


NHL MORNING SKATE: STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS EDITION – APRIL 24, 2024



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STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2024

Morning Skate

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Verhaeghe scores winner in first overtime game of 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs

Rangers go up 2-0 while Avalanche, Predators both even their series at 1-1 with wins Tuesday

A pair of Game 2s and a Game 3 between Bruins-Maple Leafs make up Wednesday's slate

* The Panthers and Lightning contested the first overtime game of the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs which saw **Carter Verhaeghe** score the winner to give Florida a 2-0 series lead.

* The Avalanche and Predators both evened their series at 1-1, with the former becoming just the third team in NHL history to score 11-plus goals through the first two games of the playoffs versus the team that had the fewest goals against in the regular season.

* The Rangers took a 2-0 series lead with the help of **K'Andre Miller**, who became the fourth defenseman in the past two decades to score a shorthanded goal and have it stand as the game winner.

* Three contests are scheduled for Wednesday, including a Game 3 between the Bruins and Maple Leafs as well as a couple of Game 2s featuring Western Conference squads.

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RESULTS



STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2024

VERHAEGHE WINS IT FOR PANTHERS IN FIRST OVERTIME OF 2024 PLAYOFFS

Sam Bennett and **Vladimir Tarasenko** put the Panthers up 2-0 in the first period, but the Lightning responded with goals from **Brayden Point** and **Steven Stamkos** in the second frame and almost netted a third if it wasn't for a highlight-reel save from **Sergei Bobrovsky**. With the game deadlocked at 2-2 after three periods, the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs saw its first overtime game where it was **Carter Verhaeghe** who netted his fifth career overtime goal to give Florida a 2-0 series lead.



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* Bobrovsky became the first goaltender in franchise history to earn 20 playoff wins and has backstopped Florida in each of its 11 straight overtime victories dating to the 2021 postseason. The only team in NHL history with a longer run of overtime wins in the playoffs is the Canadiens (14-0 from 1993-1998).

* Verhaeghe scored his fifth career overtime goal in the postseason and his first since netting one during [Game 3 of the 2023 Stanley Cup Final](#), which gave the Panthers their first-ever victory in the championship round. The forward is no stranger to finding the back of the net in the extra frame – he has also scored multiple series-clinching overtime goals, eliminating the Presidents’ Trophy-winning Bruins in [Game 7 of the 2023 First Round](#) and the Capitals in [Game 6 the 2022 First Round](#) which gave the Panthers their first series win in 26 years.

MOST OVERTIME GOALS

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS HISTORY

STANLEY CUP **PLAYOFFS 2024**



| PLAYER | TOTAL |
|------------------|-------|
| JOE SAKIC | 8 |
| MAURICE RICHARD | 6 |
| CARTER VERHAEGHE | 5 |
| GLENN ANDERSON | 5 |
| COREY PERRY | 5 |
| PATRICK KANE | 5 |

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MAKAR, MACKINNON HELP AVALANCHE HEAD HOME WITH SERIES TIED 1-1

Cale Makar (0-2—2) posted multiple points and **Nathan MacKinnon** (0-1—1) [assisted](#) on one of his team’s five goals to help the Avalanche earn a comeback win and head home to Denver with an even series. Colorado owns an all-time record of 9-12 (.429) when [tied 1-1 in a best-of seven series](#).

* Makar recorded his 16th multi-point game of the playoffs and surpassed **Erik Karlsson** (15) for the fifth most by an active defenseman, trailing only **Victor Hedman** (26), **Brent Burns** (19), **Kris Letang** (18) and **Shea Theodore** (17).

* Makar, who had 1-2—3 in Game 1, recorded consecutive multi-point outings in the postseason for the fourth time in his career, matching **Shea Theodore** and **Victor Hedman** for the most such instances among active defensemen. In the process, Makar also became the fifth active blueliner to record five points through his team’s first two games of the playoffs, joining **Adam Fox** (0-6—6 in 2023), **John Carlson** (0-6—6 in 2018), **Miro Heiskanen** (0-5—5 in 2023) and **Torey Krug** (0-5—5 in 2018).

* The Avalanche (11) and Jets (9) became the first teams to combine for 20 or more goals through the first two games of a Stanley Cup Playoffs series since the Oilers and Flames combined for 23 during the 2022 Second Round. The most in NHL history is 24, by the North Stars and Bruins during the 1981 Preliminary Round.



AVALANCHE KEEP UP HIGH SCORING

The Avalanche became just the third team in NHL history to score 11 or more goals over the first two games of the playoffs versus the *team that had the fewest goals against in the regular season*, joining the Sharks (13 vs. LAK in 2014 R1) and Canadiens (13 vs. SEN in 1919 NHLF).

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ZIBANEJAD, MILLER HELP RANGERS TAKE A 2-0 SERIES LEAD

After the Capitals took a 1-0 lead, the Rangers rallied to earn a comeback victory and take a 2-0 series lead with the help of **Mika Zibanejad** (1-1—2) who factored on two goals, including **K'Andre Miller's** shorthanded game winner. New York owns an all-time series record of 11-4 (.733) when taking a [2-0 lead in a best-of-seven](#), but fell to the Devils in the First Round after taking such a lead last year.

