



# STAT CHECK:

2025-26 REGULAR SEASON SCHEDULE

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Included below are notes on the national broadcast schedules for ESPN, TNT, Sportsnet and Prime Video, as well as a “By The Numbers” look at the entire regular season schedule for the League and all 32 Clubs.



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## **OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL TELECASTS**

NHL stars will be at the forefront of more than 300 national games on the 2025-26 regular season broadcast schedule, with 172 national games in the U.S. (100 on ESPN and 72 on TNT) and 163 in Canada (137 on Sportsnet and 26 on Prime). Those counts include a dozen games that will air nationally in both countries.

\* Twenty-eight teams already have a player who will head to the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026, with players named to preliminary rosters set to be part of all but two games on the national slate.

\* All 163 Canadian national games across Sportsnet (137 games) and Prime (26 games) are set to include at least one Olympian (min. 1 player named to preliminary rosters), including 143 games where both teams have a guaranteed Olympian (87%).

\* All but two U.S. national games across ESPN (99 of 100 games) and TNT (71 of 72 games) are set to include at least one Olympian (170 of 172 games), including 131 games where both teams have a guaranteed Olympian (76%).

\* Star power will be on display across the national schedules, which feature all 32 Clubs. Highlights:

- **Alex Ovechkin** (24) and **Sidney Crosby** (19) will be featured a combined 43 times, including all three head-to-head meetings – which includes a back-to-back set across ABC and TNT on the final weekend of their 21st NHL season. The ABC contest could be their 100th all-time meeting (entering 2025-26: 98 GP, including playoffs).
- Co-playoff scoring leaders **Connor McDavid** and **Leon Draisaitl** will lace up together for 37 national games (including 16 in the U.S.).
- Norris Trophy winner **Cale Makar** and scoring race runner-up teammate **Nathan MacKinnon** will be on 22 telecasts.
- Hart and Vezina Trophy winner **Connor Hellebuyck** could make 22 appearances.
- Playoff MVP **Sam Bennett** and the back-to-back Stanley Cup champion Panthers are set to be part of 19 national telecasts.
- Two-time reigning Art Ross Trophy winner **Nikita Kucherov** will be highlighted 18 times.



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## ESPN Announces 100 Exclusive NHL Games Schedule

\* ESPN networks will air **100 exclusive games** in 2025-26, starting with a tripleheader on the first day of the regular season, **Tuesday, Oct. 7**, that begins with **Aleksander Barkov** and the back-to-back Stanley Cup champion Panthers facing **Connor Bedard** and the Blackhawks (followed by PIT at NYR and COL at LAK).

\* ESPN will air its second tripleheader on **Tuesday, Oct. 28** during the third Frozen Frenzy on (PIT at PHI, WSH at DAL, LAK at SJS), as well as the *2026 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series* on **Sunday, Feb. 1** (BOS at TBL, outdoors at Raymond James Stadium).

\* There will be 10 *ABC Hockey Saturday* telecasts, beginning the first weekend of the new year on **Saturday, Jan. 3** (PIT at DET) and concluding on the final weekend of the regular season with the network's third and final tripleheader on **Saturday, April 11** (TBL at BOS, WSH at PIT, VGK at COL).

\* All 25 Clubs U.S.-based will be part of exclusive telecasts on ESPN networks.

\* Three Clubs will be featured at least 10 times on ESPN exclusives: Oilers teammates **Connor McDavid** and **Leon Draisaitl** have a combined 14 career 100-point seasons and will be featured a League-leading 11 times, just ahead of the 10 appearances to be made by two of the top 11 highest-scoring players in NHL history: **Sidney Crosby** and the Penguins, as well as **Alex Ovechkin** and the Capitals.

\* Other notable ESPN telecasts: **Brad Marchand's** return to Boston to face **David Pastrnak** and the Bruins on **Tuesday, Oct. 21** (FLA at BOS); **Mitch Marner** and **Auston Matthews** meeting as NHL opponents for the first time on **Thursday, Jan. 15** (TOR at VGK); and the potential 100th all-time head-to-head between Crosby and Ovechkin on **Saturday, April 11** (WSH at PIT).

A large black graphic with white text and logos. At the top center, it says "2025-2026" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below that, "NHL SCHEDULE RELEASE" is written in an even larger, bold, sans-serif font. In the center is the NHL shield logo with "NHL" inside and "ESPN" below it, all enclosed in a circular border with two stars on either side. At the bottom, there are logos for "abc", "ESPN", "ESPN+", "hulu", and "E" (ESPN). The left and right sides of the graphic are bordered by a vertical strip of NHL team logos.

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## **NHL on TNT Unveils Expanded Schedule for 2025-26**

\* TNT Sports will air **72 exclusive games** in 2025-26, its largest slate yet, starting with a doubleheader on the second day of the regular season, which will feature **Alex Ovechkin** of the Capitals (BOS at WSH) as well as the Golden Knights debut of **Mitch Marner** (LAK at VGK). Ovechkin's last regular-season appearance on NHL on TNT telecast was April 6 when he scored goal No. 895 to become the NHL all-time goals leader.

\* The NHL on TNT also will carry the Thanksgiving Showdown on **Friday, Nov. 28** (NYR at BOS), the *2026 Discover NHL Winter Classic* on **Friday, Jan. 2** (NYR at FLA, outdoors at loanDepot park in Miami), as well as five weeks of Sunday telecasts starting **Sunday, March 1** (VGK at PIT) that includes doubleheaders on **Sunday, March 8** (MIN at COL and BOS at PIT) and **Sunday, April 5** (MIN at DET and BOS at PHI).

\* All but four Wednesdays with NHL games will include an NHL on TNT telecast, including 14 doubleheaders. In addition, NHL on TNT will host 13 Tuesday telecasts – highlighted by a tripleheader on **Tuesday, Dec. 23** (PIT at TOR, DAL at DET and PHI at CHI).

