

## DALLAS STARS

20-13-0, 40 PTS (4th in Central)

Last Game: 12/23 3-1 W at UTA

Next Game: 12/29 at CHI

Last 10 Games: 5-5-0

PP: 17/107 (15.9%)

PK: 79/93 (85.0%)

## MINNESOTA WILD

21-10-4, 46 PTS (2nd in Central)

Last Game: 12/23 4-3 W vs. CHI

Next Game: 12/29 vs. OTT

Last 10 Games: 4-6-0

PP: 16/91 (17.6%)

PK: 59/85 (69.4%)

DALLAS STARS VS. MINNESOTA WILD // DEC. 27, 2024 // 7 P.M. CT // AMERICAN AIRLINES CENTER // DALLAS, TX

## LAST GAME

Dallas 3 vs. Utah 2

Goals: Blackwell, Hintz, Benn

Goalie: DeSmith (24/26)

PP: 0/3 PK: 2/2 Shots: Dallas 29 – Utah 26

Three Stars: 1. DAL – J. Benn 2. UTA – K. Stenlund 3. DAL – C. DeSmith

- Eight different Stars skaters recorded a point during the game.
- Dallas has won in each of its first two games against Utah and is the only team to record multiple victories against Utah Hockey Club at Delta Center according to NHL Stats.
- **Roope Hintz** scored his 162nd career goal and tied Finland teammate Teuvo Teravainen for the sixth-most among active Finnish players according to NHL Stats.
- **Jamie Benn** tallied a goal on Monday and now has a goal in each of his first two contests against the Utah Hockey Club (2-0–2).

## UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024: Dallas at Chicago, 7:30 p.m. CT, United Center (ESPN/The Ticket)

Tuesday, Dec. 31, 2024: Dallas vs. Buffalo, 7 p.m. CT, American Airlines Center (Victory+/The Ticket)

Thursday, Jan. 2, 2024: Dallas vs. Ottawa, 7 p.m. CT, American Airlines Center (Victory+/The Ticket)

Saturday, Jan. 4, 2024: Dallas vs. Utah, 7 p.m. CT, American Airlines Center (Victory+/The Ticket)

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2024: Dallas at New York Rangers, 6 p.m. CT, Madison Square Garden (Victory+/The Ticket)

## RECENT TRANSACTIONS

Dec. 19, 2024: Loaned D Lian Bichsel and D Alexander Petrovic to Texas (AHL)

Dec. 20, 2024: Recalled D Lian Bichsel and F Justin Hryckowian from Texas (AHL)

Dec. 21, 2024: Loaned F Justin Hryckowian to Texas (AHL)

Dec. 23, 2024: Loaned D Lian Bichsel to Texas (AHL)

## CURRENT INJURIES

MAN GAMES LOST: 40

Tyler Seguin (hip; IR) – 10 games – day-to-day

Matt Dumba (upper body; IR) – 6 games – day-to-day

## GAME NOTES

### THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- Tonight is the second of four games the Stars will play against the Wild this season and the first time the two teams are facing off in Dallas this year. The teams will play each other next on March 24 in Dallas.
- The Stars are 6-0-1 in their last seven games against the Wild, outscoring Minnesota 30-9 in those contests.
- **Esa Lindell** is expected to play in his 638th career game tonight, which will tie him with former Star Radek Faksa for 17th on the franchise's all-time games played list.
- **Roope Hintz** has five points (4-1–5) in his last five games and has scored four goals in his last four games. **Hintz** is now pacing to finish the season with 38 goals, which would be a career high for the forward.
- **Miro Heiskanen** is averaging 25:09 of ice time per game this season, which was the fifth-most in the NHL this year entering play Thursday.
- **Thomas Harley** has recorded a plus-17 on-ice, even strength goal differential this season, which was tied for fifth-best mark among all NHL defensemen this season entering play Thursday.
- Entering play Thursday, the Stars and the Washington Capitals were the only NHL teams this season that have not lost more than two consecutive games.
- The Stars have allowed only 2.58 goals against per game this season, which was the fourth-best mark in the NHL entering play Thursday. Dallas has allowed two or fewer goals in 18 of the 33 games that they have played this year.

