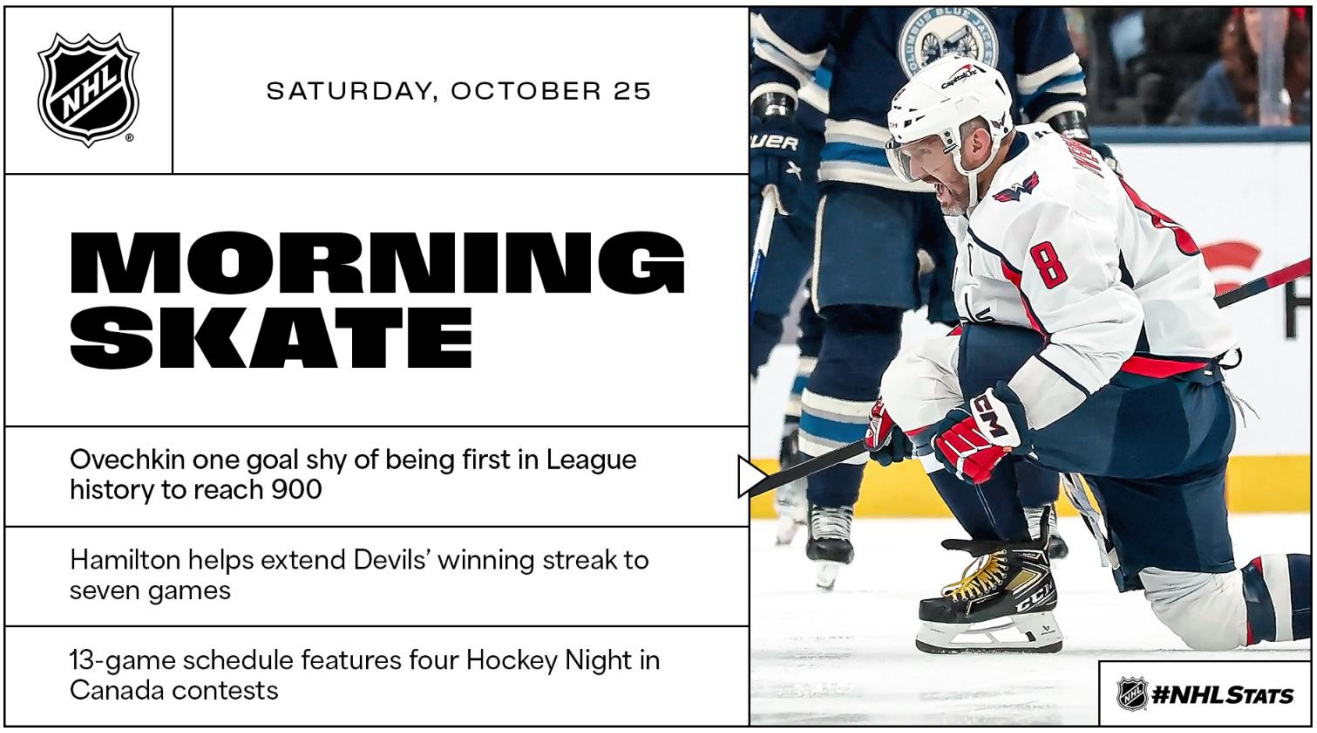
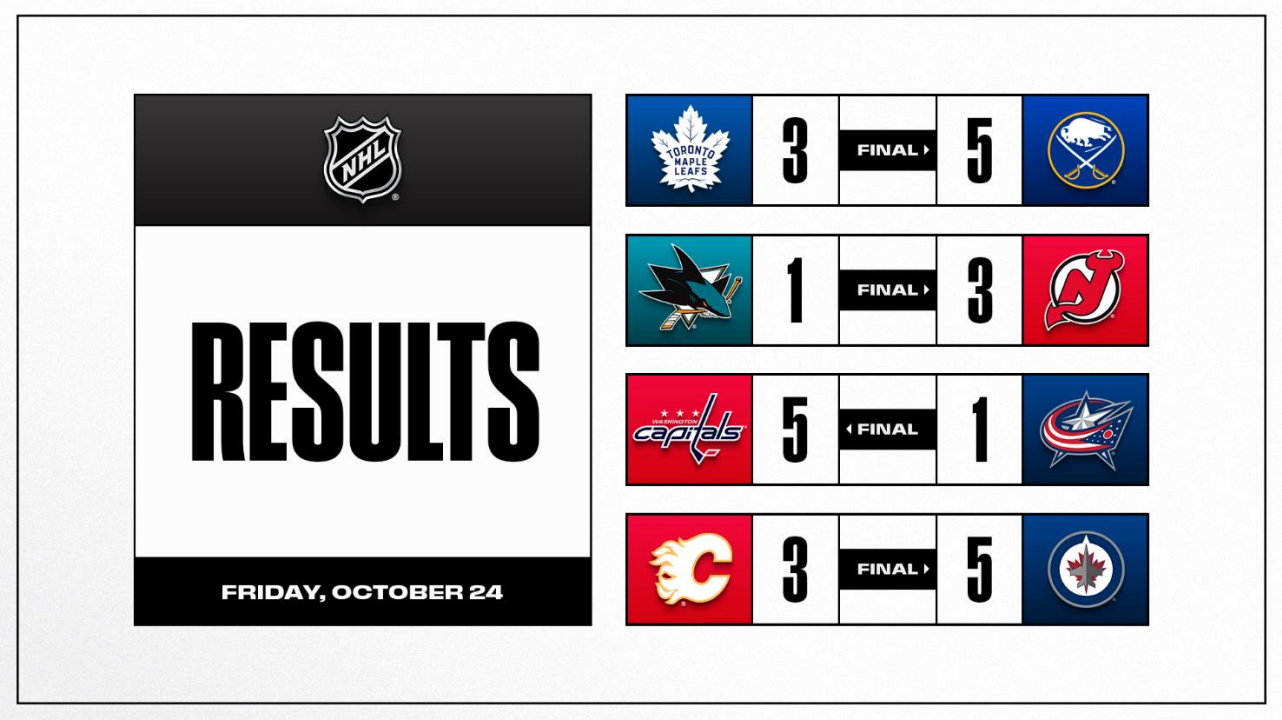
NHL MORNING SKATE – OCT. 25, 2025