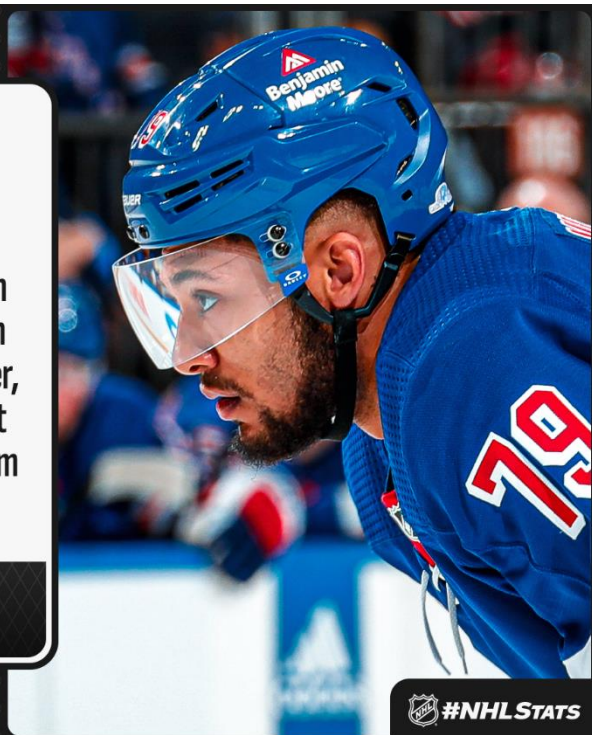
* Zibanejad, whose seventh career playoff power-play goal with the Rangers moved him into a tie with **Ron Greschner** for [seventh place on the franchise's all-time list](#), recorded his 13th multi-point game in the postseason with New York and tied **Chris Kreider** and **Walt Tkaczuk** for the [fifth most in club history](#).

* Miller became just the seventh defenseman in Rangers history to score a shorthanded goal in the playoffs (since 1933-34 when goals by type were officially tracked), joining **Marc Staal** ([Game 1 of 2020 SCQ](#)), **Brian Leetch** ([Game 7 of 1992 DSF](#)), **Normand Rochefort** ([Game 5 of 1990 DSF](#)), **Barry Beck** ([Game 2 of 1981 QF](#)), **Dave Maloney** ([Game 2 of 1980 PRLM](#) & [Game 1 of 1979 SCF](#)) and **Greschner** ([Game 2 of 1979 QF](#)).

MILLER NETS SHORTHANDED WINNER

K'Andre Miller became the fourth defenseman in the past 20 years to score a shorthanded goal in the playoffs and have it stand as the game winner, joining Brendan Smith (Game 2 of 2022 R2), Matt Greene (Game 1 of 2012 CSF) and Nicklas Lidstrom (Game 6 of 2008 CQF).

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FORSBERG HELPS PREDATORS TIE SERIES 1-1

Filip Forsberg scored his 30th career postseason goal, which stood as the game winner, and Juuse Saros earned his fourth career playoff win – the [second most in franchise history](#) behind only Pekka Rinne (45) – as the Predators evened their series.

* Nashville became the third team in the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs to even their series following a loss in Game 1 (also TOR & COL) and holds an all-time record of 4-7 when tied 1-1 in a best-of-seven series. Last year's opening round saw seven of eight teams advance after facing a series deficit – tied for the most ever.



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FORSBERG NOTCHES ANOTHER GWG

Filip Forsberg scored his 12th game-winning goal of the season (regular season & playoffs), tied with Brayden Point for the League lead.

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STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS TRENDS HIGHLIGHTED IN #NHLSTATS LIVE UPDATES

The first three days of the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs have featured close contests, including Tuesday which saw two one-goal victories by the Rangers and Panthers. For more League trends and notes on the eight teams in action, [read the latest edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#).



CLOSE GAMES APLENTY TO START PLAYOFFS

The 2024 postseason became the third in NHL history to feature at least 13 of the first 14 games be decided by either one goal or two-plus with an empty netter (also 2010: 14 & 2021: 13)

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QUICK CLICKS

- * [Sergei Bobrovsky makes ridiculous arm save with back to play against Lightning](#)
- * [Lindy Ruff ready to help Sabres end playoff drought in 2nd stint as coach](#)
- * [Ryan Kesler, son fire up Canucks fans before Game 2 against Predators](#)
- * [Rangers were half inch from 4th Stanley Cup championship in 1950](#)
- * [2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs: Opening weekend audiences up double digits](#)



OPENING WEEKEND AUDIENCES UP DOUBLE DIGITS

Across North America, the opening weekend of the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs delivered an average audience of **2.62 million viewers**, up 11% YOY, with **17.095 million unique viewers** tuning into games over the first two days (up 3% YOY).

