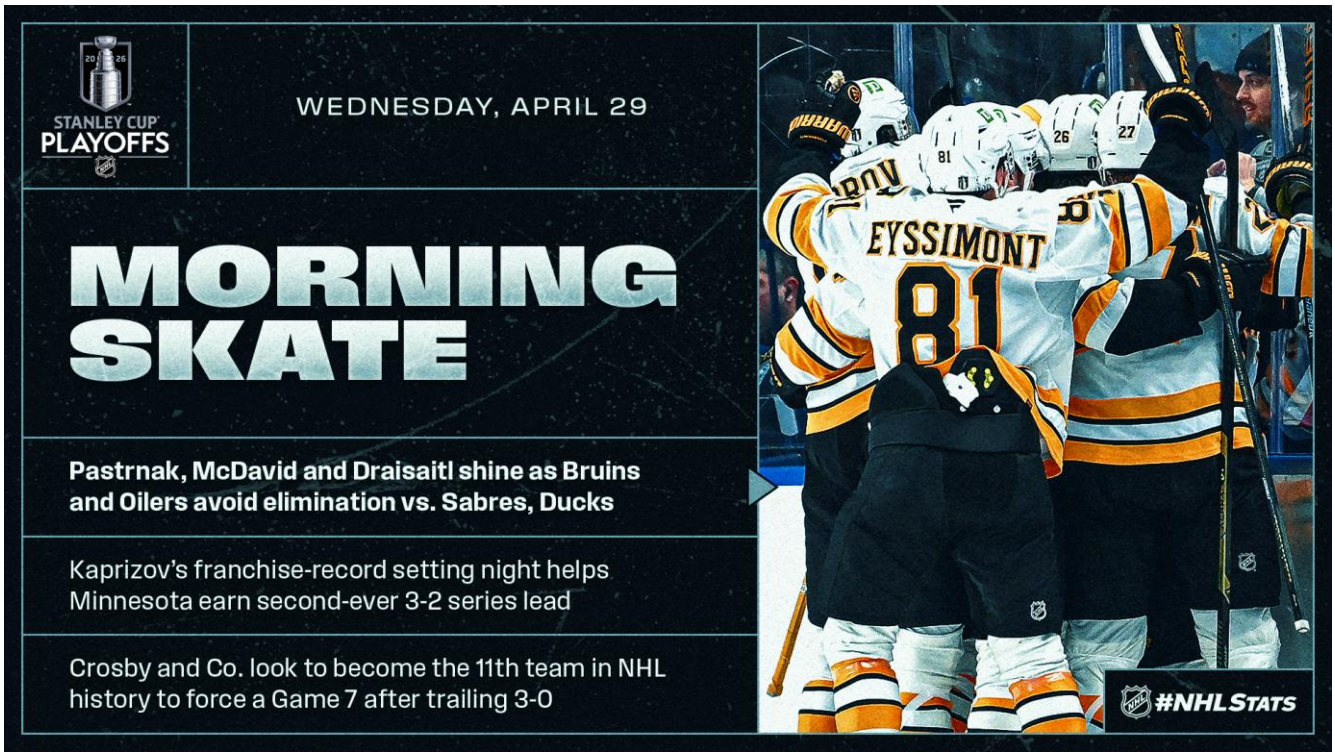
NHL MORNING SKATE: STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS EDITION – APRIL 29, 2026



* **David Pastrnak** scored his second career overtime goal, both of which have come in games when facing elimination, to help the Bruins force a Game 6 back at TD Garden.

* **Connor McDavid**, **Leon Draisaitl** and **Evan Bouchard** each put up multi-point performances and helped the Oilers avoid elimination against the Ducks. The Oilers captain was named a Ted Lindsay Award finalist just hours before the game.

* **Kirill Kaprizov** collected his second three-point game of the First Round, established a franchise record for career playoff goals and helped the Wild move within one win of reaching the Second Round for the first time in more than a decade.

* A three-game Wednesday features the Penguins looking to become the 11th team in NHL history to force a Game 7 after trailing in a series 3-0, while a 3-2 series lead is on the line in both Tampa and Vegas.



SHIPPING OFF TO BOSTON: PASTRNAK POTS OT WINNER AS BRUINS FORCE GAME 6. . .

