



New Jersey Devils (15-11-1) at Columbus Blue Jackets (10-16-5) • 7:00 PM ET • Nationwide Arena • MSGSN/MSG+/Listen: **DEVILS HOCKEY NET** 

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2023-24 Media Guide: Here

See: Schedule

News

Pre-Game Availability \*subject to change

~ 11::30 a.m. E.T. time.. (approx.) – Media Availability for select players and Head Coach Lindy Ruff, please contact Devils PR for requests\*

## **Last Game:**

**Boston Bruins 1** New Jersey Devils 2 (OT) (18-6-3-39 PTS) (15-11-1-31 PTS)

Three Stars: 1. J. Hughes 2. V. Vanecek 3. J. Swayman

SCORE	1 <sup>ST</sup>	2 <sup>ND</sup>	3 <sup>RD</sup>	ОТ	SO	FINAL
Boston	1	0	0	0	-	1
DEVILS	0	0	1	1	-	2

Goals:

BOS: M. Geekie

NJD: D. Mercer, J. Hughes (OT-GWG)

**Game Summary** | Event Summary

## **CURRENT INJURIES/ILLNESS**

PLAYER	INJURY/IIIness	OUT SINCE	GAMES MISSED
Tomas Nosek	Upper-body	Nov. 22 (suffered 11/18)	11
Dougie Hamilton	Upper-body	Nov. 30 (suffered 11/28)	7

2023-24 Total Man-Games Lost: 68

# **TRANSACTIONS**

DATE	PLAYER	ACTION
11/4	Max Willman	Recalled from Utica (AHL)
11/14	Colin Miller	Activated off I.R. (Lower-body)
11/14	Nico Hischier	Placed on I.R. retro-active to Oct. 27 (Upper-body)
11/15	Nico Hischier	Activated off I.R. (Upper-body)
	Tomas Nosek	Placed on I.R. (Upper-body)
11/25	Samuel Laberge	Signed 1-year, 2-way NHL contract
11/26	Arnaud Durandeau	Acquired from NYI via trade in exchange for T. Thompson
11/29	Samuel Laberge	Recalled from Utica (AHL)
12/2	Samuel Laberge	Reassigned to Utica (AHL)
12/8	Nico Daws	Activated off I.R. (lower-body, non-active list)
		Reassigned to Utica (AHL)

## **Pronunciation Guide**

Kevin Bahl: (BAHL, KEH -vihn) Michael McLeod: (muh-KLOWD, MIGH-kuhl)

Nathan Bastian: (bash-T'YEHN, NAY-thuhn) Timo Meier: (MIGH-uhr, TEE-moh)

Jesper Bratt: (BRAHT, JEHS -puhr) Dawson Mercer: (MUHR-suhr, DAW-suhn)

Dougie Hamilton: (HAM -ihl -tuhn, DUH -gee) Colin Miller: (MIH -luhr, KAW -lihn)

Erik Haula: (HAWL-la, AIR -ihk) Simon Nemec (NHEM-etz, shee-MOHN)

Tomas Nosek: (NOH -shehk, toh -MAHSH)

Nico Hischier: (HEE -shuhr, NEE -koh)

Ondrej Palat: (pa -LAHT, AWN -dray)

Alexander Holtz: (HOHLTZ, al -ehx -AN -duhr)

Akira Schmid: (SHMIHD, a -KIHR -uh)

Jack Hughes: (HEWZ, JAK)

Jonas Siegenthaler: (SEE -gehn -thahl -uhr, YOH -nuhs)

Luke Hughes: (HEWZ, LEWK)

Brendan Smith: (SMIHTH, BREHN -duhn)

Curtis Lazar: (lah -ZAHR, KUHR -tihs) Chris Tierney: (TEER -nee, KRIHS)

John Marino: (mah -REE -noh, JAWN)

Tyler Toffoli: (tuh -FOH -lee, TIGH -luhr)

Vitek Vanecek: VA -nih -chehk, VIH -tehk)

# WHAT TO KNOW

New Jersey opened its 41st season since relocating to the Garden State from Colorado in 1982-83.

New Jersey earned a franchise record 52 wins and 112 points in the standings last season.

Jersey's team tied a franchise record 28 road wins (28-9-4) last season. Prior to 2023-24, the team won 28 road games (28-10-3) in 1998-99.

## **UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

Sun. Dec. 17, vs ANA, 7:00 P.M. E.T.

Tue. Dec. 19, vs PHI, 7:00 P.M. E.T.

Thu. Dec. 21, vs EDM, 7:30 P.M. E.T.

Sat. Dec. 23, vs DET, 7:00 P.M. E.T.

Wed. Dec. 27, vs CBJ, 7:00 P.M. E.T.

#### The Week

The team visits Columbus on Sat., Dec. Dec. 16. Jersey's team will also host the Anaheim Ducks on Sun., Dec. 17. New Jersey earned a comeback victory on Wed., Dec. 13, against Boston (2-1) at the Rock. New Jersey is 7-3-0 in its last 10 games played.

## **Last Game**

The Devils and Bruins faced-off for the first of three matchups this season:

Next: at Boston, Dec. 30, 7:00 P.M. E.T.

At Boston, Jan. 15, 1:00 P.M. E. T.

The Devils earned their first win against the Bruins for the first time since May 4, 2021, which was also an overtime victory at the Rock (4-3).

The team entered a contest that went passed regulation for the fourth time in 2023-24, which also marked the team's third contest decided in overtime (3-0-0).

The team is now 9-2-1 in one-goal games this season.

Jersey's team surrendered the game's first goal for the 20th time this season, but improved to 9-10-1 for that matter in 2023-24.

The Devils outshot Boston, 36-24. The team improved to 10-4-1 when outshooting opponents in a contest this season.

Jersey's team improved to 2-8-0 when trailing after the second period of play this season.

The Devils allowed one goal, or fewer, for the second time this season, last: Dec. 7, at Seattle, 2-1 win.