## WILD THINGS

- **Jamie Benn** has 11 points (6-5-11) in his last 12 games against the Wild since the start of the 2021-22 season. In all, **Benn** has 48 points (20-28-48) in 56 career regular-season games against Minnesota, which is the fifth-highest total of any active player.
- **Casey DeSmith** has a 5-1-1 career record in seven career games against the Wild, posting a .915 save percentage, 2.53 goals-against average and one shutout in those contests.
- **Matt Duchene** has 23 points (7-16-23) in his last 23 games against Minnesota dating back to Dec. 7, 2015. Additionally, he has posted six multi-point efforts in his last nine games against the Wild.
- **Miro Heiskanen** has five assists in his last five games against the Wild.
- **Roope Hintz** has 19 points (9-10-19) in 20 career games against the Wild. Sixteen of those points have come in 12 games since the start of the 2021-22 season, which is tied for the 11th-most in the NHL during that span.
- **Wyatt Johnston** has seven points (3-4-7) in eight career games against the Wild.
- **Mason Marchment** has 11 points (6-5-11) in nine career games against Minnesota. He scored both of Dallas' goals in the two teams last meeting on Nov. 16.
- **Jake Oettinger** – a native of Lakeville, Minnesota – has a 6-0-1 career record against the Wild, posting a .917 save percentage and 2.30 goals-against average in those games.
- **Jason Robertson** has 17 points (10-7-17) in 12 career games against the Wild.
  - **Robertson's** 17 points against Minnesota since the start of the 2021-22 season are tied for the eighth-most in the NHL.
  - His 1.42 points per game against the Wild is the third-best mark of any active NHL skater that has played Minnesota at least three times in their career, trailing only Washington's Alex Ovechkin (1.61) and Sidney Crosby (1.52).

## KILLING IT

- Entering play Thursday, the Stars had the fifth-ranked penalty kill in the NHL this season with an 85.0 percent success rate.
- Dallas has allowed only 14 power-play goals against this season, which was the second-best mark in the NHL this season entering play Thursday. Their 0.42 power-play goals against per game were also tied for the second-best mark in the NHL entering play Thursday.
- The Stars have not allowed a power-play goal against in seven consecutive games, going 16-for-16 on the penalty kill dating back to Dec. 8 vs. Calgary.
  - The Stars are the only team in the NHL that has been perfect on the penalty kill since Dec. 8.
- If the Stars were to remain perfect on the penalty kill tonight, it would mark the first time that this team has gone eight straight games without surrendering a power-play goal against since Nov. 23 to Dec. 11, 2021 (nine games). They went 20-for-20 on the penalty kill during that stretch.
- **Thomas Harley** has allowed 3.34 power-play goals against per 60, which was the fourth-best mark in the NHL entering play Thursday among defensemen that have at least 40 minutes of shorthanded ice time this season.
- **Esa Lindell** has skated 117:03 minutes on the penalty kill this season, which was fourth-highest total of any NHL skater this season entering play Thursday.
  - **Lindell**, who skated 7:58 of shorthanded ice time, was on the ice for all but two seconds of Dallas' eight penalty kill minutes in their game on Dec. 16 against the Washington Capitals.

