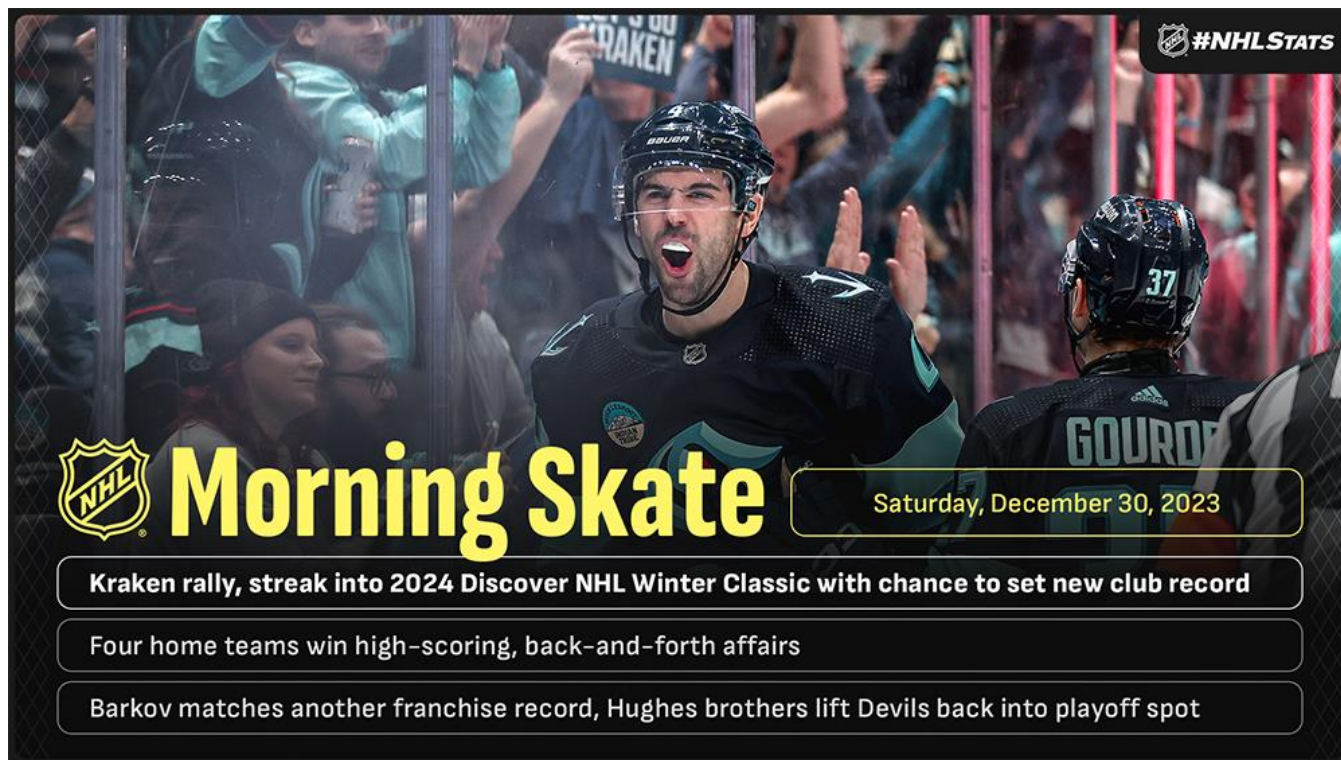


## NHL MORNING SKATE – DEC. 30, 2023



#NHLSTATS

# Morning Skate

Saturday, December 30, 2023

- Kraken rally, streak into 2024 Discover NHL Winter Classic with chance to set new club record
- Four home teams win high-scoring, back-and-forth affairs
- Barkov matches another franchise record, Hughes brothers lift Devils back into playoff spot

\* The Kraken will streak their way into the *2024 Discover NHL Winter Classic* on New Year's Day (3 p.m. ET on TNT, MAX, SN, TVAS & truTV) following a come-from-behind win on home ice in their final contest before their first-ever outdoor game.

