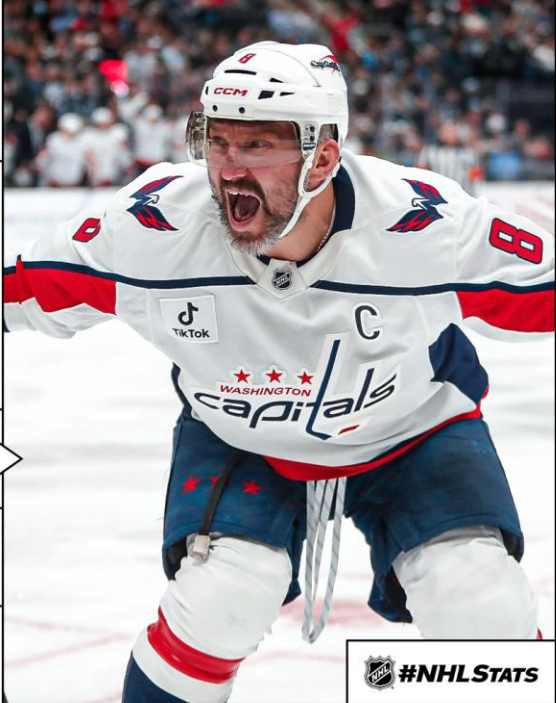


NHL MORNING SKATE – MARCH 27, 2026

	FRIDAY, MARCH 27	
<h1>MORNING SKATE</h1>		
Ovechkin surpasses Hull on all-time League list with 34th career hat trick		
Granlund fuels comeback win with buzzer-beating hat trick in overtime		
Friday features a matchup between the Red Wings and Atlantic Division-leading Sabres		 #NHLSTATS

* **Alex Ovechkin** scored a hat trick and moved to the brink of his [NHL-record 20th career 30-goal season](#), while **Mikael Granlund** also tallied three times during the Ducks' third-period comeback win.

* **Connor McDavid** reclaimed the lead in the Art Ross Trophy race in a game that saw **Evan Bouchard** become the sixth defenseman to reach the 20-goal mark in 2025-26 – tied for the third highest single-season total in NHL history.

* Friday features a potential First Round matchup when the Red Wings spar with the Atlantic Division-leading Sabres on NHL Network. Detroit sits three points back of the “playoff line” in the Eastern Conference.



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RESULTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

	1	FINAL	2	
	4	OT	3	
	1	FINAL	2	
	1	OT	2	
	3	FINAL	2	
	3	OT	2	
	4	FINAL	0	
	4	SO	3	
	3	FINAL	2	
	1	FINAL	5	
	4	FINAL	2	
	7	FINAL	4	
	4	OT	3	

OVECHKIN HAS 34TH CAREER HAT TRICK TO PASS HULL FOR FOURTH MOST ALL-TIME

Alex Ovechkin tallied his third goal of the game with 5.2 seconds remaining in regulation to complete his 34th career hat trick and pass **Brett Hull** (33) for fourth place on the [NHL's all-time list](#). **Wayne Gretzky** (50), **Mario Lemieux** (40) and **Mike Bossy** (39) round out the top three.

* Ovechkin scored his second hat trick this season (also [Nov. 20, 2025](#)) and became the third player in League history with *more than one* at age 40 or older, following **Gordie Howe** (3; [Nov. 2, 1969](#), [Feb. 16, 1969](#) & [Feb. 6, 1969](#)) and **Johnny Bucyk** (2; [March 3, 1976](#) & [Jan. 11, 1976](#)). Ovechkin has at least one hat trick against 21 different franchises and passed Hull (20) for the most in NHL history.



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OVI LATEST TO SCORE WITH 5.2 SECONDS LEFT IN UTAH

Alex Ovechkin completed his hat trick with 5.2 seconds remaining in regulation at Delta Center, the same venue where Michael Jordan scored his iconic championship-clinching basket with 5.2 seconds left on the clock in 1998.




