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your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- Like their namesake mascot, the Florida Panthers are a rare breed. The Panthers are physical and feisty. Skilled and speedy. As likely to outscore as outhit an opponent -- perhaps in the same
game. Florida can be an all-around overachiever. The team has top-tier talent -- on both sides of the puck -- with a killer instinct. It's an enviable combination, one the Panthers were an afterthought -- a warm-weather
novelty. But over time, Florida rewrote the narrative and grew into a team with powerhouse potential. But there was still something missing: those key ingredients to take the Panthers from one-and-done playoff runs to perennial Stanley Cup contenders. It didn't happen overnight. The changes were deliberate and calculated. And what has come out of
them is the Florida bruisers we see now, entrenched in a second consecutive Eastern Conference finals bout, with an eye on making another Cup Final appearance -- if they can vanquish the New York Rangers, who currently lead their best-of-seven 2-1. This is the first time Florida has trailed in a postseason series this spring, after vanquishing the
Tampa Bay Lightning and Boston Bruins in five and six games, respectively. And they had a specific rhythm in those matchups: frustrating, free-flowing and full of finesse. Florida is annoyingly incapable of being rattled. That's the Bad Boy Panthers at their best. It has worked to this stage. Channeling that same energy likely is the formula to get
Florida back on the right side of its battle with the Rangers.STANLEY CUP WINNERS aren't built in a day. Neither was this version of the Panthers had compiled a 122-point regular season to earn the Presidents' Trophy as the club
with the best regular-season record. They were supposed to be Cup contenders. Instead, they'd been swept out of a second-round series by their in-state rival (and recent two-time Cup champion) Tampa Bay Lightning. That ending hit Florida hard. The Panthers' lineup was filled with talented skaters, led by Jonathan Huberdeau and his 115-point for the panthers' lineup was filled with talented skaters.
campaign in the 2021-22 regular season, meant to carry them to a proverbial next level. Huberdeau went dead-quiet in the playoffs though, producing one goal and five points in 10 games -- and adding just two helpers against the Lightning. Florida seemed to be spinning its wheels. Despite earning regular-season success, the Panthers hadn't
advanced past the second round in a playoff series since losing in the 1996 Stanley Cup Final. Heck, the Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers wonderful 2021-22 campaign ended unceremoniously via a second-round in a playoff series since losing in the 1996 Stanley Cup Final. Heck, the Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total since that defeat. The Panthers had made only six postseason appearances total six postseason appearance to the panthers had made only six postseason appearance to the panthers had made only six postseason appearance to the panthers had made only six postseason appearance to the panthers had made only six postseason appearance to the panthers had made only six postseason appearance to the panthers had made only six postseason appearance to the panthers had made only six postseason appearance to the panthers had made only six postseason appearance to the panthers had been panthers h
went with something seismic. It was late July 2022, nearly two months to the day since Florida's playoff loss. The Panthers had already parted ways with interim head coach Andrew Brunette and brought in veteran bench boss Paul Maurice. Change was underway. And then came the believe-it-or-not headline: Huberdeau -- along with defenseman
MacKenzie Weegar -- had been traded by Florida to Calgary for Matthew Tkachuk, who was also signed to an eight-year extension worth $9.5 million per season. The Panthers moving on from Huberdeau was unexpected, but entirely intriguing. It's not often a team trades its silky-smooth leading scorer after the most productive campaign of his career,
and even less common to target a "pest" like Tkachuk in return. But Tkachuk was more than just the Flames' agitating playmaker; he was also coming off a career-best season with 42 goals and 102 points. The swap signaled Florida was ready for a redo, taking its first step toward crafting an identity that, once defined and embraced, could propel the
Panthers farther than they'd been in 25 years. THERE'S SOMETHING ASPIRATIONAL about how Florida plays the game. Something special. Boston Bruins forward James van Riemsdyk saw it firsthand in the Bruins' second-round playoff series, when the Panthers sent Boston packing for the second year in a row. Florida managed to out-Bruin the
Bruins with snarl, sass and skill. The gut punch proved fatal for Boston's postseason hopes, a harsh reality for van Riemsdyk to revisit while also respecting how the Panthers put up such a fight. "They have a lot of good players, but there's that certain extra level of ... I don't know if nastiness is the right word, but just that competitive sort of spirit,"
van Riemsdyk said. "A lot of those guys have that as one of their top attributes, that sort of in-your-face style that they play. They're a physical team and can be an agitating team because of being in your face and under your skin. That, combined with all the skill and the skating levels and hockey sense these guys have, it's the key combination with
their group. "That wasn't always Florida's calling card. The trade for Tkachuk seemed to let the Panthers pivot. Not that their results were seamless immediately. There are just two teams left vying for the Stanley Cup. Check out our coverage, with TV times, the latest news, results and more. Playoff Central Subscribe to ESPN+ Stream the NHL on
ESPNFlorida started poorly in Tkachuk's first season. At the 2023 All-Star break, the Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from there though to reach the postseason as the Eastern Conference's final seed. The Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from there though to reach the postseason as the Eastern Conference's final seed. The Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from there though to reach the postseason as the Eastern Conference's final seed. The Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from the Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from the Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from the Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from the Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from the Panthers took that designation personally. Florida clawed its way out of the Atlantic Division dregs from the Panthers took the Panthers took that designation personal person
Presidents' Trophy-winning Bruins in their first-round series, breezed past the Toronto Maple Leafs in the second round, swept the Carolina Hurricanes in the vegas Golden Knights in a disheartening Cup Final loss. That experience set the table for Florida's next chapter. The Panthers were more
"big dog" than underdog in 2023-24, finishing atop the Atlantic standings with a 110-point effort. Tkachuk was Florida's second-leading scorer (with 26 goals and 88 points in 80 games) to go with the team's third-most penalty minutes (88). The only Panthers regular ahead of Tkachuk in that category? Sam Bennett. He and Tkachuk are cut from the
same cloth: Bennett contributed 20 goals and 41 points, while Bennett has three goals and six points. Overall, Florida has also doled out the most hits (632) and collected the most penalty minutes
(191). Yet here they are standing strong with an opportunity to make repeat Cup Final visits. If the Panthers' particular brand of circus needs its ringleaders, then Tkachuk and Bennett fit the bill. "[Bennett] plays a style that is maybe the prototypical Florida Panther identity," Maurice said. "The way we like to play, he embodies that. And then there's
what it does for the rest of the lineup. "Maurice's assessment rings true. Just ask the guys who play against Bennett and Tkachuk at this most critical, heightened time of year. "It's that unicorn type of player that can be comfortable playing those multiple styles," van Riemsdyk said. "A bunch of guys on their team would qualify to be put in the category
like that. You point to a guy like Matthew Tkachuk. He's only been there for now, what, two seasons? And they've had a great deal of playoff games, won a lot of playoff games, won a lot of playoff games, but
they're also guys who can play and do it all. And those guys are built for that playoff style. It's hard to play against and what makes them so successful [as a team]. "Sam Bennett is willing and able to get to the tough areas of the Panthers
first-round series against Tampa Bay. He was unavailable until Game 3 against Boston, and Maurice noted prior to the Eastern Conference finals how Tkachuk. "We lost Sam Bennett ... and that's when not only did
[Tkachuk] step up [playing] with Anton Lundell, but he was also leading the [team]. "Maurice said Tkachuk has grown into a leadership role, notably since the start of the season." He was more disciplined; he's matured with this group over two years, "Maurice said." I would never bet against him coming up with some heroics, but it's certainly not the
only thing we have to expect from him now."Florida has followed Tkachuk's lead. The Panthers aren't concerned with propriety or being well-liked; they've learned how to toe the line while staying on the right side of NHL law, even if the opposition doesn't always agree with the calls -- or lack thereof. That was on display in the Boston series when
Bennett -- in his Game 3 return -- smashed into Brad Marchand and caused an upper-body injury that held Marchand out until Game 6. There was no penalty on the play, and Marchand said he thought Bennett "got away with a shot" on the interaction. Bennett drew the Bruins' ire again in Game 4 when he shoved Charlie Coyle into goaltender Jeremy