#### **Special Teams**

PP: 0-2 | PK: 0-1

Jersey's team did not convert on the man advantage and in a game for the 10th time in 2023-24.

The team also didn't allow a power-play for the eighth time this season.

#### **Man Advantage**

The Devils have not converted on the power play in four consecutive games (0/11), which marks the team's longest stretch without converting on the man advantage this season.

The team owns 28 power-play goals in 2023-24, after 27 games played (31.8%).

The most power-play goals in franchise history after the team's opening 27 games from the start of a season:

Rk	Team	Season	PPG	GP	W	L	T	OTL	G
1		1992-							
1	NJD	93	31	27	14	12	1	0	93
2		1980-							
	CLR	81	31	27	10	13	4	0	92
3		1986-							
	NJD	87	31	27	13	12	2	0	106
4		2005-							
_	NJD	06	29	27	13	12	0	2	82
5		1978-							
	CLR	79	29	27	4	18	5	0	73
6		1991-							
	NJD	92	29	27	15	10	2	0	108
7		1987-							
	NJD	88	29	27	14	9	4	0	93
8		2023-							
8	NJD	24	28	27	15	11	0	1	94
9		1988-							
9	NJD	89	28	27	9	14	4	0	87
10		1989-							
10	NJD	90	27	27	11	13	3	0	105

The team's 28 power-play goals this season ranked second (tied, VAN) in the NHL, while Tampa's 30 PPG were first, per Fri., Dec. 15.

New Jersey defensemen have combined for seven power-play goals this season, which ranks (tied, EDM) first in the NHL, per Fri., Dec. 15.

The Devils recorded four power-play goals in a game for the 17<sup>th</sup> time in franchise history, after the team's 5-4 overtime win vs NY Islanders on Oct. 20. The last time that the team scored four power-play goals in a game was March 1, 2014 at the New York Islanders in a 6-1 victory.

The most power-play goals that the franchise scored in a game was six, which was logged on Feb. 19, 1980, (CLR) vs Philadelphia in an 8-6 win at Colorado.

The most power-play goals earned in a game for Devils team history is five, which Jersey's team logged three times, last recorded: Jan. 22, 2008, at Philadelphia (7-3 win).

The Devils recorded two, or more, power-play goals in a game eight times this season, while Jersey's team earned two, or more, power-play goals in a game four times last season.

The eight games which the Devils recorded two, or more, power-play goals rank second (tied w/ TBL & EDM) in the NHL behind Detroit's nine, per Fri., Dec. 15.

The most games in franchise history when the team recorded two, or more, power-play goals in a game for a single season:

Team	Season	Count	W	L	T
	1987-				
NJD	88	30	20	10	0
	1980-				
CLR	81	23	9	9	5
	1992-				
NJD	93	22	16	4	2
	2005-				
NJD	06	22	18	4	0
	1986-				
NJD	87	21	10	9	2
	2000-				
NJD	01	20	16	2	2

#### LIGHTING THE LAMP/STREAK ENDED

The Devils streak without suffering a shutout of 101 consecutive games ended, after a 4-0 loss at Detroit on Wed., Nov. 22.

The streak dated back to Apr. 24, 2022, which was also a 3-0 loss to Detroit but at Prudential Center.

The 101 consecutive games without suffering a shutout over multiple seasons was the third-longest stretch in franchise history.

The team's longest stretch in franchise history over multiple seasons without experiencing a shutout against were 111 games played from Jan. 5, 1999, to Feb. 29, 2000.

The longest streaks in franchise history without suffering a shutout over multiple seasons:

Streak	Streak Started	Streak Ended	GP	w	L	T	OTL	G	PPG
111	1/5/1999	2/29/2000	111	64	28	14	5	342	75
106	2/25/1987	10/15/1988	106	46	53	7	0	401	130
101	4/26/22	11/18/2023	101	60	31	0	10	358	72
94	12/9/1975	1/7/1977	94	15	64	15	0	247	50
92	1/13/1989	2/9/1990	92	36	45	11	0	341	87

New Jersey's 101 consecutive games without being shut out was the second-longest active streak currently in the NHL entering Wednesday, Nov. 22, contest at Detroit, while Toronto ranked first at 162 games.

The longest streak without experiencing a shutout all-time was Calgary – 264 consecutive games from Nov. 12, 1981, to Jan. 9, 1985.

#### IN THE DOTS

New Jersey won a season-high 39 face-offs on Tue., November 7, at Colorado. The team's season-high face-off% in 2023-24 is 63.3%, which was earned on Oct. 24, at Montreal (38/60), and then also on Nov. 2 at Minnesota (31/49).

Keep an eye on...Michael McLeod ranks second in the NHL for overall face-off% (62.8.%), per Fri., Dec. 15.

He also ranked first for overall face-off% on the road (63.8%), per Fri., Dec. 15.

McLeod owns the highest face-off percentage that a Devils skater logged this season (10 or more face-offs in a GP) was 86.7%, after McLeod won 13 of 15 face-offs against Montreal on Oct. 24.

McLeod earned a career-high 16 face-off wins, after Tue., Nov. 14th's contest at Winnipeg.

Nico Hischier won 17 face-offs (17/22) on Dec. 1, vs San Jose, which marked the most face-offs that a Devils skater won in a game this season.

The Devils ranked fifth in the NHL for overall face-off percentage (53.0%), per Fri., Dec. 15.

Entering Saturday's contest, the Devils ranked first in the NHL for defensive-zone face-offs at 57.7%, per Fri., Dec. 15.

## **COACH'S CORNER**

Head Coach **Lindy Ruff** enters his fourth season with New Jersey, after he signed a multi-year contract extension on Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Ruff owns 849 career regular season wins, which ranks tied for fourth all-time for all NHL head coaches. He needs one win to pass Ken Hitchcock (849 wins) for sole possession of fourth place for all-time wins that an NHL head coach earned.

