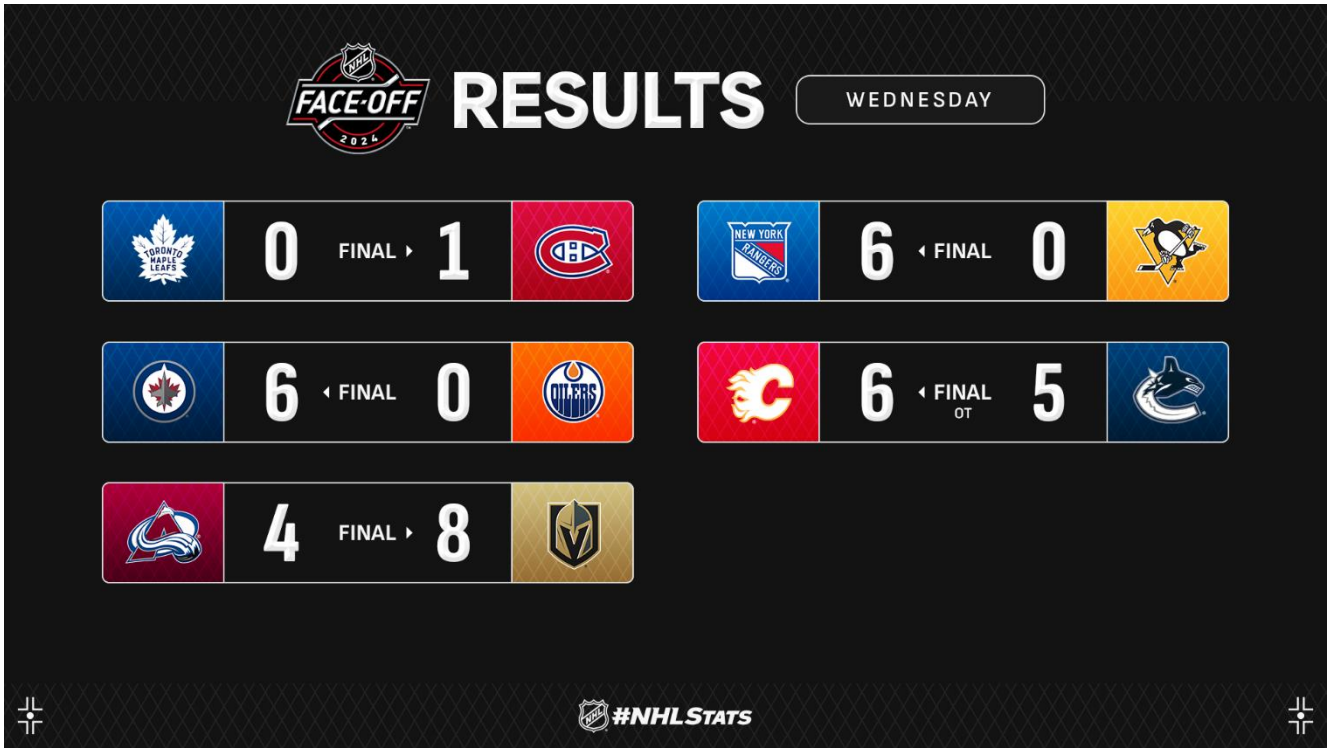
NHL MORNING SKATE: FACE-OFF EDITION – OCT. 10, 2024

* **Connor Zary** scored the overtime winner in an 11-goal, back-and-forth thriller and helped the Flames become the sixth team in 37 years to register a three-goal comeback win in a season opener.

* **Jack Eichel** factored on half of Vegas' eight tallies as the Golden Knights shone bright on TNT and needed to match a franchise record for goals in a game to withstand the eighth hat trick of **Mikko Rantanen**'s career.

* **Sam Montembeault** set an NHL mark for saves in a season-opening shutout and became the first goaltender to hold the Maple Leafs off the scoreboard in almost three years.

