


NHL MORNING SKATE – JAN. 4, 2024



The graphic features two Toronto Maple Leafs players in white jerseys with blue accents, one with the number 16. They are on an ice rink with a crowd of fans in the background. The NHL logo and "#NHLStats" are in the top right corner.

NHL Morning Skate

Thursday, January 4, 2024

- Matthews scores overtime winner to secure eighth straight 30-goal season
- Hughes hits 30-assist mark in franchise-best pace
- ESPN set to unveil first 32 players named to 2024 NHL All-Star Weekend

* **Auston Matthews** netted his 30th goal of the season in dramatic fashion and became just the 10th player in NHL history to record at least eight straight 30-goal campaigns from the start of their career.

* **Jack Hughes** became the fastest player in franchise history to reach 30 assists in a season and helped New Jersey climb past Washington into a Wild Card position as the Devils gear up for the fast-approaching *2024 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series*.

* Thursday's 13-game slate is highlighted by **David Pastrnak** and the Bruins battling **Sidney Crosby** and the Penguins on ESPN, with the network set to unveil the first 32 players to the *2024 NHL All-Star Weekend* in Toronto during its broadcast.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**



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RESULTS

WEDNESDAY


6
◀ FINAL
3



2
◀ FINAL
OT
1


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MATTHEWS HITS 30-GOAL MARK WITH OVERTIME WINNER

It took until his 13th shot of the night – his second most in a single game (15 on March 25, 2023 at CAR) – to finally beat **Lukas Dostal** (55 saves), but **Auston Matthews** (1-0—1) made it count by reaching the 30-goal mark for the eighth straight season to start his career and helped the Maple Leafs (19-10-7, 45 points) edge the Ducks in overtime.

MOST CONSECUTIVE 30-GOAL SEASONS FROM START OF CAREER

NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	SEASONS
ALEX OVECHKIN	15
MIKE GARTNER	15
WAYNE GRETZKY	13
JARI KURRI	10
MIKE BOSSY	10
BRYAN TROTTIER	9
AUSTON MATTHEWS	8
LUC ROBITAILLE	8
DALE HAWERCHUK	8
GLENN ANDERSON	8



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* Matthews, the second player in as many seasons and *seventh different* in the [past 30 years to reach 30 goals in 35 games or fewer](#), required the fifth-fewest games in Maple Leafs history to reach the mark in a single season behind **Babe Dye** (19 GP in 1920-21, 23 GP in 1924-25 & 24 GP in 1921-22) and **Frank Mahovlich** (33 GP in 1960-61).

* The Scottsdale, Ariz. native, with nearly a quarter of the Maple Leafs' goals in 2023-24 (30 of 125; 24%) required the third-fewest games by a U.S.-born player in NHL history to reach the 30-goal mark behind **Kevin Stevens** (30 GP in 1992-93 w/ PIT) and **Pat LaFontaine** (31 GP in 1991-92 w/ BUF).

* Matthews, who matched franchise icon **Darryl Sittler** (8 from 1973-74 – 1980-81) for the longest stretch of [consecutive 30-goal campaigns](#), became the sixth U.S.-born player with at least eight such seasons *during any point of their career* alongside **Joe Mullen** (10), **Keith Tkachuk** (9), **Mike Modano** (9), **Pat LaFontaine** (9) and **Tony Amonte** (8).



HUGHES HITS 30 ASSISTS TO LIFT DEVILS INTO WILD CARD POSITION

Jack Hughes (0-1—1) collected his 30th assist of the season while **Nico Hischier** (2-1—3), **Dawson Mercer** (2-0—2) and **Michael McLeod** (2-0—2) each scored two goals to help the Devils (20-14-2, 42 points) overtake the Capitals for the second Wild Card position in the Eastern Conference thanks to a win at Capital One Arena.

* Hughes recorded his 30th assist in his 31st game of 2023-24 and became the fastest player in franchise history to reach the mark in a single campaign, besting **Zach Parise**'s pace in 2008-09 (33 GP). **Aaron Broten** (35 GP in 1987-88) is the only other player in franchise history to do so in 35 games or fewer.

FEWEST GAMES TO 30 ASSISTS IN A SEASON

U.S.-BORN PLAYERS, SINCE 1993-94

PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	GP
CRAIG JANNEY	BLUES	1993-94	21
BLAKE WHEELER	JETS	2018-19	24
PATRICK KANE	BLACKHAWKS	2020-21	26
BLAKE WHEELER	JETS	2017-18	27
MATTHEW TKACHUK	PANTHERS	2022-23	28
BRIAN LEETCH	RANGERS	1995-96	30
DOUG WEIGHT	OILERS	1995-96	30
JACK HUGHES	DEVILS	2023-24	31
JOHNNY GAUDREAU	FLAMES	2018-19	31





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* The Devils received multiple goals from at least three different players for the first time in nearly eight years and just the third time in the past 20 years. The other instances occurred on [March 17, 2016](#) (3 vs. MIN) and [Feb. 25, 2004](#) (3 vs. BUF).