## HOME COOKING

- The Stars enter tonight's matchup against Minnesota with an 13-5-0 record while playing at home this season.
  - One of Dallas' "home" losses this season came at Nokia Arena in Tampere, Finland.
  - With a win tonight, the Stars could tie the Toronto Maple Leafs and Vegas Golden Knights for the most wins at home this season (14).
- The Stars have allowed only 2.22 goals against and 40 goals in home games this year, which ranked second and fourth, respectively, in the NHL this season entering play Thursday.
- Dallas has gone 42-for-46 on the penalty kill at home this year. Their 91.3 percent success rate when playing a man down at home this year was the second-best mark in the NHL entering play Thursday.
  - No team has allowed fewer power-play goals against at home this year than Dallas' four.
- Dallas' next home win will be their 14th of the season. Last year, the Stars won their 14th home game of the season on Jan. 16, 2024 against the Los Angeles Kings.
- **Jason Robertson** (4-12-16) is the team's lead in scoring at home this season.
- **Roope Hintz** has nine points (7-2-9) in his last eight home games dating back to Nov. 20.

## TOUGH AS NILS

- In Dallas' last game on Dec. 23 against Utah, the Stars outshot the Hockey Club 13-7 when **Nils Lundskvist** was on the ice during 5-on-5 play. No skater or either team was on the ice for more shots for during 5-on-5 than **Lundskvist**.
- Since Dec. 8, when **Lundskvist** has been on the ice during 5-on-5 play, the Stars have outscored their opponents 4-2 and outshot them 40-26. His 59.7 percent Corsi rating during that span ranks tops Stars skaters to play in at least four games since Dec. 8.

- **Lundkvist** has totaled 20 shots on goal since Nov. 29, which was tied for second among NHL defensemen that have averaged less than 18 minutes off ice time per game during that span entering play Thursday.
  - This includes recorded six shots on Dec. 4 against Los Angeles, which match his career high and were the second-most by a Stars defenseman in a single game this season (**Miro Heiskanen**; 7 on 10/22 at BUF and 11/11 at PIT).
- In all this season, **Lundkvist** is averaging 16.3 shot attempts per 60, which is the sixth-best mark on the Stars roster and tops all Dallas defensemen.

### BICHSEL BETTER HAVE MY MONEY

- Dallas' game against the Predators on Dec. 12 marked the first NHL game of defenseman **Lian Bichsel's** career.
- In making his NHL debut, **Bichsel** became:
  - The 33rd player and 13th defenseman selected in the 2022 NHL Draft to appear in an NHL regular-season game.
  - The eighth player drafted by the Stars between 2017 and 2024 to play in at least one regular-season game for Dallas.
  - The 46th Swiss player and 15th Swiss defenseman in league history to appear in an NHL regular-season game.
- **Bichsel** scored his first NHL goal in the game, making him the third defenseman in franchise history to score in his NHL debut according to NHL Stats, joining Daniel Poulin (Dec. 12, 1981) and Bryan Maxwell (Feb. 16, 1987). **Bichsel's** goal came exactly 43 years to the day after Poulin's.
- **Bichsel** scored the second goal of his NHL career in Dallas' game (and his third NHL game) on Dec. 16 against the Washington Capitals, making him the second defenseman in franchise history to score two goals within his first three NHL games according to NHL Stats, joining Minnesota North Stars blueliner Derian Hatcher (2 in 1991-92).
- **Bichsel's** goal was the eventual game winner, making him the club's second-youngest defenseman with a game-winning goal according to NHL Stats, behind only **Miro Heiskanen** (4; youngest: 19 years, 99 days on Oct. 25, 2018).
  - **Bichsel** was 20 years and 212 days old on Dec. 16.
- **Bichsel's** two goals this season were just one shy of tying New Jersey's Seamus Casey for the league lead among rookie defensemen entering play Thursday.
  - **Bichsel**, Casey and the Islanders' Isaiah George were the only rookie defensemen to score a game-winning goal this season entering play Thursday.
- Since making his NHL debut on Dec. 12, **Bichsel** has recorded 20 hits in six games played. His 20 hits are the most of any Stars skater during that span and 13 more than the second-ranked player (four tied with seven).
  - This includes totaling six hits in Dallas' last game on Dec. 23 against Utah, the most by a Stars skater in a single game this season.
- Standing at 6'7", there are only four players to appear in a regular-season game this year that are taller than **Bichsel**: New York's Matt Rempe (6'9"), Vancouver's Tyler Myers (6'8"), Chicago's Louis Crevier (6'8") and Calgary's Adam Klapka (6'8").
- **Bichsel** was originally selected by the Stars with the 18th-overall pick of the 2022 NHL Draft, the only Swiss player to be drafted that year. It made him the seventh-highest drafted Swiss player in NHL history, behind Nico Hischier (first overall, 2017), Nino Niederreiter (fifth overall, 2010), Timo Meier (ninth overall, 2015), Kevin Fiala (11th overall, 2014), Sven Bärtschi (13th overall, 2011) and Michel Riesen (14th overall, 1997).
  - Defenseman Mirco Müller was also drafted 18th overall, taken by San Jose in 2013.