* A busy Thursday will mark the first broadcast of *NHL Coast to Coast* on Prime Video Canada, a whiparound show that will look-in on a nine-game slate that includes a pair of contests on ESPN+ starting with the debut of **Steven Stamkos** and **Jonathan Marchessault** with the Predators (8 p.m. ET) and concluding with the first career NHL game for Sharks rookies **Macklin Celebrini** and **Will Smith** (10:30 p.m. ET).



ZARY WOWS CROWD WITH OT WINNER AS FLAMES TAKE BACK-AND-FORTH THRILLER

The Canucks built a 4-1 lead in the opening period, but the Flames charged back with four straight goals of their own – only to have **J.T. Miller** (1-1—2) help Vancouver draw even with 1:37 remaining in regulation to force overtime. Twenty-three-year-old **Connor Zary** then capped the Calgary comeback for good with a highlight-reel play 1:33 into overtime; four of his 15 career goals have stood as a game winner.

* The Flames – who earned their first three-goal comeback win since Oct. 31, 2019 – joined the Golden Knights, Jets, Rangers and Panthers as the fifth team to score at least six goals in their first game of the 2024-25 season. This marks just the seventh campaign in NHL history to feature as many teams with six-plus goals in their season-opening game, following 1980-81 (7), 1985-86 (6), 1976-77 (6), 2021-22 (5), 1989-90 (5) and 1983-84 (5).

TEAM	OPPONENT	DATE	MAX DEFICIT
DALLAS STARS	LOS ANGELES KINGS	OCT. 5, 2005	4
CALGARY FLAMES	VANCOUVER CANUCKS	OCT. 9, 2024	3
EDMONTON OILERS	VANCOUVER CANUCKS	OCT. 12, 2022	3
ANAHEIM DUCKS	ARIZONA COYOTES	OCT. 5, 2017	3
WINNIPEG JETS	CAROLINA HURRICANES	OCT. 13, 2016	3
MINNESOTA WILD	COLORADO AVALANCHE	OCT. 8, 2015	3

EICHEL, GOLDEN KNIGHTS WITHSTAND RANTANEN HAT TRICK ON TNT

Mikko Rantanen (3-0—3) nearly helped the Avalanche draw even multiple times en route to his eighth career hat trick, but **Jack Eichel** (0-4—4) – featured in FACEOFF: Inside the NHL, a six-episode docuseries exclusively on Prime Video – willed the Golden Knights to victory and helped the club match its franchise record for goals in a game (also 8 on Nov. 27, 2018).

MOST GOALS IN A SEASON OPENER

SINCE 1990-91

TEAM	SEASON	GOALS
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS	2017-18	10
CALGARY FLAMES	1991-92	9
VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS	2024-25	8
VANCOUVER CANUCKS	2023-24	8
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS	2021-22	8
FLORIDA PANTHERS	2006-07	8
CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS	2006-07	8
NEW JERSEY DEVILS	2000-01	8
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS	1995-96	8

* Eichel became the sixth player since the turn of the millennium to collect four assists in a season opener. The others: Rantanen (4 on Oct. 12, 2022), **Ryan Hartman** (4 on Oct. 5, 2017), **Mike Green** (4 on Oct. 5, 2017), **Steve Reinprecht** (4 on Oct. 5, 2006) and **Darcy Tucker** (4 on Oct. 10, 2002). The most is five, shared by **John Cullen** (Oct. 5, 1990) and **Greg Adams** (Oct. 10, 1985).

* The Golden Knights are no strangers to success to begin their campaigns and improved to 7-1-0 in eight all-time season openers, including a 6-0-0 mark with general manager **Kelly McCrimmon** at the helm. He joined **Lester Patrick** (7-0-0 w/ NYR) as the second general manager in NHL history to win each of his first six or more season-opening contests.