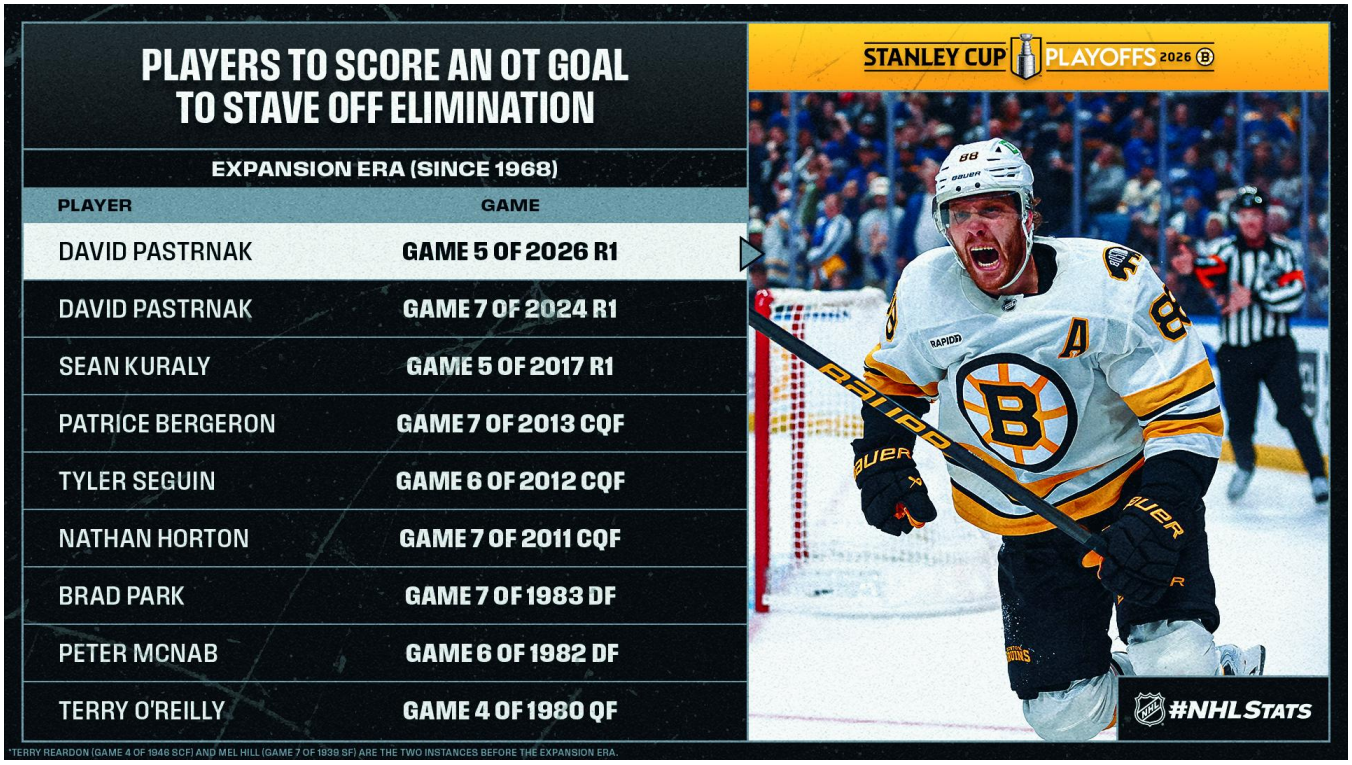
The Bruins had their backs against the wall early in Game 5 after **Rasmus Dahlin** opened the scoring four minutes into the contest, but Boston battled back to tie the game thanks to **Elias Lindholm** (1-0—1) and **David Pastrnak** (1-0—1) then netted the winner in overtime to keep the Bruins alive in the 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs. Boston posted their 18th comeback win to stave off elimination – the third most in NHL history behind Toronto (22) and Montreal (19).

* The Bruins and Sabres became the seventh First Round series to feature at least one overtime game this postseason. The 2026 First Round is one of six opening rounds under the Wild Card format to witness the feat (8 in 2023 & 2017, 7 in 2025, 2021 & 2014).



* Pastrnak tallied his eighth career goal in games when facing elimination, which tied **Milan Lucic**, **Cam Neely** and **Rick Middleton** for the third most in franchise history behind **Brad Marchand** (10) and **Peter McNab** (9).

* Pastrnak also became the seventh player in Stanley Cup Playoffs history to score multiple overtime goals to stave off elimination after first achieving the feat in Game 7 of the 2024 First Round. The only others to do so over the past 30 years are **Joe Pavelski** (Game 4 of 2023 CF & Game 5 of 2008 CSF), **Simon Gagne** (Game 4 of 2010 CSF & Game 6 of 2004 CF) and **Joe Sakic** (Game 4 & 5 of 2004 CSF).



. . . WHILE OILERS SCORE EARLY AND OFTEN TO ALSO AVOID ELIMINATION

Connor McDavid (0-2—2), **Leon Draisaitl** (2-0—2) and **Evan Bouchard** (0-3—3) have been pivotal in Edmonton's back-to-back runs to the Stanley Cup Final, once again spearheading a quick-strike Oilers offense (three goals in the opening 10:13 of play) en route to a Game 5 win and forcing a Game 6 back in Anaheim on Thursday.