\* A total of 14 tying goals were scored across the nine-game slate Friday, including 11 in high-scoring, back-and-forth contests won by the home side. Plus, the Hughes brothers combined for six points to lift the Devils back into a playoff spot for the first time in seven weeks.

\* A hat trick by Stars forward **Roope Hintz** secured [another \\$5,000 donation from AstraZeneca](#) for the Hockey Fights Cancer Fund of the V Foundation.

\* **Connor McDavid** is set to play in his 600th NHL game tonight when the Oilers close out a three-game Hockey Night in Canada schedule.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

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# RESULTS

FRIDAY

	5	FINAL OT	6			4	FINAL OT	5	
	3	FINAL	4			6	FINAL	2	
	1	FINAL	5			4	FINAL OT	5	
	2	FINAL	1			2	FINAL	0	
	1	FINAL OT	2						



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## KRAKEN STREAK INTO WINTER CLASSIC AFTER RALLYING FOR HOME WIN

The Kraken will head into the *2024 Discover NHL Winter Classic* riding their longest winning streak of the season (4-0-0) along with a franchise record-tying eight-game point streak (6-0-2) thanks to a comeback win on home ice Friday. Defensemen **Vince Dunn** and **Justin Schultz** provided the goals, while **Joey Daccord** stopped 27 shots in the victory, the sixth straight Seattle game decided by a one-goal margin.

\* Seattle's eight-game point streak equals the longest run they have had since joining the League in 2021-22, matching runs achieved last season when 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.

\* The Kraken's current run is part of a turnaround that has them one point back of a playoff spot – after sitting five points out following an eight-game winless stretch that spanned from Nov. 24 to Dec. 10 (0-6-2). They became the [sixth team in NHL history](#) to follow a winless streak of at least eight games with a point streak of eight or more contests.



## STATS AND INFORMATION

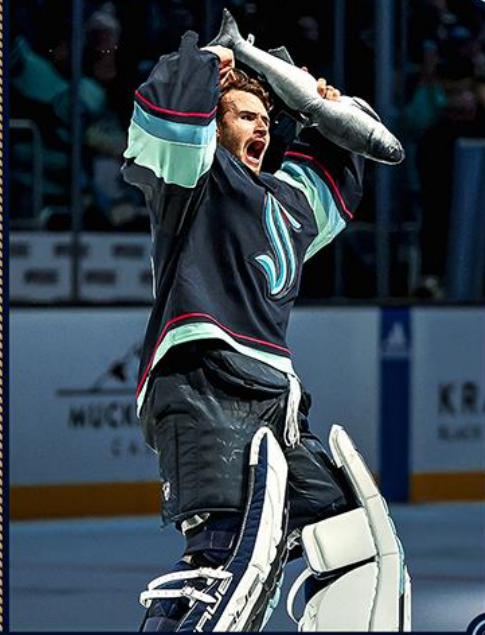
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DISCOVER  *Winter CLASSIC* 2024  
SEATTLE

## WILL FLIPPING THE SCRIPT LEAD TO PLAYOFFS?

4 of the previous 5 clubs to rebound from a winless streak of 8+ games with a point streak of at least that length made the playoffs (2010-11 Capitals, 1992-93 Flames, 1980-81 Bruins & 1973-74 Kings).

 #NHLSTATS



\* **Oliver Bjorkstrand** assisted on both Kraken goals while skating in his 500th NHL game. He became the [sixth Danish-born player in League history](#) to reach the milestone. Daccord, meanwhile, matched the club record for longest point streak by a goaltender.

\* The next time the Kraken put their point streak on the line will be in front of a [sold-out crowd](#) at the home of the MLB's Seattle Mariners, T-Mobile Park. The first outdoor game in club history will bring an estimated economic impact of at least \$30M to the Emerald City, [according to Visit Seattle](#).