* Rantanen, who owns the fourth-most hat tricks in franchise history, moved into a tie with **Sebastian Aho** and **Tomas Sandstrom** (both w/ 8) for the fourth-most hat tricks by a Finnish-born player in NHL history. Only **Jari Kurri** (23), **Teemu Selanne** (22) and **Patrik Laine** (10) have more.

MONTEMBEAULT STEALS THE SHOW IN CANADIENS' SEASON OPENER

Cole Caufield scored the lone goal in the 22nd mutual season-opening game between the Canadiens and Maple Leafs, but it was **Sam Montembeault** (48 saves) who added his name to the rivalry's lore and handed Toronto its first shutout defeat since Nov. 20, 2021 – a span of 227 regular-season contests. Montembeault became the seventh different Canadiens goaltender to post a shutout in a season-opening game and just the second to do so against the Maple Leafs (also **Jacques Plante**: Oct. 6, 1960 & Oct. 6, 1955).

MOST SAVES IN A SEASON-OPENING SHUTOUT

SINCE 1955-56

GOALTENDER	TEAM	DATE	SAVES
SAM MONTEMBEAULT	CANADIENS	OCT. 9, 2024	48
FILIP GUSTAVSSON	WILD	OCT. 12, 2023	41
MARC-ANDRE FLEURY	PENGUINS	OCT. 5, 2006	40
ANTTI NIEMI	STARS	OCT. 8, 2015	37
NIKOLAI KHABIBULIN	OILERS	OCT. 7, 2010	37
SEAN BURKE	WHALERS	OCT. 7, 1995	37

* Montembeault recorded the second-highest save total by a Canadiens goaltender in a shutout behind only Plante (52 on Nov. 13, 1955 at CHI) and became the ninth netminder in the past decade to register at least 48 saves in a shutout, with **Ilya Sorokin** the last to do so (49 on Nov. 23, 2022).

U.S.-BORN 4 NATIONS FACE-OFF HOPEFULS SHINE IN OFFENSIVE OUTBURSTS

Chris Kreider (2-0—2), **Brock Boeser** (2-0—2) and **Kyle Connor** (1-0—1) each submitted early bids to crack the United States' roster for the upcoming 4 Nations Face-Off in February 2025 and did so thanks in part to contributing to their team's high-scoring affairs.

* Kreider (Boxford, Mass.), who potted 2-1—3 to start the 2023-24 campaign, became the first player in Rangers history to score multiple goals in consecutive season-opening games and helped the club score at least six goals in their first outing of a season for the third time in the past 40 years (also Oct, 3, 2019 & Oct. 9, 2010).

* Boeser (Burnsville, Minn.) followed up a 4-0—4 performance to begin his season with Vancouver last year with another multi-goal performance as the puck dropped for 2024-25. He netted his seventh and eighth career tallies in season-opening games (8-2—10 in 6 GP) and tied **Markus Naslund** (8-2—10 in 11 GP) for the most by a Canucks player.

PLAYERS WITH 2+ GOALS IN CONSECUTIVE SEASON OPENERS

SINCE 2009-10

PLAYER	FIRST SEASON	LAST SEASON	GP
CHRIS KREIDER	2023-24	2024-25	2
BROCK BOESER	2023-24	2024-25	2
TRAVIS KONECNY*	2022-23	2023-24	2
AUSTON MATTHEWS	2018-19	2019-20	2
WAYNE SIMMONDS	2017-18	2018-19	2
CONNOR McDAVID	2016-17	2017-18	2
KYLE TURRIS	2015-16	2016-17	2
RADIM VRBATA	2012-13	2013-14	2
THOMAS VANEK	2011-12	2012-13	2
RADIM VRBATA	2009-10	2010-11	2