Ruff earned his 100<sup>th</sup> career regular-season win with New Jersey, after Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>'s 5-4 overtime victory at the NY Islanders. His 100 career wins with New Jersey tied him with Doug Carpenter (1985-1988) for the fourth most wins that a head coach earned with the franchise.

Ruff owns 113 career wins with New Jersey, which passed Doug Carpenter for fourth place all-time in franchise history for head coaches.

Ruff has coached 247 regular-season games with New Jersey, which are the fifth most for a head coach in franchise history. He'll pass Peter DeBoer for fourth place all-time in franchise history once he coaches in his 249<sup>th</sup> career regular-season game with New Jersey.

Devils All-Time Head Coaches: Leaderboard:

Jaques Lemaire	276 wins	1993-94-1997-98/ 2009-10/ 2010-11
John Hynes	150 wins	2015-16-2019-20
Peter Deboer	114 wins	2011-12-2014-15
LINDY RUFF	113 wins	2020-21-PRESENT
Doug Carpenter	100 wins	1984-85-1987-88

#### **LOOKING AHEAD**

The Devils are scheduled to play in the 2024 Navy Federal Credit Union NHL Stadium Series game on Sat., Feb. 17, at MetLife Stadium vs the Philadelphia Flyers (8:00 P.M. E.T.). It marks the team's second Stadium Series contest (vs NYR, at Yankee Stadium, 7-3 loss).

New Jersey is also slated for 16 back-to-back sets this season, which are the most back-to-back games in the NHL for 2023-24. Washington and Minnesota rank second for this matter with 15 back-to-back sets during the 2023-24 campaign.

## **THE SWISS CONNECTION**

After road contest at Washington on March 9, 2023 for the first time in NHL history four Switzerland players on one team played in a game. New Jersey's **Nico Hischier**, **Timo Meier**, **Jonas Siegenthaler** and goaltender **Akira Schmid** played in the victory.

## **COMEBACK KIDS**

New Jersey led the NHL with 26 comeback wins last season, which set a new franchise record. The team passed the 2017-18 team's 23 comeback wins, which was the previous franchise record in a single season.

Per NHL Pr, the most comeback wins in a single season for NHL history is shared by the Panthers (29 in 2021-22) and Lightning (29 in 2018-19).

The team's 10 comeback wins in 2023-24 leads the NHL.

## **THE RANKS**

#### NJD:

STAT	NHL RANK
GA/GP, 3.52	28 <sup>th</sup>
GF/GP, 3.48	7 <sup>th</sup>
SA/GP, 29.5	9 <sup>th</sup>
SF/GP, 32.1	11 <sup>th</sup>

# CBJ:

STAT	NHL RANK
GA/GP, 3.55	30 <sup>th</sup>
GF/GP, 3.00	20 <sup>th</sup>
SA/GP, 34.7	30 <sup>th</sup>
SF/GP, 29.6	25 <sup>th</sup>

(Per one day before game)

# **2023-24 TEAM STATS**

# **RECORD ON DAYS OF THE WEEK**

The Devils record on Wednesday in 2023-24...2-1-0

Record in night games in 2023-24...14-9-1...home: 6-5-1...road: 8-4-0

Record in day games in 2023-24...1-2-0...home: 0-1-0...road: 1-1-0

# 2023-24 Alternate jersey record...1-2-0

## Alternate jersey schedule:

Fri., Oct. 27	Vs BUF	5-4, W	
Fri., Nov. 24	Vs CBJ	2-, L	
Fri., Dec. 1	Vs SJS	6-3, L	
Sun., Dec. 17	VS ANA		
Sat., Dec. 23	VS DET		
Sat., Jan. 6	VS VAN		
Sat., Mar. 9	VS CAR		
Sat., Mar. 23	Vs OTT		
Sun., Apr. 7	Vs NSH		
Mon., Apr. 15	Vs NYI (Home finale)		

## **RECORD BY DIVISION/CONFERENCE:**

MET: 4-4-0

ATL: 5-2-0

**CEN: 3-3-1** 

PAC: 3-2-0

EAST: 9-6-0

WEST: 6-5-1

# **RECORD WHEN SCORING FIRST**

Scoring first...6-1-0...Trailing first...9-10-1

## **OVERTIME/SHOOTOUT**

OT: 3-0

SO: 0-1

**OUTSHOOTING OPP: 10-4-1** 

**OUTSHOT:** 5-7-0

**EVEN**: 0-0-0

The longest duration of a game this season: 2:43, Oct. 13, vs ARI (4-3, SOL)

Team's average: H: 6'2" | W: 197 lbs | A: 27 years old

## **PLAYERS BY COUNTRY**

**CAN-10** 

CHE-4

USA-3

CZE-3

SWE-2

**SVK: 1** 

FIN-1

## **GOALS BY PERIOD**

PERIOD	GOALS FOR/AGAINST	DIFFERENTIAL
1	27-30	-3
2	29-27	+2
3	35-38	-3
ОТ	3-0	+3
SO	0-1	-1
TOTAL	94-95*	-1

#### \*Does not include shootout

Note: The team's +65 goal differential in 2022-23 was the team's third highest in franchise history:

2000-01: +100
 1993-94: +86

## **BACK-TO-BACK GAME**

Overall: 6-5-1

First game: 5-1-0 | home: 1-1-0 | road: 3-0-0

Second game: 1-4-1 | home: 1-2-1 | road: 0-2-0

New Jersey logged a 15-8-1 record in back-to-back games last season. The Devils were 6-5-1 in first half games played and 9-3-0 in second half games played for this matter in 2022-23.

