


## NHL MORNING SKATE – OCT. 31, 2024



The graphic features a photograph of Toronto Maple Leafs players on the ice. In the foreground, players are seen from behind, wearing white jerseys with blue and red accents. The player on the left has "MORRISSEY" and "44" on his back. The player in the center has "27" on his back. The player on the right has "55" on his back. In the background, fans are visible, including one in a bright orange costume. The NHL logo is in the top left corner, and "#NHLSTATS" is in the top right corner. The text "Morning Skate" is written in large yellow letters across the middle. Below it, the date "Thursday, October 31, 2024" is displayed in a yellow box. Three white boxes with black text list key news items.

**Morning Skate**

Thursday, October 31, 2024

- Connor extends season-opening point streak to double digits
- Kopitar reaches 800-assist milestone
- The fourth NHL Coast to Coast on Prime Video Canada goes on Halloween

\* **Kyle Connor** celebrated the 500-point milestone and joined a short NHL list of U.S.-born players when he extended his home point streak to 10 games while skating in his home state.

\* **Nico Hischier** scored his NHL-leading 10th goal of the season while **Jack Hughes** notched 1-1—2 to help the Devils earn a 6-0 win in the latest edition of the “Hughes Bowl.” Wednesday marked the sixth day this season that featured three or more teams score at least six goals, while 12 of the past 14 days have seen at least one club hit the mark.

\* **Anze Kopitar** hit the 800-assist milestone and headlined a trio of NHL stars who shone with multi-point efforts Wednesday night.

\* The [Stars \(4:45 a.m. ET\)](#) and [Panthers \(6:45 a.m. ET\)](#) are both set to hold team practices Thursday at Nokia Arena in Tampere, Finland ahead of a pair of NHL Global Series games on Friday, Nov. 1 (2 p.m. ET on NHLN, SN) and Saturday, Nov. 2 (12 p.m. ET on NHLN, SN1). [Click here](#) for the 2024 NHL Global Series Finland Interactive Information Guide.



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# RESULTS

WEDNESDAY



#NHLStats



## **CONNOR EXTENDS STREAK AS FIRST-PLACE JETS IMPROVE TO 9-1-0 ON THE SEASON**

**Kyle Connor** (9-8—17 in 10 GP) tallied three first-period points in his home state to extend his [franchise-record season-opening point streak](#) to 10 games and help the League-leading Jets improve to 9-1-0 (18 points), including a [5-0-0 record as visitors](#). Connor eclipsed the [500-point milestone](#) and became the fourth U.S.-born player in NHL history with a 10-game season-opening scoring streak, following **Kevin Stevens** (13 GP in 1992-93), **Pat LaFontaine** (11 GP in 1992-93) and **Darren Turcotte** (11 GP in 1990-91).



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**CONNOR CORRALS ANOTHER 10-GAME RUN**

Kyle Connor recorded his third double-digit point streak *at any time in a season* (also 10 GP from Dec. 4-20, 2022 & March 8-25, 2022) and became the first player in club history with three 10-game runs.


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\* **Scott Arniel** became the sixth head coach in the past 50 years to record nine wins through his first 10 contests with a franchise. He joined **Jim Montgomery** with the 2022-23 Bruins, **Patrick Roy** with the 2013-14 Avalanche, **John Paddock** with the 2007-08 Senators, **Mike Babcock** with the 2005-06 Red Wings and **Marc Crawford** with the 1994-95 Nordiques.

**HISCHIER LEADS DEVILS TO VICTORY IN LATEST EDITION OF “HUGHES BOWL”**



**Nico Hischier** (1-2—3) scored his League-leading 10th goal of the season while **Jacob Markstrom** (20 saves) recorded his first shutout with New Jersey to help the Devils defeat the Canucks in the latest edition of the “Hughes Bowl.” **Jack Hughes** (1-1—2) boosted his career totals to 8-7—15 in eight career meetings against his brother, **Quinn**, while the Devils improved to 7-1-0 in those contests.

\* Hischier hit the 10-goal mark in New Jersey’s 13th contest of the season. Only two players in franchise history have scored 10 goals in fewer team games to start a campaign: **Paul Gardner** (9 GP in 1977-78) and **Pat Verbeek** (10 GP in 1986-87 & 12 GP in 1987-88).