Swayman and then scored a power-play goal that tied the game for Florida (and the Panthers went on to win, 3-2). If Florida has a certain swagger, it's coming from the bad boy personas who aren't concerned about reputation, only setting the tone. It's no coincidence Brandon Montour was also mixing it up with Marchand in that series via a
memorable licking motion. Or that Dmitry Kulikov was spotted in a heavily memed "dance" with Bruins forward Justin Brazeau in Game 2, when Florida and Boston racked up a total of 148 penalty minutes and 146 hits. That's just another day at the office for these Panthers. "Their team really feeds off of that, when they get guys that drag other guys
on the team into that type of [physical] game," van Riemsdyk said. "I think they do a good job of sticking together within that, and everyone starts to play that style where it's very much hit-or-be-hit. Even guys who have played a long time in the league, who are there for their first year or two, that stuff rubs off on them too. And obviously the last
couple of years they've been successful in the playoffs by sticking to that formula."FLORIDA DIDN'T FIND its secret sauce by accident. There was a method to the madness, a process of trial and error bleeding into their eventual emergence from one season to the next as, ideally, a team better suited to achieving the ultimate success."The word that
popped in my head is last year was a wilder group, and I mean that on the ice," Maurice said. "It was so much energy. We still have it. But I guess the better way to describe this group is they're a more focused group; they're not quite as much. Because they're like, 'Get on with it. Get to the important
stuff.'"They're very focused on hockey, and that was true right through [the season]. A little more serious. Last year's team needed to be a little wilder or a little bit more on edge. But this team is deeper and is far more disciplined on the ice than last year's team."The 2024 NHL draft will take place June 28-29 in Las Vegas. Get caught up on everything
you need to know about the top prospects with draft preview content from Rachel Doerrie: Latest mock draft Draft prospect rankings Draft order More NHL coverageGustav Forsling would agree. The Panthers defenseman has been sensational in the postseason, collecting three goals and nine points in 14 games while averaging over 23 minutes per
game. He had a critical goal for the Panthers in Game 3 against the Rangers, sending a tying marker past Igor Shesterkin in the extra frame when Alex Wennberg beat Sergei Bobrovsky with the game winner. That put the Panthers behind in a series for the first time in these playoffs. Getting back
on track means challenging Shesterkin more in front of the net -- without getting in penalty trouble. Forsling is confident Florida's evolution will allow them to execute with the right side of it compared to last year," Forsling said. "I
think it punished us a little bit last year, took a few too many penalties, but this year we've been [better] with that. "Gustav Forsling, left, has broken out this postseason, including making the game-tying goal in Game 3. Eliot J. Schechter/NHLI via Getty ImagesThe Panthers have also been able to keep the postseason swings in perspective. Outside
criticism doesn't affect the team's confidence. There's little chance any internal doubt will seep in or push Florida away from what they know offers an edge. "We're prepared to make this a hard series for seven games," Bennett said. "That was our mindset right from the beginning. It's a fine line in the playoffs. You're trying to be as physical as
possible, but there's a line, and you're trying your best not to cross that line and toe [it] for the whole series. I think we've done a pretty good job with that. But we can always improve on that, as well."What made Florida's loss in Game 3 so frustrating was that they put on a dominant performance. The Panthers outshot New York 37-23, held a 108-43
advantage in shot attempts and came back from a 4-2 deficit in the third. In many ways, Florida did everything right. But the outcome was wrong, so the Panthers were back the next day asking questions on how to improve -- with answers easily accessible based on how they've prevailed in the postseason so far. "Sometimes you're just looking for a
certain attitude," Maurice said. "Where can we get better? Where can we
what we're doing."Even the best plan can't guarantee success, though. The Rangers are a formidable, impressive and dynamic opponent capable of overcoming their own flaws and finding success on the toughest nights. The Panthers' urgency must absolutely be on display from puck drop for Game 4 on Tuesday. Heading back to New York with a split
is what matters. Florida just needs the right road map to get there. "Definitely [a tough team] when they play to their strengths within the way that they're built," van Riemsdyk said. "They have some high-end players at a lot of the key positions, and they have a lot of depth. We see a lot of different guys contributing for them. That's why it seems like
they're definitely a team that's built for the playoff-style game." The New York Rangers spoke at length about delivering their "best game" to avoid elimination in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference finals. The Florida Panthers let their on-ice play do the talking. The Panthers weathered an early push by the Rangers in Game 6, and dominated from
there, winning the pivotal clash 2-1. Florida took advantage of New York's lapses and never gave its opponent an inch. It has been the Panthers' hallmark in this series to control the third period, and they did so again by hemming the Rangers in their own end and preventing New York from establishing any offensive zone time. It was a textbook
Panthers victory, complete with depth scoring (welcome to the series, Vladimir Tarasenko), strong defense and solid goaltending. Now Florida is off to its second consecutive Stanley Cup Final -- with timely scoring It's not like Florida's best
players aren't driving its offense -- they certainly are. Carter Verhaeghe has nine goals, Sam Reinhart has eight, Matthew Tkachuk has 19 points and Aleksander Barkov has collected 17 points. Those skaters are expected to be great. But what's setting Florida up so well in the postseason are the well-timed contributions they're getting from depth
skaters -- Tarasenko's goal in Game 6 against the Rangers, Anton Lundell's game-winning goal in Game 3 at Boston and Steven Lorentz's game winner in Game 3 against Tampa Bay. It would be easy to look at Florida's overall totals
and think the Panthers are reliant on their stars. But Florida has some sneaky-good contributors who have made the most of their moments to have an impact as surprise saviors in their own right. The Panthers have had 14 different goal scorers throughout the playoffs. Every line uses its defined role to its advantage. Florida can't be put in any one
box, and that can make the Panthers a nightmare matchup in ways they perhaps were not during last year's Cup run. Florida's defense is dialed in The Panthers have been so dynamic putting up points that their defensive efforts might have been overlooked. Florida is tied with Edmonton for allowing the second-fewest shots (24.5 per game) in the
Panarin didn't score until Game 6 and Vincent Trocheck lit the lamp only twice. Florida's success defensively is nothing new -- the Panthers allowed the fewest expected goals per game in the playoffs, too. There's a clear buy-in from Florida as a five-
man unit on the ice to focus on defensive habits first and translate it to offense. That has been a critical part of how the Panthers can grind another team down -- and then pounce. Florida has given up multiple power-play goals exactly once in the playoffs. It was back in Game 4 of its first-round series against Tampa Bay, when Florida suffered its only
loss to the Lightning. There are just two teams left vying for the Stanley Cup. Check out our coverage, with TV times, the latest news, results and more. Playoff Central Subscribe to ESPN+ Stream the NHL on ESPNSince then, the Panthers have given up two power-play goals -- total. Boston got one. New York got one. And that's it. Through the past
two rounds, Florida is operating at a gaudy 93.3% penalty-killing rate, and it has been an undeniable feather in the Panthers are a physical team and that manifests in how they challenge an opponent's man advantage. Florida is aggressive and
smothering at turning skaters back at the blue line, and making them work for open ice. Discouragement sets in on the other side. The Panthers have drawn a line that says: if you're going to beat us, it'll be at even strength. And that's an advantage all to itself. Florida knows how to close New York saw firsthand in the conference finals how the
Panthers can tilt the ice in their favor late in games to send an opponent packing. Florida has scored 23 third-period goals in this postseason, with a league-leading plus-13 goal differential in that frame (the Panthers, for example, outscored New York in the third, 7-3, during the conference finals). They've won four games (most of any playoff team)
when trailing after the first period. And Florida has already won six one-goals games en route to another Cup Final. The Panthers possess a killer instinct that every comer they've faced (thus far) has been hard-pressed to match. It goes back to Florida's all-around confidence in its identity, system and structure. There's an ingrained belief that when
the Panthers stick to that -- whatever the score -- it will, more often than not, lead to a good result. It has many times already. How the Panthers match up with the Oilers have been on long postseason runs. They're remarkably similar. There are the deadly top-line skaters who can single-handedly shift the
trajectory of a period (or entire game). Both teams have excellent depth up front and on the back end. Edmonton is right there with Florida excelling in one-goal games (the Oilers have six in the playoffs) and a strong power play (34.7% to Florida's 23.7%).