ESPN & TNT Sports delivered the top three most-watched Round One Game 1s ever on U.S. cable:

- Capitals/Rangers Game 1 on ESPN is the most-watched First Round Game 1 of a Stanley Cup Playoffs series ever on cable (**1.3 million viewers**)
- Maple Leafs/Bruins Game 1 on TBS/truTV/Max is the second most-watched First Round Game 1 of a Stanley Cup Playoffs series ever on cable (**1.1 million viewers**)
- Avalanche/Jets Game 1 is ESPN2's most-watched First Round Stanley Cup Playoffs game ever and third-most watched First Round Game 1 of a Stanley Cup series ever on cable (**1.1 million viewers**)

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS CONTINUE WITH THREE-GAME WEDNESDAY

First Round action in the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs continues with a pair of Game 2s as well as Game 3 between the Bruins and Maple Leafs, who see their series shift to Scotiabank Arena in Toronto for the next two contests. The Original Six showdown is the first contest of an ESPN doubleheader, while **Connor McDavid** and the Oilers clash with **Anze Kopitar** and the Kings on TBS and MAX.







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SCHEDULE · WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>SERIES TIED 1-1</p>  <p>GAME 3 · 7 ET</p> <p>CBC, TVAS, SN, NESN, ESPN</p> | <p>VGK LEADS SERIES 1-0</p>  <p>GAME 2 · 9:30 ET</p> <p>SCRIPPS, BSSW, ESPN, TVAS2, SN360</p> | <p>EDM LEADS SERIES 1-0</p>  <p>GAME 2 · 10:00 ET</p> <p>CBC, TVAS, SN, BSW, TBS, MAX</p> |
|---|---|--|

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* When a best-of-seven is tied 1-1, the winner of Game 3 holds an all-time series of 234-120 (.661). Toronto holds a 10-9 record in that scenario, while Boston is 19-6.

* The Maple Leafs return home with hopes of back-to-back wins against the Bruins for the first time since a four-game stretch from Nov. 6, 2021 to Nov. 5, 2022. **Morgan Rielly** has yet to find the score sheet in the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs, but has done so in each of his past five home games in the postseason dating to Game 2 of the 2023 First Round (2-6—8 in 5 GP). He can join **Ian Turnbull** (7 GP from 1976-78) and **Borje Salming** (7 GP from 1976-78) as the third defenseman in franchise history with a six-game home point streak in the playoffs (spanning postseasons or otherwise).

* The Golden Knights and Stars cap the ESPN doubleheader after **Jack Eichel** (0-2—2) played a part in Vegas' Game 1 victory. Eichel (6-22—28 in 23 GP), despite appearing in the postseason for just the second time, can join **Alex Ovechkin** (21 GP), **Leon Draisaitl** (24 GP), **David Pastrnak** (24 GP) and **Sidney Crosby** (24 GP) as the fifth active player to reach 30 career playoff points in 24 or fewer games.

* McDavid leads the Oilers into Game 2 after his [five-assist outing in the series opener](#) fell just one shy of the Stanley Cup Playoffs record for most in one contest. The Edmonton captain enters Wednesday with the opportunity to join **Joe Murphy** (3 GP in 1992), **Ryan Nugent-Hopkins** (2 GP in 2020), **Glenn Anderson** (2 GP in 1988), **Charlie Huddy** (2 GP in 1985) and **Wayne Gretzky** (2 GP in 1981) as the sixth player in franchise history with multiple assists in each of the team's first two games of a playoff year.

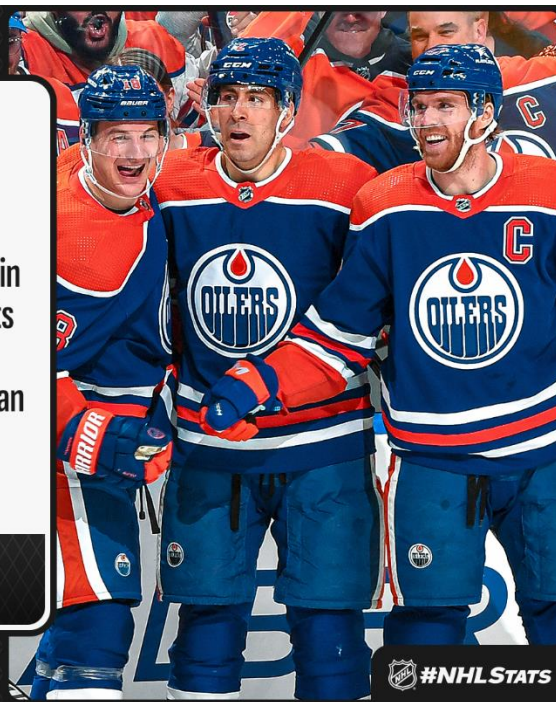
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MORE ASSISTS ON THE WAY FOR McDAVID?

Connor McDavid can become the seventh player in Stanley Cup Playoffs history to collect 3+ assists in each of his team's first two games of a postseason. John Carlson (2 GP in 2018) and Nathan MacKinnon (2 GP in 2014) are the only active players to have achieved the feat.

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