



## **Columbus Blue Jackets News Clips September 6, 2024**

### **Columbus Blue Jackets**

- PAGE 02: Columbus Dispatch: Columbus Blue Jackets star Johnny Gaudreau's funeral set for Monday
- PAGE 03: Columbus Dispatch: Columbus Blue Jackets, fans honor Johnny Gaudreau, Matthew Gaudreau with emotional vigil
- PAGE 04: Bluejackets.com: We'll never forget Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau
- PAGE 07: ESPN: Gaudreau brothers' funeral to be held Monday in Philadelphia
- PAGE 09: NBC4: Entire Columbus Blue Jackets team to attend Johnny Gaudreau funeral in Pennsylvania
- PAGE 11: The Hockey Writers: NHL should rename Lady Byng Trophy after Johnny Gaudreau
- PAGE 13: The Hockey News: Gaudreau brothers remembered in candlelight vigils

### **Cleveland Monsters/Prospects**

### **NHL/ Websites**

- PAGE 14: The Athletic: Ranking the NHL's top 20 Calder Trophy candidates for the 2024-25 season
- PAGE 20: Sportsnet.ca: Which NHL teams have made the most of early draft picks?

## Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets star Johnny Gaudreau's funeral set for Monday

**By Colin Gay- September 6, 2024**

A funeral for Blue Jackets star forward Johnny Gaudreau and his brother Matthew has been scheduled for 12 p.m. Monday, the team confirmed Thursday.

A livestream of the service will be available through the Blue Jackets website.

"The family remains grateful for the expressions of love and support they have received and ask for continued respect and privacy at this time," the Blue Jackets' statement reads.

Fox 29 in Philadelphia states that Gaudreau's funeral service will be held at St. Magdalen Catholic Church in Media, Pennsylvania.

A letter from Rev. Eric J. Banecker to the parish shared that the school associated with the church would be closed Monday due to "an extraordinarily large funeral for two young men, one of whom is a hockey player."

Johnny, 31, and Matthew, 29, were killed Aug. 29 in South Jersey as they biked together along a road in Oldmans Township in Salem County. Police say the driver who struck them, 43-year-old Sean Higgins, told them he had five or six beers before getting behind the wheel, and Higgins has been charged with two counts of homicide by vehicle.

In a press conference Wednesday, Blue Jackets president of hockey operations and general manager Don Waddell confirmed that the team would be present for Gaudreau's funeral.

"In talking with people in the organization, including the guys here with me today, it's apparent just how special of a person Johnny was, and how significant his loss is being felt by everyone," Waddell said. "Where there's a huge hole in our lineup, there's even a larger one in our hearts."

Meredith Gaudreau, Johnny's wife, posted multiple statements on Instagram remembering her husband.

"Thank you for the best years of my life," Meredith Gaudreau wrote. "Despite losing you, I am still the luckiest girl in the world to have been yours. I love you so so much. You were perfect. Some days it felt too good to be true. I love every single thing about you. You are my forever and I can't wait to be with you again. I love you so much forever and ever."

## Columbus Dispatch / Columbus Blue Jackets, fans honor Johnny Gaudreau, Matthew Gaudreau with emotional vigil

**By Brian Hedger- September 6, 2024**

Some let their candles burn until the end, until their flames were extinguished into a giant blob of hot wax that dripped onto their fingers and dried there like frozen tears.

Blue Jackets fans who gathered for a vigil Wednesday outside Nationwide Arena waited until a solitary bagpiper played the last notes of “Amazing Grace” before quietly and sadly filing away into the night. A group also descended upon a memorial that has adorned the arena’s east entrance, and grown in size, for the past week with placed hockey sticks, homemade signs, jerseys, pucks and purple Gatorade.

Once more, they paid homage to Blue Jackets forward Johnny Gaudreau and his younger brother, Matthew, two brothers from South Jersey who loved their families dearly, played hockey passionately and enjoyed making people smile – very likely in that order. Johnny, 31, and Matthew, 29, were killed last Thursday night by a driver who admitted to police he’d been drinking alcohol prior to a collision he caused while attempting to pass two vehicles on a two-lane road.