**HISCHIER HITS 10-GOAL MARK**

Nico Hischier joined Paul Gardner (1977-78) as the second player in franchise history to be the NHL's first skater to reach the 10-goal mark in a season.

\* Markstrom (34 years, 273 days) became the fourth-oldest goaltender to record their first shutout with the Devils/Rockies/Scouts, following **Johan Hedberg** (37 years, 201 days on Nov. 22, 2010), **John Vanbiesbrouck** (37 years, 200 days on March 23, 2001) and **Glenn Resch** (35 years, 160 days on Dec. 17, 1983).

**STARS CONTINUE TO SHINE WITH MORE MULTI-POINT EFFORTS**



**Anze Kopitar** (1-2—3), **Nikita Kucherov** (1-2—3) and **Cale Makar** (1-1—2) each put up multi-point efforts Wednesday to continue their strong starts to the 2024-25 campaign and achieve some notable feats:

\* Kopitar factored on half of his club's goals to help the Kings earn their third straight win at home to start 2024-25 and reach the 800-assist mark. The Kings captain, who already is the [franchise assist leader](#), became the third active player to the milestone as he joined **Sidney Crosby** (1,013), **Patrick Kane** (818) and **Evgeni Malkin** (809).



**KOPITAR REACHES 800-ASSIST MARK**

Anze Kopitar became the fifth player born and trained outside of North America to reach 800 assists, joining Jaromir Jagr (1,155), Nicklas Lidstrom (878), Henrik Sedin (830) and Evgeni Malkin (809).



\* Kucherov recorded his 92nd career three-point game since his debut season in 2013-14, matching **Leon Draisaitl** for third most over that span behind only **Connor McDavid** (123) and **Sidney Crosby** (99).

\* Makar, who celebrated his 26th birthday, extended his season-opening point streak to 11 games and joined **Bobby Orr** (15 GP in 1973-74) as the [second defenseman in NHL history](#) to post a run of that length.

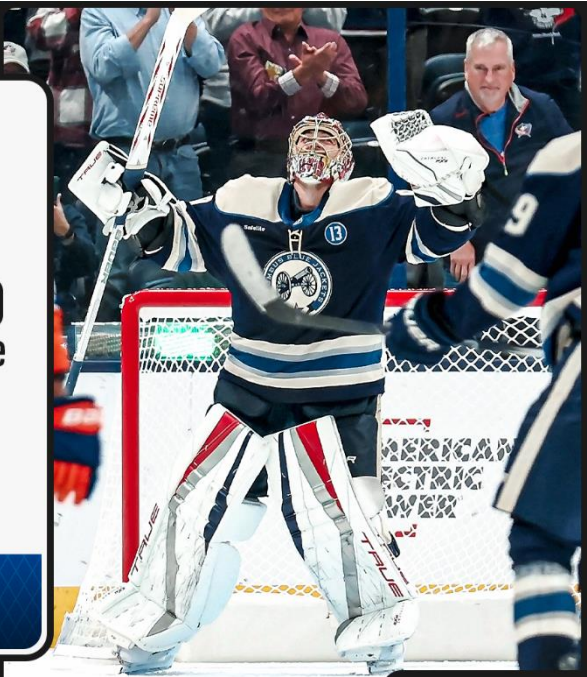
### **MERZLIKINS CLIMBS FRANCHISE LIST IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES**

**Elvis Merzlikins** provided one of the many notes featured in Wednesday's edition of [#NHLStats: Live Updates](#) after he made 26 saves to record his first shutout of the season as the Blue Jackets blanked the Islanders and improved to 5-3-1 (11 points).





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**MERZLIKINS RECORDS 11TH SHUTOUT**

Elvis Merzlikins passed Pascal Leclaire (10) for fourth place on the franchise's all-time shutouts list, which is topped by Sergei Bobrovsky (33), Steve Mason (19) and Marc Denis (12).



