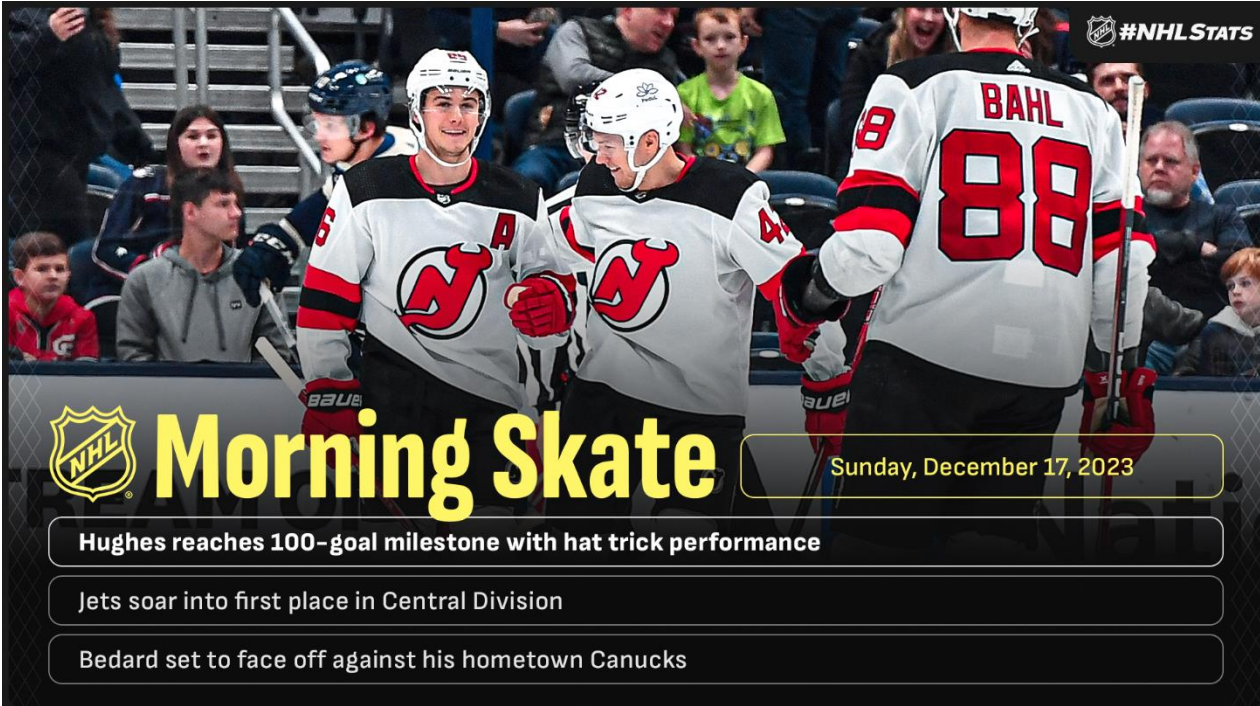


NHL MORNING SKATE – DEC. 17, 2023



The graphic features a photograph of New Jersey Devils players on the ice. In the foreground, two players are embracing. One player's jersey has the number 88 and the name 'BAHL' on the back. The NHL logo is in the top right corner with the hashtag #NHLStats. The text 'Morning Skate' is prominently displayed in yellow. Below it, three white boxes contain key news items.

NHL Morning Skate Sunday, December 17, 2023

- Hughes reaches 100-goal milestone with hat trick performance
- Jets soar into first place in Central Division
- Bedard set to face off against his hometown Canucks