\* The Kraken (6-0-2) will become the second team to enter an outdoor game with an active point streak longer than six games, following last year's Winter Classic hosts (BOS: 7-0-3 entering 2023 WC). The Flyers will have a chance to put themselves in that same position in a few weeks' time when they face the Devils in the opener of the *2024 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series* on Feb. 17 ([tickets](#)).



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### **BARKOV TIES ANOTHER FRANCHISE RECORD, PANTHERS INCH CLOSER TO FIRST PLACE**

Panthers captain **Aleksander Barkov** tied **Jonathan Huberdeau** as the [franchise's all-time assists leader](#) by posting his second straight three-assist game and third consecutive with multiple helpers. Barkov's latest record came two days after he set a new club benchmark for [multi-assist performances](#) and two months after he became the Panthers' leader in [games played](#). Barkov also has the most [goals](#) and [points](#) in Florida's 30-season history. Barkov (15) needs eight more three-assist showings to tie Huberdeau (23) for the franchise record in that category.

## **STATS AND INFORMATION**

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## THE ULTIMATE HELPER: ALEKSANDER BARKOV

This is the third time Aleksander Barkov has had three straight multi-assist games, the most such instances in Panthers history. Barkov (4 GP in 2021-22) and Jonathan Huberdeau (4 GP in 2018-19 & 2021-22) are the only players with four straight multi-assist showings for Florida.



### HOME CLUBS LEAVE VICTORIOUS AFTER BACK-AND-FORTH GAMES

Four home clubs skated away with victories in back-and-forth games that featured a total of 11 tying goals and four lead changes.

\* The Rangers rallied multiple times – from two-goal and one-goal deficits – to draw even before falling to the Panthers by a single tally after **Carter Verhaeghe** scored the game winner with 6:23 remaining in regulation. The contest saw **Mika Zibanejad** extend his career-high (tied) point streak to nine games, **Artemi Panarin** reach the 20-goal mark for the eighth time in nine NHL seasons and **Sam Reinhart** notch his sixth multi-goal game of the season – only **Auston Matthews** (10) and **Nikita Kucherov** (8) have more.

\* Following a thrilling contest earlier this month between the two clubs that saw [Toronto erase a 5-0 deficit](#), the Maple Leafs held 1-0, 4-2 and 5-4 leads but **Adam Fantilli** (1-0—1) netted Columbus' third tying goal of the game with his 10th goal of the season to set the stage for **Johnny Gaudreau** (1-2—3) in overtime. Fantilli (10-12—22 in 37 GP), the [third rookie to reach a double-digit goal total in 2023-24](#), required the [fourth-fewest games by a Blue Jackets rookie](#) to reach 10 career goals.

\* **Roope Hintz** (3-0—3) played a pivotal role in helping the Stars erase an early 2-0 deficit before the Blackhawks staged a multi-goal rally of their own in the third period to send the game to extend the contest. Hintz then helped Dallas keep pace with Colorado, which also captured two points Friday, by becoming the fifth player in franchise history to [complete a regular-season hat trick with an overtime goal](#) – doing so with eight seconds remaining in the extra frame.

\* Nashville tied the game three times – with **Filip Forsberg** and former Red Wings forward **Gustav Nyquist** each contributing 2-1—3 – but a career-high three-point performance by **Jake Walman** (2-1—3) helped lift Detroit to victory. Walman has 8-8—16 this season (33 GP), one goal and two points shy of matching career highs set across 63 games last season (9-9—18). He is part of a Red Wings defense core that ranks fourth in the League with 94 points this season, behind the Avalanche (103), Canucks (102) and Hurricanes (95).



**STATS AND INFORMATION**

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**BACK AND "FOURTH"  
WE GO**

The Red Wings-Predators game was the 11th this season to feature at least four tying goals. Detroit has been part of the past two such games (also Dec. 12 at STL).