* **Alex Ovechkin** extended his NHL records for goals as well as game winners and now needs just one tally for 900 in his career.

* **Dougie Hamilton** became the latest Devils defenseman with a game-winning goal as New Jersey improved to 7-0-0 in its last seven contests.

* Saturday's 13-game schedule features four Hockey Night in Canada contests, including the second meeting between decorated defensemen **Quinn Hughes** and **Lane Hutson**.



OVECHKIN ON BRINK OF BECOMING FIRST 900-GOAL SCORER IN LEAGUE HISTORY

Alex Ovechkin (1-1—2) scored his 899th career tally during Washington's victory versus Columbus and now needs one to become the first player in NHL history with 900. Ovechkin can reach the milestone when he plays his 1,500th career game during Hockey Night in Canada tonight (more on that below).

* Ovechkin scored his 137th career game-winning goal to extend his League record. It was also Ovechkin's 336th career third-period marker, moving him into a tie with **Wayne Gretzky** for the most in NHL history.



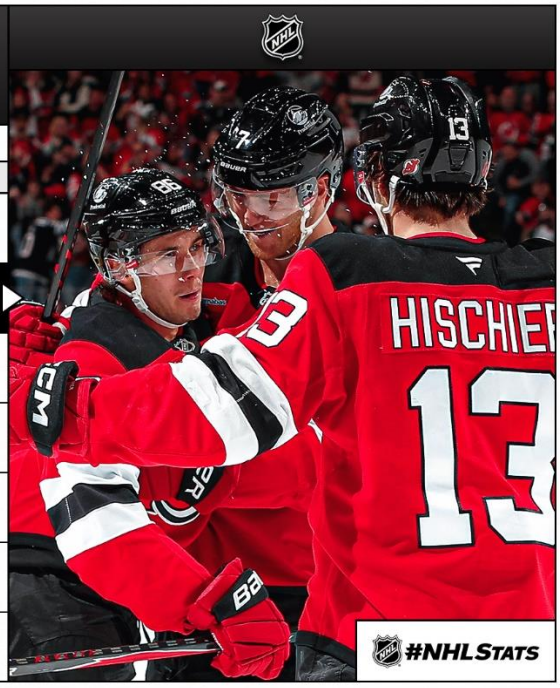
HAMILTON HELPS DEVILS PUSH WIN STREAK TO SEVEN GAMES

Dougie Hamilton (2-1—3) and captain **Nico Hischier** (0-2—2) combined on two of three Devils goals as New Jersey defeated San Jose in a tightly-contested affair and extended their win streak to seven games – a stretch that began after the club dropped its season opener to Carolina on Oct. 9.