\* All but one NHL on TNT game (71 of 72) features at least one player named to preliminary rosters for the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026. Their final telecast before the break will feature a head-to-head between Olympic-bound Americans **Charlie McAvoy** and **Matthew Tkachuk** (**Wednesday, Feb. 4**: BOS at FLA, followed by STL at DAL).

\* [Mr. TNT winners](#) **Alex Ovechkin** (2025), **Jon Cooper** (2024) and **Brad Marchand** (2023) will make a combined 21 appearances on TNT.

\* Other notable TNT telecasts: **Nikita Kucherov** and **Nathan MacKinnon**, the top two scorers in each of the past two seasons, will begin their two-game season series on **Tuesday, Nov. 4** (TBL at COL); American forward **Auston Matthews** will face the rival Bruins on **Tuesday, Nov. 11** (TOR at BOS) for the first of Toronto's eight TNT appearances (tied for the most of any team); and Olympic-bound Canadians **Connor McDavid** and **Sidney Crosby** will meet on **Tuesday, Dec. 16** (EDM at PIT) for their first of two showdowns (both pre-Olympics).



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## **Sportsnet Leads National Coverage in Canada**

\* In addition to carrying the opening night tripleheader on **Tuesday, Oct. 7**, both Sportsnet and TVA Sports will air an all-Canadian doubleheader on **Wednesday, Oct. 8** when **Noah Dobson** makes his Canadiens debut against **Auston Matthews** and the Maple Leafs, followed by the first 2025-26 rendition of the Battle of Alberta, featuring Nazem Kadri and the Flames visiting Connor McDavid and the Oilers.

\* Sportsnet will carry 137 national games this season, including 101 across 24 *Hockey Night in Canada* telecasts and 27 across 25 *Wednesday Night Hockey* telecasts. That total includes 30 games with all-Canadian matchups, highlighted by three of four on **Saturday, Jan. 17** for Hockey Day in Canada (NYI at CGY, MTL at OTT, TOR at WPG, EDM at VAN).

\* The busiest *Hockey Night in Canada* of the season is **Saturday, April 4**, when six games will be part of the action from coast to coast to coast (MTL at NJD, WPG at CBJ, UTA at VAN, TOR at LAK, VGK at EDM and CGY at ANA). The 2025-26 HINIC schedule features an additional four slates of five games, including the last telecast of the regular season (**Saturday, April 11**).

\* All but five national telecasts on Sportsnet will feature at least one Canadian team, with the exceptions being opening night Tuesday, Oct. 7 (CHI at FLA, PIT at NYR & COL at LAK), as well as the 2026 *Discover NHL Winter Classic* on **Friday, Jan. 2** (NYR at FLA, outdoors at loanDepot park in Miami) and 2026 *Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series* on **Sunday, Feb. 1** (BOS at TBL, outdoors at Raymond James Stadium).

\* Aside from the Winter Classic, the only other Friday exclusive for Sportsnet will be **Friday, Jan. 23**, when **Mitch Marner** makes his return to Toronto, where he spent the first nine seasons of his NHL career (VGK at TOR).

\* A trio of Tuesday telecasts for Sportsnet include opening night of the regular season (**Tuesday, Oct. 7**), a pre-Olympic showdown between **Auston Matthews** and **Connor McDavid** (**Tuesday, Feb. 3**: TOR at EDM) and a two-game night on **Tuesday, March 10** (TOR at MTL and CGY at NYR).



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## Prime Monday Night Hockey Returns for Second Season

\* *Prime Monday Night Hockey* is back for its second season, with a national spotlight on Canada's biggest hockey cities – with 17 of their 26 games to be hosted by Canadian clubs. The opener includes a Thanksgiving doubleheader on **Monday, Oct. 13**, when **Auston Matthews** and the Maple Leafs host **Patrick Kane** and the Red Wings, followed by **Jordan Binnington** and the Blues visiting **Quinn Hughes** and the Canucks.

\* All-Canadian matchups take centre stage four times this season: **Monday, Dec. 15** (OTT at WPG), **Monday, Dec. 29** (EDM at WPG), **Monday, Jan. 12** (VAN at MTL) and **Monday, March 9** (OTT at VAN).

\* Overall, Prime will be home to at least one game for 22 teams in 2025-26, with **Auston Matthews** and the Maple Leafs and **Brady Tkachuk** and the Senators leading the way at six apiece.

\* Only one *Prime Monday Night Hockey* game is a matchup between two American teams, both with a star forward who will have skated together for Canada at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026: Nova Scotians **Sidney Crosby** and **Nathan MacKinnon** will clash during the second half of a prime doubleheader on Monday, March 16 (CGY at DET followed by PIT at COL).

\* Other notable matchups on *Prime Monday Night Hockey* include:

- **Monday, Nov. 3** (PIT at TOR): In their 20th season as teammates (a first for any trio in NHL history), **Sidney Crosby**, **Evgeni Malkin** and **Kris Letang** will visit **Auston Matthews**, **John Tavares**, **William Nylander** and the Maple Leafs.
- **Monday, Nov. 10** (CBJ at EDM): Reigning Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy winner **Leon Draisaitl** and eight-time 100-point scorer **Connor McDavid** play their first of three Prime games.
- **Monday, Dec. 1** (WPG at BUF): Reigning Hart Trophy and Vezina Trophy winner **Connor Hellebuyck** could make his Prime season debut when the reigning Presidents' Trophy-winning Jets visit Buffalo.
- **Monday, Dec. 8** (TBL at TOR): Atlantic Division rivals will clash when two-time reigning Art Ross Trophy winner **Nikita Kucherov** leads the Lightning into Toronto.
- **Monday, Dec. 22** (VAN at PHI): The Canucks will face former head coach Rick Tocchet for the first time. Eight days later, Tocchet will make his return to Vancouver (**Tuesday, Dec. 30**).