**NHL**

**#NHLStats**

### **HUGHES BROTHERS COMBINE FOR SIX POINTS IN DEVILS WIN**

**Jack Hughes** (1-2—3) and **Luke Hughes** (1-2—3) had identical stat lines and **Jesper Bratt** (1-3—4) reached the [200-assist milestone](#) as the Devils earned a victory to move into the second Wild Card position in the Eastern Conference. They sit in a playoff position for the first time since Nov. 10.

\* Jack (38-63—101 in 71 GP) became the first player in Devils/Rockies/Scouts history to record 100+ regular-season points in a calendar year, while Luke became the fourth rookie defenseman in franchise history to record [three or more points in a road game](#) and first since **Craig Wolanin** on Dec. 9, 1985.

**BIG NIGHT FOR THE HUGHES BROTHERS**

Jack Hughes and Luke Hughes became the first set of siblings on the same team to each record three or more points in a game since Henrik and Daniel Sedin did so for the Canucks on Dec. 15, 2017.

**86**

**43**

#NHLSTATS

**WOMEN IN HOCKEY: SHERI HUDSPETH**

As the countdown to the 2024 Discover NHL Winter Classic continues, we celebrate women in hockey with a feature on **Sheri Hudspeth**, the Golden Knights' director of youth hockey programs and fan development. Hudspeth has been a part of growing the game of hockey in Las Vegas both at a grassroots and viewership level. She will be in attendance at the Winter Classic on Jan. 1 with the 10-U Jr. Kraken girls' team (12 p.m. PT / 3 p.m. ET on TNT, Max, SN, TVAS).

**JOB TITLE**  
Director, Youth Hockey Programs & Fan Development

**EDUCATION**  
Minnesota State University

**YEARS OF HOCKEY EXPERIENCE**  
19 playing; 10 years in coaching and development

**Q & A**  
*Describe a moment where you proudly thought to yourself, "I can't believe this is my job!"*  
My "can't believe this is my job" moment was December 15, 2022. We hosted the Rivalry Series at our AHL arena in Henderson between the Canadian and U.S national teams. The entire week we had several girls hockey activations with the US Olympians, and I was asked to drop the puck at the opening faceoff. On June 13, 2023, we became the Stanley Cup Champions. The Golden Knights' playoff run and the Rivalry Series were both very special moments in the same year that I can't believe I got to be a part of.

**SHERI HUDSPETH**  
VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS

**STATS AND INFORMATION**

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## QUICK CLICKS

- \* [Fantasy spin: NHL EDGE stats this week](#)
- \* [Winter Classic blog: Kraken defenseman \*\*Vince Dunn\*\*](#)
- \* [Original 'Misfits' in Winter Classic spotlight for Golden Knights](#)
- \* [Connor Ingram leads Coyotes to franchise record-tying fourth shutout of the month](#)
- \* [Jonathan Quick's unbelievable pair of saves, Juuse Saros' sprawling glove stop](#)



## HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA HIGHLIGHTS FINAL SATURDAY OF 2023


As we close in on the end of the calendar year, the final weekend of 2023 opens with a nine-game Saturday that features a trio of games on Hockey Night in Canada including **Auston Matthews** shooting for 30 goals when the Maple Leafs host **Sebastian Aho** and the Hurricanes, **Cole Caufield** and the Canadiens traveling to Amerant Bank Arena to face **Matthew Tkachuk** and the Panthers, as well as the Oilers looking for their fourth straight win in **Connor McDavid's** 600th regular-season game when Edmonton faces Los Angeles for the first time since eliminating the Kings in the First Round of the 2023 Stanley Cup Playoffs (EDM: 4-2).






**STATS AND INFORMATION**

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**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30**

7:00 PM ET  @ 

7:00 PM ET  @ 

10:00 PM ET  @ 

**SPORTSNET**

\* Aho has recorded four points in each of his last two contests and can become the first player in Hurricanes/Whalers history to post three consecutive four-point outings and the first player on any team to do so since **Steve Yzerman** in 1992-93 (2-10—12 in 3 GP). Matthews (29-15—44 in 32 GP) enters the contest with [15 goals in the month of December](#) and can become the first player since **Jaromir Jagr** (30 GP in 1996-97 w/ PIT) to reach the 30-goal mark within his first 33 games of a season.