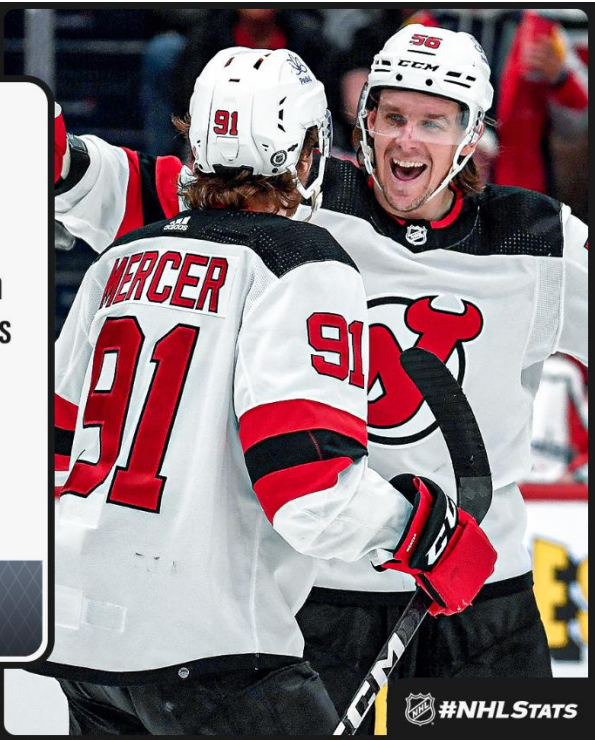

* **Erik Haula** (0-2—2), who also potted a multi-point game, is one of six players on the Devils' roster with previous experience in an outdoor game ([2016 SS](#)) as the club continues to close in on the 2024 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series on Feb. 17 against the Flyers (8:00 p.m. ET on ABC, ESPN+ & SN360). The others: **Brendan Smith** (3 GP), **Tyler Toffoli** (2 GP) **Tomas Nosek** ([2023 WC](#)), **Cal Foote** ([2022 SS](#)) and **Ondrej Palat** ([2022 SS](#)).

* Thanks to a Devils victory, all four teams competing in the 2024 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series currently occupy a playoff position (NYR: M1, NYI: M3, PHI: WC1 & NJD: WC2).



RAMPING UP FOR THE 2024 STADIUM SERIES

The 2023-24 campaign can be just the second in NHL history to feature the Flyers, Devils, Rangers and Islanders franchises all qualify for the Stanley Cup Playoffs following 1977-78. Philadelphia ousted the Colorado Rockies in the Preliminary Round.



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QUICK CLICKS

- * [Connor McDavid](#) gets 900th point in style, 'just another number' for Oilers captain
- * [Evgeni Malkin](#) has let numbers do talking on road to 1,100 games for Penguins
- * [Andrew Ference](#), Kraken lead Winter Classic legacy initiative to grow hockey
- * [Muzz Patrick](#) was boxing champ before winning Stanley Cup with Rangers
- * [Wednesday edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#)

ESPN, SPORTSNET, TVA SPORTS TO UNVEIL ALL-STAR WEEKEND ROSTERS THURSDAY

ESPN, Sportsnet and TVA Sports will unveil the first 32 players named to the 2024 NHL All-Star Weekend in Toronto during their broadcasts Thursday.

NHL SCHEDULE		THURSDAY, JANUARY 4
7:00 PM ET		ESPN, SNO, SNE
7:00 PM ET		NBCSCH, MSG
8:00 PM ET		BSSW, ALT
8:00 PM ET		BSSO, SNW
9:00 PM ET		SCRIPPS, MSGSN
10:00 PM ET		SCRIPPS, BSFL, SNO, SNE, TVAS
10:30 PM ET		NBCSCA, TSN3
7:00 PM ET		RDS, TSN2, MSG-B
7:00 PM ET		BSOH, NBCSP
8:00 PM ET		BSWI, BSN, BSSUN
8:00 PM ET		BSMW, SNP
10:00 PM ET		ROOT-NW, TSN5, RDS
10:30 PM ET		BSW, BSET

* Starting at 6:50 p.m. ET, the three networks will reveal the 16 Eastern Conference players. During the first intermission of the Penguins-Bruins game, the 16 Western Conference players will be named along with details for the Fan Vote to determine the remaining 12 All-Stars.

* The 2024 NHL All-Star Weekend was [expanded to a three-day event](#):

Thursday, Feb. 1 – “NHL All-Star Thursday”

Friday, Feb. 2 – *NHL All-Star Skills presented by DraftKings Sportsbook*

Saturday, Feb. 3 – *Rogers NHL All-Star Game*

* The *NHL All-Star Skills presented by DraftKings Sportsbook* has a [revamped format](#) featuring 12 players competing for points in eight events, with the winner taking home a prize of \$1 million.



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