



VS



COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS GAME DAY PREVIEW

Columbus Blue Jackets vs. Buffalo Sabres || Jan. 3, 2026 || Nationwide Arena || 3:00 pm ET || Game 40 (Home 19)

GAME DAY SCHEDULE

No Morning Skate

12:30pm ET: Media Availability

3:00pm ET: Game vs. Buffalo

Post-Game: Locker room will open approximately five minutes after the game's conclusion. Head Coach Dean Evason will be available immediately after player availability.

BROADCAST INFO

TV: FANDUEL SPORTS NETWORK

Steve Mears (play-by-play)

Jody Shelley (analyst)

Dave Maetzold (reporter)

Brian Giesenschlag (host)

Jean-Luc Grand-Pierre (analyst)

RADIO: 97.1 THE FAN

Bob McElligott (play-by-play)

Dylan Tyrer (host)

COLUMBUS PR

Todd Sharrock (614) 746-5403

tsharrock@bluejackets.com

Glenn Odebralski (614) 406-4957

godebralski@bluejackets.com

Lindy Noel (217) 820-5489

lnoel@bluejackets.com

Jack Weller (614) 530-7535

jweller@bluejackets.com

For More Information

PR X Account: @BlueJacketsPR

Website: BlueJackets.com/PressBox

Game Notes: Game Notes available at Media.NHL.com

MEDIA ENTRANCES

Morning Skate: Nationwide Arena Security Entrance

Game Night: Nationwide Arena Box Office (Opens at 12:00pm)

OhioHEALTH INJURY REPORT

Erik Gudbranson (Upper Body) 31

Zach Werenski (Lower Body) 4

Isac Lundestrom (Lower Body) 3

Sean Monahan (Maintenance) 2

Brendan Smith (Lower Body) 1

Miles Wood (Lower Body) 1

TOTAL MAN GAMES LOST: 85

COLUMBUS

17-16-6 (40 pts.)

8-6-3 (19 pts.)

9-9-3 (21 pts.)

8th, Metropolitan

16th, Eastern

2.92 (20th-T) / 3.33 (26th-T)

18.6 (19th-T) / 75.0 (30th)

30.2 (4th) / 30.6 (30th)

Dec. 31 at CBJ 2, NJD 3

Jan. 4 vs. Pittsburgh

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Record

At Home

On the Road

Division Rank

Conference Rank

GF / GA (NHL rank)

PP / PK (NHL rank)

SF / SA (NHL rank)

Last Game

Next Game

BUFFALO

21-14-4 (46 pts.)

12-5-2 (26 pts.)

8-9-2 (18 pts.)

4th, Atlantic

8th, Eastern

3.10 (15th) / 3.10 (16th-T)

18.8 (18th) / 85.0 (2nd)

28.6 (12th) / 29.2 (25th)

Dec. 31 at DAL 1, BUF 4

Jan. 6 vs. Vancouver

ALL-TIME SERIES CBJ RECORD

28-16-1-3 (13-8-1-0 at home)

THIS SEASON (CBJ, 1-0-0)

Oct. 28, 2025 - CBJ 4, at BUF 3 (OT)

Jan. 3, 2026 - at Columbus (3 pm ET)

Apr. 9, 2026 - at Buffalo (7 pm ET)

2024-25 RECORD (CBJ 2-1-0)

Oct. 17, 2024 - at CBJ 6, BUF 4

Feb. 4, 2025 - at BUF 3, CBJ 2

Apr. 10, 2025 - at CBJ 3, BUF 2

MATCHUP NOTES

- ★ Columbus has earned points in 13 of the last 17 meetings in the series dating back to Mar. 31, 2019 (10-4-3).
- ★ CBJ have won two-straight home games in the series after Buffalo won three-straight from Dec. 7, 2022-Feb. 23, 2024.
- ★ Five of the past six overall meetings, including three-straight, have been decided by a single goal. Four of the past six games at Nationwide Arena have been decided by multiple goals.
- ★ The Blue Jackets have converted on 6-of-14 power play opportunities in the last nine overall meetings (42.9 pct.). CBJ have scored a power play goal in three consecutive home contests (3-of-7; 42.9 pct.).
- ★ The club has killed off all 11 Buffalo power play chances over the last six matchups overall.
- ★ RW **Kirill Marchenko** has 4-4-8 in nine career outings, including assists in his past four games (1-4-5).
- ★ D **Zach Werenski** has 2-15-17 in 20 career GP against the Sabres and has points in seven of last eight contests (2-9-11) after collecting 1-1-2 on Oct. 28.



