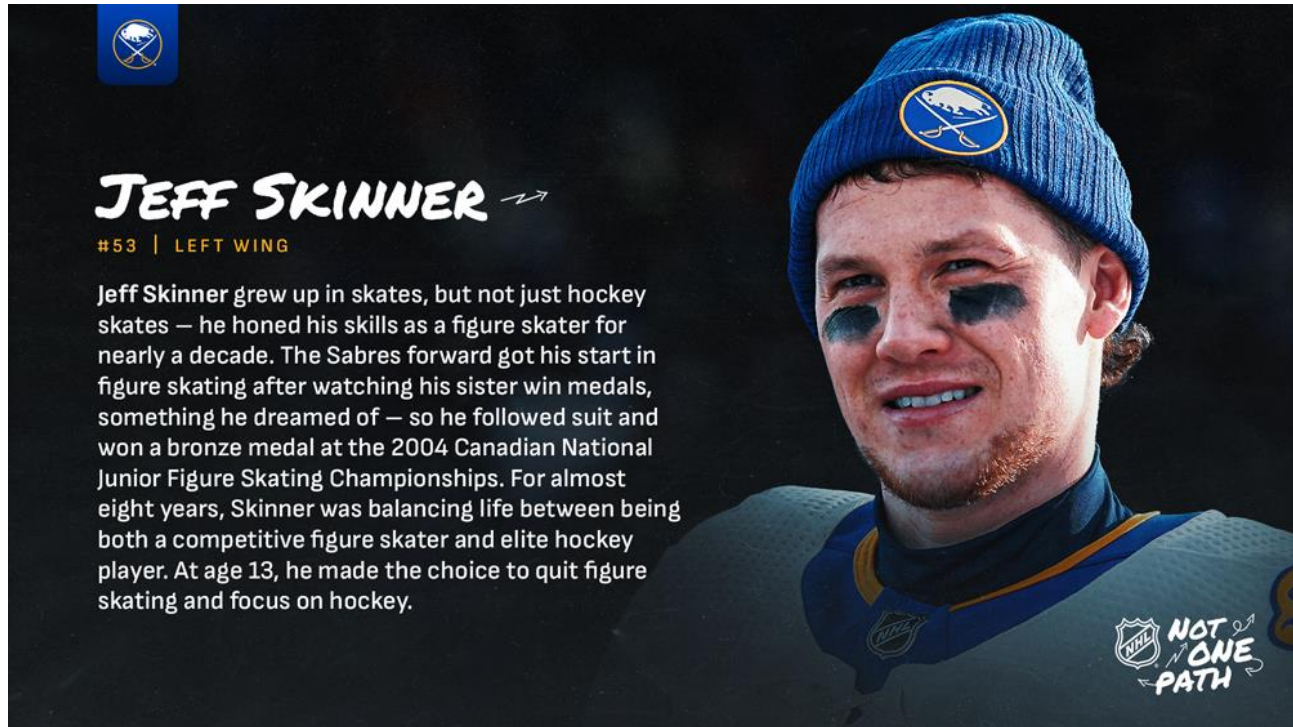


 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

© @PR_NHL • X @PR_NHL • #NHLStats

NOT ONE PATH: JEFF SKINNER

Jeff Skinner is the most recent player to be featured in the Not One Path series, highlighting unconventional roads to the NHL. For Skinner, his sporting career always featured an ice rink and a pair of skates, but before he decided on hockey, he was winning medals at national figure skating competitions. He'll be a part of the second game of the TNT Wednesday night doubleheader when his Sabres visit the Avalanche.



JEFF SKINNER ⚡

#53 | LEFT WING

Jeff Skinner grew up in skates, but not just hockey skates – he honed his skills as a figure skater for nearly a decade. The Sabres forward got his start in figure skating after watching his sister win medals, something he dreamed of – so he followed suit and won a bronze medal at the 2004 Canadian National Junior Figure Skating Championships. For almost eight years, Skinner was balancing life between being both a competitive figure skater and elite hockey player. At age 13, he made the choice to quit figure skating and focus on hockey.

QUICK CLICKS

- * [Filip Forsberg scores franchise-record 10th overtime goal of NHL career](#)
- * [Craig Berube fired as Blues coach, replaced by Drew Bannister](#)
- * [Kenny Albert discusses motivation to write 1st book in Q&A with NHL.com](#)
- * [Jeff Jackson discusses Oilers turnaround, coaching change in Q&A with NHL.com](#)
- * [New NHL All-Star Skills format to feature \\$1 million winner-take-all prize](#)



STATS AND INFORMATION

© @PR_NHL • X @PR_NHL • #NHLStats



PASTRNAK, HUGHES, THOMPSON, MacKINNON ALL ON TNT TONIGHT

The latest NHL on TNT Wednesday night doubleheader will open with **David Pastrnak** and the Bruins visiting **Jack Hughes** and the Devils at Prudential Center and closes with **Tage Thompson** and the Sabres traveling to Ball Arena to face **Nathan MacKinnon** and the Avalanche in a game that will also be broadcast on Sportsnet in Canada.

NHL	SCHEDULE	WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13
7:00 PM ET		SN, RDS, SN-PIT
7:30 PM ET		TNT, MAX, MSGSN
7:30 PM ET		MSGSN2, BSSD, BSSC
10:00 PM ET		TNT, MAX, SN, ALT
10:30 PM ET		TVAS, BSW, TSN3

STATS AND INFORMATION

© @PR_NHL • X @PR_NHL • #NHLStats

* Hughes (97 G in 265 GP) enters the contest three shy of the 100-goal milestone, a mark his opponent, **David Pastrnak** reached in 259 games. Among players to begin their career with the franchise, Hughes is tracking towards becoming the second-fastest to 100 goals behind **Wilf Paiement** (228 GP). Pastrnak, meanwhile, is averaging 1.50 points per game this season (16-23—39 in 26 GP) after a [career-high 1.38 P/GP in 2022-23](#).

* Thompson, who has 1-2—3 in four games since returning from injury on Dec. 5, is averaging more than a point per game in his career against the Avalanche (5-4—9 in 8 GP). He'll be facing one of the NHL's hottest players in MacKinnon, who is looking to push his point streak to 13 games (6-13—19 in 12 GP) and his goal streak to five contests. Should MacKinnon extend tonight, he would match **Peter Stastny** (6x) for most point streaks of 13-plus games in franchise history.

The graphic features a white background with blue and red brushstrokes on the left. It includes the text "watch NHL TNT wednesday" in bold black and blue fonts. The date "December 13" is at the top right. Two game matchups are shown: Boston Bruins @ New Jersey Devils at 7:30 PM ET, and Buffalo Sabres @ Colorado Avalanche at 10:00 PM ET. Logos for each team are included. The TNT and Max logos are at the bottom left, with the text "STREAM ON max" and a small disclaimer: "Subscription required to stream on Max. Visit max.com for details."

TUNE-IN REMINDER: Prior to Wednesday's doubleheader, TNT and MAX will air the debut episode of this season's "Road To The NHL Winter Classic presented by Enterprise" at 6:30 p.m. ET. The critically-acclaimed series that chronicles teams in the lead up to the highly anticipated New Year's Day outdoor game will feature the Kraken and Golden Knights as they prepare to meet in the 2024 Discover NHL Winter Classic on Jan. 1 at T-Mobile Park, home of the Seattle Mariners. [Click here](#) for more information and a video preview.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

 @PR_NHL •  @PR_NHL •  #NHLStats

ROAD TO THE



Winter
CLASSIC

Presented By



STATS AND INFORMATION

[@PR_NHL](#) [@PR_NHL](#) [#NHLStats](#)