The graphic features a blue background with a white border. At the top left is the Prime logo above a circular emblem containing the text "MONDAY NIGHT HOCKEY" and the NHL logo. To the right, the word "SCHEDULE" is written in large white letters, with "2025/26" below it and "It's on prime" with the Prime logo to the right. Below this, a grid of 26 game cards is displayed, each showing the date, the home team's logo, and the visiting team's logo. The games are arranged in four rows: Row 1 (Oct 13, 20, 27, Nov 03, 10, 17), Row 2 (Nov 24, Dec 01, 08, 15, 22, 29), Row 3 (Jan 05, 12, 19, 26, Feb 02, Mar 02), and Row 4 (Mar 09, 16, 23, 30, Apr 06, 13). A "DOUBLEHEADER" label is placed below the Mar 16 game card.



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## **BY THE NUMBERS: 2025-26 REGULAR-SEASON SCHEDULE**

**1,342** – Total games to be played involving NHL players from Oct. 7 to April 16, including 1,312 during the regular season and 30 at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026 (Feb. 11-22).

**177** – Totals days with games involving NHL players from Oct. 7 to April 16, including 167 during the regular season and 10 game days at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026.

**312** – Saturday games during the regular season, the busiest day of the week (Saturday: 312, Thursday: 264, Tuesday: 236, Monday: 142, Sunday: 138, Wednesday: 127 and Friday: 93). All but one game-day Saturday (23 of 24) has 10+ contests, including three straight 15-game Saturdays to end the season. The Maple Leafs, Senators and Canadiens each have 23 Saturday games, tops in the NHL.

**21** – Matinees (before 5 p.m. local) for the Penguins, tops in the NHL (ahead of COL: 18 and NYR: 14).

**19** – Games for the Canadiens, Penguins and Red Wings against an opponent playing the second half of a back-to-back, tops in the NHL.

**17** – Most games by a team in one month (SEA in January and PIT in March), tied for the most in any calendar month in NHL history. Every team has at least one month with 15-plus games this season.

**16** – Back-to-back sets for the Canadiens, Islanders, Kings, Penguins and Sharks, tops in the NHL.

**9** – The longest homestand for one team, with the Ducks hosting nine consecutive games from Feb. 1 to March 8. Vancouver (2x), Edmonton and Winnipeg share second with eight-game stretches.

**9** – Days with 15+ games, including two dates with 16 (Saturday, Oct. 11 and Tuesday, Oct. 28) as well as six with 15 (Wednesday, Nov. 26; Friday, Nov. 28; Thursday, Jan. 29, Tuesday, March 24; Saturday, March 28; Saturday, April 4; and Saturday, April 11). Entering 2025-26, there have been 37 days with 15+ games (4 with 16 and 33 with 15).

**7** – The longest road trip, with the Islanders (2x; Nov. 8-20 and Jan. 8-21), Oilers (Nov. 12-22), Senators (Nov. 20 to Dec. 2), Canadiens (Dec. 21 to Jan. 4), Predators (Dec. 23 to Jan 6) and Wild (Dec. 27 to Jan. 8) each preparing for seven-game journeys.



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## SCHEDULE NOTES BY TEAM

### Anaheim Ducks

#### *Notable Games*

- \* **Friday, Oct. 31:** Goaltender **John Gibson** returns to Anaheim, where he spent his first 12 seasons.
- \* **Friday, Nov. 28:** First Freeway Face-Off against the Kings.
- \* **Monday Dec. 15:** Forward **Chris Kreider** returns to New York to face the Rangers.

#### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 9 games (**Feb. 1 – March 8**); longest for any team in 2025-26 and second-longest in franchise history (10 GP in 2022-23)
- \* Longest road trip: 5 games (3x; **Oct. 19-28, Dec. 9-16 and Jan. 21-29**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 11
- \* Through its *first 10 games of the season (Oct. 9-31)*, the Ducks face teams that combined for a .487 points percentage in 2024-25 – the lowest of any team (ahead of FLA: .507 and TOR: .510).
- \* Through its *last 10 games of the season (March 28 – April 16)*, the Ducks face teams that combined for a .505 points percentage in 2024-25 – tied for the lowest of any team (w/ TBL; ahead of CAR: .507 and SJS: .508).

### Boston Bruins

#### *Notable Games*

- \* **Tuesday, Oct. 21:** Former captain **Brad Marchand** (FLA) makes his lone visit to Boston (ESPN).
- \* **Friday, Nov. 28:** Thanksgiving Showdown against the Rangers (TNT).
- \* **Sunday, Jan 11:** Bruins face off against the Penguins in their 7,000th regular season in franchise history.
- \* **Sunday, Feb 1:** 2026 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series against the Lightning (ESPN, SN and TVAS).

#### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 5 games (2x; **Dec. 16-23 and Jan. 8-15**)
- \* Longest road trip: 5 games (**Dec. 27 – Jan. 6**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 13
- \* 11 matinee games (before 5 p.m. local), including seven at TD Garden.



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## **Buffalo Sabres**

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Friday, Oct. 24 – Saturday, Oct. 25:** Home-and-home against the division rival Maple Leafs (ESPN and SN).
- \* **Tuesday, Nov. 4:** Former Sabres forward **JJ Peterka** makes his return to Buffalo when Utah visits.
- \* **Wednesday, Nov. 12:** **Josh Doan** and **Matthew Kesselring** make their return to Utah.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 5 games (2x; **Jan. 10-17** and **March 7-14**)
- \* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Dec. 3-14**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 13
- \* 10 of their first 15 games are at home (**Oct. 9 to Nov. 8**).

## **Calgary Flames**

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Wednesday, Oct. 10:** Season-opener and first of four renditions of Battle of Alberta (also home-and-home **Tuesday, Dec. 23** and **Thursday, Dec. 27**, as well as **Wednesday, Feb. 4**).
- \* **Friday, Nov. 28:** Black Friday matinee in Florida.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 6 games (**March 18-28**)
- \* Longest road trip: 6 games (**March 30 – April 11**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 9 (tied w/ WPG for the fewest in 2025-26)
- \* Through its first 10 games of the season (**Oct. 8-26**), the Flames face teams that combined for a .612 points percentage in 2024-25 – the highest of any team (ahead of SEA: .598 and DAL: .593).