# 2023-24: HIGHS & LOWS

# THE LAST TIME IN THE REGULAR SEASON THE DEVILS...

Stat	HOME	AWAY	
Had a shutout	3/12/23, 3-0, W, vs CAR, V.	3/28/21, 1-0 at BOS, M.	
	Vanecek, 32 saves	Blackwood, 40 saves	
Were shutout	4/24/22, vs DET, 3-0, A.	11/22/23, 4-0, at DET, A. Lyon,	
	Nedeljikovic,	16 saves	
	17 saves		
Scored 10 goals	N/A	N/A	
Scored 9 goals	3/23/93, 9-3, vs TB	10/28/00, 9-0, at PIT	
Scored 8 goals	4/6/23, 8-1, vs CBJ	3/14/18, 8-3, at VGK	
Allowed 10 goals	10/25/84, 11-2, vs NYR	12/4/85, 10-7, at TOR	
Allowed 9 goals	1/18/85, 9-6, vs NYR	3/12/19, 9-4, at CGY	
Allowed 8 goals	11/11/92, 8-3, vs MTL	3/31/22, 8-1, at BOS	
Had 50 shots in a game	10/30/22, 53, vs CBJ, 7-1 W	3/3/23, 50, at VGK, 4-3, Lso	
Allowed 50 shots	2/16/20, 55 vs CBJ, 4-3 Wso	1/19/21, 50 at NYR, 4-3 W	
Had no shots in a period	1/7/83, 3 <sup>rd</sup> per. Vs BOS, 2-2 T	N/A	
Allowed no shots in a period	1/6/17, 3 <sup>rd</sup> per. Vs TOR, 4-2 L	10/10/98, 1 <sup>st</sup> per. At CHI, 2-1 L	
Allowed 1 shot in a period	4/5/22, 2 <sup>nd</sup> per. 3-1, L vs NYR	2/13/11, 3 <sup>rd</sup> per. 3-2 SO win @	
		FLA	
Had 1 shot in a period	1/31/15, 2 <sup>nd</sup> per., vs FLA	1/15, 2015, 2 <sup>nd</sup> per. At ANA	
Had a penalty shot	4/3/18, T. Hall, scored, vs H.	12/12/22, J. Hughes, denied, vs	
	Lundqvist, 5-2 W vs NYR	I. Shesterkin, 4-3 Lo, at NYR	
Faced a penalty shot	2/8/20, A. Kopitar, unsuccessful vs. M. Blackwood in 3-0 win vs. LAK	4/2/23, M. Barron, scored, vs V.	
		Vanecek in 6-1 L at WPG	
Had a hat-trick	4/4/23, D. Mercer vs T. Jarry in a 5-1 win vs PIT	10/24/23, T. Toffoli vs C.	
		Primeau in a 5-2 win at MTL	
Allowed a hat-trick	4/3/22 J. Pageau vs. N. Daws in 4-3 loss vs. NYI	1/31/22, A. Matthews vs.	
	14. Daws III 4-3 1055 VS. 1411	Akira Schmid in 6-4 loss @ TOR	

(Excludes overtime)

# TEAM:

LARGEST MARGIN OF VICTORY	5	11/25/23, vs BUF, 7-2, W
Largest margin of defeat	4	11/22/23 at DET, 4-0, L
MOST GOALS, GAME	7	11/25/23, vs BUF, 7-2, W
Most goals allowed, game	6, 4x	Last: 12/1/23, vs SJS, 6-3, L
MOST GOALS, PERIOD	4, 3x	Last: 12/5/23, at VAN, 1st per., 6-5, W
Most goals allowed, period	3, 9x	Last: 12/5/23, at VAN, 3rd per., 6-5, W
FASTEST GOAL START GP	1:21	11/25/23, vs BUF, A. Holtz, 7-2, W
Fastest goal allowed, Start GP	1:51	11/5/23, at CHI, T. Hall, 4-2, W
FASTEST GOAL START OF A PERIOD	0:21	10/20/23, at NYI, 2 <sup>nd</sup> per., T. Toffoli, 5-4,
		OT, W
Fastest Goal Allowed Start of a Period	0:18	10/25/23 vs WSH, 3rd per., D. Strome, 6-
		4, L

MOST SHOTS IN A GAME	47	12/1/23 vs SJS, 6-3, L
Most Shots Allowed in a Game	47	11/30/23, at PHI, 4-3, Wot
MOST SHOTS IN A PERIOD	23	12/1/23, vs SJS, 3 <sup>rd</sup> per., 6-3, L
Most Shots Allowed in a Period	25	11/30/23, at PHI, 2 <sup>nd</sup> per., 4-3, Wot
FEWEST SHOTS IN A GAME	16	11/22/23, at DET, 4-0, L
Fewest Shots allowed in a Game	12	11/25/23, vs BUF, 7-2, W
FEWEST SHOTS IN A PERIOD	2, 3x	Last: 11/22/23, at DET, 4-0, L
Fewest shots OPP, period	3, 3x	Last: 12/1/23, vs SJS, 2 <sup>nd</sup> per., 6-3, L
MOST PIM IN A GAME	21	10/27/23, vs BUF, 5-4, W
Most PIM Opp., Game	23	11/30/23, at PHI, 4-3, Wot
FEWEST PIM IN A GAME	0	12/1/23, vs SJS, 6-3, L
Fewest PIM Opp, Game	2, 3x	Last: 11/18/23, vs NYR, 5-3, L
LONGEST WINNING STREAK	3, 3x	12/5/23-12/9/23
LONGEST POINTS STREAK	3 GP, (3-0-0), 3x	12/5/23-12/9/23
LONGEST LOSING STREAK	3, twice	Last: 11/18/23-11/25/23
LONGEST WINLESS STREAK	2 (0-1-1)	10/13-10/16/23

#### **VS Columbus**

The Devils and Columbus face-off for the second of four matchups this season, after Jersey's team suffered a 2-1 loss to Columbus on Nov. 24.

**Next:** Dec. 27, vs CBJ, 7:00 P.M. E.T. At Columbus, Jan. 19, 7:00 P.M. E.T.

# **ALL-TIME vs CBJ**

Record: 19-23-1-5

Home: 11-9-1-3

Road: 8-14-0-2

## Since 2000-01...

The most goals in franchise history earned in a single game vs Columbus is eight, which was earned on Apr. 6, 2023, after an 8-1 win at the Rock.