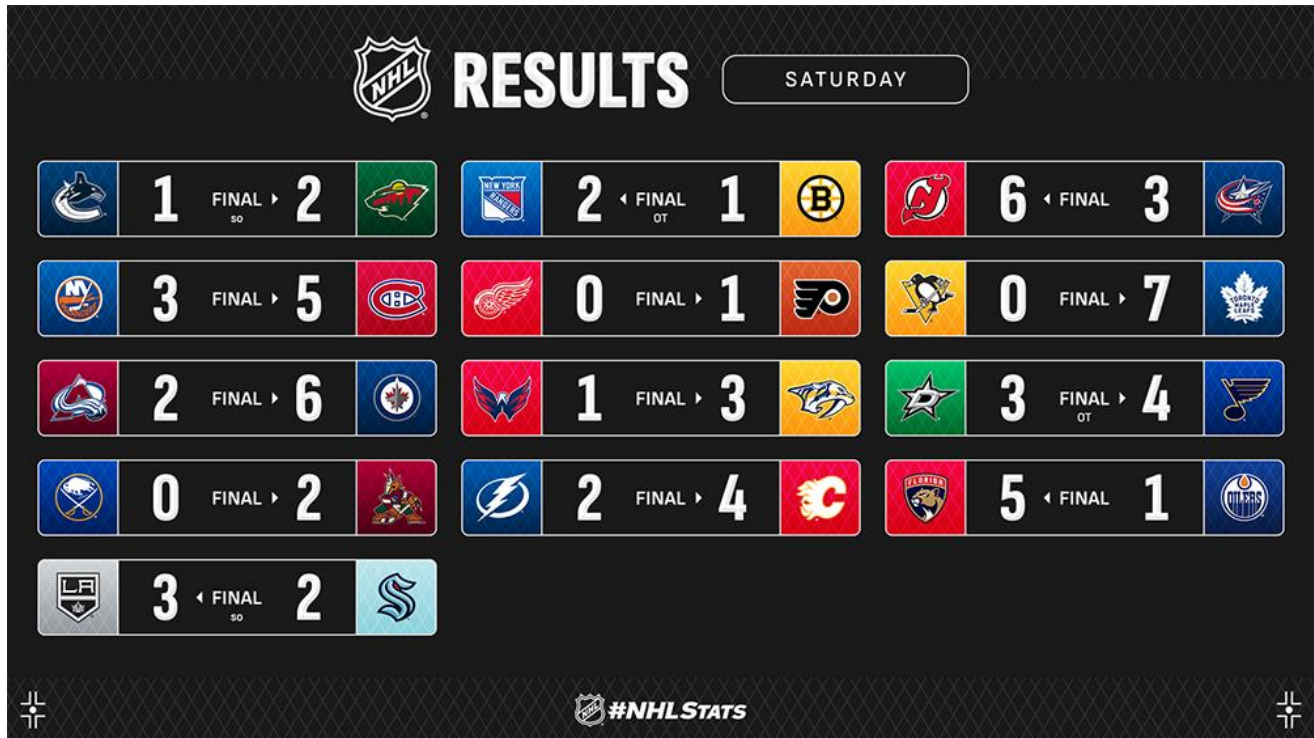
* The Hockey Fights Cancer donation count climbed again Saturday as **Jack Hughes** netted the 38th hat trick of the season to bring AstraZeneca's cumulative contribution so far in 2023-24 to \$190,000. [Click here](#) for more information.

* A quartet of Canadian teams earned wins on Hockey Night in Canada, highlighted by the Jets who jumped up the Central Division into first place.

* **Connor Bedard** opens a five-game Sunday against the team he grew up cheering for and will have the opportunity to climb an NHL list for goals as he skates in his 30th career game.

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HUGHES NETS 100TH NHL GOAL, HAT TRICK ON DADS TRIP

With his brother watching from the bench and his father and uncle in the stands during the Devils' dads trip – which has [unearthed some interesting facts about the players](#) – **Jack Hughes** scored the second hat trick of his career and hit the 100-goal milestone. Hughes (267 GP) became the fastest *Devils* player to tally 100 NHL goals and second fastest in *franchise* history behind **Wilf Paiement** (228 GP w/ CLR).

* Hughes also scored the earliest goal of his NHL career (0:47) and notched his 24th career three-point outing – already tied with Paiement and **Travis Zajac** for the [sixth most in Devils/Rockies/Scouts history](#). Paiement accumulated his across 392 games with the club, while Zajac skated in 1,024.


* Hughes became the 85th player in NHL history to reach the 100-goal milestone *before his 23rd birthday* and the 10th U.S.-born skater among that group. The last player before him to net a hat trick in the same game as his 100th career goal was teammate **Jesper Bratt** ([March 19, 2023](#)).

