

Trade rumors, free agent speculations, and other NHL-related news.

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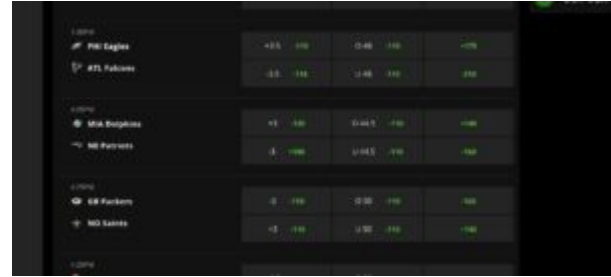
The Hurricanes and Kraken will play a pair of games in Helsinki on Nov. 12 and 14 in the Global Series Finland. Additionally (two all-Canadian games round out the night), with the Montreal Canadiens visiting the Toronto Maple Leafs and the Vancouver Canucks visiting the Edmonton Oilers. There will be a total of 1,344 games played this year – a notable 32-game increase, as the regular season schedule will increase from 82 games to 84, with the preseason being shortened. The Hurricanes have re-signed RFA forward Viktor Neuchev to a one-year, two-way contract, per puckpedia. The native of Lohja, Finland, is among the tallest goaltenders in professional hockey at roughly 6-foot-8, and would become the tallest netminder in NHL history, surpassing 6-foot-7 Ben Bishop, should he ever crack the lineup. The 25-year-old – a seventh-round pick in the 2020 draft, returns as organizational depth in a crease fronted by Ilya Sorokin and Semyon Varlamov, and has yet to appear in an NHL game.

Changes in ECHL affiliation were announced by the Penguins.

- Ranked 12th overall among 2027 prospects by Steven Ellis of Daily Faceoff, the 6'2" forward has potential to play down the middle or the wing, scoring four goals in five games at the U18 World Championships.
- Over the last two seasons – Anderson-Dolan has seen his chances to play in the NHL grow increasingly sparse.
- While at Turku (Ahokas got the chance to coach Juraj Slafkovsky), who in his lone season with the team rose from relatively unheralded prospect to eventual No. 1 overall pick.
- The first big decision time for the Vancouver Canucks on Marco Rossi may be at the trade deadline.

Hughes has said the Canadiens have been in active trade discussions (as they were leading up to the NHL Trade Deadline), but much like early March, Montreal has been able to make any big moves. Make no mistake, though, that indifference is patience, and Habs fans should be happy to see it from management at a time when most GMs would have made a move just to make one. Even if they had to stretch out west – the Utah Mammoth also are without a current partner, per the league's website. Often a league for the less-heralded prospects – bright young goaltender Sergei Murashov and 23-year-old forward Avery Hayes form the next wave of younger talent who wore the Wheeling uniform and took to the ice in West Virginia.

Regarding NHL rumors, options for forwards concerning the Columbus Blue Jackets and the New York Rangers.



Player	GP	G	A	Pts	PPG
Max Pacioretty	41	15	24	39	0.95
David Clarkson	41	10	18	28	0.68
Mathieu Darche	41	8	12	20	0.49
Justin Azevedo	41	5	10	15	0.37
Sam Reinhart	41	4	8	12	0.29

A third-round pick , 74th overall, by the Sabres in 2022, Neuchev spent parts of three seasons in Buffalo's system before the move, posting 66 points (24 goals, 42 assists) in 130 games with AHL Rochester. The two teams clashed in the playoffs this past season in the Eastern Conference Final (with Wheeling), of course, coming up short to the eventual champs four games to one. Buchnevich scored just 48 points in 81 games " and spent time on the fourth line late in the year. He scored 12 goals in his first 16 games of the season, flaunting a breakaway speed and heads-up playmaking that connected well with Washington's veterans. He earned that deal after a modest break into the Capitals lineup over the course of his entry-level contract. That scoring pace " 0.65 points-per-game, put Dach on pace for 20 goals and 54 points across 82 games.

NHL teams changing ECHL affiliations is not rare; the Wild, Blues, Jets, and Rangers have all done such in recent months. The OHL's London Knights have landed another big-time prospect (forward Luca Santala), who signed on an OHL Scholarship and Development Agreement. For the first time, NHL hockey in North America gets started before October, with puck drop in Raleigh on September 29. While "Bob" will see his former team in Toronto for the first time on December 13 (he will have to wait until March 6 to return to Sunrise), a place he called home for the previous seven years.

As a result " he is no <https://lifesratchet.com> longer considered a "development player" per the AHL's development rule. Over the last two seasons, Anderson-Dolan has seen his chances to play in the NHL grow increasingly sparse. While he did show some ability as a defensively-oriented fourth-line player, he was never able to secure a lasting spot in an NHL lineup after departing the Kings organization, the place where he was drafted.