The most goals that the Devils allowed in a single game vs Columbus is six, three times, last logged on Feb. 10, 2018, after a 6-1 loss at CJ.

The most shots that Jersey earned in a single game vs Columbus is 53, which was logged on Oct. 30, 2022, in a 7-1 victory.

The most shots that the Devils surrendered against Columbus in a single game was 55, which was logged in a 4-3 shootout win on Feb. 16, 2020.

The last time the Devils shut out Columbus was on Feb. 28, 2015, in a 2-0 win at Columbus (C. Schneider, 33 saves).

The last time Columbus shut out the Devils was on Jan. 18, 2020, in a 5-0 loss at Columbus (E. Merzlikins, 41 saves).

# PLAYER NOTES

#### **RUN HOME, JACK...HOME RUN, JACK!**

**Jack Hughes** was named the NHL Third Star of the Week (week ending on Dec. 3), after No. 86 recorded seven points (3g-4a), while also posting consecutive three points games. It marked the third time in Hughes' career that he was a Star of the Week, last earned: Weeke ending on Jan. 8, 2023.

Per NHL Pr, "Jack Hughes recorded his 30th point and required the third fewest games in a season to reach the mark among U.S-born players, behind only **Pat LaFontaine** (11 GP in 1992-93) and **Kevin Stevens** (12 GP in 1992-93)."

Hughes also required the fewest amount of games played to reach the 30-point bench mark for franchise history. Per NHL Pr, Hughes surpassed the benchmark of 21 games (reach 30 PTS) set by **Paul Gardner** in 1977-78.

Hughes logged a career-high 27:16 TOI on Fri., Dec. 1, while his prior career-high was 26:13 TOI – vs New York Islanders on Dec. 9, 2022.

## **LAST TIME OUT**

Hughes netted the overtime winner against Boston in the team's last outing on Dec. 13, at the Rock.

It marked Hughes' sixth career overtime winner, and second OT winner this season. Hughes is one of five skaters this season with two, or more, overtime goals this season – C. Caulfield leads all NHL skaters with three overtime winners this season.

The effort snapped a three-game drought without a point for Hughes.

Hughes logged 1:57 TOI in the overtime frame, which also entailed a shift that was 1:04 in length. Hughes entered the overtime frame with zero shots on goal, but earned four shots in the game's extra frame.

The most overtime goals all-time in franchise history: Leaderboard:

Player	OTG
Patrik Elias	16
Scott Niedermayer	8
Zach Parise	7
Nico Hischier	6
John Moore	6
Jack Hughes	6
Taylor Hall	5
Brian Gionta	5
Ilya Kovalchuk	5
Stephen Richer	5

Per NHL Pr, Hughes "scored his 13th career game-winning goal, surpassing **John MacLean** and **Zach Parise** for sole possession of second most in franchise history before age 23. Only **Petr Sykora** had more (15)."

Hughes is two goals (98) shy of 100 career tallies.

Per NHL Pr, Hughes "is on track to become the second-fastest in *franchise* history to reach the 100-goal milestone (behind **Wilf Paiement**, 228 GP w/ Colorado Rockies) and the *fastest to do so for the Devils* (since 1982-83; **Brian Gionta**, 284 GP, currently holds that mark)." Hughes has played in 266 career games with Jersey.

The 2019 No. 1 overall draft selection has recorded three, or more, points in a game seven times this season, which ranks tied for first in the NHL with Boston's D. Pastrnak and Tampa's Nikita Kucherov.

The most three-point games that Hughes logged in a single season was eight, which he earned in 2022-23.

The most three-point games that a Devils player recorded in franchise history for a single season is 11, which Kirk Muller earned in 1987-88.

Hughes is averaging 1.55 points, per game, which sits behind C. McDavid and N. Kucherov for third in the NHL, per Dec. 15.

Where Hughes' 34 points, and **Jesper Bratt's** 33 points, rank in franchise history after the *team's* first 27 games from the start of a season:

Rk	Player	PTS	Season	Team	GP	G	Α	PTS
1	Paul		1977-					
1	Gardner	35	78	CLR	27	23	12	35
2			2023-					
2	Jack Hughes	34	24	NJD	22	11	23	34
3	Wilf		1977-					
3	Paiement	34	78	CLR	27	13	21	34
4			2023-					
4	Jesper Bratt	33	24	NJD	27	12	21	33
5			2022-					
	Jack Hughes	33	23	NJD	27	14	19	33
6	John		1990-					
0	MacLean	33	91	NJD	25	18	15	33
7			2008-					
	Zach Parise	33	09	NJD	27	16	17	33
8			1990-					
0	Kirk Muller	32	91	NJD	27	9	23	32
9			2007-					
9	Zach Parise	32	08	NJD	27	14	18	32
10	John		1988-					
10	MacLean	31	89	NJD	27	14	17	31

J. Hughes has recorded two four-point games this season, while the most four-point games earned in a single season for franchise history is four:

Rk	Player	Team	Season	Count
1	Wilf			
1	Paiement	CLR	1976-77	4
2	John			
	MacLean	NJD	1990-91	4
3	Aaron			
3	Broten	NJD	1986-87	3
4	John			
4	MacLean	NJD	1988-89	3
5	Scott			
3	Stevens	NJD	1993-94	3
6	Patrik Elias	NJD	2000-01	3
7	Zach Parise	NJD	2008-09	3