## **Carolina Hurricanes**

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Tuesday, Nov. 4:** Defenseman **K'Andre Miller** returns to New York to face the Rangers (TNT).
- \* **Friday, Nov. 21:** Forward **Nikolaj Ehlers** returns to Winnipeg.
- \* **Friday, Dec. 19:** First game against the Panthers since the 2025 Eastern Conference Final and the first of two meetings in a span of five days (also **Tuesday, Dec. 23**).

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 7 games (**Nov. 26 – Dec. 9**)
- \* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Oct. 14-25**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 15
- \* Five straight games against teams that had 100+ standing points last season (**Oct.18-28**).



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## Chicago Blackhawks

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Tuesday, Oct. 7:** Begin their centennial year in Florida, the 11th time in 99 seasons they will face the reigning Stanley Cup champions in a season opener (6-3-1).
  - \* **Saturday, Oct. 11:** Will play their 99th home opener against the Canadiens (SN, TVAS).
  - \* **Saturday, Nov. 1:** First meeting in 2025-26 between **Connor Bedard** and **Connor McDavid** (SN).
  - \* **Thursday, Dec. 4 – Saturday, Dec. 6:** For the fourth time in the expansion era, Chicago will contest consecutive road games against the same opponent (at LAK; also 2023-24 at DAL, 2006-07 at STL and 1993-94 at SJS). This excludes the 2020-21 COVID-impacted season.
- Monday, Jan. 19: Jonathan Toews** returns to Chicago to face the Blackhawks.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 4 games (4x; **Nov. 12-20, Nov. 23-30, Jan. 12-19** and **April 9-15**)
- \* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Oct. 30 – Nov. 9**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 12
- \* 16 games in January, including 11 at home – tying franchise benchmarks for one calendar month.

## Colorado Avalanche

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Saturday, Oct. 11:** First game against the Stars since Game 7 of the 2025 First Round.
- \* **Sunday, Nov. 9:** First meeting in 2025-26 between **Cale Makar** and **Quinn Hughes**.
- \* **Monday, March 16:** First meeting in 2025-26 between Olympic teammates **Nathan MacKinnon** and **Sidney Crosby** (ESPN and Prime).

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 7 games (**Jan. 8-23**)
- \* Longest road trip: 4 games (3x; **Dec. 4-9, Jan. 25-31** and **March 20-26**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 12
- \* 18 matinee games (before 5 p.m. local), the second most among all teams (PIT: 21).
- \* 9 of 10 games from **Dec. 19 to Jan. 8** are against teams that made the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs.



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## **Columbus Blue Jackets**

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Thursday, Oct. 9:** Open their 25th NHL season in Nashville.
- \* **Saturday, Oct. 11:** Visit Minnesota, who also are celebrating their 25th season.
- \* **Saturday, Oct. 18:** Two-time reigning Art Ross Trophy winner **Nikita Kucherov** visits for the first of five “25th Anniversary Games,” which will include appearances by former Blue Jackets players.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 5 games (**Jan. 20-28**)
- \* Longest road trip: 5 games (**Nov. 2-11**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 15
- \* 3 of 4 games from **Nov. 18-24** are against 2024-25 division winners (WPG, TOR & WSH, all on road).
- \* 16 games in both January and March, tied for the most in any calendar month for the franchise.

## **Dallas Stars**

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Thursday, Oct. 9:** Season opener and first game against the Jets since the 2025 Second Round
- \* **Saturday, Oct. 11:** First game against the Avalanche since Game 7 of the 2025 First Round.
- \* **Saturday, Nov. 1 – Tuesday, Nov. 4:** Consecutive games against the teams that made the 2025 Stanley Cup Final, first against the reigning champion Panthers and then their first meeting against the Oilers since the 2025 Western Conference Final.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 6 games (**March 6-16**)
- \* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Jan. 6-15**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 12
- \* Face Central Division rivals in 4 of their first 5 games (**Oct. 9-18**), including each of the first 3.



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## Detroit Red Wings

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Thursday, Oct. 9 – Monday, Oct. 11:** Begin their centennial year with three straight games against the NHL's two oldest franchises, starting with consecutive home games against the Canadiens and Maple Leafs followed by a visit to Toronto (Prime).
- \* **Friday, Oct. 31:** Goaltender **John Gibson** returns to Anaheim, where he spent his first 12 seasons.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 4 games (3x; **Nov. 7-15, March 16-24** and **April 5-11**)
- \* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Dec. 4-13**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 13
- \* Start with 6 straight games against teams that made the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs (**Oct. 9-19**), including home contests against the reigning champion Panthers (Wednesday, Oct. 15) and finalist Oilers (**Sunday, Oct. 19**).
- \* 17 of 20 games from **Jan. 18 to March 19** are against teams that made the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

## Edmonton Oilers

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Wednesday, Oct. 10:** Season-opener and first of four renditions of Battle of Alberta (also home-and-home **Tuesday, Dec. 23** and **Thursday, Dec. 27**, as well as **Wednesday, Feb. 4**).
- \* **Tuesday, Nov. 4:** First game against the Stars since the 2025 Western Conference Final (ESPN+).
- \* **Saturday, Nov. 22:** First Stanley Cup Final rematch against the Panthers (SN).
- \* **Saturday, December 13:** First meeting in 2025-26 between Olympic-bound foes **Connor McDavid** and **Auston Matthews** (also **Tuesday, Feb. 3**) on SN.
- \* **Tuesday, Dec. 16:** First meeting in 2025-26 between Olympic teammates **Connor McDavid** and **Sidney Crosby** (also **Thursday, Jan. 22**) on TNT.
- \* **Saturday, Dec. 21:** First game against the Golden Knights since the 2025 Second Round.
- \* **Saturday, Jan. 10:** First game against the Kings since the 2025 First Round and **Corey Perry's** return to Edmonton (SN).