Cup Final between them could come down to goaltending. Sergei Bobrovsky has been consistently good enough, and occasionally spectacular, for Florida. Stuart Skinner looks revitalized lately after a tough start to the playoffs. One of this potential series' netminders could wind up being its biggest X factor. Click on the Season for league statistics,
leaders, and standings. Most statistics are per team, per game averages. Save Percentage does not include empty-net goals, and may be different than league-wide average seen elsewhere. League Averages Table Rk Season Lg GP G PP PPO PP% PK% SA SV SV% GAA 12024-25NHL13123.010.592.7121.6478.3628.125.3.9002.8122023-
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Follow NHL live scores, results, fixtures, NHL standings, team pages (e.g. Pittsburgh Penguins, New York Rangers) and player statistics (e.g. Sidney Crosby, Connor McDavid)! Show more DALLAS -- Leon Draisaitl is a Ryan Nugent-Hopkins fan. "He's so valuable, right? In every facet of the game. He touches every part of it," the Edmonton Oilers star
said of his longtime teammate. "Have you guys ever seen him make a mistake? I really haven't. "Nugent-Hopkins rejected his alleged infallibility." I make mistakes. I make mista
Hopkins was "a coach's favorite hockey player in the World," the Oilers' current coach agreed that there are times when the Edmonton forward is in fact his favorite player in the world. Like after Game 5 of the Western Conference finals, when Nugent-Hopkins scored two power-play goals to reenergize that struggling unit, hand all the momentum to
the Oilers and spark them to a victory over the Dallas Stars that put them ahead 3-2 in the series." I actually saw Ryan after the game and I told him that, tonight, he's my favorite, "the coach said. "Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too." Edmonton goalie Stuart Skinner has always been a Ryan Nugent-Hopkins fan -- in the "collecting the coach said." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goalie Stuart Skinner has always been a Ryan Nugent-Hopkins fan -- in the "collecting the coach said." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goalie Stuart Skinner has always been a Ryan Nugent-Hopkins fan -- in the "collecting the coach said." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goalie Stuart Skinner has always been a Ryan Nugent-Hopkins fan -- in the "collecting the coach said." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goalie Stuart Skinner has always been a Ryan Nugent-Hopkins fan -- in the "collecting the coach said." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals. Played a really big part on the penalty kill, too. "Edmonton goals." Two goals
his hockey cards, poster on the bedroom wall" sense. The "Nuge" was his favorite player growing up as a fan, before they became Oilers teammates in 2021. "That is a little bit embarrassing [to admit] with him sitting right beside me," Skinner, 25, joked as he and the 31-year-old Nugent-Hopkins chatted with the media after Game 5. "I truly believe he's
one of the best two-way players in the league. It's pretty remarkable what this guy does, his work ethic day in and day out," Skinner said. "But I'm more impressed with the type of person that he is when he is off the ice. He was my favorite player growing up, and being able to play with him, I've learned a lot. There's a lot more to him than just hockey,
and that's been one of the coolest things: to just become great friends with this guy. "Nugent-Hopkins has a lot of fans rooting for him. He's the longest-serving Oilers player -- 881 career games over 13 seasons -- on a team that's now one win away from reaching the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 2006. He's the connective tissue from the
Oilers' era of unfulfilled potential to the reign of Connor McDavid and Draisaitl, who are determined to fulfill their potential as champions. If they do, Nugent-Hopkins should be one of the first teammates who is handed the Stanley Cup in celebration. He has meant that much to the Oilers. "I think he's the heartbeat of our team. He's the one that shows
the culture," defenseman Mattias Ekholm said. "And he's been here for long time." THE MUSTACHE is trying. It sits on the upper lip of Nugent-Hopkins, attempting to age up a face that still resembles the one on stage at the 2011 draft, when he was selected with the first pick. His 13 challenging seasons in the NHL haven't weathered him in body or in
spirit. The first time Nugent-Hopkins put on an Edmonton Oilers jersey was at the Xcel Energy Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The Devils won the league's worst record (62 points). Nugent-Hopkins was a playmaking center with the Red Deer Rebels of
the Western Hockey League. He was the consensus top pick, but scouts also liked how fellow prospects like defenseman Adam Larsson and forward Gabriel Landeskog projected as NHL players. On draft day, the Oilers called his name, and the young center was happy that they did. There are just two teams left vying for the Stanley Cup. Check out our
coverage, with TV times, the latest news, results and more. Playoff Central Subscribe to ESPN+ Stream the NHL on ESPN"It's a big honor. I know all the great players who have come through Edmonton," he said. "Just getting to join a franchise like that is a really good feeling." Before he was drafted, Nugent-Hopkins visited Edmonton and saw
photographs that chronicled all of the Oilers' previous championship teams, his eyes scanning the faces of over a half-dozen Hall of Famers. He was drafted to join a collection of young players that many felt had the potential to bring Edmonton its first championship since the end of that dynasty. When Nugent-Hopkins was drafted, the Oilers hadn't
made the playoffs since 2006. That lack of success gave Edmonton an unprecedented run of top-10 picks: By the time the Oilers drafted defenseman Phillip Broberg at No. 8 in 2019, they had selected 11 players in the first 10 picks of the draft over a span of 13 seasons. Nugent-Hopkins was the second consecutive top pick for Edmonton, which picked
winger Taylor Hall No. 1 in 2010. He arrived in Edmonton with Sam Gagner (6th, 2007), Jordan Eberle (22nd, 2008), Magnus Paajarvi (10th, 2009) and Hall already in place; the next two drafts would yield Nail Yakupov, the Oilers' third straight No. 1 pick, and Darnell Nurse (No. 7, 2013). Nugent-Hopkins first put on an Oilers sweater on stage at the
2011 draft, and has never worn another NHL team's uniform during his pro career. Dave Sandford/NHLI via Getty ImagesThen the game changed. Draisaitl was drafted third in 2014, followed by McDavid at No. 1 in 2015. Their arrival signaled a shift in strategy: The Oilers were not going to be married to their previous high draft choices if they
weren't developing into NHL stars or if they could bring back players to build around their generational talent, McDavid, through trades. Hall was traded to New Jersey in a one-for-one deal for defenseman Adam Larsson in 2016. Eberle was shipped to the New
York Islanders in 2017 in a deal for Ryan Strome. Paajarvi was dealt well before that in a trade for David Perron in 2013, while Gagner was traded to the Lightning in 2014. Nugent-Hopkins felt those winds of change, too. Sportsnet reported in 2016 that the Oilers offered him to the Nashville Predators in a deal to land defenseman Seth Jones, who was
eventually traded to Columbus. A search for "Ryan Nugent-Hopkins" and "trade bait" reveals the speculation was an annual rite. Sportsnet referred to him as "expendable" in light of the Oilers' depth at center. His contract -- $6 million average annual value, locked up for his prime years -- was cap-friendly, but his offensive production wasn't quite
where many expected it could be after several seasons in the league. From 2011 to '18, there were 70 players who amassed more points than Nugent-Hopkins. The 2024 NHL draft will take place June 28-29 in Las Vegas. Get caught up on everything you need to know about the top prospects with draft preview content from Rachel Doerrie: Latest
mock draft Draft prospect rankings Draft order More NHL coverageIn the first eight seasons of his career, the Oilers made the playoffs just once. Those weren't fun times for him. "Your early years, especially when you're coming from junior where you had some success, it can be frustrating, for sure, to be missing the playoffs year in and year out,"
Nugent-Hopkins said. True to form, he pulled some positives out of the negative. "At the same time, you get extra time to work on your game in the summer. As a young kid, there's lots to grow into physically and mentally," he noted. "Just kind of mature. To figure out how you're going to be a good player in this league. "But it also makes you hungry to
make the most of these opportunities. You understand that it's not that easy to make the playoffs. Then when you get a chance, you've got to be hungry for it. "Nugent-Hopkins wanted it in Edmonton. He followed a seven-year contract with an eight-year deal that he signed in June 2021. He was committed. The
Oilers were soon rewarded for their trust in Nugent-Hopkins.IN THE NHL, there are star offensive players who help run a power play and strong defensive players who are keys to a penalty kill. Rarer are the players who help run a power play and strong defensive players who are keys to a penalty kill. Rarer are the players who help run a power play and strong defensive players who are keys to a penalty kill. Rarer are the players who are keys to a penalty kill. Rarer are the players who are keys to a penalty kill.
when he joined the Oilers in 2021."He touches all aspects of the game. Power play, penalty kill, plays tons at even strength. He's out in the last minute of the game, whether you're up or down," he said. "On the ice, he just does it all for us."That's a point of pride for Nugent-Hopkins. Intangibles that used to seem expendable on less successful teams
are now seen as invaluable on a Cup contender: his two-way game and all the little things he does for the Oilers. "It's sometimes the power play
can make the difference. Sometimes the PK can make the difference. And sometimes it's 5-on-5. I want to keep improving on both sides of it and see where we can get. "His offense started to tick up as McDavid and Draisaitl became more dominant. But the 2022-23 season was like nothing anyone expected from Nugent-Hopkins: 104 points, fueled by
53 points on the Oilers' incredible power play. He scored 37 goals that season, obliterating his previous career high. "He's a big part of the power play work." It worked in Game 5 of the conference finals. The Oilers' power play was 0-
for-6 in the series heading into Friday night. But Nugent-Hopkins scored late in the first period, backhanding the puck past Jake Oettinger after an Evan Bouchard point blast, and then scored again on the power play 1:06 into the second period on a snap shot from the slot."If you're going to draw a road game, that's pretty much what you want to do,
right?" Stars coach Pete DeBoer said. "They want to come out, get two power-play goals early in the game, get the lead and then defend well all night. So it's tough to crack through."The Stars were 0-for-2 on their power plays, and 0-for-11 in the series. Nugent-Hopkins has played a major role in that, leading all Oilers forwards in short-handed ice
time (9:46) against Dallas. The way Nugent-Hopkins plays epitomizes how the Oilers have been able to keep the Stars in check: smart hockey, nothing too flashy and with minimal mistakes. "It starts with getting through the neutral zone, not turning pucks over and not giving them anything easy coming back at us," Nugent-Hopkins said. "Sometimes
you got to live to fight another day. You don't need to be too aggressive."Nugent-Hopkins has impacted the series against Dallas in myriad ways, including a pair of goals in Game 5.Glenn James/NHLI via Getty ImagesNugent-Hopkins has seen more days as an Edmonton Oiler than any of his teammates. Most of them were disappointing. But they're
finally getting better -- and the Oilers are now five wins away from the day Nugent-Hopkins and his many fans have been waiting to experience."This is why we play. Why we work so hard at our craft to get ourselves in these situations and to be a part of a group like this," Nugent-Hopkins said. "When you're in it, there not a lot of time to sit back and to be a part of a group like this," Nugent-Hopkins and his many fans have been waiting to experience."This is why we play.