It’s a tragedy, simply put, and it’s sad in more ways than anybody wants to count up. It has rocked the NHL and the sports world in general, as a harrowing reminder that even beloved famous athletes are like the rest of us. They’re human. They lead full lives, have families they adore, teammates as extended family, countless friends and former coaches who helped them get to the top. They have an ability to touch many via their notoriety, but they’re not invincible.

Johnny Gaudreau was one of them, and the team’s vigil Wednesday that honored him and his brother was a powerful reminder. Life is fleeting and fragile, even for them, and no place in the NHL knows that more than Columbus, which is mourning again. Only two years after Gaudreau stunned the NHL by signing with the Blue Jackets and three years after goalie Matiss Kivlenieks was killed in a tragic July 4th fireworks incident, a city that still holds “Kivi” dear to its heart is now grieving for the Gaudreau family.

It’s not even close to fair.

In fact, it’s almost unfathomable that one team, one city and one fan base must endure that kind of heartache more than once, let alone in such a short span. But they gathered in droves Wednesday, forming a sea of Gaudreau jerseys that filled a plaza.

After listening to emotional words and memories from Blue Jackets GM Don Waddell, captain Boone Jenner, alternate captain Erik Gudbranson and center Cole Sillinger, a crowd that likely surpassed 1,000 in number fell silent. Candles were lit, daylight faded and a video showing scenes from the Gaudreau brothers’ lives flashed on a large screen across the street.

It showed them playing hockey, celebrating weddings, dancing, laughing, smiling. The accompanying silence was supposed to last exactly 13:21 to reflect each brother’s jersey number, but most stayed mum for longer despite one guy’s attempt to spark a “Johnny Hockey!” chant.

Soon, the bagpiper played. Candles illuminated the evening. Tears streamed down cheeks.

The ceremony came to an end with the words of John H. McConnell II, son of majority owner John P. McConnell, and then a hush again took over. Small groups filed out, almost all wiping their eyes. Some stayed and locked their arms around each other. Others still faced the video screen, transfixed by the ongoing slideshow until their flames, too, burned out.

## [Bluejackets.com / We'll never forget Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau](#)

By Jeff Svoboda- September 6, 2024

For a man that could bring 20,000 people to a fever pitch on an NHL rink, perhaps the biggest honor Johnny Gaudreau could receive was the quiet that fell on Columbus last night.

As thousands of Blue Jackets fans and his teammates gathered for a candlelight vigil in remembrance of Gaudreau and his brother, Matthew, you could have heard a pin drop outside of Nationwide Arena during 13 minutes and 21 seconds of silence to honor the pair.

As a slideshow played featuring pictures of the brothers' lives and hockey careers, a community continued to bond after the sudden and tragic passing of the two last Thursday night.

No one knows when we'll all feel anything close to normal again. Simply put, the old normal for us may never exist again after another devastating yet all-too-familiar loss. But Wednesday night, at least we were together, standing shoulder to shoulder, determined no one will face this alone.

While there was grief in the faces and voices of Blue Jackets players, there was comfort and joy in the stories they told about their teammate. While there were tears shed by the fans, there was strength in the bond shared between a community and its team.

For as empty as we all feel in this moment, the Gaudreau family has lost two sons, husbands, brothers and fathers; we cannot begin to imagine their sense of loss.

Yet Wednesday night affirmed we remain in this as one. While hockey is the binding tie for everyone who came together, it was clear that the thing most important to the Gaudreaus in life – family – was also on full display in Columbus.

"It means the world to our dressing room that you guys are not only standing by us during tough times in the hockey season but when it matters most," Blue Jackets defenseman Erik Gudbranson, a close friend of Johnny Gaudreau, told the crowd. "Our hearts are shattered in a million pieces, there's no doubt about that."

The loss of the Gaudreau brothers remains "immeasurable and impossible to comprehend," as Blue Jackets president of hockey operations Don Waddell described it, but Wednesday was a part of a healing process that will continue Monday afternoon when a memorial service is held.