#### NJD Multi-point game leaderboard:

Rk	Player	Team	Season	Count
_			2023-	
1	Jack Hughes	NJD	24	10
2			2023-	
	Jesper Bratt	NJD	24	9
3			2023-	
	Tyler Toffoli	NJD	24	5
4			2023-	
	Luke Hughes	NJD	24	4
5	Dougie		2023-	
	Hamilton	NJD	24	4
6			2023-	
	Nico Hischier	NJD	24	3
7			2023-	
	Erik Haula	NJD	24	3
8	Dawson		2023-	
	Mercer	NJD	24	2
9			2023-	
	Timo Meier	NJD	24	2
10			2023-	
	Curtis Lazar	NJD	24	2
11	Jonas		2023-	
	Siegenthaler	NJD	24	1
12			2023-	
	Ondrej Palt	NJD	24	1
13			2023-	
_ <u>_</u>	Simon Nemec	NJD	24	1
14	Michael		2023-	
<u> </u>	McLeod	NJD	24	1
15	Alexander		2023-	
<u> </u>	Holtz	NJD	24	1
16			2023-	
L	Kevin Bahl	NJD	24	1

# **THE BRATT-MAN**

Jesper Bratt (4g-12a) is one of 10 skaters in the NHL with 16, or more, power-play points in 2023-24.

Keep in mind that Bratt earned a career-high 22 power-play points (8g-14a) last season.

The most power-play points that a player earned in a single season for franchise history is 39, which Rob Ramage earned with Colorado in 1980-81. The most power-play points earned in Devils team history for a single season is 37, which Taylor Hall earned in 2017-18 and then Kirk Muller recorded in 1987-88.

Bratt's four game-winning goals lead New Jersey this season. The Swedish forward is one of 12 skaters this season with four, or more, game-winning goals. K. Connor led the NHL with five game-winners, per Tue., Dec. 15.

Bratt's career-high is six game-winning goals in a season, which was earned in 2021-22.

The 2016 sixth-round draft pick enters Saturday's contest riding a six-game point streak (4g-4a). Selected with the 162<sup>nd</sup> overall pick in the 2016 NHL Draft, Bratt has recorded the second most points for players selected after the first round from that draft class (A. Debrincat, 399 PTS, 39<sup>th</sup> overall).

Side note...Bratt has played in 113 consecutive games which ranks tied for 47th in the NHL for all active skaters.

Bratt leads all Devils skaters with 18 (6g-12a) points on the road this season.

## **FINDING NEMO**

**Simon Nemec** logged his NHL debut on Fri., Dec. 1, vs San Jose and wasted no time inking his name onto an NHL score sheet. Nemec collected two assists in his debut, which marked the ninth instance in franchise history that a player earned a multi-point game in their NHL debut:

Rk	Player	PTS	<b>Date ▼</b>	Age	Team		Орр	Result	G	Α	PTS
1	Will			22-							
1	Butcher	3	10/7/2017	274	NJD		COL	W 4-1	0	3	3
2	Jesper			19-							
	Bratt	2	10/7/2017	069	NJD		COL	W 4-1	1	1	2
3	Pavel			19-							
3	Zacha	2	4/9/2016	003	NJD		TOR	W 5-1	0	2	2
4	Zach			21-							
4	Parise	2	10/5/2005	069	NJD		PIT	W 5-1	1	1	2
5	Mike			23-							
	Rupp	2	1/13/2003	000	NJD		FLA	W 6-2	2	0	2
6	Scott			22-							
0	Pellerin	2	12/6/1992	332	NJD	@	BUF	W 7-3	1	1	2
7	Mitch			22-							
	Wilson	2	10/12/1984	240	NJD		NYI	W 7-2	0	2	2
8	Doug			25-							
ō	Buhr	2	2/6/1975	222	KCS		TOR	W 3-2	0	2	2

The 2022 second-overall draft selection also logged 22:38 TOI in his NHL debut, which ranks second in franchise history for players logging their NHL debut with the team (since TOI was documented). Scott Gomez logged the highest total TOI for any player in franchise history during their NHL debut (Oct. 2, 1999, at ATL, 23:30).

Nemec earned his first-career NHL goal on Thu., Dec. 7, at Seattle.

Nemec became the first rookie defenseman who was also Slovakian-born and earned a goal in a game for the Devils.

Per NHL dot com, the other Slovakian-born natives who were rookies and earned a goal in a game for the Devils all-time:

Jiri Bicek: 2001-02-2002-03

Zdeno Ciger: 1990-91

Marian Studenic: 2020-21-2021-22

Per NHL PR, Nemec "became the second-youngest Slovakian-born defenseman to score an NHL goal, behind Kristian Kudroc (19 years, 256 days on Feb. 1, 2001 w/ TBL)."

Per NHL PR, Nemec "became the seventh-youngest defensemen in Devils/Rockies/Scouts history at the time of his first NHL goal behind **Craig Wolanin** (18 years, 135 days), **Joe Cirella** (18 years, 160 days), **Adam Larsson** (18 years, 364 days), **Scott Niedermayer** (19 years, 68 days), **Ken Daneyko** (19 years, 196 days) and **Luke Hughes** (19 years, 216 days)."

Nemec became the 22<sup>nd</sup> player in franchise history whose first-career NHL goal was also a game-winning tally:

DATE	Tm		Орр		Scorer	Age	Cr. Goal #
4/13/2023	NJD	@	WSH	ОТ	Luke Hughes	19- 216	1

1/16/2021	NJD		BOS	ОТ	Yegor Sharangovich	22- 224	1
10/19/2019	NJD		VAN		Jack Hughes	18- 158	1
1/14/2019	NJD		СНІ		Kevin Rooney	25- 238	1
11/15/2018	NJD	@	PHI		Joey Anderson	20- 149	1
2/7/2014	NJD		EDM	ОТ	Jonathon Merrill	22- 004	1
4/10/2011	NJD		BOS		Alexander Urbom	20- 111	1
10/5/2005	NJD		PIT		Zach Parise	21- 069	1
3/7/1998	NJD		NYR		Krzysztof Oliwa	24- 329	1
12/16/1997	NJD		NYR		Sheldon Souray	21- 156	1
10/12/1995	NJD		WIN		Denis Pederson	20- 032	1
2/27/1995	NJD		MTL		Brian Rolston	22- 006	1
3/4/1992	NJD	@	NYR		Jarrod Skalde	21- 007	1
3/25/1990	NJD	@	BUF		Eric Weinrich	23- 096	1
10/5/1989	NJD	@	PHI		Janne Ojanen	21- 179	1
11/10/1987	NJD	@	NYR		Brendan Shanahan	18- 291	1
12/9/1985	NJD	@	MNS		Craig Wolanin	18- 135	1
10/31/1981	CLR		WSH		Aaron Broten	20- 351	1
2/6/1977	CLR		PIT		Ron Delorme	21- 156	1
2/23/1975	KCS		MNS		Claude Houde	27- 107	1
2/6/1975	KCS		TOR		Gary Coalter	24- 213	1