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GRANLUND CAPS COMEBACK WIN WITH BUZZER-BEATING HAT TRICK IN OVERTIME

Mikael Granlund scored two tying goals, including one in the final five minutes of regulation, before completing his hat trick with one second left in overtime to give Anaheim (41-27-4, 86 points) its League-leading 11th third-period comeback win of 2025-26 and 25th overall come-from-behind win of any fashion – the second-highest single-season total in franchise history.

* Granlund tied **Peter Douris** (4:59 on Nov. 17, 1995) for the latest overtime goal in Ducks history and became the sixth player Anaheim player to cap a hat trick with an extra-time tally. The others are **Beckett Sennecke** (Jan. 25, 2026), **Troy Terry** (Nov. 1, 2023), **Cam Fowler** (Nov. 4, 2018), **Hampus Lindholm** (Dec. 21, 2017) and **Lubomir Visnovsky** (March 4, 2011).

* Granlund recorded his second hat trick since joining Anaheim this season and also recorded his second four-game goal streak with the club. He became the fifth Ducks player with multiple goal streaks of at least four games in a single season, joining **Teemu Selanne** (4 in 1998-99, 3 in 1996-97 & 2 in 1997-98), **Terry** (2 in 2021-22), **Rickard Rakell** (2 in 2017-18) and **Corey Perry** (2 in 2011-12).



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GRANLUND'S HAT TRICK LIFTS DUCKS

Mikael Granlund became the second player in Ducks history to score multiple hat tricks in his first season with the team, following Teemu Selanne (2 in 1995-96).



McDAVID RECLAIMS ART ROSS RACE LEAD AS OILERS OUTLAST GOLDEN KNIGHTS

Connor McDavid reached the 800-assist milestone, added a goal and factored on the overtime winner as the Oilers (36-28-9, 81 points) opened a two-point lead on the Golden Knights (32-26-15, 79 points) for second place in the Pacific Division. McDavid (785 GP) became the third-fastest player in NHL history to 800 career helpers behind **Wayne Gretzky** (527 GP on [Feb. 6, 1986](#)) and **Mario Lemieux** (661 GP on [March 26, 1996](#)), the latter of whom hit the mark exactly 30 years before McDavid.

* McDavid reached [121 points on the season](#) to reclaim the Art Ross Trophy race lead from **Nikita Kucherov** (121) by virtue of [having more goals](#). McDavid hit 41 on the campaign to pass Kucherov (40) for third place in the [Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy race](#) which is led by **Nathan MacKinnon** (48), who tallied twice in the [League-leading Avalanche's win Thursday](#).



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CONNOR CLOSING IN ON TOP 50 FOR POINTS

Connor McDavid, who reached 1,203 career points to pass Dino Ciccarelli (1,200) for 53rd place on the NHL's all-time list, needs seven to tie Bobby Clarke (1,210) and crack the top 50.



KINGS, KRAKEN CLOSE GAP ON “PLAYOFF LINE” IN WESTERN CONFERENCE

The Kings (29-25-18, 76 points) and Kraken (32-29-10, 74 points) earned wins to climb within one and three points, respectively, of the Predators (34-29-9, 77 points) – who occupy the Western Conference’s final Wild Card spot and fell to the Devils on Thursday.

* **Darcy Kuemper** (19 saves) recorded his 11th career shutout with Los Angeles to surpass **Kelly Hrucey** as well as **Stephane Fiset** for [fifth most in franchise history](#), while **Quinton Byfield** (1-1—2) joined **Adrian Kempe** (4 GP in 2025-26) as the second Kings player in the past 30 years to record multiple points in four straight road games.

* **Brandon Montour** (2-0—2) scored twice, including netting the winner in overtime, to help the Kraken survive a Lightning rally. Montour had a 101.56 mph blast at 8:37 of the third period according to [NHL EDGE](#), which marked his second 100+ mph shot this season (also 101.38 mph on [Feb. 26](#)).



