

NHL MORNING SKATE: STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS EDITION – MAY 23, 2024

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STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2024

NHL Morning Skate

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Tkachuk continues to produce in Conference Finals as Panthers pick up Game 1 win

Bobrovsky earns another playoff victory versus Presidents' Trophy winner

Game 1 of Western Conference Final goes Thursday

* **Matthew Tkachuk** and **Sergei Bobrovsky** helped the Panthers post a Game 1 victory in the Eastern Conference Final against the Rangers, who face a series deficit for the first time in the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

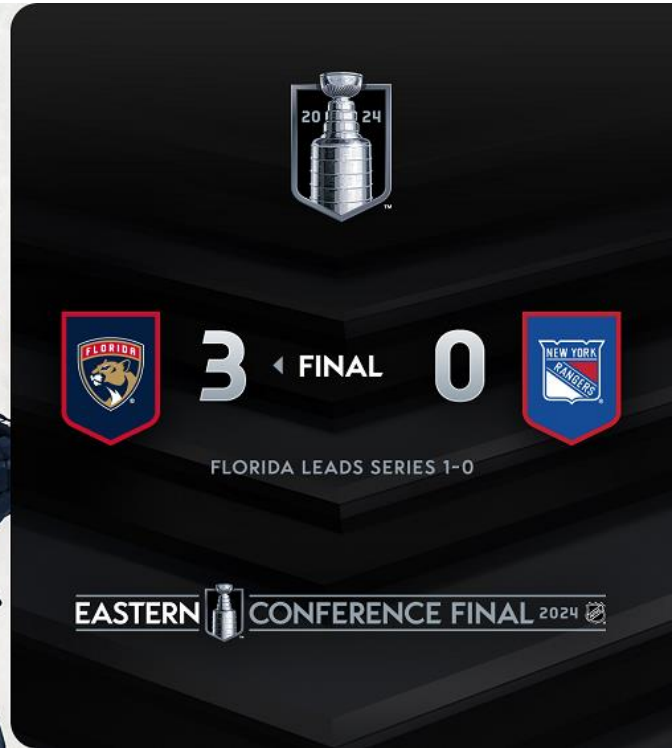
* The Western Conference Final will begin tonight on TNT, truTV, Max, Sportsnet, TVA Sports and CBC when the Stars host the Oilers at American Airlines Center in a battle between two of the League's top four offensive teams from the regular season. [Click here](#) to read today's edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates.

* The latest edition of the [2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs Information Guide](#) – featuring updated statistics through the Second Round as well as insights into both Conference Finals matchups – is now available on the League's Media site.



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TKACHUK TALLIES, BOBROVSKY BLANKS RANGERS AS PANTHERS PICK UP GAME 1 WIN

Matthew Tkachuk (1-1—2) opened the scoring and **Sergei Bobrovsky** turned aside all 23 shots he faced as Florida blanked New York to take a 1-0 series lead in the Eastern Conference Final.

* Tkachuk (5-2—7 in 5 GP) has tallied five goals through his first five career contests in the Conference Finals, including four game winners. He became the first player in NHL history with four game-winning goals through his first five career contests during the round before the Stanley Cup Final, besting **Rick Middleton**, **Gordie Drillon** and **Billy Boucher** (all w/ 3 through 5 GP).

MOST GOALS THROUGH FIRST 5 GAMES IN ROUND BEFORE FINAL

NHL HISTORY

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2024

PLAYER	TEAM	YEARS	GOALS
NEWSY LALONDE	MTL	1918–1919	12
GLENN ANDERSON	EDM	1983–1984	7
MAURICE RICHARD	MTL	1944	7
ODIE CLEGHORN	MTL	1919	7
KEVIN STEVENS	PIT	1991	6
GORDIE DRILLON	TOR	1938–1939	6
MATTHEW TKACHUK	FLA	2023–2024	5*



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*7 other players with 5 (Jason Robertson, Mario Lemieux, Craig Simpson, Pelle Eklund, Jari Kurri, Jack McGill & Joe Malone)

* Bobrovsky improved to 8-1 in 10 career playoff appearances against the reigning Presidents' Trophy winner with a 2.69 goals-against average and .916 save percentage. He went 4-0 in four games played versus the Lightning during the [2019 First Round](#) (w/ CBJ) and 3-1 in five appearances against the Bruins during the [2023 First Round](#).

* Florida is 7-0 in its last seven contests during the round before the Stanley Cup Final dating to [Game 6 of the 1996 Conference Finals](#). The Panthers can become the 10th team in NHL history with a run of at least eight contests when they play Game 2 on Friday (8 p.m. ET on ESPN, ESPN+, SN, TVAS, CBC).