### ROBO ON THE GOGO

- **Jason Robertson** enters tonight's matchup having totaled nine points (2-7-9) in his last nine games played dating back to Dec. 4 against the Los Angeles Kings.
- During that span, the Stars have outscored their opponents 6-4 and outshot them 70-45 when **Robertson** has been on the ice during 5-on-5 play according to Natural Stat Trick.
- With two assists in Dallas' game on Dec. 16 against Washington, **Robertson** moved into 23rd on the franchise's all-time scoring list with 335 (140-195-335) career points. He now sits three points shy of tying Al MacAdam for 22nd all-time.
- **Robertson** enters tonight's game three assists shy of recording 200 career assists. When he reaches the milestone, he will become the 27th player in Stars franchise history at the seventh player from the 2017 draft class to total 200 NHL assists.

### BENN THERE DONE THAT

- Dallas' game on Dec. 18 was the 1,143rd game of captain **Jamie Benn's** career, which is the most-ever by a Stars skater.
  - **Benn** surpassed Mike Modano's 1,142 games with Dallas.
- **Benn's** 1,145 career games rank second on the franchise's all-time list behind Modano, who played in 317 games for the North Stars before the team relocated to Dallas.
- **Benn** also ranks in the top five in franchise history in career goals (390, second), assists (539, third) and points (928, second).
- Dallas' last game on Dec. 23 against Utah was the 330th consecutive game that **Benn** played in, which is the fifth-longest active Iron Man streak in the NHL.
- **Benn** enters tonight's game 10 goals shy of scoring 400 career goals. When he reaches the milestone, he will become the 10th active skater to score 400 NHL goals.

## ONE FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

- **Jake Oettinger's** next shutout will be the 12th of his career, which will tie Jon Casey for the sixth-most in franchise history.
- **Miro Heiskanen** is one assist shy of tying Brad Maxwell (217) for seventh on the franchise's all-time assists list by defensemen.
- **Matt Duchene** is five points away from recording his 100th point with the Stars.
- **Esa Lindell** enters tonight's contest four assists shy of tying Alex Goligoski (155) for 25th all-time among Stars/North Stars defensemen.

## CONNECT FOUR

- Stars forward **Roope Hintz** (Finland), defensemen **Miro Heiskanen** (Finland) and **Esa Lindell** (Finland), and goaltender **Jake Oettinger** (United States) have all been selected to represent their home country at the 4 Nations Face-Off, which will be held in Montreal and Boston from Feb. 12 to 20, 2025.
- Dallas is one of six NHL teams to have at least one forward, defenseman and goaltender from their roster to be selected for the 4 Nations Face-Off, with the others being Boston, Minnesota, Vancouver, Vegas and Winnipeg.
- Only six teams have had more players selected to a 4 Nations roster than the Stars: Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, Tampa Bay and Vegas. The full breakdown is as follows:

