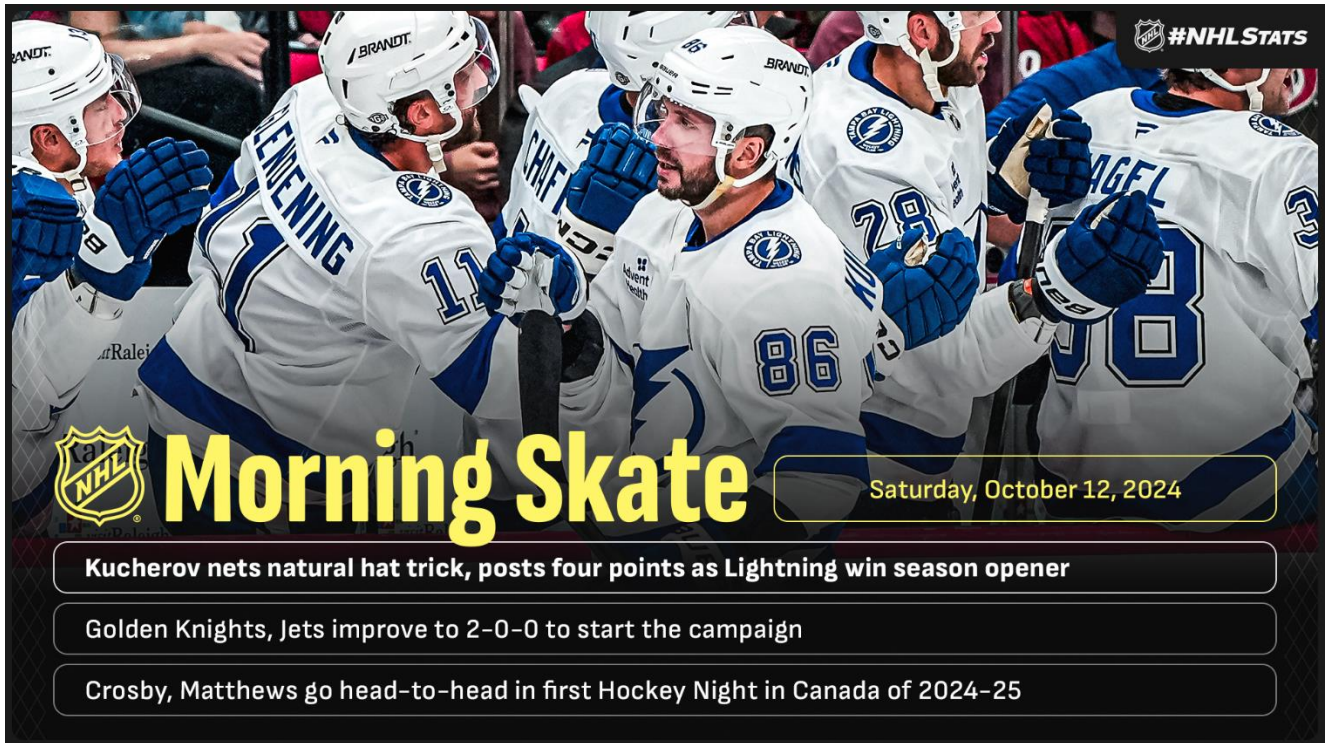


NHL MORNING SKATE: FACE-OFF EDITION – OCT. 12, 2024



#NHLSTATS

Morning Skate

Saturday, October 12, 2024

- Kucherov nets natural hat trick, posts four points as Lightning win season opener
- Golden Knights, Jets improve to 2-0-0 to start the campaign
- Crosby, Matthews go head-to-head in first Hockey Night in Canada of 2024-25

* **Nikita Kucherov** scored the League's third hat trick of the season, and second in natural fashion, as he led the Lightning to victory in their season-opening contest while also climbing a franchise list in the process.

* The Golden Knights and Jets both remain undefeated to start the 2024-25 season, thanks to multi-point performances by Vegas teammates **Jack Eichel** and **Ivan Barbashev** as well as two quick goals by Winnipeg forward **Mark Scheifele**.

