

NHL MORNING SKATE: STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS EDITION – MAY 17, 2024

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STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS

Morning Skate

Friday, May 17, 2024

Kreider scores third-period hat trick to send Rangers to Conference Finals

Miller nets final-minute winner as Canucks take 3-2 series lead

Panthers, Stars can advance to Conference Finals on Friday

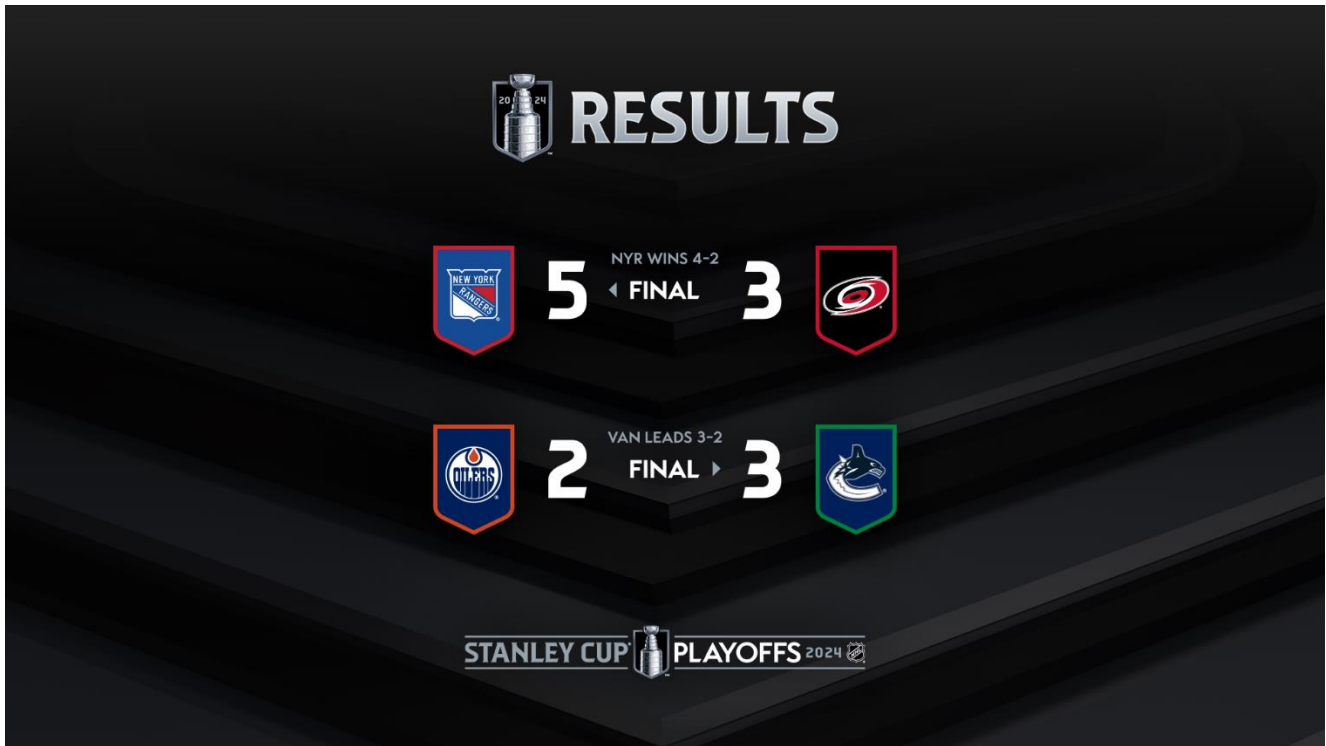
* The Rangers became the first team to advance to the 2024 Conference Finals after overcoming a multi-goal deficit in the third period with the help of **Chris Kreider** who scored three straight goals, including the series clincher.

* **J.T. Miller** scored with 33 seconds remaining in regulation – the second-latest go-ahead goal in Canucks postseason history – to move Vancouver within one win of the Conference Finals.

* The Bruins and Avalanche both aim to force a Game 7 in their Second Round series Friday, while the Panthers and Stars take another crack at advancing to the Conference Finals.

 **STATS AND INFORMATION**

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KREIDER HELPS RANGERS STAGE THRILLING THIRD-PERIOD COMEBACK TO ADVANCE

With the Hurricanes leading 3-1 and a Game 7 looming, the Rangers staged a thrilling multi-goal, third-period rally to advance to the Eastern Conference Final with the help of **Chris Kreider** who scored twice to pull his team even before completing his hat trick with the series-clinching goal in the final 4:19 of regulation. New York became the second team in NHL history to overcome a multi-goal, third-period deficit to clinch a series on multiple occasions (also [Game 6 of 1940 SCF](#)), following Montreal (5x).

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* The Rangers, who now await the winner of the Panthers-Bruins series, became the sixth Presidents' Trophy winner to advance to the Conference Finals in the past 20 years (since 2004). The others: 2014-15 Rangers, 2012-13 Blackhawks, 2010-11 Canucks, 2007-08 Red Wings and 2006-07 Sabres. Chicago and Detroit are the only clubs that went on to win the Stanley Cup.