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 8 games (**Jan. 18 – Feb. 3**)
- \* Longest road trip: 7 games (**Nov. 12-22**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 13
- \* 10 of their last 15 games are at home from **March 15 to April 16**.



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## Florida Panthers

### *Notable Games*

**Tuesday, Oct. 7:** Florida raises its second Stanley Cup championship banner before facing Chicago (ESPN, SN and TVAS).

**Tuesday, Oct. 21:** Former captain **Brad Marchand** returns to Boston for the first time (ESPN).

**Saturday, Nov. 15:** First game against the state rival Lightning since the 2025 First Round.

**Saturday, Nov. 22:** First Stanley Cup Final rematch against the Oilers (SN).

**Tuesday, Dec. 2:** First game against Maple Leafs since Game 7 of the 2025 Second Round (ESPN+).

**Friday, Dec. 19:** First game against the Hurricanes since the 2025 Eastern Conference Final and the first of two meetings in a span of five days (also **Tuesday, Dec. 23**).

**Friday, Jan. 2:** The Panthers play their first outdoor game when they host the Rangers for the 2026 *Discover NHL Winter Classic* at loanDepot park, home of the MLB Miami Marlins (TNT, SN and TVAS)

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 6 games (**Nov. 26 – Dec. 7**)

\* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Jan. 6-17**)

\* Back-to-backs: 13

\* 15 of 20 games are at home from **Oct. 23 to Dec. 7**.

\* 10 consecutive games against teams that qualified for the 2025 Stanley Playoffs (**Dec. 11-30**), the longest streak by any team this season (ahead of STL: 9 and DET, NSH, PHI & WSH: 8). Florida will become the third reigning champion since 1991 to go head-to-head with a playoff team for that long a stretch (excluding COVID-impacted seasons), following Washington (10 GP from March 6-24, 2019) and Detroit (13 GP from March 21 to April 18, 1998).

## Los Angeles Kings

### *Notable Games*

**Tuesday, Oct. 7:** Host the Avalanche for the finale of an opening night tripleheader (ESPN, SN, TVAS).

**Friday, Nov. 28:** First Freeway Face-Off against the Ducks.

**Saturday, Jan. 10:** First game against the Oilers since the 2025 First Round and **Corey Perry's** return to Edmonton (SN).

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 7 games (**March 28 – April 11**)

\* Longest road trip: 6 games (2x; **Nov. 9-20** and **Jan. 24 – Feb. 1**)

\* Back-to-backs: 16

\* Los Angeles will host the same opponent in consecutive home games twice this season, first Chicago (**Thursday, Dec. 4** and **Saturday, Dec. 6**) then Minnesota (**Saturday, Jan. 3** and **Monday, Jan. 5**). Excluding shortened seasons, it will be the first time since 1990-91 (2x vs. WIN) that the Kings play consecutive home games against one opponent multiple times in one campaign and first time since 1986-87 (2x vs. WIN and 1x vs. CGY) that they do so against different opponents.

\* Will play 14 of their first 21 games on the road (**Oct. 7 – Nov. 20**), including each of their first 8 at Western Conference opponents. Their final 5 games are against Pacific Division rivals (**April 9-16**).



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## Minnesota Wild

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Thursday, Oct. 9:** Open their 25th NHL season in St. Louis.
- \* **Saturday, Oct. 11:** Host home opener against Columbus, who also are celebrating their 25th season.
- \* **Saturday, Nov. 16:** First game against the Golden Knights since the 2025 First Round.
- \* **Saturday, Jan. 3 – Monday, Jan. 5:** Consecutive games at Los Angeles. Excluding the COVID-impacted 2020-21 season, it will be the third time the Wild contest consecutive road games against the same opponent – the other instances came in 2005-06 in Edmonton and Vancouver.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 6 games (**Oct. 25 – Nov. 4**)
- \* Longest road trip: 7 games (**Dec. 27 – Jan. 8**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 14
- \* 11 of 13 games from **Oct. 25 to Nov. 19** are at home, hosting Western clubs 9 times in that span.
- \* 8 of their last 11 games are on the road (**March 26 to April 14**)

## Montreal Canadiens

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Wednesday, Oct. 8:** Face Toronto in a mutual season-opener for the 23rd time, tops in NHL history (SN, TVAS).
- \* **Thursday, Nov. 20:** First game against Capitals since the 2025 First Round.
- \* **Sunday April 12:** Defenseman **Noah Dobson** returns to New York to face the Islanders, where he spent his first six seasons.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 4 games (5x; **Oct. 14-20, Nov. 8-15, Dec. 14-20, Jan. 7-12 and April 5-11**)
- \* Longest road trip: 7 games (**Dec. 21 – Jan. 4**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 16
- \* First 3 games are on the road against Original Six teams from **Oct. 9-11** (TOR, DET and CHI).
- \* 23 Saturday games, tied with Ottawa and Toronto for the most in the NHL.



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## Nashville Predators

### *Notable Games*

\* **Friday, Nov. 14** and **Sunday, Nov. 16**: 2025 NHL Global Series Sweden presented by Fastenal games in Stockholm, Sweden (vs. PIT and at PIT).

\* **Monday, Dec. 29**: Captain **Roman Josi** could become the first player to skate 1,000 games with the franchise.

\* **Wednesday, Dec. 31**: Forward **Nicolas Hague** faces his former team for the first time, visiting Vegas where he won the Stanley Cup in 2023 and spent his first 6 NHL seasons.

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 5 games (**Oct. 21 – 28**)

\* Longest road trip: 7 games (**Dec. 23 – Jan. 6**)

\* Back-to-backs: 13

\* Play 4 straight games in Canada from **Oct. 13-18** but then remain in the U.S. until January.

\* Play 7 of 8 games at home from **Oct. 21 to Nov. 3**, as well as 7 of 9 from **Jan. 8-24**.

## New Jersey Devils

### *Notable Games*

\* **Thursday, Oct. 9**: Season opener and first game against Carolina since 2025 First Round (ESPN+).