## QUICK CLICKS

- \* [Timothy Liljegren](#) traded to Sharks by Maple Leafs for [Matt Benning](#), picks
- \* [Connor McDavid](#) injury 'great opportunity' for others to step up, Oilers coach says
- \* [Flames teammates, friends from Sweden celebrate Mikael Backlund's 1,000th NHL game](#)
- \* [Dylan Strome, Hendrix Lapierre](#) surprise students in classroom for Halloween
- \* [Global Series special for Finnish players on Panthers, Tuomo Ruutu](#) says

## FANS TREATED TO SEVEN-GAME SLATE ON HALLOWEEN

A clash between the Oilers (4-5-1, 9 points) and Predators (3-5-1, 7 points) on ESPN+ as well as the fourth week of *NHL Coast to Coast* on Prime Video Canada takes over the Halloween schedule. *NHL Coast to Coast* will feature special guests Senators captain **Brady Tkachuk** – who has found the score sheet in each of his team's five home games this season, including 2-0—2 in their eight-goal outburst Tuesday – and defenseman **Jake Sanderson**.



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# SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

7:00 PM ET



TSN4, KONG, KING 5, KHN

7:00 PM ET



FDSNMW, NBCSP

7:00 PM ET



VICTORY+, SN-PIT, KCOP-13

7:00 PM ET



MNMT, TSN2, RDS

7:00 PM ET



SNP, SNO, SNE, SN360, FDSNSO, NESN

8:00 PM ET



ESPN+, HULU, SNW

10:30 PM ET



SN360, SN, SN+, CHSN, NBCSCA



\* **Ryan O'Reilly** (2-5—7 in 6 GP) and **Filip Forsberg** (3-4—7 in 6 GP) have both found the score sheet in each of Nashville's six home games to start 2024-25 and are one of three sets of teammates to achieve the feat to start the season (**Alex Pietrangelo, Mark Stone & Jack Eichel**: 7 GP w/ VGK as well as **Nathan MacKinnon & Cale Makar**: 7 GP w/ COL). Only one other pair of Predators teammates have posted simultaneous season-opening home point streaks of six contests: **J-P Dumont** (1-7—8 in 6 GP) and **Shea Weber** (4-6—10 in 6 GP) in 2008-09.

\* **Leon Draisaitl** (6-4—10 in 10 GP) co-leads the NHL in game-winning goals with **Kyle Connor** and **Nathan MacKinnon** (both w/ 3), a total that includes a set of back-to-back winners on Oct. 25-27. He is one of four players in Oilers history with three game-winning goals through his first 10 games of a campaign – a feat he also accomplished in 2021-22 (4). The others: **Petr Sykora** (3 in 2006-07), **Dean McAmmond** (3 in 1996-97) and **Jari Kurri** (3 in 1986-87).



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## DRAISAITL STILL PRODUCES MINUS MCDAVID

Leon Draisaitl (17-36—53 in 54 GP; 0.98 P/GP) averages nearly a point per game without Connor McDavid in the lineup.



\* The collection of contests will be an ideal setting for week four of *NHL Coast to Coast* on Prime Video Canada, the weekly Thursday whiparound show hosted by **Andi Petrillo** with a rotating group of analysts and guests starts at 7 p.m. ET. **Jody Shelley** and **Jason Demers** join the show this week, with only the latter owning head-to-head experience against either Tkachuk or Sanderson. Demers and the Coyotes defeated Tkachuk and the Senators in their only meeting on [Oct. 19, 2019](#).

### DYK? #NHLSTATS ON HALLOWEEN

\* The most goals scored by a player is four, shared between **Kevin Dineen** (4-1—5 on Oct. 31, 1993) and **Wayne Gretzky** (4-1—5 on Oct. 31, 1981).

\* There have been 23 hat tricks, including one in each of the past two seasons: **Elias Pettersson** (3-0—3 on Oct. 31, 2023) and **Tage Thompson** (3-3—6 on Oct. 31, 2022). There is only one stretch in NHL history to feature at least one hat trick on three consecutive Halloweens (1971-72 – 1973-74).

\* The most points by a player is shared by **Tage Thompson** (3-3—6 on Oct. 31, 2022), **Wayne Gretzky** (3-3—6 on Oct. 31, 1989) and **Bobby Clarke** (2-4—6 on Oct. 31, 1976).

\* **Patrick Kane** (4-4—8 in 3 GP) and **Gustav Nyquist** (4-2—6 in 5 GP) share the most career goals by an active player.