LONGEST WIN STREAKS FOLLOWING A SEASON-OPENING LOSS

NHL HISTORY

TEAM	SEASON	GAMES
NEW YORK ISLANDERS	1982-83	8
NEW JERSEY DEVILS	2025-26	7
ANAHEIM DUCKS	2014-15	7
ANAHEIM DUCKS	2013-14	7
NEW YORK RANGERS	2009-10	7
ST. LOUIS BLUES	1997-98	7
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	1981-82	7



* Hamilton's game-winning goal, which passed **Andy Greene** (11) for the fourth most in franchise history by a defenseman, comes on the heels of back-to-back winners from teammate **Brenden Dillon**.

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The Devils had a defenseman register the game-winning goal in three consecutive contests for the first time in franchise history; the Oilers were the last team to post a stretch of at least three games (3 GP from April 5-10, 2024).

* New Jersey's victory was bolstered by a second-period performance that held San Jose without a shot on goal. The Devils held the opposition without a shot on goal during an entire period for the fourth time in franchise history (excluding OT) following Jan. 6, 2017 (P3 vs. TOR), Oct. 29, 2002 (P3 vs. CAR) and Oct. 10, 1998 (P1 at CHI).

#NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES FROM FRIDAY

Friday's edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates featured more notes from the four-game slate, including **Josh Morrissey** and **Zach Benson** helping the Jets and Sabres secure wins:

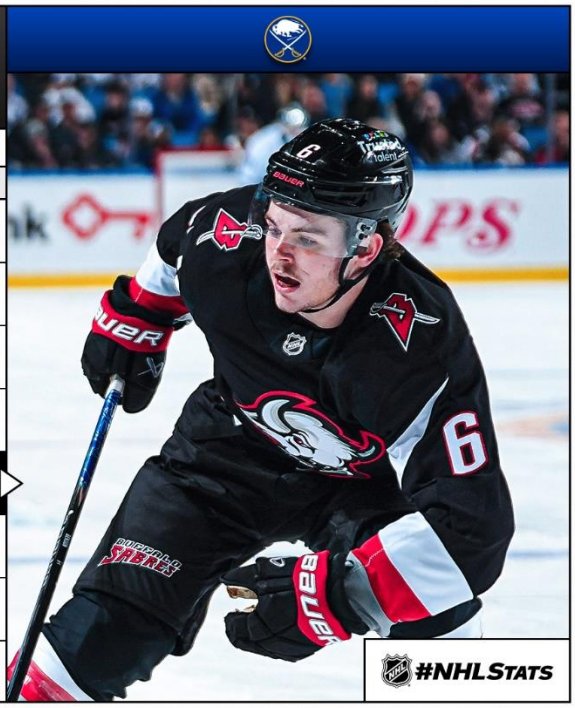
* Morrissey (0-3—3), **Gabriel Vilardi** (1-1—2) and **Mark Scheifele** (0-2—2) had multiple points as the Jets improved to 6-1-0 in their last seven games. Morrissey reached 298 career helpers and needs two to become the first defenseman in Jets/Thrashers history with 300.

* **Zach Benson** (0-7—7 in 5 GP) collected his team-leading seventh assist on one of five Sabres goals as Buffalo took the first game of a back-to-back, home-and-home set with Toronto. The Sabres extended their home winning streak to four games, matching the Mammoth and Red Wings for the longest run by a team this season; they have outscored opponents 20-9 during that span.

MOST ASSISTS THROUGH FIRST FIVE GAMES OF A SEASON

FRANCHISE HISTORY

PLAYER	SEASON	ASSISTS
GILBERT PERREAULT	1975-76	9
BRIAN CAMPBELL	2007-08	8
PAT LAFONTAINE	1992-93	8
GILBERT PERREAULT	1972-73	8
ZACH BENSON	2025-26	7
THOMAS VANEK	2012-13	7
PAT LAFONTAINE	1995-96	7
CRAIG RAMSAY	1979-80	7



HUGHES VS. HUTSON HIGHLIGHTS HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA SLATE

Two of the NHL's most productive defensemen go head-to-head tonight on Sportsnet's Hockey Night in Canada when **Quinn Hughes** (2023-24 Norris Trophy winner) and the Canucks host **Lane Hutson** (2024-25 Calder Trophy winner) and the Canadiens. They combined for five points in their only previous meeting (Jan. 6, 2025). The Canucks-Canadiens showdown will air on CBC and TVA Sports in Canada, as well as NHL Network in the U.S.