JACKET TO WATCH - C BOONE JENNER

Has posted 7-7-14 with 3 multi-point outings in 25 career GP vs. Buffalo. Has tallied points in 8 of past 10 contests vs. the club (4-6-10). Has points in 3 of his past 4 home outings (2-2-4).



SABRE TO WATCH - RW ALEX TUCH

Has tallied 5-9-14 with 3 multi-point outings in 16 career GP vs. Columbus. Has tallied multi-point efforts in 2 of last 3 contests (2-3-5) after collecting 2 assists on Oct. 28.



TEAM NOTES

- ★ Columbus had its three-game win streak snapped with a 3-2 loss to New Jersey on Wednesday. The club finished 2025 with a 41-33-9 record (91 pts, .548 points pct.), posting the highest points percentage since 2020 (.617).
- ★ CBJ are in a stretch of five games, including four at home, over eight days from Dec. 28-Jan. 4 (2-1-0).
- ★ The Blue Jackets play their eighth of 15 back-to-back sets of the campaign, hosting Buffalo on Saturday and Pittsburgh on Sunday. The club, which swept the last set on Dec. 27-28, is 8-4-2 in back-to-backs (4-1-2 in 1st GP; 4-3-0 in 2nd GP).
- ★ The Jackets have scored the first goal in seven of the last eight contests and 10 of the past 13.
- ★ CBJ lead the NHL in faceoff percentage (54.9 pct.) and rank third in penalty kill pct. (87.0 pct.) since Dec. 13 (8 GP).
- ★ The Jackets lead the NHL in goals by defensemen and rank fifth-T in points with 31-65-96 in 39 contests.

PLAYER NOTES

- ★ C **Charlie Coyle** notched a goal on Wednesday and has collected 3-8-11 in the last 15 games since Nov. 28.
- ★ G **Jet Greaves** finished with a 2.29 GAA and .922 SV%, stopping 259-of-281 shots faced in 10 games in December.
- ★ C **Boone Jenner** collected an assist vs. New Jersey and became the fourth Blue Jacket to record 400 career points (205-195-400, 766 GP), joining Rick Nash (567), Zach Werenski (424) and Cam Atkinson (402).
- ★ LW **Mason Marchment** tallied a goal on Wednesday to become the first player to record points in his first five games with the Blue Jackets (4-2-6).
- ★ RW **Kirill Marchenko** has posted points in four consecutive outings (4-1-5) after recording an assist on Wednesday.
- ★ D **Denton Mateychuk**, who had his career-high four-game points streak (1-4-5) snapped on Wednesday, has averaged 25:29 of ice time over his past five contests.
- ★ D **Zach Werenski** was announced to Team USA's roster for the 2026 Olympic Winter Games Milano Cortina on Friday. He has registered multiple points in each of his past three games (5-2-7) and four times over the past five contests (5-5-10). He also has points in 16 of his past 19 contests overall (10-19-29).



VS



COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS GAME DAY PREVIEW

Columbus Blue Jackets vs. Buffalo Sabres || Jan. 3, 2026 || Nationwide Arena || 3:00 pm ET || Game 40 (Home 19)

IN-GAME INFORMATION & ACTIVATIONS

PUCK DROP: 3:08 p.m.

ANTHEM: Leighton Augenstein

CANNONEER: Quinn Halstead

MILITARY HONOREE, presented by Elk + Elk: N/A

1ST INTERMISSION: OhioHealth Future Jackets, Columbus Flames 12u Blue

2ND INTERMISSION: Bob Evans Farms Guess the Jacket Video

50/50 BENEFICIARY, presented by Kemba Financial Credit Union: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio

THEME NIGHT ACTIVATIONS: Kids Takeover, presented by Bob Evans Farms

- A CBJ sticker sheet will be given to kids ages 13 and under in attendance.
- Kids will take on Blue Jackets roles throughout the evening, including Social Media Correspondent, Public Address Announcer, members of the Jet's Pizza Boom Brigade, and more.
- Activities like balloon artists, face painting, and more will be available on the main concourse.

BLUE LINE ITEM OF THE GAME: Exclusive Blue Jackets 6-7 t-shirt available only in youth sizes at the Blue Line at Nationwide Arena and online at thebluelineonline.com. (Limited quantities available)