reflect too much. But this is all you can ask for. It's going to take a lot of work, but we have an opportunity here. "Listen to the Washington Capitals no matter where you are! John Walton & co. bring Caps hockey games and analysis all hours of the day for FREE on the Tunein app at CapsRadio247.com. FLA vs. EDM Conference Finals FLA vs. CAR |
EDM vs. DAL Round 2 FLA vs. TOR | CAR vs. WFG | EDM vs. VGK Round 1 OTT vs. TOR | EDM vs. VGK Round 1 OTT vs. TOR | EDM vs. USH | NJD vs. CAR STL vs. WFG | EDM vs. VGK Round 1 OTT vs. TOR | EDM vs. VGK Round 1 OTT vs. TOR | EDM vs. VGK | ED
nationale de hockeyCurrent season, competition or edition: 2025 Stanley Cup playoffsSportIce hockeyFoundedNovember26, 1917(107 years ago)(1917-11-26), Montreal, Quebec, Canada[1]First season191718CommissionerGary BettmanNo. of teams32CountriesCanada (7 teams)United States (25 teams)HeadquartersOne Manhattan West395 Ninth
AvenueNew York City, New York, U.S.ContinentNorth AmericaMost recentchampion(s)Florida Panthers(1st title) (202324)Most titlesMontreal Canadiens(25 titles)[nb 1]Broadcaster(s)Canada:Sportsnet+Amazon Prime
VideoUnited States:ESPN+/Hulu[3]Max[4]Official websitewww.nhl.com The National Hockey League (NHL; French: Ligue nationale de hockey [li nsjnal d k], LNH) is a professional ice hockey league in North America composed of 32 teams 25 in the United
States and Canada and is considered the premier professional ice hockey league in the world. [5] The Stanley Cup, the oldest professional sports trophy in North America, [6] is awarded annually to the league playoff champion at the end of each season. The International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) views the Stanley Cup as one of the "most
important championships available to the sport".[7] The NHL is headquartered in Midtown Manhattan. The National Hockey League was organized at the Windsor Hotel in Montreal on November 26, 1917, after the suspension of operations of its predecessor organization, the National Hockey Association (NHA), which had been founded in 1909 at
Renfrew, Ontario.[8] The NHL immediately took the NHA's place as one of the leagues that contested for the Stanley Cup in an annual interleague competition before a series of league mergers and foldings left the NHL as the only league competition before a series of league mergers and foldings left the NHL had four teams, all in Canada, thus the adjective
 "National" in the league's name. The league expanded to the United States in 1924, when the Boston Bruins joined, and has since consisted of both American and Canadian teams. From 1942 to 1967, the NHL had only six teams, collectively nicknamed the "Original Six". The league expanded six new teams to double its size as a result of the 1967 NHL
expansion, then increased to 18 teams by 1974, and to 21 teams due to the 1979 NHL expansion. Between 1991 and 2000, the NHL further expanded to 30 teams. It added its 31st and 32nd teams by 1974, and to 21 teams due to the Arizona Coyotes, which
were deactivated, and established the Utah Hockey Club (now the Utah Mammoth), thus maintaining the total number of teams at 32. The NHL is the fifth-highest grossing professional sports league in the world by revenue, after the National Football League (NFL), Major League Baseball (MLB), the National Basketball Association (NBA), and the
Premier League.[9] The league's headquarters have been in Manhattan since 1989, when the head office moved from Montreal.[10] There have been four league's regular season is typically held
from October to April, with each team playing 82 games. Following the conclusion of the regular season, 16 teams advance to the league champion. Since the league champion. Since the league champion that runs into June to determine the regular season, 16 teams advance to the Stanley Cup playoffs, a four-round tournament that runs into June to determine the league champion.
championship series before the league took full exclusivity of the Stanley Cup in 1926, and 22 Stanley Cup Finals. Part of a series on the History of the NHLNational Hockey League Founding (19171942) Original Six
era (19421967) Expansion era (19671992) Further expansion (19922017) Second century (2017 present) Ice hockey League (NHL) was established in 1917 as the successor to the National Hockey Association (NHA). Founded in 1909, the NHA began play in 1910 with
seven teams in Ontario and Quebec, and was one of the first major leagues in professional ice hockey. However, by its eighth season, a series of disputes with Toronto Blueshirts owner Eddie Livingstone led team owners of the Montreal Wanderers, the Ottawa Senators, and the Quebec Bulldogs to hold a meeting to discuss
the league's future.[13] Realizing the NHA constitution left them unable to force Livingstone out, the four teams voted instead to suspend the NHL's first president, serving until his death in 1943.[14]The Bulldogs were unable to play in the NHL,
 and the remaining owners founded the Toronto Arenas to compete with the Canadiens, Wanderers and Senators.[15] The first games were played on December 19, 1917.[16] The Montreal Arena burned down in January 1918, causing the Wanderers to cease operations,[17] and the NHL continued on as a three-team league until the Bulldogs returned
in 1919.[18]The Stanley Cup in 1930, several years after it became the de facto championship trophy for the NHL replaced the NHL replaced the NHL title, and then defeated the Vancouver Millionaires of the Pacific Coast Hockey
Association (PCHA) for the 1918 Stanley Cup.[19] The Canadiens won the league title in 1919, but the series in the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won their first Stanley Cup Finals against the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won their first Stanley Cup Finals against the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won their first Stanley Cup Finals against the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won their first Stanley Cup Finals against the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won their first Stanley Cup Finals against the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won their first Stanley Cup Finals against the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the Spanish Flu epidemic.[20] In 1924, Montreal won the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned due to the PCHA's Seattle Metropolitans was abandoned du
title in 192425, but refused to play in the championship series unless they were given a C$200 bonus.[22] The league refused and declared the Canadiens the league refused and declared the Canadiens the league refused and declared the Toronto St. Patricks (formerly the Arenas) in the two-game, total-goals NHL championship series. Montreal was then defeated by the Victoria Cougars
of the Western Canada Hockey League (WCHL) in 1925. It was the last time a non-NHL team won the trophy, [23] as the Stanley Cup became the defacto NHL championship in 1926, after the WCHL in 1926, after the WCHL ceased operation. [24] The NHL embarked on a rapid expansion in the 1920s, adding the Montreal Maroons and the Boston Bruins in 1924, the latter
being the first American team to join the league. [25] The New York Americans began play in 1925 after purchasing the assets of the Hamilton Tigers, and they were joined by the Pittsburgh Pirates. [26] The New York Americans began play in 1925 after purchasing the assets of the Hamilton Tigers, and they were joined by the Pittsburgh Pirates. [26] The New York Americans began play in 1925 after purchasing the assets of the Hamilton Tigers, and they were joined by the Pittsburgh Pirates.
Red Wings) were added after the league purchased the assets of the defunct WCHL.[28] A group purchased the Toronto St. Patricks in 1927 and renamed them the Toronto Maple Leafs.[29]In 1926, Native American Taffy Abel became the first non-white player in the NHL and broke the league's colour barrier by playing for the New York Rangers.
[30]In 1934, the first NHL All-Star Game was held, to benefit Ace Bailey, whose career ended on a vicious hit by Eddie Shore.[31] The second was held in 1937, in support of Howie Morenz's family when he died of a coronary embolism after breaking his leg during a game.[32]Main article: Original SixThe Great Depression and the onset of World War
II took a toll on the league. The Pirates became the Philadelphia Quakers in 1930, then folded a year later. The Senators likewise became the St. Louis Eagles in 1934, also lasting only a year.[33] The Maroons did not survive, as they suspended operations in 1938.[34] The Americans were suspended in 1942 due to a lack of available players, and they
were never reactivated.[35]A game between the Montreal Canadiens and the New York Rangers in 1962For the 194243 season, the NHL was reduced to six teams: the Boston Bruins, the Montreal Canadiens and the Toronto Maple Leafs, a line-up, often referred to as the
"Original Six", that would remain constant for the next 25 years. In 1947, the league reached an agreement with the Stanley Cup trustees to take full control of the trophy, allowing it to reject challenges from other leagues that wished to play for the Cup.[36]In 1945, Maurice "Rocket" Richard became the first player to score 50 goals, doing so in a 50-
game season.[37] Richard later led the Canadiens to five consecutive titles between 1956 and 1960, a record no team has matched.[38]In 1948, Asian Canadian Larry Kwong became the first black player in the NHL by playing for the N
his debut with the Boston Bruins. [41] By the mid-1960s, the desire for a network television contract in the United States, coupled with concerns that the Western Hockey League was planning to declare itself a major league doubled in size
to 12 teams for the 196768 season, adding the Los Angeles Kings, the Minnesota North Stars, the Philadelphia Flyers, the 
1970, along with the Buffalo Sabres, both located along the CanadaUnited States border. [43] Two years later, the emergence of the newly founded World Hockey Association (WHA) led the league out of those markets. In 1974, the Washington Capitals and the Kansas City
Scouts were added, bringing the league up to 18 teams.[44]NHL logo used from 1946 until 2005The NHL fought the WHA for players, losing 67 to the new league in its first season of 197273,[45] including the Chicago Black Hawks' Bobby Hull, who signed a 10-year, $2.5 million contract with the Winnipeg Jets, then the largest in hockey history. The
league attempted to block the defections in court, but a counter-suit by the WHA led to a Philadelphia judge ruling the NHL's reserve clause to be illegal, thus eliminating the elder league's monopoly over the players. [46] Wayne Gretzky played one season in the WHA for the Indianapolis Racers (eight games) and the Edmonton Oilers (72 games)
before the Oilers joined the NHL for the 197980 season. [47] Gretzky went on to lead the Oilers to win four Stanley Cup championships in 1985, and points (215 in 198586), as well as career records for goals (894), assists (1,963) and points (2,857).
