

## NHL MORNING SKATE – DEC. 29, 2023



**NHL Morning Skate** Friday, December 29, 2023

- Aho becomes first player in over 20 years to post 4+ points in consecutive days
- Golden Knights conclude 2023 with a win, head to Seattle on a high note
- Kraken to play their final game before the 2024 Discover NHL Winter Classic


\* **Sebastian Aho** has recorded 1-7—8 since Wednesday and is the first player in Hurricanes/Whalers franchise history with four points in consecutive days.









\* The Golden Knights concluded a successful 2023 with their 27th victory at T-Mobile Arena on Thursday – tied with the Avalanche and Rangers for the most home wins among all teams this calendar year.


\* The Kraken will put their seven-game point streak (5-0-2) on the line when they host the Flyers in their final contest before facing the Golden Knights outdoors on New Year's Day in the *2024 Discover NHL Winter Classic*.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

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 **RESULTS** THURSDAY

	<b>3</b>	FINAL ▶	<b>5</b>			<b>4</b>	◀ FINAL	<b>1</b>	
	<b>2</b>	FINAL ▶	<b>3</b>			<b>5</b>	◀ FINAL	<b>0</b>	

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**SEATTLE SET FOR FINAL GAME BEFORE MEETING VEGAS IN WINTER CLASSIC**

Three days remain until the Kraken and Golden Knights go head-to-head in the much-anticipated 2024 *Discover NHL Winter Classic*. Seattle will skate in its final contest at Climate Pledge Arena on Thursday before lacing up for its first-ever outdoor game at T-Mobile Park on New Year's Day (3 p.m. ET on TNT, MAX, SN, TVAS).





The 2024 *Discover NHL Winter Classic* is set to become the 13th regular-season outdoor game played in a baseball park. The 26 others took place in football venues (23 GP), atop a golf course (2 GP) and at a soccer stadium (1 GP).

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\* The Kraken (5-0-2 in 7 GP) can match the longest point streak in their three-season history when they face the Flyers tonight. Seattle had two eight-game runs last season – they went 7-0-1 from Nov. 13-Dec. 1, 2022, and then started the new year with an 8-0-0 stretch that spanned from New Year’s Day to Jan. 14, 2023.

\* Seattle is the third team in as many seasons to follow an eight-game winless streak (0-6-2 from Nov. 24-Dec. 10) with a point streak of seven or more games – a list their opponent Friday cracked in 2021-22. More than half of the previous nine clubs to rebound in that fashion went on to reach the playoffs (2010-11 Capitals, 1992-93 Flames, 1980-81 Bruins, 1979-80 North Stars & 1973-74 Kings).

## LONGEST POINT STREAKS AFTER WINLESS STREAK OF 8+ GAMES

NHL HISTORY (IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WINLESS STREAK)

TEAM	SEASON	WINLESS STREAK	POINT STREAK
LOS ANGELES KINGS	1973-74	8	11
ATLANTA FLAMES	1974-75	8	10
WASHINGTON CAPITALS	2010-11	8	9
CALGARY FLAMES	1992-93	11	8
BOSTON BRUINS	1980-81	9	8
SEATTLE KRAKEN*	2023-24	8	7
ST. LOUIS BLUES	2022-23	8	7
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	2021-22	10	7
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS	2009-10	8	7
MINNESOTA NORTH STARS	1979-80	8	7



\*Active point streak entering play Dec. 29

### **GOLDEN KNIGHTS CONCLUDE 2023 WITH A WIN, HEAD TO SEATTLE ON A HIGH NOTE**

**Jack Eichel** scored one of three Golden Knights goals as the defending-Stanley Cup champions earned a win at T-Mobile Arena in their final game of 2023 before heading to Seattle. It marked Vegas’ 27th home win of the calendar year, tied with the Avalanche and Rangers for the [most among all clubs](#).

\* Eichel, who boosted his 2023-34 season totals to 16-24—40 (37 GP), became the fourth player to record 30 goals in a calendar year with the Golden Knights, joining **Jonathan Marchessault** (34 in 2021 & 31 in 2023), **William Karlsson** (38 in 2018) and **Max Pacioretty** (36 in 2021).



### WINTER CLASSIC QUICK CLICKS

- \* [Kraken fired up for 'amazing' Winter Classic after 1st look at outdoor rink](#)
- \* [Winter Classic will deliver for Seattle, former Mariners pitcher says](#)
- \* [Winter Classic Interactive Information Guide](#)
- \* [#NHLStats Pack: 2024 Discover NHL Winter Classic](#)

### AHO ACHIEVES FRANCHISE-FIRST WITH SECOND STRAIGHT FOUR-POINT GAME

After posting 1-3—4 on Wednesday, **Sebastian Aho** (0-4—4) followed up with another four-point performance while **Andrei Svechnikov** (3-0—3) netted a hat trick to help lead the Hurricanes (19-13-4, 42 points) to victory Thursday.

\* Aho became the fourth player in franchise history to post eight points in a two-day span, joining **Eric Staal** (8 from March 6-7, 2009), **Ron Francis** (8 from Oct. 7-8, 1989) and **Mike Rogers** (8 from Dec. 26-27, 1980).



**AHO ACHIEVES FRANCHISE-FIRST**

Sebastian Aho became the first player in Hurricanes/Whalers history to record four points in consecutive days and the first to do so League-wide since Jeremy Roenick (Nov. 25-26, 1999)



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\* Svechnikov became the seventh player in Hurricanes *team* history (since 1997-98) to record three hat tricks, joining Staal (13), Aho (7), **Erik Cole** (5), **Jeff Skinner** (4) **Teuvo Teravainen** (3) and **Sami Kapanen** (3). 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.