\* **Sunday, Dec. 14**: First 2025-26 matchup with the Hughes brothers in New Jersey (also **Jan. 23**).

\* **Saturday, March 7**: First of three 'Battle of the Hudson' meetings with the Rangers (ABC), all over a 12-game span.

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 7 games (**March 3 – March 16**)

\* Longest road trip: 5 games (**2x; Nov 12 – 22** and **March 18-28**)

\* Back-to-backs: 15

\* Consecutive home games against the reigning champion Panthers (**Thursday, Oct. 16**) and finalist Oilers (**Saturday, Oct. 18**).



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## New York Islanders

### *Notable Games*

**Thursday, Oct. 9:** Potential NHL debut of **Matthew Schaefer**, against **Sidney Crosby** and the Penguins. His home debut could come two days later against **Alex Ovechkin (Saturday, Oct. 11)**.

**Tuesday, Oct. 21:** Potential first meeting between the past two No. 1 picks, **Matthew Schaefer** and **Macklin Celebrini**.

**Saturday, Nov. 8:** First 'Battle of New York' against the Rangers at Madison Square Garden.

**Sunday, April 12:** Defenseman **Noah Dobson** makes his return to Long Island, where he spent his first six seasons. The Islanders visit Montreal **Thursday, Feb. 26** and **Saturday, March 21**.

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 7 games (**Nov. 22 – Dec. 4**)

\* Longest road trip: 7 games (**2x: Nov. 8 – 20 and Jan. 8 – 21**)

\* Back-to-backs: 16

\* **Matthew Schaefer's** first week in the NHL could include contests against top-10 all-time point scorer **Sidney Crosby** (Thursday, Oct. 9), all-time NHL goals leader **Alex Ovechkin** (Saturday, Oct. 11), reigning Hart Trophy and Vezina Trophy winner **Connor Hellebuyck** (Monday, Oct. 13) and eight-time 100-point scorer **Connor McDavid** and reigning Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy winner **Leon Draisaitl** (Thursday, Oct. 16).

\* 5 consecutive games against the winners of the past six Stanley Cups from **Dec. 2-9** (vs. TBL, vs. COL, at FLA, at TBL and vs. VGK).

## New York Rangers

### *Notable Games*

\* **Tuesday, Oct. 7:** Begin Centennial Year celebrations by hosting the Penguins as part of an opening night tripleheader, when new head coach **Mike Sullivan** will face his former team before making his return to Pittsburgh four days later (**Saturday, Oct. 11**).

\* **Tuesday, Oct. 28:** Forward **J.T. Miller** returns to Vancouver.

\* **Friday, Nov. 28:** Thanksgiving Showdown against the Bruins (TNT).

\* **Monday Dec. 15:** Forward **Chris Kreider** returns to New York to face the Rangers.

\* **Friday, Jan. 2:** The Rangers play their sixth outdoor game when they visit the Panthers for the *2026 Discover NHL Winter Classic* at loanDepot park, home of the MLB Miami Marlins on (TNT, SN, TVAS).

\* **Saturday, March 7:** First of three 'Battle of the Hudson' meetings with the Devils (ABC), all over a 14-game span.

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 7 games (**March 27 – April 8**)

\* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Dec. 21 – Jan. 2**)

\* Back-to-backs: 13

\* Through its final 10 games before the Olympic break (**Jan. 14 – Feb. 5**), the Rangers face teams that combined for a .505 points percentage in 2024-25 – the lowest of any team (ahead of NYI .513 and COL .521).

\* 10 of their last 15 games are at home (**March 16 – April 15**).



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## **Ottawa Senators**

### *Notable Games*

**Monday, Oct. 13:** Home opener against the Predators, a matinee on Canadian Thanksgiving.

**Saturday, Dec. 27:** First game against Maple Leafs since 2025 First Round, and one of four meetings in 2025-26 including each club's season finale on **Wednesday, April 15**.

**Thursday, Feb. 5:** Ottawa closes its pre-Olympic schedule in Philadelphia, the second of two visits to the city where **Claude Giroux** played 15 seasons. Giroux is expected to hit 1,300 games in 2025-26.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 5 games (**April 2-9**)
- \* Longest road trip: 7 games (**Nov. 20 – Dec. 2**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 14
- \* 23 Saturday games, tied with Montreal and Toronto for the most in the NHL.
- \* 10 of 16 games in January will be played at home.
- \* 15 of their last 16 games are against Eastern Conference opponents (**March 18 – April 15**).

## **Philadelphia Flyers**

### *Notable Games*

**Tuesday, Oct. 28:** First of four Battle of Pennsylvania matchups against the Penguins (ESPN).

**Monday, Dec. 22:** Head coach Rick Tocchet will face the Canucks for the first time on Prime. Eight days later, he'll make his return to Vancouver (**Tuesday, Dec. 30**).

**Wednesday, March 18:** Forward **Trevor Zegras** returns to Anaheim.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 6 games (**Dec. 1 – Dec. 13**)
- \* Longest road trip: 5 games (**Dec. 23 – Jan. 3**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 14
- \* Home and road opener against the Panthers (**Thursday, Oct. 9** and **Monday, Oct. 13**). They are the third team in the last 25 years to have their first home and road game against the reigning Stanley Cup champions (also NYI in 2015-16 vs. CHI and LAK in 2007-08 vs. ANA).
- \* Play 9 of 10 games at home from **Oct. 13 to Nov. 2**, and 9 of 10 on the road from **Dec. 14 - Jan. 3**.