STATS AND INFORMATION

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* McDavid factored on a Draisaitl goal for the 28th and 29th time in their Stanley Cup Playoff careers, which tied **Glenn Anderson** (w/ **Mark Messier**) for the fifth most by one player in NHL history. In the process, the Oilers captain captured his 51st career multi-point postseason game to tie **Doug Gilmour**, **Brett Hull** and **Mario Lemieux** for 10th place on the League's all-time list.

* McDavid and Draisaitl extended Edmonton's lead in the second period on the man-advantage and factored on the same power-play goal in the playoffs for the 38th time in their career – tied with **Mike Bossy** and **Bryan Trottier**, as well as **Evgeni Malkin** and **Sidney Crosby** for the most in Stanley Cup Playoffs history.



* Bouchard has collected multiple points in each of his past three games (one shy of the longest streak by a defenseman in franchise history) after failing to find the score sheet in Games 1 and 2. Tuesday was Bouchard's third elimination game with three or more points (also Game 5 of 2024 SCF & Game 6 of 2024 R2) – the second most by a defenseman in Stanley Cup Playoffs history, behind **Ray Bourque** (4x).

* **ICYMI: Connor McDavid**, **Macklin Celebrini** and **Nikita Kucherov** were named the three finalists for the 2025-26 Ted Lindsay Award, which is presented annually "to the most outstanding player as voted by fellow members of the NHLPA." Click here to read more.



KAPRIZOV SHINES ON RECORD-SETTING NIGHT, WILD INCH CLOSER TO SECOND ROUND

Kirill Kaprizov (1-2—3) notched his second three-point performance of the First Round and passed **Zach Parise** (16) for the most playoff goals in Wild history as Minnesota took a 3-2 series lead for the second time in franchise history (also 2015 R1). The Wild head home to Grand Casino Arena for Game 6 with a chance to advance to the Second Round for the first time since 2015.



STATS AND INFORMATION

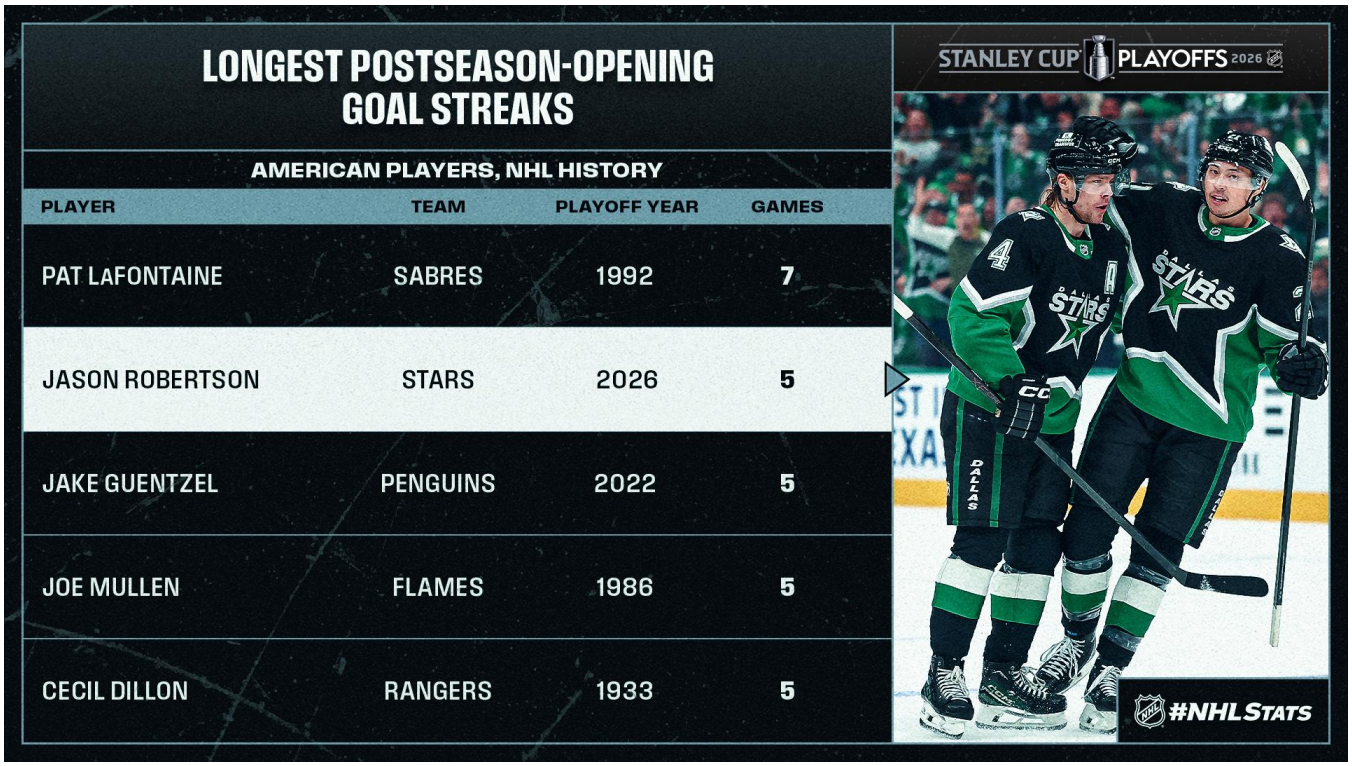
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* After claiming the club's regular-season goals record March 3, Kaprizov became the 16th player to hold an active franchise's all-time outright regular-season and playoff goals records – **Filip Forsberg** (NSH), **Alex Ovechkin** (WSH) and **Mark Scheifele** (WPG/ATL) are the only other active players to do so.