PLAYERS SELECTED	TEAMS
0	Washington
1	Calgary, Chicago, Columbus, Los Angeles, NY Islanders, San Jose, Seattle
2	Buffalo, Detroit, Ottawa, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Utah
3	Carolina, Edmonton, Montreal, Nashville, Philadelphia, Winnipeg
4	Boston, <b>Dallas</b> , New Jersey, NY Rangers, Toronto, Vancouver
5	Colorado, Minnesota, Tampa Bay
6	--
7	Florida, Vegas

- All four players have previously represented their home countries in international competition.
  - **Heiskanen** has played for Finland at the 2017 and 2018 IIHF World Junior Championships, 2018 and 2022 (gold) IIHF World Championships and at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games.
  - **Lindell** suited up for the Fins at the 2014 IIHF World Junior Championship, where he won a gold medal. He again represented Finland at the 2015, 2016 (silver) and 2022 (gold) IIHF World Championships and at the 2016 World Cup of Hockey.
  - **Hintz** previously played for Finland at the 2015 and 2016 IIHF World Junior Championships, winning a gold medal at the later tournament.
  - **Oettinger** has played for Team USA at the 2017 and 2018 IIHF World Junior Championships and at the 2021 IIHF World Championship. He medaled in all three tournaments, winning bronze in 2018 and 2021 and gold in 2017.
- The 4 Nations Face-Off will mark the first time that all three of **Heiskanen**, **Hintz** and **Lindell** are playing for Finland together.
  - **Heiskanen** and **Lindell** previously won a gold medal together at the 2022 IIHF World Championship.
- The Stars will also be well-represented among the 4 Nations staff, with **Jim Nill** (Associate GM), **Pete DeBoer** (Assistant Coach) and **Misha Donskov** (Assistant Coach) all set to join Canada's staff for the tournament. Additionally, former Star **Jere Lehtinen** will serve as Finland's General Manager.

## CONNECTIONS

- Stars defenseman **Matt Dumba** was originally selected by Minnesota in the first round (seventh overall) in the 2012 NHL Draft. He played for the Wild from 2013-14 to 2022-23.
  - **Dumba** and Wild defenseman Jonas Brodin and Jared Spurgeon were teammates in Minnesota during Dumba's tenure there from 2013-14 to 2022-23.
- Stars forward **Sam Steel** and defenseman **Matt Dumba** both played together for one season in Minnesota during the 2022-23 season.
- Stars player development assistant **Jordie Benn** and Stars defenseman **Matt Dumba** both played together in Minnesota during the 2021-22 season.
- Stars forward **Colin Blackwell** and Wild forwards Ryan Hartman and Frederick Gaudreau were all members of the Nashville Predators during the 2018-19 season and played five games together.
- Stars goaltender **Casey DeSmith** played alongside the Wild's Frederick Gaudreau in part of the 2020-21 season with the Pittsburgh Penguins.
- Stars forwards **Matt Duchene** and **Colin Blackwell** played with Wild forward Yakov Trenin in Nashville during the 2019-20 season.
- Stars forward **Evgenii Dadonov** and Wild goaltender Filip Gustavsson played together in Ottawa in 2021-22.
- Stars forward **Colin Blackwell** and Wild forward Marcus Johansson were both members of the Seattle Kraken during the 2021-22 season.



- Stars defenseman **Brendan Smith** and Wild forward Mats Zuccarello both played for the New York Rangers from 2016-17 until 2018-19.
- Wild forward Mats Zuccarello played two games for the Dallas Stars in 2018-19.
- Stars goaltending coach **Jeff Reese** and Wild associate coach Jack Capuano both played for the Toronto Maple Leafs in 1989-1990.