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## **Pittsburgh Penguins**

### *Notable Games*

- \* **Tuesday, Oct. 7:** Visit the Rangers as part of an opening night tripleheader, when they'll face former head coach **Mike Sullivan**. The Penguins will then host Sullivan and the Rangers four days later (**Saturday, Oct. 11**).
- \* **Friday, Nov. 14** and **Sunday, Nov. 16:** *2025 NHL Global Series Sweden presented by Fastenal* games in Stockholm, Sweden (at NSH and vs. NSH).
- \* **Monday, March 16:** First meeting in 2025-26 between Olympic teammates **Nathan MacKinnon** and **Sidney Crosby** on ESPN and Prime.
- \* **Saturday, April 11:** Sidney Crosby and **Alex Ovechkin** are expected to meet for the 100th time in their career (regular season and playoffs combined) on ABC. The next day, they'll meet on TNT.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 5 games (**Dec. 9 – 16**)
- \* Longest road trip: 5 games (**March 10 – 18**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 16
- \* 34 games on either Saturday or Sunday, the most among all teams.
- \* 21 matinee games (before 5 p.m. local), the most among all teams.
- \* Consecutive home games against the Panthers (**April 4-5**). They are the third team to play the reigning Stanley Cup champions on consecutive days at home (excluding the COVID-impacted 2020-21 season), along with the Canucks in 1975-76 (vs. PHI) and Bruins in 1954-55 (vs. DET).

## **San Jose Sharks**

### *Notable Games*

- Tuesday, Oct. 21:** Potential first meeting between the past two No. 1 picks, **Macklin Celebrini** and **Matthew Schaeffer**.
- Saturday, Dec. 27:** **Macklin Celebrini** will play in his hometown of Vancouver for the third time on SN and first of two visits in 2025-26 (also **Tuesday, Jan. 27**).
- Monday, Feb. 2:** First 2025-26 meeting between **Macklin Celebrini** and **Connor Bedard**.

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 6 games (2x; **Feb. 26–March 7** and **March 30–April 8**)
- \* Longest road trip: 5 games (3x; **Dec. 5-13, Jan. 27–Feb. 4** and **March 10-17**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 16
- \* Play 9 of 10 games on the road from Jan. 15 to Feb. 4, followed by season-high homestands and road trips coming out of the Olympic break.



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## **Seattle Kraken**

### *Notable Games*

**Thursday, Oct. 9:** Head coach **Lane Lambert** will debut with the franchise, against Anaheim.

**Saturday, Nov. 29** and **Thursday, Dec. 4:** Consecutive games against **Connor McDavid** and the Oilers.

**Saturday, March 28:** Will face off against the Sabres in their 400th game in franchise history

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 6 games (2x; **Jan. 19-29** and **Feb. 28–March 12**)

\* Longest road trip: 6 games (2x; **Oct. 14-23** and **March 19-31**)

\* Back-to-backs: 13

\* Five matinee games (before 5 p.m. local), tied for the fewest among all teams.

\* Through its final 10 games of the season (**March 31 – April 16**), the Kraken face teams that combined for a .602 points percentage in 2024-25 – the highest of any team (ahead of PIT .598).

\* Play 8 of 9 games at home from Feb. 28 – March 17, with their lone road contest in that span a trip to Vancouver to face the Canucks on Hockey Night in Canada (Saturday, March 14).

## **St. Louis Blues**

### *Notable Games*

**Thursday, Oct. 9:** Season-opener at home against the Wild. The Blues can extend their home winning streak to 16 games dating to Feb. 23 (including playoffs); the current 15-game run is tied for the [fourth longest streak](#) in NHL history.

**Thursday, Dec. 4:** Head coach **Jim Montgomery** faces his former team for the first time in Boston.

**Wednesday, Dec. 17:** First game against the Jets since Game 7 of the 2025 First Round (SN).

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 4 games (4x; **Oct. 15-23**, **Nov. 8-15**, **Dec. 12-18** and **Jan. 24-31**)

\* Longest road trip: 5 games (**Nov. 18 – 26**)

\* Back-to-backs: 13

\* Through its final 10 games before the Olympic break (**Jan. 16 – Feb. 4**), the Blues face teams that combined for a .608 points percentage in 2025-25 – the highest of any team (ahead of DET .597 and DAL .585)

\* 9 straight games against teams that made the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs (**Jan. 10-29**), including all four teams that played in the Conference Finals with the Stars (2x), Oilers, Panthers and Hurricanes.



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## Tampa Bay Lightning

### *Notable Games*

**Monday, Oct. 13:** Visit Bruins in only preview of 2026 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series.

**Saturday, Nov. 15:** First game against the state rival Panthers since the 2025 First Round.

**Wednesday, Dec. 31:** Olympic-bound head coach **Jon Cooper** is set to coach in his 1,000th game, a milestone [only four coaches have reached with one franchise](#).

**Sunday, Feb 1:** 2026 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series against the Lightning (ESPN, SN and TVAS).

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 7 games (**March 24–April 4**)
- \* Longest road trip: 5 games (**Jan. 10-18**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 15
- \* Play 8 of 9 games on the road from **Dec. 31 to Jan. 18**, with their lone home contest against **Nathan MacKinnon** and the Avalanche (**Tuesday, Jan. 6**) – the player who finished as runner-up to **Nikita Kucherov** for the Art Ross Trophy in each of the past two seasons.
- \* 7 of their last 10 games are against Atlantic Division rivals (**March 29–April 15**).
- \* Through its final 10 games of the season (March 29 – April 15), the Lightning face teams with a points percentage of .505 in 2024-25 – tied for the lowest among all teams (w/ ANA; ahead of CAR: .507 and SJS: .508).

## Toronto Maple Leafs

### *Notable Games*

**Wednesday, Oct. 8:** Face Montreal in a mutual season-opener for the 23rd time, tops in NHL history.

**Sunday, Nov. 9:** Host the Hurricanes for the annual Hockey Hall of Fame game.

**Tuesday, Dec. 2:** First game against the Panthers since Game 7 of the 2025 Second Round (ESPN+).

**Saturday, Dec. 13:** Olympic-bound forwards **Auston Matthews** and **Connor McDavid** meet for the first time in 2025-26, with the second and final clash on **Tuesday, Feb. 3** (both on SN).

**Saturday, Dec. 27:** First game against the Senators since 2025 First Round (SN), and one of four meetings in 2025-26 including each club's season finale on **Wednesday, April 15**.