* Kreider, who scored all three of his goals in succession in the final frame, became the third player in NHL history to record a third-period hat trick *that included a series-clinching goal*, joining **Jake Guentzel** in [Game 6 of 2018 First Round](#) and **Jack Darragh** in [Game 5 of 1920 Stanley Cup Final](#). He also became one of just three players in Rangers history to score three goals in a series-clinching win, following **Mike Gartner** ([Game 5 of 1990 DSF](#)) and **Steve Vickers** ([Game 5 of 1973 QF](#)).

* Kreider became the eighth player in Stanley Cup Playoffs history to record a natural hat trick in the third period of a playoff game, joining **Vladimir Tarasenko** ([Game 5 of 2022 R1](#)), Guentzel ([Game 6 of 2018 R1](#)), **Darren McCarty** ([Game 1 of 2002 CF](#)), **Mark Messier** ([Game 6 of 1994 CF](#)), **Ray Ferraro** ([Game 5 of 1993 DSF](#)), **Tom Williams** ([Game 4 of 1974 QF](#)) and **Odie Cleghorn** ([Game 2 of 1919 NHLF](#)). He is also just the third skater in [Rangers history](#) with three goals in a single playoff period, alongside legends Messier (P3; [Game 6 of 1994 CF](#)) and **Wayne Gretzky** (P2; [Game 4 of 1997 CQF](#)).



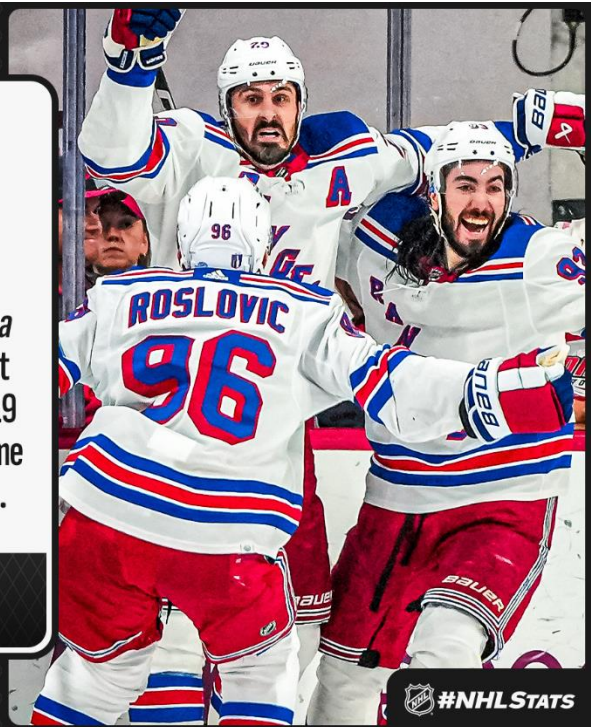
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KREIDER NETS NATTY HATTY TO WIN SERIES

Chris Kreider became the sixth player in NHL history to score a natural hat trick which *included a series-clinching goal*, joining Jonathan Marchessault (Game 6 of 2023 R2), Jaden Schwartz (Game 6 of 2019 R1), Jake Guentzel (Game 6 of 2018 R1), Tim Kerr (Game 3 of 1985 DSF) & Reggie Leach (Game 5 of 1976 SF).

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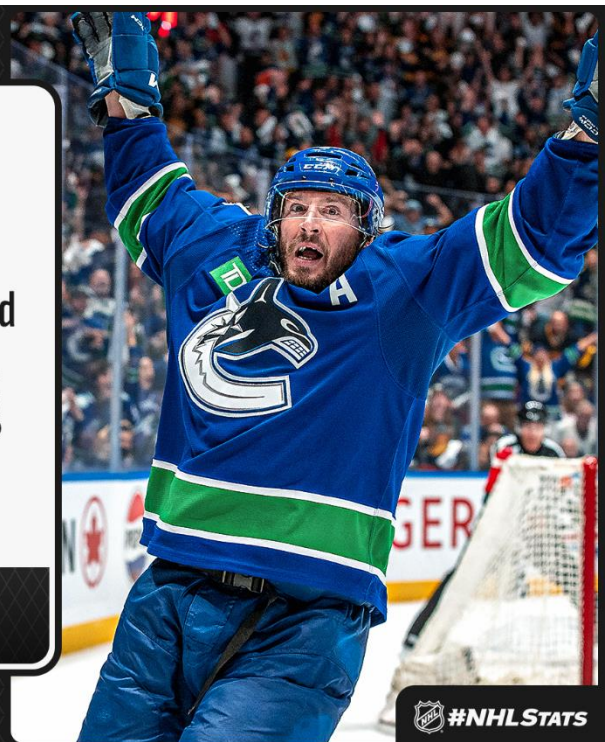
MILLER'S LATE WINNER BRINGS CANUCKS WITHIN ONE WIN OF CONFERENCE FINALS

Two days after **Evan Bouchard** scored the winning goal for the Oilers in the dying seconds of Game 4 (59:21), **J.T. Miller** returned the favor for the Canucks as he netted the decisive marker with 33 seconds remaining in Game 5 to give Vancouver a 3-2 lead in the series. The Canucks moved within one victory of reaching the Conference Finals for the fourth time in franchise history (also 2011, 1994 & 1982).