* Kaprizov (2-7—9 in 5 GP), who leads all skaters in the 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs in scoring, matched his personal best for points in a single series (also 9 in 2025 R1). Only three Wild skaters have posted more points in a series: **Marian Gaborik** (11 in 2003 CSF), **Zach Parise** (10 in 2014 R1) and **Wes Walz** (10 in 2003 CSF).

ROBERTSON'S GOAL STREAK HIGHLIGHTED IN #NHLSTATS: LIVE UPDATES

Jason Robertson pushed his goal streak to five games and passed **Steve Payne** (4 GP in 1981) for the longest postseason-opening run in Stars/North Stars history, while also tying Payne (5 GP in 1981) and **Milan Marcetta** (5 GP in 1968) for the longest goal streak at any point in a playoff year by a Stars/North Stars skater. Find more notes on Tuesday's slate in #NHLStats: Live Updates.



NHL ERASES $1.25 MILLION OF DEBT FOR U.S. VETERANS

The NHL today announced it is erasing $1.25 million of debt for U.S. veterans in partnership with ForgiveCo, which will help 1,025 veterans and their families. Stars forward **Jason Robertson** hosted **Specialist Cesar Gonzalez** – who is one of the recipients of this debt relief initiative – at Game 5 of the 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs as part of his 'JR Heroes' military appreciation initiative. Of the $1.25 million of debt being erased, $250,000 is directly supporting veterans in Dallas, Texas.



QUICK CLICKS

* **Commissioner Bettman** Statement on the Passing of **John Garrett**
* **Victor Hedman** practices with Lightning, still no timeline for return
* Buffalo fans sing ‘O Canada’ after microphone mishap
* 1.9M viewers watched Game 4 between the Lightning and Canadiens on ESPN
* TNT Generating its Most Watched Stanley Cup Playoffs on Record, Viewership Up 67% vs. 2025



WEDNESDAY HAS PENGUINS LOOKING TO FORCE GAME 7, PAIR OF PIVOTAL GAMES 5s

Today's schedule features Pittsburgh aiming to force the first Game 7 of the 2026 Stanley Cup Playoffs as well as critical contests in Tampa and Las Vegas with a 3-2 series lead up for grabs. Wednesday marks the 37-year anniversary of the only Game 7 between the Penguins and Flyers as Pittsburgh hopes to force a second one for Saturday.



* **Sidney Crosby** and **Kris Letang** have spearheaded the Penguins' rally as they look to join rare company by forcing a Game 7 after facing a 3-0 series deficit, with Crosby collecting consecutive multi-point performances and Letang logging back-to-back winning goals. Philadelphia has been on either side of a 3-0 comeback attempt that required a Game 7 and earned a series win in each instance.



* **Brandon Hagel** can surpass **Steven Stamkos** (4 GP in 2024) and **Vincent Lecavalier** (4 GP in 2007) for the longest postseason-opening goal streak in franchise history, while **Nick Suzuki** seeks his

first marker but has tallied three times in Game 5s including both of his playoff winners (2021 & 2020 R1). Tampa Bay and Montreal have been tied or separated by one goal for 98% of the series (250:42 of 256:19).



* **Shea Theodore** and the Golden Knights shift back to T-Mobile Arena, where **Logan Cooley** collected a goal in each of the series' first two contests. Theodore played the role of overtime hero in Game 4 and accounts for one of seven winners by defensemen this postseason, which are five back of the most during a single playoff round in NHL history (12 in 1994 CQF & 1992 DSF).


STANLEY CUP PLAYOFFS 2026
COOLEY CAN JOIN MORE RARE COMPANY
Logan Cooley can become the fourth player with a goal in each of an NHL franchise's first three road playoff games, following Anton Stastny (4 GP w/ 1981 QUE), Daniel Alfredsson (3 GP w/ 1997 OTT) and Jimmy Herberts (3 GP w/ 1927 BOS).
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