*Can extend his streak in 2024-25

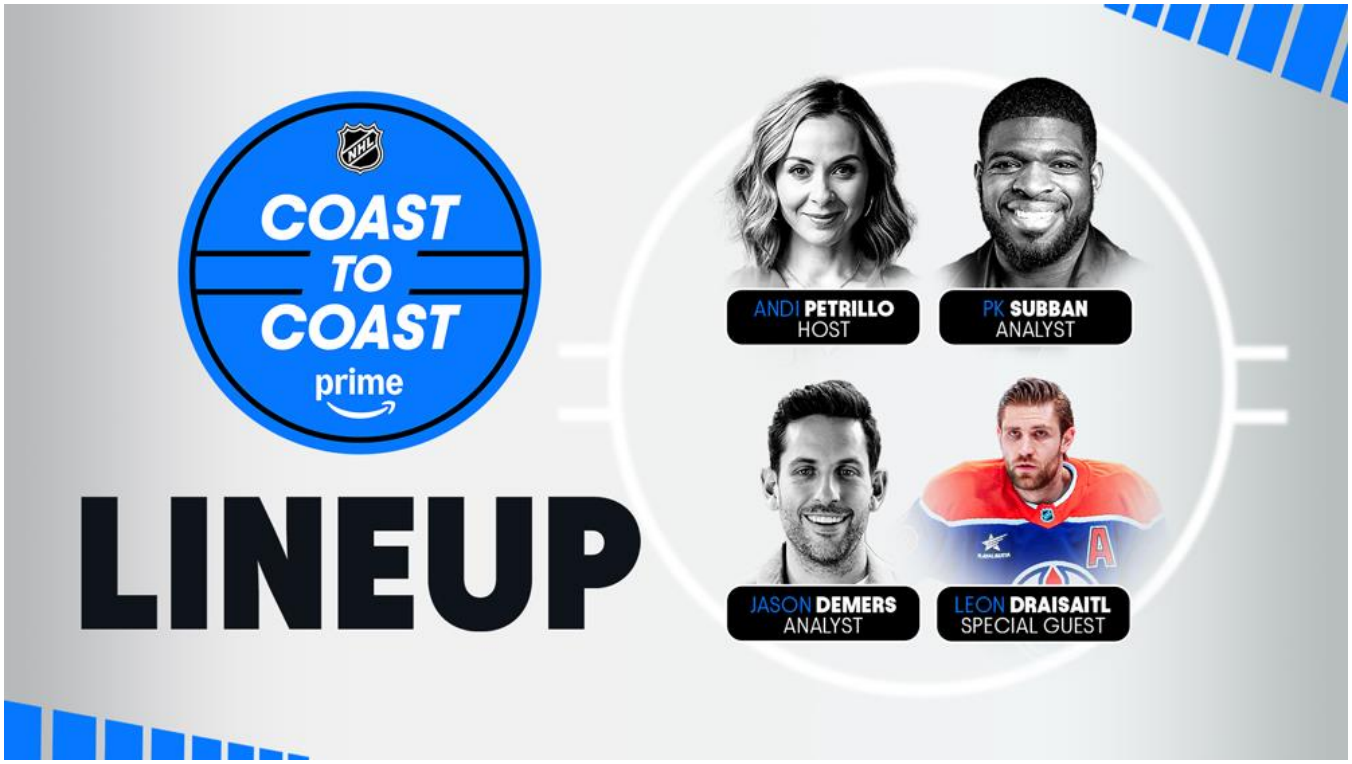
* Connor (Shelby Township, Mich.) scored one of Winnipeg's six goals and became the first player in NHL history to score in seven consecutive season-opening games (7-3—10 in 7 GP since 2018-19). He entered the contest tied with **Cam Atkinson** (6 GP from 2014-15 – 2019-20), **Yvan Cournoyer** (6 GP from 1973-74 – 1978-79) and **Mud Bruneteau** (6 GP from 1940-41 – 1945-46).