LONGEST WINNING STREAKS IN ROUND BEFORE FINAL

NHL HISTORY

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2024

TEAM	SPAN	GP
MONTRÉAL CANADIENS	1965–1968	13
EDMONTON OILERS	1983–1985	10
NEW YORK ISLANDERS	1980–1983	10
DETROIT RED WINGS	1954–1956	10
BOSTON BRUINS	2011–PRESENT	9
MONTRÉAL CANADIENS	1957–1959	9
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS	1991–1992	8
BOSTON BRUINS	1970–1972	8
MONTRÉAL CANADIENS	1953–1955	8
FLORIDA PANTHERS	1996–PRESENT	7*



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*4 other instances of 7 GP (BOS from 1988–1991, MTL from 1977–1979, STL from 1968–1970 & MTL from 1959–1961)

CANUCKS' RICK TOCCHET WINS 2023-24 JACK ADAMS AWARD

Canucks head coach **Rick Tocchet** is the 2023-24 recipient of the Jack Adams Award as “the NHL coach adjudged to have contributed the most to his team’s success,” as selected by the NHL Broadcasters’ Association. Tocchet, a first-time Jack Adams finalist, appeared as a top-three pick on 109 of 114 ballots and received 82 first-place votes after helping the Canucks improve from 22nd in the overall League standings in 2022-23 to sixth in 2023-24. [Click here](#) for more.

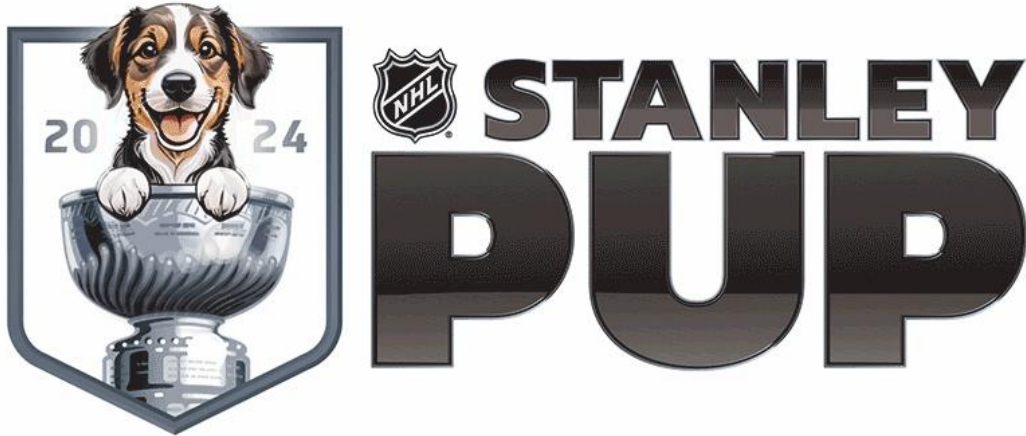


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NHL TO HOST FIRST-EVER ‘STANLEY PUP’ RESCUE DOG COMPETITION

The NHL and nonprofit organization Petco Love have announced ‘Stanley Pup,’ a friendly competition featuring adoptable rescue dogs. All 32 NHL teams will be represented by a four-legged friend, many of which will be available for adoption from a shelter or rescue group in their respective city. During the hour-long special set to air on NHL Network, ESPN+ and Sportsnet, 16 pups representing the teams that qualified for the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs will face off in a friendly competition showcasing their adorable canine skills. [Click here](#) for more information.

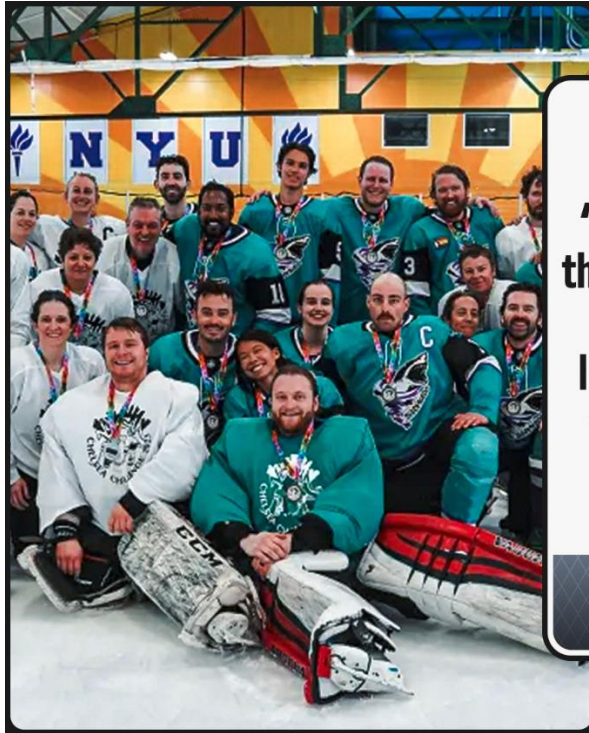


QUICK CLICKS

- * [Jim Hiller](#) to remain coach of Kings
- * [A look at Jake Oettinger vs. Stuart Skinner](#) goaltending matchup in West Final
- * [GM Ken Holland](#) wants Oilers to lean on experience in Western Conference Final
- * [Zayne Parekh, Sam Dickinson](#) among top 2024 Draft prospects in Memorial Cup
- * [NHL partnering with New York City Gay Hockey Association's Chelsea Challenge](#)

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"This is about making sure that anyone that wants to play our sport, any fan that loves our sport, anyone that wants to love our sport, feels like there's a place for them that is safe and welcoming."