\* The Canadiens will contest their fifth of seven consecutive road games (2-1-1 since Dec. 18) when they visit the Panthers. **Mike Matheson** enters on a six-game *road* point streak (1-7—8 in 6 GP), the longest by a Montreal defenseman since **Andrei Markov's** 11-game road point streak in 2009-10 (3-12—15 in 11 GP). Matheson, who was selected 23rd overall by the Panthers in the 2012 NHL Draft and played the first 299 contests of his career with Florida, is expected to skate in his 500th NHL game.

\* The Oilers and Kings have met in the First Round of each of the last two postseasons, but will meet in the regular season for the first time in 2023-24. The Oilers, who are looking to win four straight road games for the first time this season, will be looking for a victory while McDavid contests his 600th career game. The [Dec. 30 edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#) has more notes ahead of McDavid's milestone contest.



## STATS AND INFORMATION

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# MOST POINTS THROUGH 600 CAREER GAMES PLAYED

NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	GP	POINTS
WAYNE GRETZKY	600	1,451
MARIO LEMIEUX	600	1,215
MIKE BOSSY	600	921
PETER STASTNY	600	901
CONNOR McDAVID	599	895
JARI KURRI	600	848
BOBBY ORR	600	838
BRYAN TROTTIER	600	830
DENIS SAVARD	600	827
SIDNEY CROSBY	600	825



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## NHL EDGE: "MAX SPEED" LEADER CHANGED THREE TIMES IN FOUR GAME DAYS

The [NHL EDGE](#) leaderboard for max speed [has seen plenty of movement this week](#), with the top speed on record in 2023-24 changing three times from Dec. 21 to Dec. 28.

\* For more than two months, Winnipeg's **Rasmus Kupari** led all skaters in 2023-24 with a 23.95 mph max speed recorded during the second period on Oct. 17 (vs. LAK), but Colorado's **Valeri Nichushkin** pulled ahead of him with a 23.96 mph clocking in the first period on Dec. 21 (vs. OTT) - narrowly edging both Kupari and teammate **Miles Wood** who topped out at 23.86 mph during the third period of the same contest last week.

\* Not to be outdone, fellow Avalanche forward **Nathan MacKinnon** logged a 24.05 mph rush during the first period on Dec. 23 (vs. ARI) which held as the max speed for a grand total of zero more game days. In the third period of Tampa Bay's game on Dec. 27 (vs. FLA), **Brayden Point** reached a max speed of 24.15 mph when he carried the puck from end-to-end during a Lightning power play. Entering play Dec. 29, MacKinnon (304) and Point (222) were the only players with at least 200 bursts of 20+ mph on record this season.



**Nathan MacKinnon**

#29 | C



**Brayden Point**

#21 | C



\*Entering play Dec. 29

**A FULL DAY OF NHL ACTION MAKES UP PENULTIMATE DAY OF 2023**

Another Canadian club will help start the day as the Jets (20-9-4, 44 points) look to keep pace in the Central Division standings – where three points separate the top three clubs – when they host the Wild (16-13-4, 36 points), who have their sights set on jumping back into the playoff bracket. Winnipeg’s **Connor Hellebuyck** owns an eight-game point streak (6-0-2), the longest active run in the NHL and the [fifth time](#) he has posted a stretch of at least that length.

# SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

2:00 PM ET		TSN3, BSN, BSWI	5:00 PM ET		BSOH, MSG-B
7:00 PM ET		MSGSN, NESN	7:00 PM ET		BSFL, SNE, CITY, TVAS
7:00 PM ET		SN-PIT, BSMW	7:00 PM ET		BSSUN, MSG 2
7:00 PM ET		CBC, SNO, SNW, SNP, NHLN, BSSO	7:00 PM ET		MNMT, BSSO
10:00 PM ET		BSW, TVAS2, CITY, SN, CBC			