Need-to-know #NHLStats ahead of the second Hughes-Hutson head-to-head:

1. Hughes, the Canucks record holder for career assists and points by a defenseman, entered 2025-26 on a stretch of four consecutive 60-assist and 65-point campaigns. Hughes is one of four defensemen in NHL history with four consecutive 60-assist seasons, along with **Bobby Orr** (6 from 1969-70 – 1974-75), **Ray Bourque** (5 from 1989-90 – 1993-94) and **Paul Coffey** (5 from 1981-82 – 1985-86). The last blueliners with at least five straight 65-point seasons were Coffey and Bourque, with respective 13 and five-season runs both ending in 1993-94 (of note, **Cale Makar** can post a fifth straight campaign with 65+ points in 2025-26 as well).

2. Hutson, who set Canadiens records for assists and points by a rookie defenseman in 2024-25 (6-60—66), can become the fifth blueliner in NHL history with multiple 60-assist seasons before age 23 – after Coffey (4x), Orr (3x), **Brian Leetch** (2x) and Hughes (2x) – and the third active defenseman with multiple 65-point showings at that age, after Hughes and **Erik Karlsson** (2x). Hutson skated in his 90th career game a week ago during Hockey Night in Canada and, among active defensemen, ranked second in assists and third in points at that stage of a career (Makar, Hughes & Hutson make up the top three on both lists).

3. Both from hockey families, Quinn is the eldest of three current NHL siblings (also **Jack** and **Luke** w/ NJD) while Lane is the first of four siblings to realize his NHL dream – older brother **Quinn Hutson** signed with the Oilers in April, 19-year-old **Cole Hutson** was drafted by the Capitals in 2024 and 16-year-old **Lars Hutson** is skating in the USHL. The Hughes' parents, **Jim** and **Ellen**, both played NCAA hockey, as did the Hutsons' father, **Rob**.

4. NHL.com's fantasy staff compared the underlying metrics of Hughes and Hutson through the lens of NHL EDGE Puck and Player Tracking data, with all stats through games played Oct. 23. **Click here** to read more.



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MATINEES LEAD INTO EARLY HOCKEY NIGHT IN CANADA START

A pair of matinees carried nationally by Sportsnet (Canada) and NHL Network (U.S.) lead into an early Hockey Night in Canada start, which begins at 5 p.m. ET on Sportsnet when the Sabres look to sweep their back-to-back, home-and-home set against the Maple Leafs.



#NHLStats Live Updates is up and running for Oct. 25, with a few key takeaways noted below:

* **Alex Ovechkin** is expected to skate in his 1,500th NHL game when the Capitals host the Senators on Hockey Night in Canada. His 899 goals are 189 more than the next-closest player *through the milestone contest* (**Jaromir Jagr**: 710), although **Wayne Gretzky** (894 in 1,487 GP), **Brett Hull** (741 in 1,269 GP), **Marcel Dionne** (731 in 1,348 GP) and **Phil Esposito** (717 in 1,282 GP) had higher than 710 but never reached 1,500 games.

* The Kraken put their perfect home record on the line when **Connor McDavid** and the Oilers visit for the Hockey Night in Canada closer. Edmonton has won 12 of 15 previous meetings (12-3-0; SEA: 3-11-1) and accounts for four of the top five highest-scoring players against the Kraken.

* **Dylan Larkin** (8 GP), **Martin Necas** (8 GP), **Nick Suzuki** (8 GP), **Jack Eichel** (7 GP), **Seth Jarvis** (7 GP) and **Sebastian Aho** (7 GP) all put lengthy point streaks on the line. Necas and Eichel will do so for the Avalanche (5-0-3) and Golden Knights (5-0-2), respectively, which are the only two clubs without a regulation defeat this season.