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RUSH TO THE PLAY OFFS™

CENTRAL DIVISION

			W-L-OT	PTS	RW	GAMES REMAINING
1		COLORADO	48-13-10	106	42	11
2		DALLAS	43-18-11	97	33	10
3		MINNESOTA	41-20-12	94	26	9

PACIFIC DIVISION

			W-L-OT	PTS	RW	GAMES REMAINING
1		ANAHEIM	41-27-4	86	24	10
2		EDMONTON	36-28-9	81	27	9
3		VEGAS	32-26-15	79	24	9

WILD CARD

			W-L-OT	PTS	RW	GAMES REMAINING
1		UTAH	37-30-6	80	28	9
2		NASHVILLE	34-29-9	77	25	10

2026 STANLEY CUP™ PLAYOFFS

3		LOS ANGELES	29-25-18	76	19	10
4		SEATTLE	32-29-10	74	25	11

STANLEY CUP™ PLAYOFFS 2026

BEGIN APRIL 18 ESPN TNT SPORTSNET TVA SPORTS

CANADIENS, PENGUINS AND ISLANDERS IGNITED BY ROOKIES, VETERANS IN VICTORIES

The Canadiens inched closer to second place in the Atlantic Division, the Penguins climbed the Metropolitan Division and the Islanders reclaimed the Eastern Conference's final Wild Card spot after spending two days outside of the playoff picture.

* **Zachary Bolduc** (1-1—2) buried the winner to snap a 31-game goal drought and **Jakub Dobes** (25 saves) delivered his 24th victory of the season – most among [all rookies](#) – as the Canadiens (40-21-10, 90 points) opened a two-point lead on the idle Bruins (40-24-8, 88 points) for third place in the Atlantic Division. Dobes' 24 wins on the campaign tied **Carey Price** (24 in 2007-08) for the seventh [highest single-season total by a rookie in franchise history](#).

* **Erik Karlsson** (1-2—3) put up another three-point performance as the Penguins (36-20-16, 88 points) earned a shootout victory against his former team in Ottawa and leapfrogged the Blue Jackets (38-23-11, 87 points) for second place in the Metropolitan Division standings. Karlsson recorded his third consecutive road game with three or more points – tied for the [second-longest stretch by a defenseman in NHL history](#) – and also surpassed former Senators captain and teammate **Daniel Alfredsson** (713) for the [fifth-most assists by a Swedish player in NHL history](#).

* **Matthew Schaefer** (0-2—2) factored on both New York goals to record his 53rd and 54th points of the season, matching **Denis Potvin** (54 in 1973-74) for the second most in a campaign by an Islanders rookie defenseman behind **Stefan Persson** (56 in 1977-78). The Islanders (41-27-5, 87 points) overtook the Senators (38-24-10, 86 points) for the second Wild Card spot in the East, while elsewhere in the Metropolitan Division, the Flyers (35-24-12, 82 points) stayed within five points of the playoff line with a win.



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ATLANTIC DIVISION

			W-L-OT	PTS	RW	GAMES REMAINING
1		BUFFALO	44-20-8	96	37	10
2		TAMPA BAY	44-21-6	94	35	11
3		MONTREAL	40-21-10	90	28	11

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

			W-L-OT	PTS	RW	GAMES REMAINING
1		CAROLINA	45-20-6	96	32	11
2		PITTSBURGH	36-20-16	88	29	10
3		COLUMBUS	38-23-11	87	27	10

WILD CARD

			W-L-OT	PTS	RW	GAMES REMAINING
1		BOSTON	40-24-8	88	29	10
2		NEW YORK	41-27-5	87	27	9

2026 STANLEY CUP® PLAYOFFS

3		OTTAWA	38-24-10	86	32	10
4		DETROIT	38-25-8	84	27	11



PLAYOFFS 2026

BEGIN APRIL 18

ESPN

TNT

SPORTSNET

TVA SPORTS

ERIKSSON EK'S LATE GO-AHEAD GOAL FEATURED IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

After **Marcus Foligno** opened the scoring in his return to the lineup – and his first game as teammates with his brother **Nick** – the Panthers pulled even in the third period, but **Joel Eriksson Ek** found the back of the net with just five seconds remaining in regulation (59:55) to move the Wild (41-20-12, 94 points) within three points of the Stars (43-18-11, 97 points) for second place in the Central Division. [Click here](#) to read more #NHLStats from across the 13-game slate in Live Updates.