In addition to last night's vigil, Blue Jackets players and Waddell addressed the media during the afternoon to share stories about the Gaudreau brothers, send condolences to the family and express their grief.

After spending the past two seasons with the Blue Jackets, Johnny was remembered throughout the day for his dedication to those close to him, his outstanding playing skill, his famously finicky eating habits, his boundless competitive spirit, his love of the Philadelphia Eagles, and for an easygoing smile that brought comfort to all those who knew him.

"John leaves us a life's example of love, simplicity and joy," veteran Blue Jackets forward Sean Kuraly said. "He expressed that for the masses through hockey and personally through his relationships, which explains why he was universally adored through all the communities that were lucky enough to enjoy No. 13.

"To say John will be missed doesn't completely capture (it). May you and your brother Matt rest peacefully."

In the meantime, tributes from across the world – not just the hockey world – have continued to pour in. Notable figures from star basketball player and Ohio native LeBron James to Gov. Mike DeWine expressed sympathy on social media, while professional sports organizations across America held moments of silence before games over the weekend.

“The outpouring of love for John and Matthew has been remarkable, not only among the NHL family but from our local sports community as well as teams and leagues around the world,” Waddell said. “From New Jersey to Boston, Calgary to Columbus and everywhere in between, you have inspired us with the expressions of love and support.

“I know that means the world to the Gaudreau family, and it means the world to our organization as well.”

For the Blue Jackets organization, the hockey world and the Gaudreau family, the world remains a starkly different place than it was seven days ago. Despite – or perhaps because of – his small stature, “Johnny Hockey” had an outsized impact on the sport, turning casual fans into diehards and lifting them out of their seat with his puck handling wizardry and playmaking abilities.

The accolades are almost too many to note – seven All-Star appearances in 11 seasons, a Hobey Baker Award in college at Boston College, a decorated international career with USA Hockey – and he often saved his best for the biggest moments. Johnny Gaudreau became a legend in Calgary with his Game 7, overtime goal in the first round of the playoffs in 2022 and similarly lifted the entire city of Columbus when he shocked the NHL by signing here two years ago.

There was joy to be able to watch him up close, because watching Johnny Gaudreau on a daily basis was the best way to appreciate his talents. He wasn’t someone who would blow up social media with a booming slap shot or Michigan goal, but he thought the game at a level beyond most other NHLers, somehow turning subtlety into the divine.

And he did it all with a smile on his face, an unbridled joy to be able to play this great game for a living.

“I want to say thank you, John, for choosing Columbus when a lot of people wouldn’t,” Blue Jackets alternate captain Zach Werenski said. “You brought so much joy and excitement to this city. I’ve never quite seen anything like it. (It’s) something only truly special players can do, and that’s what you were.”

But as much as Gaudreau was Johnny Hockey to the world, he was simply John to those close to him. He truly lived for his family, including his unbreakable bond with Matthew, his father Guy, mother Jane, and sisters Kristen and Katie, as well as his deep love for his wife Meredith, daughter Noa and son Johnny.

He and Matthew learned the game as kids at the Hollydell Ice Arena in New Jersey, where his dad started teaching Johnny to skate at the age of 2. He quickly showed an aptitude for hockey – as did Matthew, a former pro player and current coach himself – and the family was never far from the game.

The two brothers played together under Guy at Gloucester Catholic High School and there was never much doubt they’d do it again in college, with Johnny forgoing a chance to sign a pro contract so he could skate a season at Boston College with his younger brother.

Guy and Jane were constant presences in the stands no matter where he played, making trips to Calgary each year to watch him play and then drives to Columbus for what felt like nearly every home game. In recent years, Meredith and the kids were never far behind.

When the Blue Jackets signed Johnny to a contract in the summer of 2022, they actually signed an entire family.