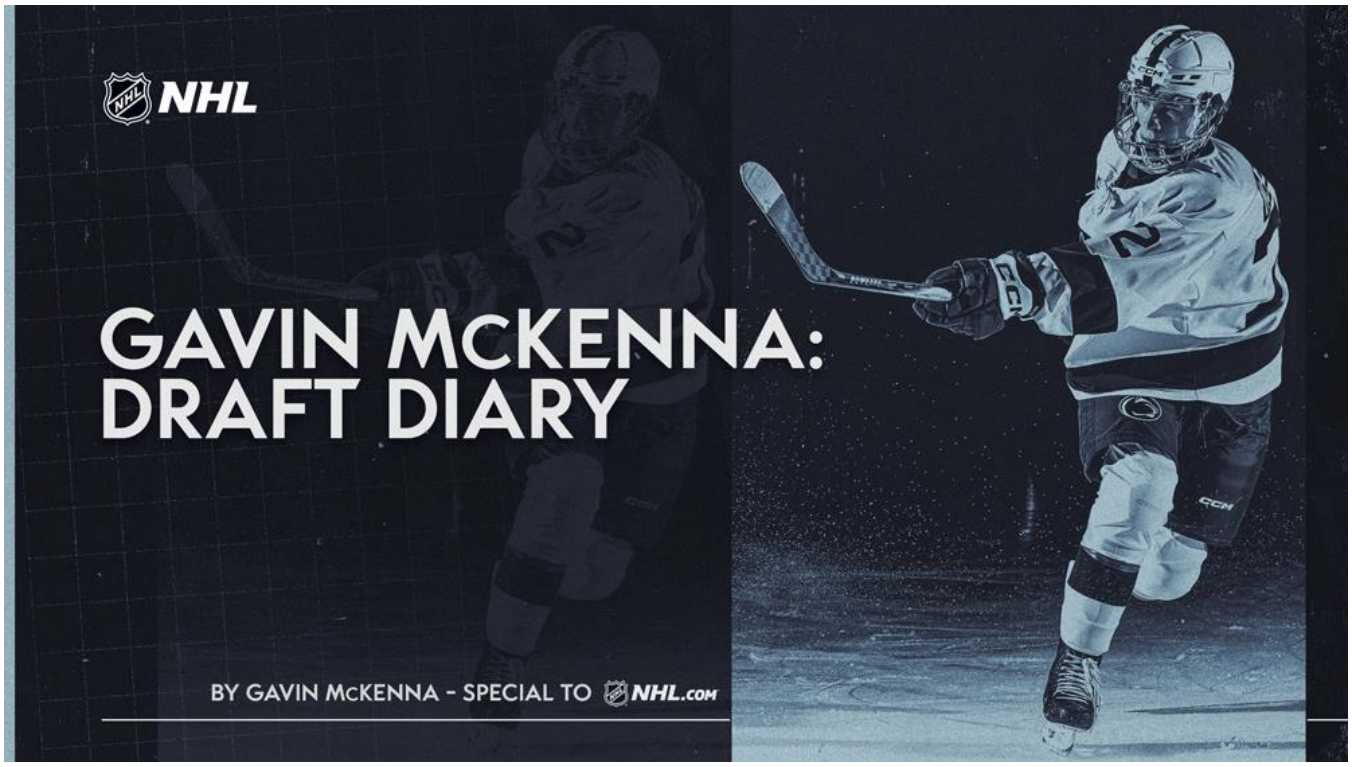
* Lightning teammates **Nikita Kucherov** (359-640—999) and **Victor Hedman** (171-628—799) both sit a point away from significant milestones, while **Sidney Crosby** (1,698 points) and **John Tavares** (498 goals) are within two from significant career benchmarks.

* The Hurricanes-Stars matchup will be a mix between previous and soon-to-be teammates as **Mikko Rantanen** and **Logan Stankoven** face their former mates for the first time since being traded for each other in March. The contest is also expected to feature four players guaranteed to be part of the Team

Finland roster at the Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina 2026: Rantanen, **Miro Heiskanen**, **Esa Lindell** and **Sebastian Aho** have already secured roster spots.

QUICK CLICKS

* New York Islanders to host 2027 Honda NHL All-Star Weekend at UBS Arena
* #NHLStats Pack: 2025 NHL Global Series Sweden presented by Fastenal
* #NHLStats on 16-Game Days Ahead of Frozen Frenzy
* **Lukas Reichel** traded to Canucks by Blackhawks for 4th-round pick in 2027 Draft
* First of NHL.com series: 2026 NHL Draft Diary – **Gavin McKenna**



NHL PODCASTS WEEKLY ROUNDUP

* **100% Hockey with Millard & Shannon** (Oct. 23): Speed, Structure, and the Hughes Effect: Tom Fitzgerald Joins 100% Hockey
* **NHL Fantasy on Ice** (Oct. 23): Week 3 mailbag; early buy-low candidates
* **NHL Unscripted with Virk and Demers** (Oct. 23): Filmmaker Gabe Polsky: Edmonton's Slow Start, Surging Red Wings and why JD Hates the Avs' Throwback Jerseys
* **Never Offside with Julie and Cat** (Oct. 23): Michael Misa joins; Houseguest Stories, NYC antics, Money on the Board
* **NHL @TheRink** (Oct. 22): Sebastian Aho joins; Daren Millard on VGK, "In or Out", Mailbag: Blackhawks
* **Energy Line with Nate and JSB** (Oct. 21): Mike Rupp Weighs in: Stolarz Drama, The Devils' Cup Chances, and Why the Rangers Will be Fine
* **NHL Draft Class** (Oct. 20): Dan Marr, NHL Central Scouting; Preliminary players to watch list