MILLER PROVIDES MORE LATE DRAMA IN GAME 5

The Second Round between Vancouver and Edmonton marked the first series in NHL history to feature a go-ahead goal during the final minute of regulation *in consecutive contests*.

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* Miller's winner at 59:27 marked the second-latest go-ahead goal in Canucks postseason history, behind **Raffi Torres** in Game 1 of the 2011 Stanley Cup Final (59:41). The only other player to score a winning tally in the *final minute of a playoff game* for Vancouver: **Stan Smyl** in Game 3 of the 1983 Division Semifinals (59:03).

* The Oilers-Canucks series marks the first since the [2017 First Round](#) (TOR vs. WSH: 6 GP & BOS vs. OTT: 6 GP) in which the first five games were each decided by a one-goal margin. There have been 33 games decided by a one-goal margin during the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs – the most at this stage of a postseason (65 GP) since 2017 (41/65 GP).

QUICK CLICKS

- * [#NHLStats: Live Updates – May 16, 2024](#)
- * [Brad Marchand practices, could return for Game 6 with Bruins facing elimination](#)
- * [Hurricanes' Jordan Martinook makes stunning, sliding stop to deny Rangers](#)
- * [Start Time Set for Canucks-Oilers Game 6 on Saturday](#)
- * [2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs Second Round on ESPN nets up 32%](#)

**2024 NHL STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS
SECOND ROUND ON ESPN NETS UP 32%**

**1.6M
TOTAL VIEWERS**

- Wednesday's Avalanche-Stars Game 5 averaged 1.6M total viewers (peaking at 1.96M) and 595K P18-49, up 27% and 8% vs. 2023's Second Round to date average on ESPN
- Through 11 games, the Second Round on ESPN is averaging 1.62M total viewers and 672K P18-49, up 32% and 21% vs. the comparable point in 2023
- Through 33 games, the Stanley Cup Playoffs on ESPN Nets are averaging 1.2M total viewers and 517K P18-49, up 26% and 19% vs. the comparable point in 2023

GAME 5

BRUINS, AVALANCHE AIM TO FORCE GAME 7 IN SECOND ROUND SERIES FRIDAY

The Bruins and Avalanche look to force a Game 7 in their Second Round series Friday, while the Panthers and Stars take another crack at clinching their second straight Conference Finals appearance. Each contest is available on TNT, Max and truTV in the U.S. as well as on Sportsnet and TVA Sports in Canada.

SCHEDULE · FRIDAY, MAY 17

FLA LEADS SERIES 3-2



GAME 6 · 7 ET





MAX, TRUTV, TNT, SN,
TVAS, CBC

DAL LEADS SERIES 3-2



GAME 6 · 10 ET

MAX, TRUTV, TNT, SN1,
SN, TVAS

WATCH THE STANLEY CUP® PLAYOFFS ON    

* **David Pastrnak** (7-6—13 in 15 GP) potted the overtime clincher in [Boston's most recent potential elimination contest at TD Garden](#) and has seven career goals when facing elimination, which trail only **Brad Marchand** (10-10—20 in 23 GP), **Peter McNab** (9-5—14 in 14 GP), **Milan Lucic** (8-6—14 in 16 GP), **Cam Neely** (8-1—9 in 12 GP) and **Rick Middleton** (8-8—16 in 21 GP) for the most in franchise history. The Bruins are looking to force a Game 7 after facing a 3-1 series deficit for the third time in club history, following the [2009 Conference Semifinals](#) and [2008 Conference Quarterfinals](#).

WILL BRUINS BEAR DOWN AGAIN FRIDAY?

Boston can become the first team in NHL history to win a Game 7 after surrendering a 3-1 series lead and force a Game 7 after facing a 3-1 deficit during their next playoff round.

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* **Cale Makar** (3-5—8 in 9 GP) mustered two of Colorado's five goals in [Game 5](#) and has eight career points when facing elimination, which is tied with **Adam Foote** (2-6—8 in 22 GP) for the most in franchise history among defensemen. The Avalanche are aiming to force a Game 7 after facing a 3-1 series deficit for the second time in club history, following the [2020 Second Round](#) against the Stars where current Colorado forward **Joel Kiviranta** vaulted Dallas to victory via his [historic hat trick in the winner-takes-all showdown](#).

MOST POINTS THROUGH FIRST 10 CAREER ELIMINATION GAMES

DEFENSEMEN, NHL HISTORY

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2024

PLAYER	GP	POINTS
RAY BOURQUE	10	16
PAUL REINHART	10	15
IAN TURNBULL	10	13
ADAM FOX	9	12
BRIAN LEETCH	10	11
AL MACINNIS	10	11
GORDIE ROBERTS	10	11
DENIS POTVIN	10	11
AL IAFRATE	10	10
BRAD MAXWELL	10	10
PAT STAPLETON	9	10



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*Devon Toews (2-7—9 in 8 GP) & Cale Makar (3-5—8 in 9 GP) can join this list