QUICK CLICKS

* #NHLStats: Live Updates for Oct. 9
* **Sam Rosen** named 2024 Lester Patrick Trophy recipient
* Artists, Apple team up with goalies for 'authentic and personal' mask designs
* NHL announces multiyear Canadian partnership with J.P. Wiser's
* **Linus Ullmark** signs 4-year, $33 million contract with Senators

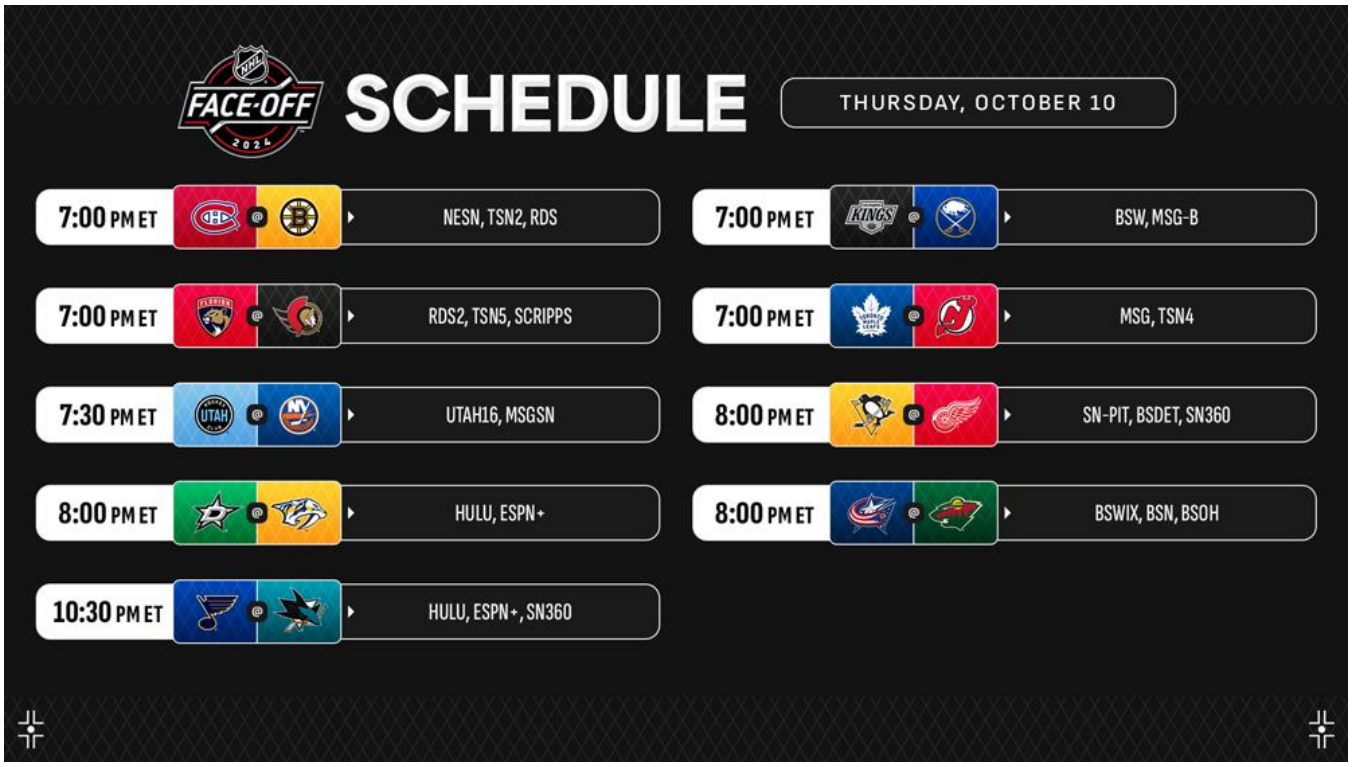
NHL COAST TO COAST DEBUTS TONIGHT ON PRIME VIDEO CANADA

After the debut of *FACEOFF: Inside the NHL*, the docuseries produced by Box To Box and NHL Productions streaming as the No. 1 show in Canada on the platform, Prime Video Canada is set to debut *NHL Coast to Coast* on Thursday (7 p.m. ET), a weekly whiparound studio show that will feature live look-ins, highlights, and expert analysis of every NHL game that night. The show is hosted by **Andi Petrillo**, who will be joined by a rotating group of analysts and guests.