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U.S.-BORN PLAYERS WITH 100 GOALS BEFORE AGE 23
NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	DATE OF 100 TH GOAL	AGE
JACK HUGHES*	DEC. 16, 2023	22
JACK EICHEL*	MARCH 28, 2019	22
AUSTON MATTHEWS*	FEB. 14, 2019	21
PATRICK KANE*	MARCH 14, 2011	22
MIKE MODANO	NOV. 27, 1992	22
JEREMY ROENICK	DEC. 8, 1991	21
JIMMY CARSON	NOV. 13, 1988	20
EDDIE OLCZYK	MARCH 3, 1988	21
PAT LAFONTAINE	APRIL 5, 1987	22
BOBBY CARPENTER	NOV. 9, 1984	21



*Active player

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* It turned out to be a milestone night for many in Columbus as Devils captain **Nico Hischier** (1-1—2) reached the 300-point benchmark, head coach **Lindy Ruff** claimed his 850th win to move into sole possession of fourth place in [League history](#) and Blue Jackets forward **Johnny Gaudreau** became the second-fastest *active* [U.S.-born player to notch his 700th NHL point](#).

SUCCESSFUL OUTINGS ON HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA

Hockey Night in Canada did not disappoint, with four Canadian teams finding the win column, the Jets moving into first in the Central Division and a number of other noteworthy performances taking place:

* The Canadiens built a 4-0 lead with four tallies in the second period and survived an Islanders rally – which included three assists by **Noah Dobson** and a goal by **Bo Horvat** – to claim victory on home ice. Dobson matched the franchise record for assists in a period by a defenseman, while Horvat established a career high by extending his point streak to 10 games. Dobson trails only **Quinn Hughes** and **Cale Makar** for [points by defensemen this season](#) and Horvat shares the League lead with [14 points this month](#).

* Newcomers **Max Domi** (1-2—3) and **Tyler Bertuzzi** (0-3—3) both factored on three of the Maple Leafs' seven goals, while **Martin Jones** made 38 saves for his 29th career shutout and first with his new squad – Jones now owns the most shutouts versus the Penguins among active goaltenders (3). The last time Toronto recorded a larger margin of victory without allowing a goal was [Feb. 12, 1977 \(10-0 W vs. WSH\)](#).



MAPLE LEAFS PILE ON SEVEN IN SHUTOUT

The Maple Leafs earned a shutout victory with seven-plus goals for the fourth time in the past 45 years (also 7-0 W on Dec. 13, 2022, April 1, 2006 & April 10, 1994).



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* **Gabriel Vilardi** (2-0—2) followed up his four-point night Wednesday with another multi-point game as he scored two of six Winnipeg goals Saturday, while **Connor Hellebuyck** improved to 5-0-0 in his past five contests and tied **Thatcher Demko** (15) for the League lead in victories this season. With the win, the Jets (18-9-2, 38 points) leapfrogged the Avalanche (18-10-2, 38 points) and Stars (17-8-4, 38 points) for first in the Central Division standings.

* **Yegor Sharangovich** netted his first game-winning goal with Calgary as the Flames (12-14-5, 29 points) moved within three points of the final Wild Card spot. With the winner, Sharangovich extended his goal streak to a career-high five games – only three active players recorded a longer run in their first season with a franchise: **Alex Ovechkin** (7 GP & 6 GP in 2005-06 w/ WSH), **Matthew Tkachuk** (6 GP in 2022-23 w/ FLA) and **Evgeni Malkin** (6 GP in 2006-07 w/ PIT).

SHARANGOVICH SCORES AGAIN

Yegor Sharangovich matched Kent Nilsson (5 GP in 1980-81) and Joe Mullen (5 GP in 1985-86) for the longest goal streak by a player in their first season with Calgary

* While **Connor McDavid** extended his career-high assist streak to 11 games and posted the longest such run by an Oilers skater since **Wayne Gretzky** (11 GP in 1986-87), it was **Carter Verhaeghe** (2-1—3) and the Panthers who capped off Hockey Night in Canada with a win. Verhaeghe scored his 38th and 39th goals of 2023 to pass **Evgenii Dadonov** (38 in 2018) for the fourth most by a Florida player in any calendar year, behind **Pavel Bure** (57 in 2000 & 50 in 2001) and **Olli Jokinen** (44 in 2007). Find more notes about this past calendar year in the [2023 Year in Review #NHLStats Pack](#).