- The St. Louis Blues have signed forward Connor McMichael to a six-year, \$40.5MM contract extension per Sportsnet's Elliotte Friedman.
- With the expanded 84-game slate now set (headlined by the most games in league history at 1,344), the season is officially on the clock.
- Additionally, Anderson-Dolan has now played in 372 combined games across the NHL and AHL.
- This move will secure the long-term future of the main chip in St. Louis' trade that sent Jordan Kyrou to the Washington Capitals.



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The number for Cutter Gauthier has increased, prompting the Anaheim Ducks to adjust their finances.

He again showed strong flashes â€“ including a run of 10 points in eight games in November â€“ but McMichael wasnâ€™t the same speedster while filling the middle lane. The St. Louis Blues have signed forward Connor McMichael to a six-year â€“ \$40.5MM contract extension per Sportsnetâ€™s Elliotte Friedman. The moves did not go as planned (as Tkachuk took the Panthers to three straight

Stanley Cup Finals), while Huberdeau signed arguably the worst contract in the NHL. Some might disagree and point to the Noah Dobson trade as an example of the opposite, but at this time, it's hard to call a winner in that move. He has a good record of maximizing returns on veteran players when he has needed to, while also maintaining the team's organizational prospect depth when adding young NHL talent to the lineup. It's entirely possible that prices drop later in the summer or midway through the season, when teams are out of contention and may opt to move on from certain players.

There is an argument to be made that many of the moves this summer have been overpays, particularly if you look at a deal like the Bowen Byram trade to Chicago. What makes Montreal different from a team like Toronto, or some of the other more active teams, is that the Canadiens are just opening their window of contention and aren't anywhere near a Stanley Cup-or-bust team. This summer has been a wild one thus far for many teams, as top-six forwards and top-four defensemen have been moved for massive hauls that are inflated returns compared to years past. As for what comes next for Wheeling, thankfully other nearby teams have ECHL vacancies; the Columbus Blue Jackets, New York Rangers, and Buffalo Sabres. Even outside of transitioning between teams (unfortunately the past few years have been tough for the ECHL), as last December there was a player strike which was eventually resolved.

A change of scenery will offer McMichael the chance to prove his everyday value after adjusting to the NHL game. He finished the year with just 14 goals and 46 points, while posting a 43.0 faceoff percentage – exactly in-line with his career average. That hot scoring pace didn't continue through the full season – but McMichael's growing willingness to play feisty and fundamental hockey kept him in Washington's top-nine.

This move will secure Dach's spot in the lineup as he continues to work his way back into routine minutes. Toronto made a pile of ill-advised forays into free agency that resulted in a lack of cap space – and in some cases, trading away premium assets to make bad contracts go away (Patrick Marleau, for example). With all the flexibility and assets at his disposal, Hughes will certainly be content to enter training camp in the fall with the status quo if he can't find the right additions for his team. The kind of moves that will keep this team humming along in contention for the present and future. Hughes has talked about pursuing big trades in the past – but has walked away when the prices exceeded his comfort level. This was a huge gamble for the Blackhawks, and it's easy to see why Hughes didn't have interest in these types of trades.

Selected as the 41st pick in the NHL draft of 2017, Anderson-Dolan has remained on the threshold of NHL/AHL rosters for nearly five years.



Following that impressive performance (McMichael received a two-year extension from Washington), a prove-it deal allowing the young center an opportunity to secure a higher salary once he established himself. After being drafted 25th overall in 2019, McMichael began his professional career with Washington in 2020 and made his NHL debut in 2021. This decision will ensure the long-term prospects of the key asset in the trade that sent Jordan Kyrrou to the Washington Capitals.

Three potential trade candidates for the Nashville Predators. They aren't getting the offers and they can't deal for futures. That lineup competition could be exactly what St. Louis is looking for after a year where many of their forwards seemed too comfortable with their assignments. McMichael's top competition for a second-line role will be Pavel Buchnevich, who has also seen his impact dwindle over the last two seasons. Kyrrou also scored 46 points last year – a dismal stat line, despite his strong play away from the scoresheet, after four seasons of at least 65 points.

Santala – emerging from Kiekko-Espoo, accumulated 12 points in 25 games while competing against players three years older than himself, ranking him 12th on the team. The 6'2" forward – who Steven Ellis of Daily Faceoff ranks 12th among 2027 prospects, has the ability to play either center or wing, having netted four goals in five games at the U18 World Championships. The season is officially underway (as the expanded 84-game schedule), featuring a historic total of 1,344 games, is in place. The first meeting between the two teams will occur in Philadelphia on October 24, with a subsequent matchup in Anaheim on January 3.

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