BRUINS WELCOME CANADIENS FOR FRANCHISE'S 100TH HOME OPENER

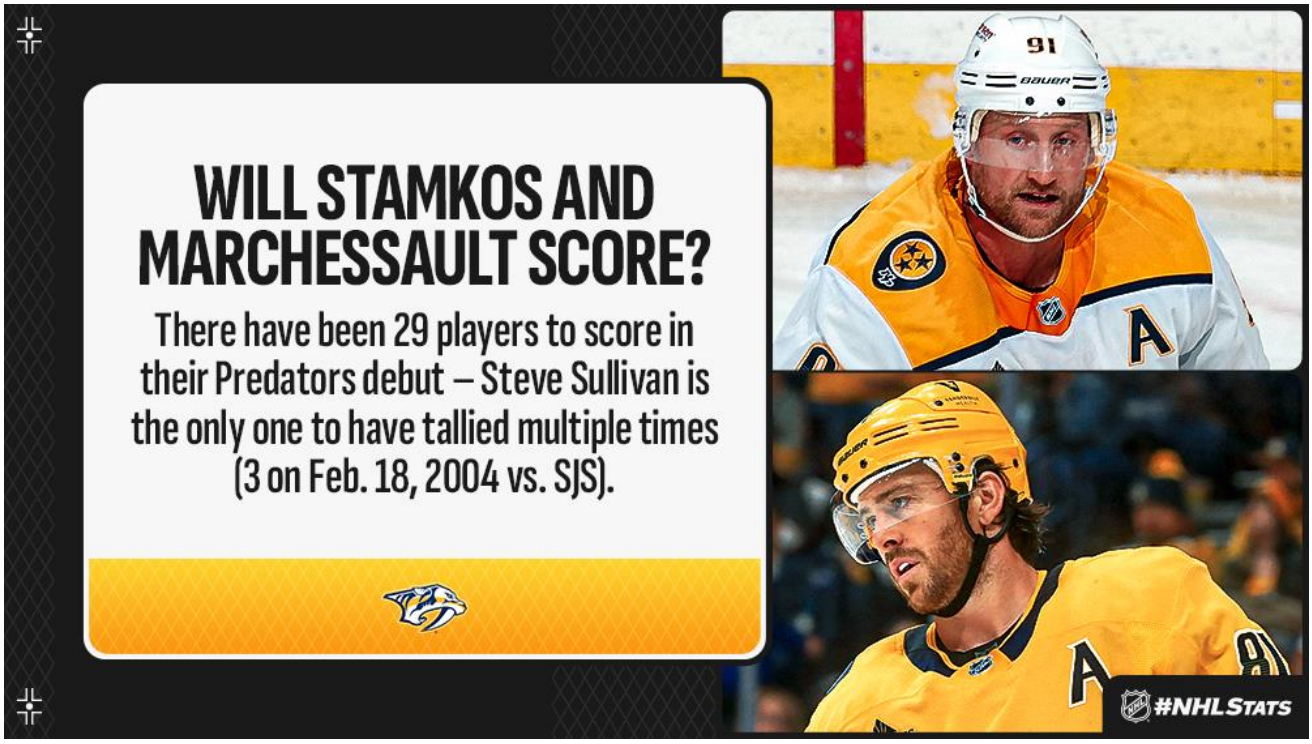
Thursday's nine-game slate will include the 100th home opener in Bruins history when they host the Canadiens at TD Garden. It will mark the 17th time Boston has hosted Montreal in a home opener (BOS: 4-7-5), which will break a tie with the NY Rangers (16 GP) for the most appearances as the Bruins' opponent in Boston's first home game of a season.