* Washington and Anaheim will be the final clubs to contest their first game of the season, part of a 13-game slate in the NHL. The Capitals host the Devils as **Alex Ovechkin** begins his 20th campaign and continues his [pursuit of the all-time goals record](#), while the [new-look Ducks](#) are led into San Jose by new captain **Radko Gudas** for their first head-to-head against **Will Smith** and the Sharks.

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FACE-OFF 2024 SCHEDULE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Time (ET)	Home Team	Away Team	Broadcast Channels
1:00 PM	Kings	Maple Leafs	SN1, BSW, NESN
7:00 PM	Penguins	Maple Leafs	CBC, SNO, SNW, SNP, NHLN, SN-PIT
7:00 PM	Rangers	Flames	BSSO, BSET
7:00 PM	Red Wings	Flames	MNMT, MSGSN
8:00 PM	Sharks	Flames	KHN, KONG, BSWI, BSN
10:00 PM	Penguins	Flames	SN1, SNW, CITY, NBCSP
10:00 PM	Penguins	Flames	VICTORY+, NBCSCA, KCOP-13
7:00 PM	Flames	Canucks	SCRIPPS, MSG-B
7:00 PM	Flames	Canucks	TVAS, SN1, SNE, CITY
7:00 PM	Utah	Canucks	UTAH16, MSG
8:00 PM	Rangers	Stars	VICTORY+, MSGSN2
9:00 PM	Canucks	Canucks	BSOH, ALT
10:00 PM	Flames	Canucks	CBC, SNE, SNO, SNP, CHSN

MUST-SEE MATCHUPS MAKE UP SEASON'S FIRST HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA

The first Hockey Night in Canada broadcast of the season owns no shortage of must-see matchups as **Sidney Crosby** and **Auston Matthews** go head-to-head at Scotiabank Arena in Toronto, **Connor Bedard** and **Connor McDavid** meet at Rogers Place in Edmonton, while the Flames will honor the lives of **Matthew** and **Johnny Gaudreau** in the club's return to Scotiabank Saddledome for their home opener.

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SATURDAY, OCT 12  **SPORTSNET**



VS

7:00PM ET





VS

7:00PM ET





VS

10:00PM ET





VS


10:00PM ET



* Crosby collected his first two points of the season Thursday to move closer to 1,600 in his career (592-1,006—1,598 in 1,274 GP) and [1,800 including playoffs](#) (663-1,136—1,799 in 1,454 GP). The Penguins captain (6-10—16) owns a slight edge over the newly-named Maple Leafs captain (6-9—15) in 16 previous meetings, but Matthews has earned more head-to-head victories (TOR: 9-7-0; PIT: 7-7-2).

PLAYERS WITH 1,600 CAREER POINTS & 1,800 POINTS (INCLUDING PLAYOFFS)
NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	CAREER	INC. PLAYOFFS
WAYNE GRETZKY	2,857	3,239
MARK MESSIER	1,887	2,182
JAROMIR JAGR	1,921	2,122
GORDIE HOWE	1,850	2,010
RON FRANCIS	1,798	1,941
STEVE YZERMAN	1,755	1,940
MARIO LEMIEUX	1,723	1,895
JOE SAKIC	1,641	1,829
MARCEL DIONNE	1,771	1,816



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*Sidney Crosby (1,799) can join this list Saturday

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* Matthews (7 SOG in 2024-25), who has only been held scoreless in his first three games of a season once in his career (3 GP in 2021-22), continues his journey toward **Mats Sundin's franchise goal record** when his club returns to Scotiabank Arena for its home opener – a contest the Maple Leafs have not lost since he debuted in 2016-17 (8-0-0). Matthews has established a reputation for production in the month of October, including 7-3—10 in nine games during [October 2023](#), and ranks among the highest goals-per-game generators in the month in NHL history (min. 20 goals).