KIM DAVIS
NHL SENIOR EXEC. VP, SOCIAL IMPACT, GROWTH
INITIATIVES & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS



OFFENSE TAKES CENTER STAGE IN GAME 1 OF WESTERN CONFERENCE FINAL THURSDAY

The Western Conference Final begins tonight when the Stars and Oilers – both looking for their first Stanley Cup in over 25 years – clash at American Airlines Center. The series pits Edmonton's veteran stars **Leon Draisaitl** and **Connor McDavid** against Dallas' rising stars in **Jason Robertson** and **Wyatt Johnston**, in a battle between two of the League's top four offensive teams from the [regular season](#) and [playoffs](#).

WESTERN  CONFERENCE FINAL 2024 

GAME 1 · THURSDAY, MAY 23

AMERICAN AIRLINES CENTER



VS



8:30 ET

TNT, MAX, TRUTV, SN, TVAS, CBC

WATCH THE STANLEY CUP® PLAYOFFS ON  SPORTS  TVAS SPORTS



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* Draisaitl, who enters Game 1 as one of just seven players in NHL history with a [12-game postseason-opening point streak](#), leads the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs with 8-16—24. The Oilers forward, who recorded a career-high 32 points during the 2022 postseason (7-25—32 in 16 GP), can become just the [fifth player in the past 30 years](#) to record *multiple playoffs with 25 or more points* – he would join **Nikita Kucherov** (3x), **Sidney Crosby** (3x), **Joe Sakic** (3x) and **Evgeni Malkin** (2x).

* McDavid, who ranks second in postseason scoring in 2024 with 2-19—21 (12 GP), can become the second player in NHL history to record 20 assists through 13 or fewer games in a postseason *multiple times* (also 13 GP in 2021-22). He would join Oilers legend **Wayne Gretzky** (13 GP in 1987, 11 GP in 1985 & 1983).

* At the opposite end of the rink, Robertson (3-9—12 in 13 GP) is one of three players under the age of 25 that has helped lead the Stars’ charge to the Western Conference Final alongside **Miro Heiskanen** (5-8—13 in 13 GP) and Johnston (7-4—11 in 13 GP). The 24-year-old Robertson, who had 5-1—6 (6 GP) in his previous trip to the Conference Finals in 2023, can become the fifth player in Stars/North Stars history to score at least six career goals in the round before the Stanley Cup Final – he would join **Brett Hull** (8), **Mike Modano** (8), **Bill Goldsworthy** (7) and **Jamie Langenbrunner** (6).

* Johnston, who leads Dallas with seven goals in the 2024 Stanley Cup Playoffs, can become the first player with eight goals in a single postseason before age 22 since **Nikita Kucherov** (10 in 2015). The 21-year-old has spent the past two seasons [living with 39-year-old Joe Pavelski and his family](#), learning from his veteran teammate who leads all active players in career playoff goals (74) and is making his seventh trip to the Conference Finals.

MOST GOALS IN A POSTSEASON BEFORE AGE 22

SINCE 2004

STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2024		
PLAYER	YEAR	GOALS
SIDNEY CROSBY	2009	15
NIKITA KUCHEROV	2015	10
PATRICK KANE	2010	10
EVGENI MALKIN	2008	10
PATRICK KANE	2009	9
ERIC STAAL	2006	9
WYATT JOHNSTON	2024	7
NICK SUZUKI	2021	7
ELIAS PETTERSSON	2020	7
JAMES VAN RIEMSDYK	2011	7
JONATHAN TOEWS	2009	7



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ALTERNATE VIEWING EXPERIENCE: NHL DATACAST POWERED BY AWS ON TRUTV & MAX

This year’s Western Conference Final will include the first ever *NHL DataCast powered by AWS* – a new analytics-driven alternative viewing experience on truTV and Max with play-by-play from **Steve Mears** and commentary from **Colby Armstrong** and **Mike Kelly**. The broadcast will use cutting edge



data and real-time in-depth insights from NHL EDGE positional data (NHL Puck and Player Tracking) to provide deeper context and understanding of how statistics are utilized by players, coaches and front offices. NHL Edge IQ powered by AWS advanced analytics including Face-Off Probability, Opportunity Analysis and Ice Tilt will also be featured.

* **Miro Heiskanen** (52.07) and **Connor McDavid** (47.68) skated the most miles this postseason among all defensemen and forwards, respectively, before the start of the Conference Finals according to [NHL EDGE](#). Stars skaters logged a League-leading 657.26 miles entering Wednesday.



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