# NEWS RELEASE

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## KUCHEROV, MATTHEWS AND HELLEBUYCK WIN 2023-24 REGULAR SEASON TROPHIES

**NEW YORK (April 19, 2024)** – The 2023-24 National Hockey League regular season concluded with Tampa Bay Lightning right wing **Nikita Kucherov** capturing his second career Art Ross Trophy as the League's scoring champion, Toronto Maple Leafs center **Auston Matthews** winning his third career Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy as the NHL's goal-scoring leader and the Winnipeg Jets' **Connor Hellebuyck** earning his first career William M. Jennings Trophy as the goaltender who plays at least 25 games for the team allowing the fewest goals.

Kucherov posted a franchise-record 144 points (44-100—144 in 81 GP) – the second-most by any player over the past 28 years – to finish four ahead of second-place **Nathan MacKinnon** of the Colorado Avalanche (51-89—140 in 82 GP) and earn his second Art Ross Trophy, following the 2018-19 campaign (41-87—128 in 82 GP). Kucherov became the second Lightning player to claim the award multiple times, joining **Martin St. Louis** (2012-13 and 2003-04), and the fourth active player with multiple wins, after **Connor McDavid** (5x), **Sidney Crosby** (2x) and **Evgeni Malkin** (2x).

Kucherov factored on exactly half of Tampa Bay's 288 total goals (excluding shootout-deciding goals), marking the 12th instance in NHL history of a player registering points on at least 50 percent of his team's scoring within a single season – and just the third occasion this century, after McDavid with the Edmonton Oilers in both 2020-21 (57.4%) and 2018-19 (50.7%). Kucherov finished 54 points ahead of his closest teammate (**Brayden Point**: 46-44—90 in 81 GP), the largest gap between a team's top two scorers since the 2000-01 Florida Panthers (55: **Pavel Bure**: 59-33—92 in 82 GP and **Viktor Kozlov**: 14-23—37 in 51 GP).

The 30-year-old Kucherov capped 2023-24 by becoming the fifth different player in NHL history – and first winger – to produce 100 assists in one season (April 17 vs. TOR). Overall, Kucherov found the scoresheet in 68 of his 81 appearances (84.0%), totaling 41 multi-point performances (t-2nd in the NHL), 23 three-point efforts (1st in the NHL and the most by any player since 1995-96) and eight games with at least four points (t-1st in the NHL).

Matthews scored a franchise-record 69 goals (69-38—107 in 81 GP) – the most by any player since 1995-96 – to close the campaign 12 ahead of second-place **Sam Reinhart** of the Panthers (57-37—94 in 82 GP) and capture his third Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy, after wins in 2021-22 and 2020-21. Matthews became the second player to claim the Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy, first presented in 1998-99, at least three times (after **Alex Ovechkin**: 9x) and the 12th player in NHL history to *outright* lead the League in goals on at least three occasions. His 12-goal gap over Reinhart marked the largest by the NHL's top two goal-scorers since 2007-08, when Ovechkin (65) finished 13 ahead of **Ilya Kovalchuk** (52).

Matthews opened the season by becoming the fifth player in League history – and second since the NHL's inaugural campaign – to record hat tricks in each of his first two games, joining Ovechkin (2017-18), **Cy Denneny** (1917-18), **Joe Malone** (1917-18) and **Reg Noble** (1917-18). Matthews again scored hat tricks in consecutive appearances Feb. 15-17, making him the fifth player in League history to achieve the feat multiple times within a single season – after **Wayne Gretzky** (1983-84), **Mike Bossy** (1980-81), Malone (1917-18) and Noble (1917-18). Overall, Matthews became the 10th different NHL player – and first since **Mario Lemieux** in 1995-96 (6) – to record at least six hat tricks in one campaign.

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The 26-year-old Matthews recorded 18 total multi-goal performances, the most since **Alexander Mogilny** in 1992-93 (24), and found the back of the net in 45 of his 81 contests (55.6%) – highlighted by a career-high eight-game goal streak from March 30 – April 13 (10-3—13). He also became the eighth different player in NHL history – and first since 1992-93 – to register at least 51 *even-strength* goals in a single campaign.

The Jets, led by Hellebuyck (37-19-4, 2.39 GAA, .921 SV%, 5 SO), yielded a League-low 199 goals to finish one clear of the Panthers (200) and win their first William M. Jennings Trophy – the closest race for the award since 2015-16, when the Anaheim Ducks (192) also prevailed by one goal over the Washington Capitals (193). Winnipeg allowed three or fewer goals in 65 of their 82 contests, spurred by a streak of 34 consecutive such games from Nov. 4 – Jan. 20 – tied with the 1928-29 New York Americans for the third-longest stretch in NHL history, behind only the 1928-29 Boston Bruins (44) and 2014-15 Minnesota Wild (35).

The 30-year-old Hellebuyck yielded three or fewer goals in 50 of his 60 total appearances – including a pair of 10-game streaks with *two or fewer* goals against (Nov. 17 – Dec. 16 and Dec. 22 – Jan. 20). He became the ninth different goaltender in NHL history to post multiple such stretches within a single season and just the third to do so in the modern era (since 1943-44), joining **Marc-Andre Fleury** (2007-08) and **Harry Lumley** (1953-54).

The 2019-20 Vezina Trophy winner finished the season among the top five goaltenders in the League in wins (2nd; 37), save percentage (2nd; .921), saves (2nd; 1,656), games played (3rd; 60), goals-against average (4th; 2.39) and shutouts (t-5th; 5).

The three winners will be celebrated in the “2024 NHL Regular Season Awards Show,” a half-hour special premiering on NHL Network on Saturday, April 27, at 3:30 p.m. ET. Hosted by **Kathryn Tappen** and **Jason Demers** and produced by NHL Productions, the special will feature interviews with the winners as well as highlights from the epic 2023-24 regular season. The show will be available on the NHL’s YouTube channel following the premiere.

### (4/19/24)