HIGHEST CAREER G/GP IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

NHL HISTORY

PLAYER	GAMES PLAYED	GOALS	G/GP
MIKE BOSSY	89	80	0.90
MARIO LEMIEUX	141	109	0.77
DAVID PASTRNAK	78	55	0.71
ALEX OVECHKIN	174	119	0.68
REAL CLOUTIER	44	29	0.66
AUSTON MATTHEWS	73	47	0.64
WAYNE GRETZKY	205	126	0.61
RICK MARTIN	97	59	0.61
CONNOR McDAVID	79	48	0.61
CAM NEELY	92	55	0.60





*Min. 20 goals


* McDavid, also one of 10 players in NHL history to register at least 0.60 goals per game in the month of October, eyes a second victory in as many meetings against Bedard after both stars found the score sheet in their first-ever showdown [Dec. 12, 2023](#). McDavid has collected multiple points in a contest immediately following a scoreless performance 56 times, highlighted by a 0-6—6 outing on [Feb. 13, 2024](#) (0-0—0 on Feb. 10, 2024 at LAK).

* Teammate **Leon Draisaitl** will put his active 15-game point streak against the Blackhawks on the line when he steps onto the ice – a stretch tied with McDavid (7-20—27 in 15 GP vs. NJD) for the NHL's longest active run. Draisaitl, who also owned a 21-game streak against the Canucks from Dec. 1, 2019 to Nov. 6, 2023, can join McDavid (18 GP vs. SJS & 17 GP vs. VAN) and Crosby (19 GP vs. BUF & 16 GP vs. NYR) as the third active player with a personal 16-game run against multiple opponents.

* The Senators defeated the reigning-champion Panthers in their season opener Thursday and skate into Hockey Night in Canada with the opportunity to win consecutive games to start a campaign for the [eighth time in franchise history](#) (last: 2 GP in 2016-17). To do so, Ottawa will have to best Montreal, a club it has defeated in each of its past nine meetings dating to April 5, 2022 (MTL: 0-8-1).




LONGEST WIN STREAKS VS. ONE OPPONENT



ACTIVE

TEAM	OPPONENT	START DATE	GAMES
BOSTON BRUINS	SJS	FEB. 9, 2017	13
MINNESOTA WILD	CHI	FEB. 4, 2020	12
NASHVILLE PREDATORS	SJS	DEC. 10, 2019	10
FLORIDA PANTHERS	SJS	JAN. 21, 2019	10
OTTAWA SENATORS	MTL	APRIL 5, 2022	9
CAROLINA HURRICANES	MTL	OCT. 21, 2021	9
COLORADO AVALANCHE	SJS	NOV. 13, 2021	9



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NHL SATURDAY PRESENTED BY FASTENAL DEBUTS WITH KINGS-BRUINS

For the seventh straight season, the NHL and its international media partners are bringing live game broadcasts in prime time to hockey fans in Europe. A record 46 *NHL Saturday presented by Fastenal* and *NHL Sunday presented by Fastenal* games will be delivered to fans in more than 30 countries and territories, starting today when **Anze Kopitar** (Slovenia) and the Kings continue their season-opening seven-game road trip in Boston against **David Pastrnak** (Czechia) and the Bruins. [Click here](#) for details and the full schedule.

* Pastrnak (2-1—3 in 2 GP) is one of two Bruins players with goals in each of the club's first two games to start 2024-25 (also **Charlie McAvoy**: 2-1—3 in 2 GP). Only three seasons in franchise history have featured multiple players to each score in the team's first three or more games: 1990-91 (**Dave Poulin**: 4 GP & **Cam Neely**: 3 GP), 1978-79 (**Don Marcotte**: 3 GP & **John Wensink**: 3 GP) and 1970-71 (**Phil Esposito**: 3 GP & **Wayne Cashman**: 3 GP).

* Kopitar already joined rare company in NHL history after he netted a [season-opening natural hat trick](#) for the Kings, while the club only has to look to [2023-24 for inspiration](#) to continue their success during their road trip to start 2024-25. Another three-goal performance against the Bruins would slot the Kings captain into elite company with back-to-back hat tricks to start a campaign.