ERIKSSON EK CALLS GAME

Joel Eriksson Ek scored the latest go-ahead goal in Wild history (59:55), eclipsing the previous best of eight seconds set by Marcus Foligno on Oct. 15, 2021 (59:52).



LIVE UPDATES



#NHLSTATS



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QUICK CLICKS

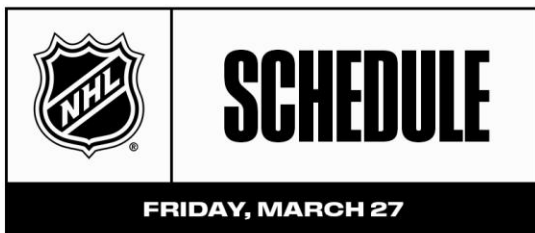
- * [Jake Neighbours](#) promotes Blues, Penguins game in ASL
- * [Matt Savoie](#) welcomes new role with [Connor McDavid](#) on Oilers' top line
- * [2026 NHL Draft notebook: Tobias Trejbal](#) developed 'unflappability' with Youngstown

ATLANTIC DIVISION ADVERSARIES MEET IN POTENTIAL FIRST ROUND PREVIEW

The Atlantic Division-leading Sabres (44-20-8, 96 points) welcome the Red Wings (38-25-8, 84 points) to KeyBank Center as the latter looks to climb back into the Eastern Conference playoff picture after spending 123 game days in that position in 2025-26. Buffalo and Detroit, which last made the Stanley Cup Playoffs in 2010-11 and 2015-16, could meet in the First Round should the Red Wings overtake the Islanders (41-27-5, 87 points) and Senators (38-24-10, 86 points) in the East's crowded Wild Card race.

* The Sabres are among the NHL's leaders in [goals per game at home in 2025-26](#) (3.57 G/GP) – the franchise's third highest [in one season since 1994-95](#) (3.93 in 2006-07 & 3.68 in 2005-06) – and have done so with the aid of **Tage Thompson** (36-38—74 in 72 GP).

* Another American star suits up on the visiting side as **Dylan Larkin** (29-27—56 in 64 GP) leads Detroit's playoff push. Larkin sits one goal shy of becoming the [fifth player in franchise history](#) with six career 30-goal seasons alongside **Gordie Howe** (14), **Steve Yzerman** (11), **Sergei Fedorov** (9) and **Brendan Shanahan** (7).



>> NHL 2025-26 REGULAR SEASON



ALL TIMES ET | [NHL.COM/HOWTOWATCH](https://www.nhl.com/howtowatch)



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FINAL “HOCKEY DAY” OF SEASON APPROACHING IN KUOPIO, FINLAND

Saturday marks the last of four “Hockey Day” celebrations in Europe this season – the most ever – when the Islanders host the Panthers (1 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CET) as part of the two-day event hosted in Kuopio, Finland (March 27-28). Finland has made up at least 5% of NHL players for eight consecutive seasons (2018-19 to 2025-26) after never exceeding 4% across the first 100 campaigns in League history. The all-time high is 6% (2020-21, 2021-22 & 2024-25).

* Earlier this month, the NHL announced a pair of events in Finland and Germany next season as part of the 2026 Global Series in Helsinki (Nov. 12-14) and Düsseldorf (Dec. 18-20), respectively. As part of its commitment to best-on-best international hockey, the NHL will also return to Czechia, which hosted a “Hockey Day” this season, as part of the World Cup of Hockey which will take place in February 2028 and feature seven games at the O2 Arena in Prague with the remainder being split between Calgary and Edmonton.



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