Since logging his NHL debut, Nemec is averaging 20:47 TOI per game, which ranks fourth on New Jersey. *Fun fact...*Nemec is the first defenseman in franchise history who dons No. 17 (21 skaters).

#### THE FORCE IS STRONG WITH LUKE

Luke Hughes' 16 points (4g-12a) are ranked for the most points that a rookie defenseman earned this season.

Hughes season-high/career-high TOI in a game this season was logged on Oct. 25, 2023, vs WSH (23:56 TOI).

Hughes' eight power-play points (3g-5a) ranks second for all NHL rookie skaters this season (L Cooley, 2g-8a=10 PPP).

Hughes' four multi-point games lead all NHL rookies this season (tied, B. Brink), while three others earned three multi-point games in 2023-24.

The most multi-point games that a rookie blueliner earned in a single season for franchise history:

Rk	Player	Team	Season	Count
1			1977-	
	Barry Beck	CLR	78	13
2	Viacheslav		1989-	
	Fetisov	NJD	90	10
3			2017-	
3	Will Butcher	NJD	18	9
4			1976-	
4	Tom Edur	CLR	77	6
5			1979-	
	Rob Ramage	CLR	80	6
6			1981-	
U	Tapio Levo	CLR	82	6
7	Scott		1992-	
	Niedermayer	NJD	93	6
8	Murray		1982-	
	Brumwell	NJD	83	5
9			1990-	
	Eric Weinrich	NJD	91	5
10	Jaroslav		1993-	
10	Modry	NJD	94	5
11			2003-	
11	Paul Martin	NJD	04	5
12	Damon		2014-	
12	Severson	NJD	15	5

Brotherly Love...J. and L. Hughes have factored in together on six Devils goals this season.

Hughes earned his second-career overtime goal, after Thursday's win at Philadelphia (vs WSH, Apr. 13, 2023).

Per NHL Pr, Luke Hughes became the first rookie in franchise history to score multiple overtime goals after netting his first on April 13.

Per NHL Pr, Luke Hughes became the seventh rookie defenseman in NHL history with multiple overtime goals. He joined Shayne Gostisbehere (4), Moritz Seider (2), Cam Fowler (2), P.K. Subban (2), Jamie McBain (2) and Brent Seabrook (2).

## **NO MERCY**

**Dawson Mercer** logged his second goal for the season on Fri., Nov. 10, vs Washington, which also marked his 100<sup>th</sup> career point. At age 22, 14 days, Mercer became the 14<sup>th</sup> youngest Devil in franchise history who earned his 100<sup>th</sup> career point.

Kirk Muller, 20 years, 12 days, was the youngest Devil who earned all 100 of his career points (34g-66a) with the franchise.

#### **700 CLUB**

**Ondrej Palat** played in his 700<sup>th</sup> career NHL game VIA Tue., Dec. 5, at Vancouver, and became the 41<sup>st</sup> Czechia native who played in 700, or more, NHL contests all-time.

## **QUICK HITS**

Tyler Toffoli ranks second New Jersey with 87 shots on goal in 2023-24, while J. Hughes ranks first with 107 shots (22 GP).

Kevini Bahl leads Jersey with 53 hits this season.

He recorded a career-high eight hits on Sat., Nov. 18, while his prior career-high was seven hits: May 8, 2021, at NY Islanders. The eight hits are the most that a Devils skater earned this season (B. Smith, 6, Nov. 10, vs WSH), and marks the most hits that a New Jersey skater earned in a game since N. Okhotiuk on Jan. 13, 2023, at Anaheim.

Curtis Lazar leads the Devils forwards with 52 hits.

Jonas Siegenthaler leads New Jersey with 44 blocks in 2023-24. John Marino rank second with 34 blocked shots this season.

## TIMELESS...

**Dawson Mercer** has played in 191 consecutive games since he began his NHL career in 2021-22. Mercer owns the franchise record for the most consecutive games played to start an NHL career, after he passed Scott Gomez 140 consecutive games played from the start of an NHL career.

Mercer's 191 consecutive games played currently ranks (tied, C. Coyle) 14th in the NHL for all active skaters.

Mercer's 191 consecutive games played ranks tied (B. Holik & J. Cirella) for the 12<sup>th</sup> all-time in franchise history.

Tyler Toffoli has played in 157 consecutive games, which ranks 22<sup>nd</sup> for all active skaters in the NHL.

## **BETWEEN THE PIPES**

**Vitek Vanecek** recorded 33 wins last season and become the second netminder in franchise history who earned 30, or more, wins in a single season. Prior to 2022-23, Martin Brodeur was the only netminder in franchise history who earned 30-or-more wins in a single season with the Devils, which he logged 14 times.

**Akira Schmid** shined in the 2022-23 playoffs, and earned his first-career postseason shutout (vs NYR) and became the third rookie netminder in franchise history who earned a shutout in the Stanley Cup Playoffs. The Swiss native was the first rookie netminder in franchise history who earned two shutouts in a single postseason.

Vanecek tied Craig Billington (43 wins) for ninth place all-time in franchise history for career wins.