**Friday, Jan. 23:** Forward **Mitch Marner** returns to Toronto for the first time (SN), eight days after the first meeting between the clubs (**Thursday, Jan. 15:** TOR at VGK).

### *Schedule Notes*

- \* Longest homestand: 5 games (3x; **Oct. 13-21, Dec. 6-16 and Jan. 19-27**)
- \* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Nov. 22–Dec. 4 and Jan. 29–Feb. 26**)
- \* Back-to-backs: 15
- \* Five matinee games (before 5 p.m. local), tied for the fewest among all teams.
- \* 8 of their first 10 games are at home (**Oct. 8-28**).
- \* 23 Saturday games, tied with Montreal and Ottawa for the most in the NHL.



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## Utah Mammoth

### *Notable Games*

**Thursday, Oct. 9:** Season opener and first game as the Utah Mammoth.

**Wednesday, Oct. 15:** Home-opener against the Flames, a team they are undefeated against (3-0-0). Their first-ever draft pick, **Tij Iginla**, is the son of Flames legend **Jarome Iginla**.

**Tuesday, Nov. 4:** Forward **JJ Peterka** makes his return to Buffalo.

**Friday, Nov. 14:** Host the Islanders for the 100th game in franchise history (48th home game).

**Wednesday, Dec. 10:** Host the two-time reigning Stanley Cup champion Panthers.

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 7 games (**Jan. 7-21**)

\* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Nov. 28–Dec. 6**)

\* Back-to-backs: 11

\* 13 of first 20 games are on the road (**Oct. 9–Nov. 18**).

\* Through its first 10 games after the Olympic break (**Feb. 25–March 14**), the Mammoth face teams that combined for a points percentage of .509 in 2024-25 – the lowest among all teams (ahead of WPG .511 and Canadiens .514).

## Vancouver Canucks

### *Notable Games*

**Tuesday, Oct. 28:** Forward **J.T. Miller** returns to Vancouver.

**Sunday, Nov 9:** First meeting in 2025-26 between **Quinn Hughes** and **Cale Makar**.

**Sunday, Dec. 14:** First 2025-26 matchup with the Hughes brothers in New Jersey (also **Jan. 23**).

**Monday, Dec. 22:** The Canucks will face former head coach **Rick Tocchet** for the first time (Prime). Eight days later, he'll make his return to Vancouver (**Tuesday, Dec. 30**).

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 8 games (2x; **Jan. 17-31** and **March 9-26**)

\* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Jan. 6-15**)

\* Back-to-backs: 13

\* 19 of 24 games from Jan. 17 to March 26 are at home, with the road contests spanned over three trips (each with 2 or fewer games).

\* Final 14 games are against Western conference opponents (**March 21–April 16**), including their last 6 against Pacific Division foes (**April 7-16**).



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## Vegas Golden Knights

### *Notable Games*

**Tuesday, Oct. 7:** Host season opener against the Kings during a doubleheader on TNT.

**Friday, Oct. 31:** Annual Nevada Day matinee against the Avalanche.

**Sunday, Nov. 16:** First game against the Wild since the 2025 First Round.

**Sunday, Dec. 21:** First game against the Oilers since the 2025 Second Round.

**Thursday, Jan. 15:** Vegas hosts Toronto for the first time since acquiring **Mitch Marner** (ESPN). Eight days later, Marner will return to his hometown, where he spent his first nine NHL seasons (**Friday, Jan. 23**) on SN.

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 6 games (**Oct. 31–Nov. 13**)

\* Longest road trip: 5 games (2x; **Dec. 5-13** and **Feb. 25–March 4**)

\* Back-to-backs: 12

\* Enter and come out of the Olympic break with games against the Pacific Division rival Kings.

\* 7 of their last 10 games are against Pacific Division rivals, including two games against the Oilers on **Thursday, March 26** (vs EDM) and **Saturday, April 4** (at EDM).

## Washington Capitals

### *Notable Games*

**Tuesday, Nov. 11:** First game against the Hurricanes in Carolina since the 2025 Second Round.

**Thursday, Nov. 20:** First game against the Canadiens in Montreal since the 2025 First Round.

**Saturday, April 11:** Sidney Crosby and **Alex Ovechkin** are expected to meet for the 100th time in their career (regular season and playoffs combined) on ABC. The next day, they'll meet on TNT.

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 4 games (3x; **Oct. 14-21**, **Nov. 22-28** and **March 14-22**)

\* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Jan. 19-29**)

\* Back-to-backs: 14

\* Play 10 of 11 games against teams that made the 2025 Stanley Cup Playoffs from **Nov. 8-28**.

\* Face Metropolitan Division rivals in 6 of their last 8 games (**March 31 - April 14**).



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## Winnipeg Jets

### *Notable Games*

**Thursday, Oct. 9:** Season opener and first game against the Stars since the 2025 Second Round.

**Friday, Nov. 21:** Forward **Nikolaj Ehlers** returns to Winnipeg.

**Sunday, Nov. 23:** Play the 2,000th regular season game in franchise history.

**Wednesday, Dec. 17:** First game against the Blues since Game 7 of the 2025 First Round (SN).

**Wednesday, Dec. 31:** First-ever head-to-head between longtime teammates **Jonathan Toews** and **Patrick Kane** (SN).

**Monday, Jan. 19:** Forward **Jonathan Toews** returns to Chicago to face the Blackhawks. Chicago visits Winnipeg **Thursday, Oct. 30**.

### *Schedule Notes*

\* Longest homestand: 8 games (**March 3-17**)

\* Longest road trip: 6 games (**Nov. 4-15**)

\* Back-to-backs: 9 (tied w/ CGY for the fewest in 2025-26)

\* Play 11 of 14 games on the road from **Nov. 4 to Dec. 3**, including a season-high six-game road trip all against Western Conference opponents (**Nov. 4-15**).

\* Through its first 10 after the Olympic break (**Feb. 25–March 15**), the Jets face teams that combined for a points percentage of .511 – the second lowest among all teams (behind only UTA .509).

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