[47] In 1988, he was traded to the Los Angeles Kings in a deal that dramatically improved the league's popularity in the United States. By the turn of the century, nine more teams were added to the NHL: the San Jose Sharks, the Tampa Bay Lightning, the Ottawa Senators, the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim, the Florida Panthers, the Nashville Predators,
the Atlanta Thrashers, and, in 2000, the Minnipeg Jets, and Hartford Whalers relocated to Denver, Phoenix, and Raleigh, respectively. In 2011, the Atlanta Thrashers relocated to Winnipeg, and the Winnipeg Jets were revived. On July 21,
2015, the NHL confirmed that it had received applications from prospective ownership groups in Quebec City and Las Vegas for possible expansion teams, [49] and on June 22, 2016, NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman announced the addition of a 31st franchise, based in Las Vegas and later named the Vegas Golden Knights, into the NHL for the
201718 season.[50] On December 4, 2018, the league announced a 32nd franchise in Seattle, later named the Seattle Kraken, which joined in the 202122 season.[51] On April 18, 2024, the Arizona Coyotes suspended operations and sold their hockey assets, including players and other personnel, to a new team in Salt Lake City, Utah.[52][53] Two
months after Utah's foundation, the Coyotes ceased their efforts to re-activate within the five-year window granted to do so, bringing the NHL history, all occurring after 1992. The first was an April 1992 strike by the National Hockey League Players' Association,
which lasted for ten days but was settled quickly with all affected games rescheduled. [55] The resulting collective bargaining agreement (CBA) was set for
renegotiation in 1998, and extended to September 15, 2004.[56]With no new agreement in hand when the contract expired, league commissioner Gary Bettman announced a lockout of the players union and closed the league's head office for the 200405 season.[56] The league vowed to install what it dubbed "cost certainty" for its teams, but the
Players' Association countered that the move was little more than a euphemism for a salary cap, which the union initially said it would not accept. The lockout shut down the league for 310 days, making it the longest in sports history, as the NHL became the first professional sports league to lose an entire season. [56] A new collective bargaining
agreement was eventually ratified in July 2005, including a salary cap. The agreement had a term of six years with an option of extending the collective bargaining agreement for an additional year at the end of the term, allowing the league to resume as of the 200506 season. [56]On October 5, 2005, the first post-lockout season took to the ice with all
30 teams. The NHL received record attendance in the 200506 season, with an average of 16,955 per game. [57] However, its television audience was slower to rebound due to American cable broadcaster ESPN's decision to drop its NHL coverage. [58] The league's post-lockout agreement with NBC gave the league a share of revenue from each game's
advertising sales, rather than the usual lump sum paid up front for game rights. The league again locked out the players. [59] The owners proposed reducing the players share of hockey-related revenues from 57 percent to 47
percent.[60] All games were cancelled up to January 14, 2013, along with the 2013 NHL Winter Classic and the Players' Association signed a memorandum of understanding on the new deal, allowing
teams to begin their training camps the next day, with a shortened 48-game season schedule that began on January 19.[66]Player safety has become a major issue in the NHL, with concussions can last beyond player
retirement, [67] This has significant effects on the league, as elite players have suffered from the aftereffects of concussions (such as Sidney Crosby being sidelined for approximately ten and a half months), which adversely affects the league's marketability, [68] In December 2009, Brendan Shanahan was hired to replace Colin Campbell, and was given
the role of senior vice-president of player safety. Shanahan began to hand out suspensions on high-profile perpetrators responsible for dangerous hits, such as Raffi Torres receiving 25 games for his hit on Marian Hossa.[69]To aid with removing high-speed collisions on icing, which had led to several potential career-ending injuries, such as to
Hurricanes' defenceman Joni Pitkanen, the league mandated hybrid no-touch icing for the 201314 NHL season. [70]On November 25, 2013, ten former NHL players (Gary Leeman, Rick Vaive, Brad Aitken, Darren Banks, Curt Bennett, Richie Dunn, Warren Holmes, Bob Manno, Blair Stewart, and Morris Titanic) sued the league for negligence in
protecting players from concussions. The suit came three months after the National Football League agreed to pay former players US$765million due to a player safety lawsuit.[71]From 1952 to 1955, Marguerite Norris served as president of the Detroit Red Wings, being the first female NHL executive and the first woman to have her name engraved
on the Stanley Cup. In 1992, Manon Rhaume became the first woman to play a game in any of the major professional North American sports leagues, as a goaltender for the Tampa Bay Lightning in a preseason game against the St. Louis Blues, stopping seven of nine shots.[72][73] In 2016, Dawn Braid was hired as the Arizona Coyotes' skating coach,
making her the first female full-time coach in the NHL. [74] The first female referees in the NHL were hired in a test-run during the league's preseason prospect tournaments in September 2016. [75] In 2016, the NHL hosted the 2016 Outdoor Women's Classic, an exhibition game between the Boston Pride of the National Women's Hockey League and
Les Canadiennes of the Canadian Women's Hockey League, as part of the 2016 NHL Winter Classic weekend festivities, [76] In 2019, the NHL invited four women from the US and Canadian Olympic teams to demonstrate the events in All-Star skills competition before the All-Star skills competition 
a bruised ankle, Team USA's Kendall Coyne Schofield competed in the Fastest Skater competition in his place, becoming the first woman to officially compete in the NHL to include a 3-on-3 women's game before the 2020 All-Star festivities.[77] The attention led the NHL to include a 3-on-3 women's game before the 2020 All-Star festivities.
NHL All-Star Game's Breakaway Challenge. [79] See also: National Hockey League all-time results, List of defunct and relocated National Hockey League teams, and Potential National Hockey League
expansionBruinsSabresRedWingsPanthersCanadiensSenatorsLightningMapleLeafsHurricanesBlueJacketsDevilsIslandersRangersFlyersPenguinsCapitalsBlackhawksAvalancheStarsWildPredatorsBluesMammothJetsDucksFlamesOilersKingsSharksKrakenCanucksGoldenKnightsThe National Hockey League consists of 32 teams25 based in the United
States and 7 in Canada. The teams are divided evenly between the Eastern Conference consists of the Atlantic and Metropolitan divisions, with 16 teams per conference consists of the Central and Pacific divisions. The
number of teams held constant at 30 teams from the 200001 season, when the Minnesota Wild and the Columbus Blue Jackets joined the league as expansion and relocated four teams mostly
from smaller, northern cities to larger, more southern metropolitan areas (MinneapolisSaint Paul to Dallas, Quebec City to Denver, Winnipeg to Phoenix, and Hartford to Raleigh). The league expanded for the first time in 17
years[80] to 31 teams with the addition of the Vegas Golden Knights in 2017,[50] then to 32 with the addition of the Seattle Kraken in 2021.[51][81] In April 2024, a new expansion team in Utah was created, after Alex Meruelo sold the hockey assets of the Arizona Coyotes to Ryan Smith, owner of the Utah Jazz.[52][53] Meruelo was granted until 2029
to secure an arena in Arizona in order to re-activate the team, bringing the total number of franchises once again. [54] According to Forbes, in 2024, the top five most valuable teams were four of the "Original Six" teams and the Los Angeles Kings:
[82]Toronto Maple Leafs US$3.8 billionNew York Rangers US$3.5 billionMontreal Canadiens US$3.5 billionMontreal Canadiens US$2.15 billion and 10th at US$2.125 billion.[82] In
2023, the Maple Leafs surpassed the Rangers as the most valuable NHL team, and Los Angeles overtook both Chicago and Boston, making its way into the top five.[83]Overview of NHL teamsConferenceDivisionTeamCityArenaCapacityFoundedJoinedGeneral managerHead coachCaptainEasternAtlanticBoston BruinsBoston, MassachusettsTD
Garden17,8501924Don SweeneyJoe SaccoVacantBuffalo, New YorkKeyBank Center19,0701970Kevyn AdamsLindy RuffRasmus DahlinDetroit Red WingsDetroit, MichiganLittle Caesars Arena19,5151926Steve YzermanTodd McLellanDylan LarkinFlorida PanthersSunrise, FloridaAmerant Bank Arena19,2501993Bill ZitoPaul
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MauriceAleksander BarkovMontreal CanadiensMontreal, QuebecBell Centre 21,10519091917Kent HughesMartin St. LouisNick SuzukiOttawa SenatorsOttawa, OntarioCanadian Tire Centre 18,6551992Steve StaiosTravis GreenBrady TkachukTampa Bay LightningTampa, FloridaAmalie Arena 19,0921992Julien BriseBoisJon CooperVictor HedmanToronto Maple LeafsToronto, OntarioScotiabank Arena 18,8001917Brad TrelivingCraig BerubeAuston MatthewsMetropolitanCarolina HurricanesRaleigh, North CarolinaLenovo Center 18,70019721979*Eric TulskyRod Brind'AmourJordan StaalColumbus, OhioNationwide Arena 18,5002000Don WaddellDean EvasonBoone JennerNew Jersey DevilsNewark, New JerseyPrudential Center 16,5141974*Tom FitzgeraldSheldon KeefeNico HischierNew York RangersNew York, New YorkMadison Square Garden 18,0061926Chris DruryMike SullivanVacantPhiladelphia,

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PennsylvaniaWells Fargo Center19,1731967Daniel BriereRick TocchetSean CouturierPittsburgh PenguinsPittsburgh, PennsylvaniaPPG Paints Arena18,5731974Chris PatrickSpencer CarberyAlexander OvechkinWesternCentralChicago
 BlackhawksChicago, IllinoisUnited Center19,7171926Kyle DavidsonJeff BlashillNick FolignoColorado AvalancheDenver, ColoradoBall Arena18,00719721979*Chris MacFarlandJared BednarGabriel LandeskogDallas StarsDallas, TexasAmerican Airlines Center18,5321967*Jim NillPeter DeBoerJamie BennMinnesota WildSaint Paul, MinnesotaXcellas, TexasAmerican Airlines Center18,5321967*Jim NillPeter DeBoerJamie BennMinnesota WildSaint Paul, MinnesotaXcellas, TexasAmerican Airlines Center19,7171926Kyle DavidsonJeff BlashillNick FolignoColorado AvalancheDenver, ColoradoBall Arena18,00719721979*Chris MacFarlandJared BednarGabriel LandeskogDallas StarsDallas, TexasAmerican Airlines Center19,7171926Kyle DavidsonJeff BlashillNick FolignoColorado AvalancheDenver, ColoradoBall Arena18,00719721979*Chris MacFarlandJared BednarGabriel LandeskogDallas StarsDallas, TexasAmerican Airlines Center19,7171926Kyle DavidsonJeff BlashillNick FolignoColorado AvalancheDenver, ColoradoBall Arena18,00719721979*Chris MacFarlandJared BednarGabriel LandeskogDallas StarsDallas, TexasAmerican Airlines Center19,7171926Kyle DavidsonJeff BlashillNick FolignoColorado AvalancheDenver, ColoradoBall Arena18,00719721979*Chris MacFarlandJared BednarGabriel LandeskogDallas StarsDallas, TexasAmerican Airlines Center19,7171926Kyle DavidsonJeff BlashillNick FolignoColorado AvalancheDenver, Colorado Ballas StarsDallas StarsDallas
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ArmstrongAndre TourignyClayton KellerWinnipeg, ManitobaCanada Life Centre 15,2251999*Kevin CheveldayoffScott ArnielAdam LowryPacificAnaheim, CaliforniaHonda Center 17,1741993Pat VerbeekJoel QuennevilleRadko GudasCalgary FlamesCalgary, AlbertaScotiabank Saddledome 19,2891972*Craig ConroyRyan
 HuskaMikael BacklundEdmonton OilersEdmonton, AlbertaRogers Place18,34719721979Stan BowmanKris KnoblauchConnor McDavidLos Angeles KingsLos Angeles, CaliforniaSAP Center17,4351991Mike GrierRyan WarsofskyVacantSeattle
 Kraken Seattle, Washington Climate Pledge Arena 17,1512021 Jason Botterill Lane Lambert Jordan Eberle Vancouver, British Columbia Rogers Arena 17,5002017 Kelly McCrimmon Bruce Cassidy Mark Stone Notes: An asterisk (*
denotes a franchise move. See the respective team articles for more information. The Edmonton Oilers, Hartford Whalers (now Carolina Hurricanes), Quebec Nordiques (now Carolina Hurricanes), Quebec N
 Hockey LeagueSee also: List of current NHL franchise ownersThe Board of Governors is the ruling and governing body of the National Hockey League. In this context, each team is a member of the league, and each member appoints a Governor (usually the owner of the club), and two alternates to the Board. The current chairman of the Board is
 Boston Bruins owner Jeremy Jacobs. The Board of Governors exists to establish the policies of the league and to uphold its constitution. Some of the responsibilities of the Board of Governors exists to establish the policies of the league and to uphold its constitution.