**McLEOD TALLIES FAST, HYMAN SCORES 20TH GOAL IN EDMONTON'S SHUTOUT WIN**

**Ryan McLeod** (1-1—2) got the scoring started with his [third opening-minute goal of the season](#) before the Oilers potted four more thanks in part to contributions from **Zach Hyman** (1-1—2) – who became the team's first player to reach the 20-goal mark in 2023-24 – as Edmonton (16-15-1, 33 points) earned a shutout win.

\* McLeod is now one opening-minute goal away from the most in a season by a single player, a distinction 11 other skaters hold including **Cam Atkinson** (4 in 2018-19), who alongside **Sidney Crosby** (3 in 2018-19), were the last players to have at least three in a campaign.

\* Hyman has now reached the 20-goal mark in all three campaigns since joining the Oilers in 2021-22. This season marked the first since 2015-16 (**Jordan Eberle**: 50 GP) where a player not named **Connor McDavid** or **Leon Draisaitl** became the first Edmonton skater to reach 20 goals in a campaign.



**HYMAN HITS 20-GOAL MARK**


Zach Hyman (31 GP) joined Connor McDavid (25 GP in 2022-23), Leon Draisaitl (19 GP in 2021-22 & 30 GP in 2022-23) and Ryan Smyth (29 GP in 2006-07) as the only Oilers players in the last 30 years to record 20 goals in 31 games or fewer



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**PHILADELPHIA'S ROOKIES HIGHLIGHTED IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES**

The Thursday edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates featured Philadelphia's **Tyson Foerster** (0-1—1) and **Bobby Brink** (0-1—1) each pick up points in a win while boosting the Flyers' totals by rookies to 11-20—31 in 2023-24. [Click here](#) for more notes from all four games.



**FLYERS' ROOKIES GETTING IT DONE**

The only teams with more points from rookies this season than Philadelphia (31) are Chicago (54), Columbus (47), Anaheim (41) and Minnesota (39)



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**QUICK CLICKS**

- \* [Podcast: NHL Fantasy on Ice \(12/28\) – Week 12 Pickups & Mailbag; 2024 Preview](#)
- \* [Ethan Bear signs 2-year, \\$4.125 million contract with Capitals](#)
- \* [Hall of Famer Roberto Luongo plays goalie at Panthers practice](#)
- \* [John Tortorella's softer side revealed with Flyers coach set to hit 1,500 games](#)
- \* [2023 Year in Review by #NHLStats \(through Dec. 14\)](#)

### **WELCOME TO THE FINAL FRIDAY OF 2023**

In addition to the streaking Kraken playing their last game before the Winter Classic, Friday's nine-game slate will include many players putting hot streaks on the line as they count down to "Auld Lang Syne." [#NHLStats Live Updates](#) is up and running for Dec. 29, with a few key takeaways included below:

\* **William Nylander** will look to extend his assist streak to 10 games when Toronto clashes with Columbus at Nationwide Arena. The Maple Leafs forward can become the fourth player in [franchise history](#) to record a double-digit assist streak, following **Norm Ullman** (12 GP in 1970-71), **Darryl Sittler** (11 GP in 1976-77) and **Mitch Marner** (10 GP in 2017-18).

\* **Patrick Kane**, who has at least a point in each of his last five games (5-4—9), enters Friday's showdown against the Predators with a four-game goal streak. He can become the first Red Wings player to record a goal streak of five or more contests since **Gustav Nyquist** (6 GP) in 2013-14 and the first skater to do so in their first season with the franchise since **Marian Hossa** (5 GP) in 2008-09.

\* **Connor Bedard**, who leads all rookies with 15-17—32 (34 GP), has collected at least a point in each of his past five games (3-5—8), tied with **Ridly Greig** (5 GP from Oct. 14-24) for the longest run by a rookie this season. If Bedard finds the score sheet again tonight, he can become just the third 18-year-old to post a point streak of six or more games with the Blackhawks – he would join **Bobby Hull** (8 GP in 1957-58) and **Eddie Olczyk** (6 GP in 1984-85).

\* **Nathan MacKinnon**, now just two points behind Tampa Bay's **Nikita Kucherov** in the [2023-24 Art Ross Trophy race](#), will look to extend his point streak to 20 games when Colorado faces off against St. Louis on Thursday. MacKinnon can tie **Paul Stastny** for the longest such run in Avalanche *team* history – the [franchise record](#) is held by **Mats Sundin**, who posted a 30-game stretch with the Nordiques in 1992-93.

\* **John Tortorella** is set to serve in his 1,500th career regular-season game as an NHL head coach when the Flyers visit the Kraken. He can become the [eighth head coach in League history](#) to reach the milestone and just the second active – he would join **Paul Maurice** (1,800 GC) and **Lindy Ruff** (1,746).



**STATS AND INFORMATION**

# NHL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:00 PM ET		SNO, BSOH	7:00 PM ET		BSSO, BSDET
7:00 PM ET		TVAS, MSG 2, BSFL	7:00 PM ET		MSGSN2, TSN5, RDS
7:30 PM ET		MNMT2, MSGSN	8:00 PM ET		SNE, SNW, SNP, NBCSCH, BSSW
8:00 PM ET		ALT2, BSMW	10:00 PM ET		SCRIPPS, BSW
10:00 PM ET		NBCSP+, ROOT-NW			

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