PLAYERS TO START SEASON WITH CONSECUTIVE HAT TRICKS

NHL HISTORY




PLAYER	TEAM	SEASON	GAMES
AUSTON MATTHEWS	TOR	2023-24	2
ALEX OVECHKIN	WSH	2017-18	2
REG NOBLE	TAN	1917-18	2
JOE MALONE	MTL	1917-18	2
CY DENNENY	SEN	1917-18	2



*Anze Kopitar & Mikko Rantanen can join this list


FRIDAY'S RESULTS

A four-game Friday featured all kinds of fun, including two teams winning their season openers, two clubs remaining undefeated to start 2024-25, another natural hat trick and a milestone goal.




RESULTS


FRIDAY



4 ◀ FINAL


1






1 FINAL


OT **2**






3 ◀ FINAL


SO **2**






3 FINAL

4




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KUCHEROV CATAPULTS LIGHTNING TO VICTORY WITH THIRD-PERIOD HAT TRICK

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Tied heading into the third period of their season opener, **Nikita Kucherov** (3-1—4) led the Lightning charge with three straight goals to propel Tampa Bay to victory and himself past **Vincent Lecavalier** (874) into third place on the franchise's all-time points list, with 877 in his career. In the process, Kucherov also became the [second player in Lightning history](#) to score a hat trick in a season-opening game and just the third player with four points in that same scenario.

* Kucherov, who paced the League last season with 44-100—144, became the third reigning Art Ross Trophy winner in NHL history to score a hat trick in his ensuing season opener, joining **Connor McDavid** (Oct. 12, 2022 & Oct. 4, 2017) and **Phil Esposito** (Oct. 10, 1973).

* The Lightning forward followed **Mikko Rantanen** and **Anze Kopitar** – who also scored in natural fashion – as the third player to post a hat trick in his 2024-25 season opener. Only three other campaigns in NHL history featured three or more players each score a hat trick in a season-opening game: 2017-18 (4), 1917-18 (4) and 1976-77 (3).



KEY PERFORMANCES KEEP TEAMS UNDEFEATED IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

The latest edition of [#NHLStats: Live Updates](#) featured big performances from key players for the Golden Knights and Jets as both teams earned tightly-contested wins to improve to 2-0-0 in 2024-25.

* **Jack Eichel** (1-1—2) and **Ivan Barbashev** (1-1—2) became the fifth set of teammates in the past 25 years to each record at least six points through their team's first two games of a season. The others: **Anze Kopitar** and **Drew Doughty** in 2021-22 (w/ LAK), **Patrick Kane** and **Ryan Hartman** in 2017-18 (w/ CHI), **Alex Ovechkin** and **Evgeny Kuznetsov** in 2017-18 (w/ WSH) as well as **Owen Nolan** and **Jeff Friesen** in 1999-00 (w/ SJS).

* **Mark Scheifele** scored the tying tally in the final two minutes of regulation and the winner in the first minute of overtime. In the process, he became the [second player in Jets/Thrashers history](#) to reach the 300-goal milestone, joining **Ilya Kovalchuk** (328).



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LIVE UPDATES

NHL PODCASTS WEEKLY ROUNDUP:

- * NHL Fantasy on Ice (Oct. 10): [Mailbag; early season takeaways; goalie pickups](#)
- * NHL @TheRink (Oct. 9): [Macklin Celebrini & MacKenzie Weegar join](#)
- * NHL Fantasy on Ice (Oct. 7): [Fantasy top 10 pickups; Mock draft 2.0; Cup predictions](#)
- * NHL Fantasy on Ice (Oct. 3): [Season preview: Bold predictions, playoffs, NHL Awards](#)
- * NHL @TheRink (Oct. 2): [Clayton Keller & Nathan MacKinnon join](#)
- * La Tasse de Café LNH (Oct. 2): [Aperçu de la saison 2024-25](#)
- * NHL Fantasy on Ice (Sept. 30): [Season preview: Keeper rankings, preseason trends](#)

QUICK CLICKS

- * [NHL EDGE stats: Utah's fast start](#)
- * [Penguins fans tell **Sidney Crosby** what he means to them in touching video](#)
- * [Steven Stamkos savors 'really cool' experience of Predators debut](#)
- * [Boone Jenner could be out for season for Blue Jackets after shoulder surgery](#)



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* [Dustin Wolf](#) goalie mask honors late [Johnny Gaudreau](#)