 any member club.review and approve the salary caps for member clubs.review and approve any changes to the structure of the game schedule. The Board of Governors meets twice per year, in the months of June and December, with the exact date and place to be fixed by the Commissioner. See also: NHL Commissioner. 
league is commissioner Gary Bettman. Some other senior executives include chief legal officer Bill Daly, director of hockey operations Colin Campbell, and senior vice president of player safety George Parros.[85] A committee led by Bettman and chairman Jeremy Jacobs is responsible for vetting new ownership applications, collective bargaining, and senior vice president of player safety George Parros.[85] A committee led by Bettman and chairman Jeremy Jacobs is responsible for vetting new ownership applications, collective bargaining, and senior vice president of player safety George Parros.[85] A committee led by Bettman and chairman Jeremy Jacobs is responsible for vetting new ownership applications, collective bargaining, and senior vice president of player safety George Parros.[85] A committee led by Bettman and chairman Jeremy Jacobs is responsible for vetting new ownership applications, collective bargaining, and senior vice president of player safety George Parros.[85] A committee led by Bettman and chairman Jeremy Jacobs is responsible for vetting new ownership applications.
 league expansion. Other members include Mark Chipman, N. Murray Edwards, Craig Leipold, Ted Leonsis, Geoff Molson, Henry Samueli, Larry Tanenbaum, Jeff Vinik, and David Blitzer.[86]Main article: National Hockey League rulesThe current markings of an NHL hockey rinkSize difference between a hockey rink used in IIHF-sanctioned games and
an NHL hockey rinkThe National Hockey League's rules are one of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF), as used in tournaments such as the Olympics. The IIHF rules are derived from the Canadian amateur ice hockey rules of the early 20th
century,[87] while the NHL rules evolved directly from the first organized indoor ice hockey game in Montreal in 1875, updated by subsequent leagues up to 1917, when the NHL adopted the existing NHA set of rules. The NHL's rules are the basis for rules governing most professional and major junior ice hockey leagues in North America. The NHL
 hockey rink is 200 by 85 feet (60.96m 25.91m),[88] approximately the goal line; if the goal tender can play the puck only within the trapezoidal area appears behind each goal line; if the goaltender plays the puck behind the goal line and outside the trapezoidal area, a
two-minute minor penalty for delay of game is assessed.[90] The rule is unofficially nicknamed the "Martin Brodeur rule"; Brodeur at the time was one of the best goaltenders at getting behind the net to handle the puck.[91][92][93][94] Since the 201314 season, the league trimmed the goal frames by 4 inches (10cm) on each side and reduced the size
of the goalies' leg pads.[95]New Jersey Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur (top left) positions himself along the net during a 2008 game against the Boston Bruins. Brodeur's exploits led the NHL in 2005 to delineate the trapezoidal area behind the net to limit where the goaltender can legally play the puck behind the goal line. The league has regularly
modified its rules to counter perceived imperfections in the game. The penalty shot was adopted from the Pacific Coast Hockey Association to ensure players were not being blocked from opportunities to score. For the 200506 season, the league removed the "offside pass" or "two-
line pass" rule, which required a stoppage in play if a pass originating from inside a team's defending zone was completed on the offensive side of the centre line, unless the puck crossed the line before the player. [96] Furthermore, the league reinstated the "tag-up offside" which allows an attacking player a chance to get back onside by returning to
the neutral zone.[96] The changes to the offside rule were among several rule changes intended to increase overall scoring,[96] which had been in decline since the expansion years of the mid-nineties and the increased prevalence of the neutral zone.
or skater substitution of any sort before the following face-off (except to replace an injured player or re-install a pulled goaltender). [97] Since 2013, the league has used hybrid icing, where a linesman stops play due to icing if a defending player (other than the goaltender) crosses the imaginary line that connects the two face-off dots in their defensive
zone before an attacking player is able to. This was done to counter a trend of player injury in races to the puck.[97] Usually, a penalties while IIHF rules, and most amateur rules, call for the ejection of fighting players.[98] Usually, a penalties while IIHF rules, and most amateur rules, call for the ejection of fighting players.
handed for the duration of the penalty,[100] but if the penalties are coincidental, for example when two players fight, both teams remain at full strength. Also, unlike minor penalties must be served to their full completion, regardless of number of goals scored during the power play.[100] The league also imposes a conduct policy on its
players. Players are banned from gambling and criminal activities have led to the suspension for a first positive test, a sixty-game suspension for a second positive
 test, and a lifetime suspension for a third positive test.[101]At the end of regulation time, the team with the most goals wins the game. If the game is still
tied at the end of overtime, the game enters a shootout. Three players for each team in turn take a penalty shot. The team with the most goals during the three-round shootout wins the game is still tied after the three shootout is
awarded a goal in the game score and thus awarded one points. [102] Shootout goals and saves are not tracked in hockey statistics; shootout statistics are tracked one point. [102] Shootout goals and saves are not tracked in hockey statistics; shootout statistics are tracked in hockey statistics; shootout goals and saves are not tracked in hockey statistics; shootout statistics are tracked in hockey statistics.
periods are played until one team scores. Two games have reached six overtime periods, but none have gone beyond six.[103] During playoff overtime periods, the only break is to clean the loose ice at the first stoppage after the period is halfway finished.[104]Main article: Season structure of the NHLSee also: List of NHL seasonsThe National
 Hockey League season is divided into a preseason (September and early October), a regular season (from early October through early to mid-April) and a postseason (the Stanley Cup playoffs) that runs until June. Teams usually hold a summer showcase for prospects in July and participate in prospect tournaments, full games that do not feature any
 veterans, in September. Full training camps begin in mid-to-late September, including a preseason consisting of six to eight exhibition games. Split squad games, in which parts of a team's regular season, clubs play each other in a
 predefined schedule. Since 2021, in the regular season, all teams play 82 games: 41 games each of home and road, playing 26 games in their own geographic divisionfour against five of their seven other divisional intra-conference opponents three games
 against every team in the other division of its conference; and 32 against every team in the other conference twicehome and road.[105]The league's regular season standings are based on a point system. Two points are awarded for a win, one point for losing in overtime or a shootout, and zero points for a loss in regulation. At the end of the regular
 season, the team that finishes with the most points in each division is crowned the division champion, and the league's overall leader is awarded the Presidents' Trophy. The Stanley Cup playoffs, which go from April to the beginning of June, are an elimination tournament where two teams play against each other to win a best-of-seven series in order to
advance to the next round. The final remaining team is crowned the Stanley Cup champion. Eight teams from each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference teams with the next highest number of points.[106] The two conference teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the top three teams in each division plus the two conference qualify for the playoffs: the two conference qualify for the playoffs and the playoffs are the two conference qualify for the playoffs are the p
 higher-ranked team is awarded home-ice advantage, with four of the seven games played at this team's home venue. In the Stanley Cup Finals, the team with the most points during the regular season has home-ice advantage. Main article: NHL entry draftThe annual NHL entry draft consists of a seven-round off-season draft
 held in June on a date of the commissioner's choosing. [107] Early NHL drafts took place at the Queen Elizabeth (currently Fairmont) Hotel in Montreal. [108] Amateur players from junior, collegiate, or European leagues are eligible to enter the entry draft. [109] The selection order is determined by a combination of the standings at the end of the
regular season, playoff results, and a draft lottery. The 16 teams that did not qualify for the playoffs are entered in a weighted lottery to determine the initial draft picks in the first round, with the last place team having the lottery to determine the initial draft picks in the first round, with the last place team having the best chance of winning the lottery. Once the lottery determines the initial draft picks in the first round, with the last place team having the best chance of winning the lottery.