HIGHLY ANTICIPATED DEBUTS FOCUS OF ESPN+ DOUBLEHEADER

A Central Division rivalry is renewed in the first half of an ESPN+ and Hulu doubleheader when the Predators open 2024-25 against the Stars, but this time with new faces as **Steven Stamkos** and **Jonathan Marchessault** expect to make their Nashville debut. Meanwhile, a couple of high draft picks are poised to make their NHL debut when **Macklin Celebrini** (1st overall in 2024) and **Will Smith** (4th overall in 2023) get San Jose's season started versus the Blues to close out the doubleheader.

* Nashville bolstered its roster with the offseason acquisitions of a two-time Stanley Cup champion and Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy winner in **Steven Stamkos** and the 2023 Conn Smythe Trophy winner in **Jonathan Marchessault**. Stamkos will be playing his first-ever NHL game without a Lightning uniform on – a franchise he played 16 seasons with – while Marchessault joins the Predators following seven campaigns with the Golden Knights. Both players finished their previous club's tenure atop their all-time goals, points and multi-goal games list.



* Celebrini (18 years, 120 days), the only first-overall selection in franchise history, is set to become the second-youngest player to make his NHL debut with the Sharks behind only **Patrick Marleau** (18 years, 16 days on Oct. 1, 1997).

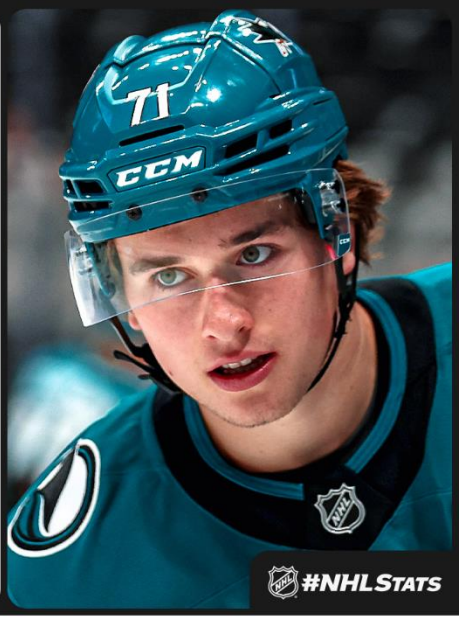
* Alongside Celebrini is Smith (19 years, 207 days), who will also be skating in his first NHL contest Thursday. The pair of forwards can become the fourth and fifth teenagers in Sharks history to score in their League debut. They would join **Milan Michalek** (Oct. 9, 2023), **Brad Stuart** (Oct. 2, 1999) and **Marco Sturm** (Oct. 4, 1997).

ICYMI: Celebrini joined the 'NHL @TheRink' podcast to discuss his upcoming Sharks debut and living with franchise legend **Joe Thornton**, who knows a little bit about debuting in the NHL as a teenager and former first overall selection.

YOUNGEST NO. 1 PICKS TO MAKE NHL DEBUT

NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	TEAM	DATE	AGE (Y, D)
NATHAN MacKINNON	COL	OCT. 2, 2013	18, 31
PIERRE TURGEON	BUF	OCT. 8, 1987	18, 41
SIDNEY CROSBY	PIT	OCT. 5, 2005	18, 59
CONNOR BEDARD	CHI	OCT. 10, 2023	18, 85
JOE THORNTON	BOS	OCT. 8, 1997	18, 98
BRIAN LAWTON	MNS	OCT. 5, 1983	18, 98
RICK NASH	CBJ	OCT. 10, 2002	18, 116
MACKLIN CELEBRINI*	SJS	OCT. 10, 2024	18, 120
JACK HUGHES	NJD	OCT. 4, 2019	18, 143
VINCENT LECAVALIER	TBL	OCT. 9, 1998	18, 171



*Celebrini is expected to make his debut Thursday