PAIR OF METROPOLITAN TEAMS CLIMB STANDINGS

Vincent Trocheck scored both New York goals, including the overtime winner, to help the Rangers (21-7-1, 43 points) defeat the Bruins (19-5-5, 43 points) and overtake them for top spot in the Eastern Conference, while the Flyers (17-10-3, 37 points) edged the Red Wings to climb into second place in the Metropolitan Division.

* **Cam York** scored the lone goal in Philadelphia’s win as **Samuel Ersson** (33 saves) earned his third NHL shutout and became the third-fastest goaltender in Flyers history to reach the mark (24 GP), behind **Bob Froese** and **Doug Favell** (both w/ 14 GP).



ERSSON EXTENDS POINT STREAK

Samuel Ersson (6-0-1) became the third Flyers goaltender in the past 10 years with a point streak of seven-plus games, joining Carter Hart (3x) and Steve Mason (2x)



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GOALIE NOTES GALORE IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

[#NHLStats: Live Updates from Saturday](#) included **Juuse Saros** establishing a new career high as he [extended his winning streak to six games](#) and **Karel Vejmelka** helping the Coyotes post shutouts on consecutive days for the second time in franchise history, with the first instance coming in [March 1997](#).



SAROS MOVES UP FRANCHISE LIST

Juuse Saros tied Tomas Vokoun for second place on the Predators all-time wins list with 161, trailing only Pekka Rinne (369).



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QUICK CLICKS

- * [Captains selected for 2024 NHL Mascot Showdown presented by Upper Deck](#)
- * [Tomas Tatar](#) traded to Kraken by Avalanche
- * [Lightning host young fan battling cancer during morning skate in Calgary](#)
- * [Tate McRae](#) attends Flames game, gifted jersey
- * [Zizing 'Em Up: Alex Pietrangelo](#) reflects on daughter's recovery from illness

NHL NETWORK DOUBLEHEADER TO INCLUDE CONNOR BEDARD'S 30TH NHL GAME

A five-game Sunday includes games on NHL Network, Sportsnet and TVA Sports, with three of the League's top 10 scorers in action, including the Canucks trio of **J.T. Miller** (15-28—43 in 31 GP), **Quinn Hughes** (9-30—39 in 31 GP) and **Elias Pettersson** (11-27—38 in 31 GP) who will open the day against **Connor Bedard** (12-12—24 in 29 GP) and the Blackhawks. Hughes can become the fastest defenseman in franchise history to 40 points in a season and could do so in fewer contests than **Erik Karlsson**, who required 33 games in 2022-23 en route to his 100-point campaign.



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SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

3:00 PM ET



NHLN, NBCSCH, SN, TVAS

6:00 PM ET



MNMT, BSSO, NHLN

7:00 PM ET



MSGSN, BSSD, BSSC

8:00 PM ET



NBCSCA, ALT, SN

8:00 PM ET



SCRIPPS, TSN5, TVAS

* Bedard enters his 30th game – which will be his first against his hometown Canucks – tied with **John Tavares** (13-11—24) for sixth in terms of points at that stage of a career *among active No. 1 picks*. Only **Alex Ovechkin** (18-16—34), **Connor McDavid** (13-21—34), **Ryan Nugent-Hopkins** (13-19—32), **Sidney Crosby** (13-18—31) and **Patrick Kane** (7-23—30) had as many among that cohort.

* Bedard has a chance to climb the list for most goals through 30 games by an 18-year-old (among all players in NHL history). He enters the contest tied with **Jimmy Carson**.



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MOST GOALS BY AN 18-YEAR-OLD THROUGH 30 GAMES

NHL HISTORY



PLAYER	30 TH NHL GAME	GOALS
PATRIK LAINE	DEC. 8, 2016	17
DALE HAWERCHUK	DEC. 13, 1981	17
STEVE YZERMAN	DEC. 15, 1983	16
TED KENNEDY	JAN. 15, 1944	16
WAYNE GRETZKY	DEC. 21, 1979	15
RYAN NUGENT-HOPKINS	DEC. 10, 2011	13
SIDNEY CROSBY	DEC. 12, 2005	13
ILYA KOVALCHUK	DEC. 14, 2001	13
TREVOR LINDEN	DEC. 6, 1988	13
SYLVAIN TURGEON	DEC. 17, 1983	13
CONNOR BEDARD*	DEC. 17, 2023	12



*Tied with Jimmy Carson; Bedard is expected to play his 30th game Dec. 17



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