## STRAIGHT FROM THE SOURCE

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- Josh Clark profiled Jim Nill's tenure with the Stars, which includes thoughts from Jamie Benn and Matt Dumba, in his latest piece for DallasStars.com - [The architect: How Jim Nill has cultivated a new era of Stars hockey](#).
- Lia Assimakopoulos talked with Logan Stankoven, Texas Stars head coach Niel Graham and Mavrik Bourque himself about [Bourque's journey to the NHL](#) and finally cracking the Stars' opening night roster.
- [Wyatt Johnston joined The Musers on Sportsradio 96.7 and 1310 The Ticket](#) from Stars media day to discuss brining a veteran presence to Dallas' locker room despite only being 21 years old, coping with the physical demands of the NHL and navigating his first pro season without Joe Pavelski.
- Fresh off of signing a two-year contract extension, Mike Heika of DallasStars.com profiled [what's ahead for Stars defenseman Thomas Harley](#) this season as he prepares to take another crucial step in his career.
- In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Albert Perez of NHL.com sat down with NHL alum and the Stars' Vice President of Cultural Growth and Strategy, Al Montoya, to discuss the [Stars' bid to grown and engage with their Hispanic fanbase](#).
- Mike Heika of DallasStars.com dove deep into [what makes Esa Lindell a core member of the Stars organization](#), both on and off the ice, after the blueliner signed a five-year contract extension a year ahead of hitting free agency.

## STARS REAL-TIME STATS LEADERS

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**Hits:** Benn (47), Marchment (44), Blackwell (38)

**Blocked Shots:** Lindell (65), Heiskanen (57), Lyubushkin (54)

**Shots:** Johnston (93), Stankoven (83), Robertson (81)

## STARS' RECORD IN 10-GAME SEGMENTS [W-L-OT (PTS), GF/GA, PP, PK]

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**1-10:** 7-3-0 (14), 32/23, 6/32, 28/31

**11-20:** 6-4-0 (12), 37/27, 4/30, 20/27

**21-30:** 6-4-0 (12), 28/25, 7/31, 25/29

**31-40:** 1-2-0 (2), 7/10, 0/14, 6/6

## OVERTIME RESULTS (1-0)

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Dec. 14, 2024 vs. St. Louis: Duchene

## SHOOTOUT RESULTS (1-0)

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Oct. 15, 2024 vs. San Jose: Duchene

## UPCOMING NHL MILESTONES (PLAYER ... NEEDS ... MILESTONE)

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### Games Played

Matt Dumba ... 7 games ... 700 NHL games

Wyatt Johnston ... 3 games ... 200 NHL games

### Starts

N/A

### Goals

Jamie Benn ... 10 goals ... 400 NHL goals

### Assists

Jason Robertson ... 3 assists ... 200 NHL assists

### Points

N/A

## RECENT MILESTONES

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Oskar Bäck ... First NHL game ... Oct. 10, 2024 at NSH

Pete DeBoer ... 100th win as Stars head coach ... Oct. 10, 2024 at NSH

Oskar Bäck ... First NHL point (assist) ... Oct. 17, 2024 at WSH

Mavrik Bourque ... First NHL point (assist) ... Oct. 22, 2024 at BUF

Roope Hintz ... 400th NHL game ... Oct. 24, 2024 at BOS

Jason Robertson ... 300th NHL game ... Oct. 24, 2024 at BOS

Jake Oettinger ... 200th NHL game ... Nov. 1, 2024 vs. FLA

Mavrik Bourque ... First NHL goal ... Nov. 1, 2024 vs. FLA

Oskar Bäck ... First NHL goal ... Nov. 14, 2024 vs. BOS  
Tyler Seguin ... 800th NHL point ... Nov. 14, 2024 vs. BOS  
Mason Marchment ... 100th NHL assist ... Nov. 18, 2024 vs. ANA  
Jake Oettinger ... 200th NHL start ... Nov. 29, 2024 vs. COL  
Esa Lindell ... 200th NHL point ... Dec. 1, 2024 vs. WPG  
Lian Bichsel ... First NHL game and first NHL goal ... Dec. 12, 2024 vs. NSH

## MEDIA RESOURCES

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[Stars Press Site](#)  
[NHL Media Site](#)  
[Pronunciation Guide](#)  
[NHL Stats](#)

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