 teams is determined by the standings at the end of the regular season. For those teams that did qualify for the playoffs, then any division winners that failed to reach the Conference Finals. Conference
 finalists receive the 29th and 30th picks depending on total points, with the Stanley Cup runner-up given the 31st pick and the Stanley Cup championshipsDefunct teams not included. TeamTitlesMontreal Canadiens 24*Toronto Maple Leafs 13Detroit Red
 Wings11Boston Bruins6Chicago Blackhawks6Edmonton Oilers5Pittsburgh Penguins5New York Islanders4New York Rangers4Colorado Avalanche3New Jersey Devils3Tampa Bay Lightning3Los Angeles Kings2Philadelphia Flyers2Anaheim Ducks1Calgary Flames1Carolina Hurricanes1Dallas Stars1Florida Panthers1St. Louis Blues1Vegas Golden
 Knights1Washington Capitals1* Includes one pre-NHL championship. Further information: List of Stanley Cup, shown here on display at the Hockey Hall of Fame, is awarded annually to the league champion at the end of the
 Stanley Cup playoffs. The team that has the most points in the regular season is awarded the Presidents' Trophy. The Montreal Canadiens are the most successful franchise in the league. Since the formation of the league in 1917, they have 25 NHL championships (three between 1917 and 1925 when the Stanley Cup was still contested in an
 interleague competition, twenty-two since 1926 after the Stanley Cup became the NHL's championship trophy). They also lead all teams with 24 Stanley Cup championships (one as an NHA team, twenty-three as an NHL team). Of the four major professional sports leagues in North America, the Montreal Canadiens are surpassed in the number of
championships only by the New York Yankees of Major League Baseball, who have three more. The longest streak of winning the Stanley Cup in consecutive years is five, held by the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens, the second of four straight Stanley Cup in consecutive years is five, held by the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens, the second of four straight Stanley Cup in consecutive years is five, held by the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195556 to 195960. [110] The 1977 edition of the Montreal Canadiens from 195560 to 195960. [110] The 195960 to 19
as the second greatest sports team of all time.[111]The next most successful NHL franchise is the Toronto Maple Leafs with 13 Stanley Cup championships, most recently in 1967. The Detroit Red Wings, with 11 Stanley Cup championships, most recently in 1967. The Detroit Red Wings, with 11 Stanley Cup championships, most recently in 1967. The Detroit Red Wings, with 11 Stanley Cup championships, are the most successful American franchise.
Stanley Cup, much like its counterpart in the Canadian Football League (CFL), is unique in this aspect, as opposed to the Vince Lombardi Trophy, and Commissioner's Trophy, which have new ones made every year for that year's champion. Despite only one trophy being used, the names of the teams winning and the players are
engraved every year on the Stanley Cup. The same can also be said for the other trophies reissued every year. Apart from the NHL-sanctioned trophies, which are not represented by trophies, often also by putting up banners in their rafters.
One example is the division title or division title or division title or division title or division at the end of the regular season, [113] but in some previous seasons, for example, from 192627 to 192728 and from 198182 to 199293, when the playoffs where organized along divisions, the term
 without qualification could also refer to the team which won the corresponding playoff series.[114] The NHL has made clear in the past that it only allows teams to recognize regular season; they include, among others, the
Art Ross Trophy for the league scoring champion (goals and assists), the Maurice "Rocket" Richard Trophy for the goal-scoring leader, and the William M. Jennings Trophy for the goaltender(s) for the team with the fewest goals against them. The other player trophies are voted on by the Professional Hockey Writers' Association or the team general
managers.[116] These individual awards are presented at a formal ceremony held in late June after the playoffs have concluded. The most prestigious individual award is the Hart Memorial Trophy which is awarded annually to the Most Valuable Player; the voting is conducted by members of the Professional Hockey Writers Association to judge the
player who is the most valuable to his team during the regular season. The Vezina Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the Calder Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the Calder Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the Calder Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the Calder Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the Calder Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the Calder Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the Calder Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the Calder Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the National Hockey League's top defenceman, the National Hockey League's top defenceman to the National Hockey League's top defencement to the National Hockey League's top 
 is awarded annually to the top rookie, and the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy is awarded to the player deemed to combine the highest degree of skill and sportsmanship; all three of these awards are voted on by members of the Professional Hockey Writers Association. In addition to the regular season awards, the Conn Smythe Trophy is awarded
annually to the most valuable player during the NHL's Stanley Cup playoffs. Furthermore, the top coach in the league wins the Jack Adams Award, as selected by a poll of the National Hockey League Broadcasters Association. The National Hockey League Broadcasters Association.
 winner during the NHL Awards Ceremony.[116] Players, coaches, officials, and team builders who have had notable careers are eligible to be voted into the Hockey Hall of Fame. Players cannot enter until three years have passed since their last professional game, currently tied with the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame[117] for the
 shortest such time period of any major sport. One unique consequence has been Hall of Fame members (specifically, Gordie Howe, Guy Lafleur, and Mario Lemieux) coming out of retirement to play once more.[118] If a player was deemed significant enough, the three-year wait would be waived; only ten individuals have been honoured in this
manner.[119] In 1999, Wayne Gretzky joined the Hall and became the last player to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last player to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last player to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last player to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction, the Hall of Fame announced that Gretzky would be the last player to have the waiting period waived.[119] After his induction waived.[119] Aft
and trained players, who have historically composed a large majority of NHL rosters, the NHL also draws players from an expanding pool of other nations where organized and professional hockey players from this region have disappeared,
 leading to a large influx of players mostly from the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Russia into the NHL. Swedes, Finns, and Western European players, who were always free to move to North America, came to the league in greater numbers than before. Many of the league's top players in recent years have come from these European countries
including Daniel Alfredsson, Erik Karlsson, Henrik Sedin, Daniel Sedin, Henrik Lundqvist, Jaromir Jagr, Patrik Elias, Nikita Kucherov, Zdeno Chara, Pavel Datsyuk, Evgeni Malkin, Nicklas Lidstrom, and Alexander Ovechkin. [120] European players were drafted and signed by NHL teams in an effort to bring in more "skilled offensive players", [121]
 although as of 2008 there has been a decline in European players as more American players enter the league.[122] The addition of European players changed the style of play in the NHL has players from 17 countries, with 46.0% coming from
Canada and 26.0% from the United States, while players from a further 15 countries make up 26.4% of NHL rosters.[123][124] The follows the Hockey Hall of Fame convention of classifying players by the currently existing countries in which their
birthplaces are located, without regard to their citizenship or where trained. Nationality of NHL players [123] (201718) Players [123] (2
 States 28828.226927.323423.918219.314014.311215.3Sweden 1019.9989.9636.4495.2585.9233.1Russia 666.5394.0323.3353.7575.810.1Finland 484.7424.3303.1424.5383.9182.5Czech Republic 323.1373.8424.3656.9737.4101.4Slovakia 111.1131.3141.4262.8363.760.8Total 1,022100.0985100.0978100.0982100.0980100.0731100.0Logos of corporate and the composition of the composi
 Hortons is the league's official coffee and doughnuts chain in Canada, while Dunkin' Donuts is the NHL's sponsors Kraft Hockeyville, an annual competition in which communities compete to demonstrate their commitment to the sport of ice hockey. The
 winning community gets a cash prize dedicated to upgrading their local home arena, as well as the opportunity to host an NHL pre-season game. Two contests are held, one for communities across Canada and a separate competition for communities in the US.At least two of the North American corporate sponsors have ties to NHL franchise owners:
the Molson family, founders of Molson Brewery, has owned the Montreal Canadiens for years, while SAP was co-founded by Hasso Plattner, the current majority owner of the San Jose Sharks. Many of these same corporate partners become the title sponsors for the league's All-Star and outdoor games. Beginning in the 202021 NHL season, the league
allowed for advertising on its gameday uniforms for the first time, starting with helmet ads. The NHL has had advertising on the front of team jerseys starting from the 202223 season.[135]On May 14, 2021, NHL and the sports-betting company Betway announced a multi-year partnership in which Betway became the official sports betting partner to
the NHL in North America.[136]Main article: National Hockey League on televisionSee also: List of current National Hockey League broadcastersMembers of the media interviewing players on ice after a game in 2009Broadcasting rights in Canada (HNIC), a Canadian tradition dating to
1952,[137][138] and even prior to that on radio since the 1920s. The current national television and digital rightsholder is Rogers Communications, under a 12-year deal valued at C$5.2billion which began in the 201415 season, as the national broadcast and cable television rightsholders. National English-language coverage of the NHL is carried
 primarily by Rogers' Sportsnet group of specialty channels; Sportsnet holds national windows on Wednesday and Sunday nights. Hockey Night in Canada was maintained and expanded under the deal, airing up to seven games nationally on Saturday nights throughout the regular season. CBC maintains Rogers-produced NHL coverage during the