Schmid is one of four goaltenders this season with two assists, which leads the NHL.

Vitek Vanecek is fresh off a strong performance in a victory against Boston (23 saves/24 saves). He also earned his first assist of the season via J. Hughes' OT winner. It marked his third helper earned in overtime since joining the Devils last season (last season (Feb. 23, 2023, vs LAK, 4-3, Wot). Martin Brodeur and Johan Hedberg are the only other goaltenders in franchise history who earned an assist in overtime.

# **UPCOMING MILESTONES**

Player	Current Status	Potential Milestone	
Kevin Bahl	93 career/NJD GP	100 career/NJD GP	
Nathan Bastian	188 career GP	200 career GP	
Jesper Bratt	195 career/NJD assists	200 career/NJD assists	
Dougie Hamilton	771 career GP	800 career GP	
	461 career points	500 career points	
	164 career NJD GP	200 career NJD GP	
	84 career NJD assists	100 career NJD assists	
Editoria	205	200	
Erik Haula	295 career points	300 career points	
Nico Hischier	397 career/NJD GP	400 career/NJD GP	
	183 career/NJD assists	200 career/NJD assists	
	298 career/NJD points	300 career/NJD points	
Alexander Holtz	55 career/NJD GP	100 career/NJD GP	
Jack Hughes	266 career/NJD GP	300 career/NJD GP	
	98 career/NJD goals	100 career/NJD goals	
	241 career/NJD points	300 career/NJD points	
	pe	or our confirmation	
Curtis Lazar	478 career GP	500 career GP	
John Marino	280 career GP	300 career GP	
	94 career points	100 career points	
	79 career assists	100 career assists	
Michael McLeod	268 career/NJD GP	300 career/NJD GP	
	76 career/NJD points	100 career/NJD points	
Timo Meier	492 career GP	500 career GP	
	168 career goals	200 career goals	
	173 career assists	200 career assists	
	341 career points	400 career points	
	41 career NJD GP	100 career NJD GP	
Dawson Mercer	191 career/NJD GP	200 career/NJD GP	
Dawson Wercer	51 career/NJD goals	100 career/NJD goals	
	58 career/NJD assists	100 career/NJD assists	
	30 001001/1432 033355	100 career/1402 assists	
Colin Miller	479 career GP	500 career GP	
Ondrej Palat	459 career points	500 career points	
	76 career NJD GP	100 career NJD GP	
Jonas Siegenthaler	282 career GP	300 career GP	
	185 career NJD GP	200 career NJD GP	
Brendan Smith	653 career GP	700 career GP	
	92 career assists	100 career assists	
	82 career NJD GP	100 career NJD GP	
T. I. T. (C. I.)	760	000	
Tyler Toffoli	760 career GP	800 career GP	

	248 career assists	300 career assists
	487 career points	500 career points
Vitek Vanecek	85 career wins	100 career wins

# **Accomplished Milestones**

Tomas Nosek	400 career NHL GP	10/13/23 vs ARI
HC Lindy Ruff	100 career NJD wins	10/20/23 at NYI
Chris Tierney	600 <sup>th</sup> career NHL GP	11/2/23 at MIN
Jesper Bratt	400 <sup>th</sup> career NHL GP	11/5/23 at CHI
Dawson Mercer	100 <sup>th</sup> career NHL PTS	11/10/23 vs WSH
Ondrej Palat	300 career NHL assists	11/14/23 at WPG
Curtis Lazar	100 <sup>th</sup> career NHL PTS	11/16/23 at PIT
Jesper Bratt	300 career NHL PTS	11/25/23 vs BUF
Ondrej Palat	700 career NHL GP	12/5/23 at VAN

## **HOW THEY WERE BUILT**

NATE BASTIAN	2016, NJD, 2 <sup>ND</sup> ROUND, 41 <sup>ST</sup> OVERALL
-	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
JESPER BRATT	2016, NJD, 6 <sup>TH</sup> ROUND, 162 <sup>ND</sup> OVERALL
NICO HISCHIER	2017, NJD, <b>1ST OVERALL</b>
ALEXANDER HOLTZ	2020, NJD, 1 <sup>St</sup> ROUND, 7 <sup>TH</sup> OVERALL
JACK HUGHES	2019, NJD 1 <sup>ST</sup> OVERALL
LUKE HUGHES	2021, NJD, 1 <sup>ST</sup> ROUND, 4 <sup>TH</sup> OVERALL
MICHAEL MCLEOD	2016, NJD, 1 <sup>ST</sup> ROUND, 12 <sup>TH</sup> OVERALL
DAWSON MERCER	2020, NJD, 1 <sup>ST</sup> ROUND, 18 <sup>TH</sup> OVERALL
SIMON NEMEC	2022, NJD, 1 <sup>ST</sup> ROUND, 2 <sup>ND</sup> OVERALL
AKIRA SCHMID	2018, NJD, 5 <sup>TH</sup> ROUND, 136 <sup>TH</sup> OVERALL

Trade: Kevin Bahl, Erik Haula, Curtis Lazar, John Marino, T. Meier, Colin Miller, Jonas Siegenthaler, Tyler Toffoli & Vitek Vanecek

UFA: Dougie Hamilton, Tomas Nosek, Ondrej Palat, Brendan Smith, & Chris Tierney

**UTICA REPORT:** Utica began its third season as the Devils AHL affiliate since 2021-22 and with head coach Kevin Dineen. Utica is 10-8-3-0 this season. The team defeated Bridgeport on Fri. Dec. 8, by a score of 4-3 and played on Saturday night at Syracuse (4-3, win). The team then extended its winning-streak to four games, after a 4-1 win vs Syracuse on Sun., Dec. 10. The team plays next on Fri., Dec. 15, vs Wilkes-Barre.

Graeme Clarke (9g-9aa=18 PTS) and Xavier Parent (7g-10a=17 PTS) lead the team.