 regular season and playoffs.[139] Sportsnet's networks also air occasional games involving all-U.S. matchups.[140][141][142][143][144][145]Quebecor Media holds national French-language rights to the NHL, with all coverage airing on its specialty channel TVA Sports.[146][147]Games that are not broadcast as part of the national rights deal are
 broadcast by Sportsnet's regional feeds, TSN's regional feeds, and RDS. Regional games are subject to blackout for viewers outside of each team's designated market. [148] Main article: History of the National Hockey League on United States television Historically, the NHL has never fared well on American television in comparison to the other
American professional leagues. The league's American broadcast partners had been in flux for decades prior to 1981; NBC, CBS, and ABC held rights at various times during that period but with limited schedules during the second half of the regular season and the
 playoffs, along with some (but not all) of the Stanley Cup Finals. The NHL primarily was then only available on cable television after 1981, airing on the USA Network, SportsChannel America, and ESPN from 1995 to 1999, then
 followed by ABC and ESPN from 1999 to 2004. The U.S. national rights were then held by NBC and OLN (later renamed Versus, then NBCSN) between the 200405 NHL lockout and 2021. The 202122 season marks the first year of seven-year agreements with ESPN and TNT (formerly Turner) Sports. [149] ESPN's deal includes 25 regular season
games on ABC or ESPN, and 75 exclusive games streamed on ESPN+ and Hulu.[150] Turner Sports' coverage includes up to 72 regular season games on TNT, with ABC televising the Stanley Cup Finals during even years and TNT
 (simulcast with TBS and TruTV) televising the championship series during odd years.[149]As in Canada, games not broadcast rationally are aired regional sports network chains. Certain national telecasts are non-exclusive, and may also
air in tandem with telecasts of the game by local broadcasters. However, national telecasts of these games are blacked out in the participating teams' markets to protect the local broadcaster. Main articles: NHL Network (American TV channel) and NHL Network (Canadian TV channel) and NHL Network's television panel at the 2019 NHL entry draft
at Rogers Arena in VancouverThe league co-owns the NHL Network, a television specialty channel devoted to the NHL Network also airs live games, but primarily simulcasts of one of the team's regional broadcasters. NHL Center Ice in Canada[152] and NHL Center Ice in the United States[153] are the
 operations in 2016, renaming it NHL.tv.[155] Under its contract, Rogers Communications distributes the service in Canada as NHL Live;[156] it will be incorporated into Sportsnet Now Premium for the 202223 season.[157] Under ESPN's contract, the league's out-of-market streaming package was incorporated into ESPN+ for those viewers in the
 United States in 2021.[150]Outside of Canada and the United States, NHL games are broadcast across Europe, in the Middle East, in Australia, [158] and in the America across Mexico, Central America, Dominican Republic, Caribbean, South America and Brazil, among others. [159]NHL.tv is also available for people in most countries to watch games
those in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom must use Viaplay.[160]Further information: List of international games played by NHL teams have occasionally
NHL clubs had participated in several international club exhibitions and competitions with various European-based team (aside from clubs based in the former Soviet Union) was in December 1977, when the New York Rangers faced Poldi Kladno of the Czechoslovak
 First Ice Hockey League. In the 2000s, the NHL organized four NHL and European clubs. [163] The NHL continued to organize exhibition games between NHL and European teams before the beginning of the NHL season; those games were known as the NHL Premiere from 2007 to 2011 and as the NHL Global Series
since 2017.[164] The last exhibition game between an NHL and European club occurred during the 2024 NHL Global Series.[165] NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized club tournaments. The most recent IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized club tournaments. The most recent IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an NHL clubs have also participated in IIHF-organized event including an IIHF-organized event inc
Chicago Blackhawks. Further information: List of international ice hockey competitions featuring NHL players to participate in international competitions among national teams. The annual Ice Hockey World Championships is held every May, at the same time as the Stanley Cup playoffs. Because of its timing,
NHL players generally only join their respective country's team in the World Championships if their respective NHL team has been eliminated from Stanley Cup contention. [166] From 1998 to 2014, during the year of the quadrennial Winter Olympics, the NHL suspended its all-star game and expanded the traditional all-star break to allow NHL
 players to participate in the Olympic ice hockey tournament. In 2018, the NHL did not schedule an Olympic break, resulting in their players not participate in the NHL opting to not permit its players to participate due to a shortened NHL season that year
 and concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic.[168] The NHL, NHLPA, and IIHF have agreed to permit NHL players participate in the 2026 and 2030 Winter Olympics and the Olympic tournament, the World Cup of Hockey is played
 under NHL rules and not those of the IIHF.[170]In 2007, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) formalized the "Triple Gold Club", the group of players and coaches who have won an Olympic gold medal, a World Championship gold medal and the Stanley Cup.[171][172][173] The term had first entered popular use following the 2002 Winter
Olympics, which saw the addition of the first Canadian members.[174][175][176]See also: NHL attendanceThe NHL is considered one of the four major professional sports league in North America, along with Major League Baseball, the National Football League, and the National Basketball Association. The league is very prominent in Canada,
 where it is the most popular of these four leagues [177] Overall, hockey has the smallest total fan base of the four leagues and receives the smallest annual revenue; the league earns the least from the television rights sale and has the lowest sponsorship. [178] The NHL had been the sport holding the most affluent fan base of the top four [178] but it
ability of the NHL fan to purchase them.[178] The NHL has the most white-based audience among the four.[179] According to Reuters, in 2010, the largest demographic of NHL fans was males aged 1834.[180]The NHL estimates that half of its fan base roots for teams in outside markets. So, beginning in 2008, the NHL started to shift toward using
digital technology to market to fans to capitalize on this. The debut of the Winter Classic, an outdoor regular season NHL game has since become an annual staple of the NHL schedule. Coverage of "Hockey Day in America", later rebranded as Hockey Weekend Across
America with TNT, allowed for multiple games to be broadcast in the United States on the national rights holder.[181] These improvements led NBC and the cable channel Versus to sign a 10-year broadcast deal, paying US$200 million per year for both American cable and broadcast rights; the deal will lead to further increases in television coverage.
on the NBC channels. This television contract has boosted viewership metrics for the NHL. The 2010 Stanley Cup playoffs saw the largest audience in the sport's history "after a regular season that saw record-breaking business success, propelled largely by the NHL's strategy of engaging fans through big events and robust digital offerings."[182] This
success has resulted in a 66 percent rise in NHL advertising and sponsorship revenue. Merchandise sales were up 22 percent, and the number of unique visitors on the NHL records (individual)List
of NHL records (team)List of NHL players with the most games played by franchiseList of professional sports teams in the United States and CanadaList of National Hockey League attendance figuresList of National
 Hockey League arenasNHL All-Rookie teamNHL All-Star team^ a b While the Montreal Canadiens have won 24 Stanley Cup predates the NHL and was an inter-league championship prior to 1926. The Canadiens won a Stanley Cup championship in 1916 as a member of the
 National Hockey Association, and 23 Cups as a member of the NHL. Montreal also won the NHL championship twice without winning the Stanley Cup Finals against the Seattle Metropolitans of Pacific Coast Hockey Association and in 192425 when they lost in the Stanley
Cup Finals to the Western Canada Hockey League's Victoria Cougars. Kreiser, John (November 25, 2017). "NHL turns 100 years old". NHL.com. Archived from the original on April 4, 2023. Retrieved March 29, 2018. Beginning on Nov. 24, 1917, the NHA's directors, George Kendall (better known as George Kennedy) of the Montreal Canadiens, Sam
Lichtenhein of the Montreal Wanderers, Tom Gorman of Ottawa, M.J. Quinn of Quebec and NHA secretary-treasurer Frank Calder, held three days of meetings at the Windsor Hotel in Montreal and decided to start over. Gorman, seconded by Kendall, proposed, 'That the Canadiens, Wanderers, Ottawa and Quebec Hockey Clubs unite to comprise the
 National Hockey League. The motion was carried, and the NHL was officially formed on Nov. 26, 1917. "Rogers scores national NHL TV rights for $5.2B". CBC.ca. November 26, 2013. Archived from the original on October 8, 2022. Retrieved October 8, 2022. Active of the motion was carried, and the NHL was officially formed on Nov. 26, 1917. "Rogers scores national NHL TV rights for $5.2B". CBC.ca. November 26, 2013. Archived from the original on October 8, 2022. Retrieved October 8, 2022. The motion was carried, and the NHL was officially formed on Nov. 26, 1917. "Rogers scores national NHL TV rights for $5.2B". CBC.ca. November 26, 2013. Archived from the original on October 8, 2022. The motion was carried, and the NHL was officially formed on Nov. 26, 1917. "Rogers scores national NHL TV rights for $5.2B". CBC.ca. November 26, 2013. Archived from the original on October 8, 2022. The motion was carried, and the NHL was officially formed on Nov. 26, 1917. "Rogers scores national NHL TV rights for $5.2B". CBC.ca. November 26, 2013. Archived from the original on October 8, 2022. The motion was carried, and the NHL was officially formed on Nov. 26, 1917. "Rogers scores national NHL TV rights for $5.2B". The motion was carried, and the NHL was officially formed on Nov. 26, 1917. "Rogers scores national NHL TV rights for $5.2B". The motion was carried from the original national national
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