“When you met one Gaudreau, it wasn’t long after you were meeting another – and then receiving another bottle of Guy’s homemade maple syrup,” Blue Jackets captain Boone Jenner said. “It was easy to see very quickly how tight-knit and together their family was. One thing I admired was that John never forgot where he came from.”

And in turn, the Blue Jackets and the Central Ohio community will never forget the Gaudreaus. That much was apparent as the tributes grew, tears flowed and candles fluttered in the breeze Wednesday night.

“As a team, we are going to get through this together,” Jenner said. “We’re going to cry, grieve, be vulnerable and support each other every step of the way, but we will persevere because I know that’s what Johnny would have wanted.

“We’re not only going to remember and honor Johnny and Matthew during these difficult days or this season alone. The memory will stay with us forever.”

## ESPN / Gaudreau brothers' funeral to be held Monday in Philadelphia

By AP- September 6, 2024

The funeral for John and Matthew Gaudreau has been scheduled for Monday at a church in suburban Philadelphia, and the driver charged with killing them remains in jail awaiting his next court appearance.

The memorial service for the Gaudreau brothers is set to take place at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in Media, Pennsylvania. The Columbus Blue Jackets, for whom John Gaudreau played and was known around the sport as "Johnny Hockey," said the team will stream the service on its website.

The Gaudreau brothers died last week when they were struck and killed by a suspected drunken driver while they were riding their bicycles in their home state of New Jersey on the eve of their sister Katie's wedding. The driver, Sean M. Higgins, appeared virtually at his first pretrial hearing Thursday. The judge postponed the hearing to Sept. 13 to allow attorneys more time to prepare.

Higgins, 43, is being held at a Salem County jail. He is charged with two counts of death by auto, along with reckless driving, possession of an open container and consuming alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Attorneys Matthew Portella and Richard Klineburger III said Higgins had hired them to represent him.

"This is a tragedy involving a great deal of emotion and impacting many individuals," they said in a statement. "It is too early in the stages of the legal process to make any out of court statements."

Countless members of the hockey community from Columbus to South Jersey to Boston College, where the Gaudreus played, are expected to join family and friends for the funeral. Blue Jackets general manager Don Waddell said the entire team would be there, and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman is also planning to be in attendance.

The Rev. Eric J. Banecker, in a letter to parents, said school at St. Mary Magdalen would be closed Monday because of the service.

"This will be an extraordinarily large funeral for two young men, one of whom was a professional hockey player," Banecker wrote in the letter that was posted on social media. "The fact is we cannot ensure a safe school day and dismissal given the expected crowd. I ask you to consider this inconvenience a small sacrifice that will help ease the pain just a bit of John and Matthew's parents, wives, children, siblings, relatives and friends."

Fans and current and former players paid tribute to John and Matthew in candlelight vigils in Columbus, Ohio, and Calgary, Alberta, on Wednesday night. There was a 13-minute, 21-second silent remembrance outside the Blue Jackets' downtown arena while a slideshow played of photos showing the siblings from childhood, through their teenage years and into college hockey, the pros, marriages, baptisms and lives filled with joy and love.

The crowd outside the Flames' arena in Calgary grew to thousands, with fans breaking out into chants of, "Johnny! Johnny!"

Lewis Gross, the brothers' longtime agent, said Thursday it had taken him some time to write about what the 15 years representing them meant to him, including becoming part of the extended Gaudreau family.

"The hockey might be over, but my commitment to John and Matt will last throughout my life," [Gross wrote](#) on social media. "These boys taught me so much. They taught me what family really means."

Obituaries published Thursday directed contributions to the John & Matthew Gaudreau Foundation, care of Gross at Sports Professional Management in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey.

USA Hockey executive director Pat Kelleher opened remarks about the 2024 class of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame with continued thoughts and prayers for the Gaudreau family. Kevin Stevens, one of the inductees, played at BC three decades before John and Matthew.

"The last week has been awful," Stevens said. "It's just gut-wrenching. It's unimaginable -0 something that you never want to have to try to deal with. We all come together and try to do the best we can to make this go by somehow."



## NBC4 / Entire Columbus Blue Jackets team to attend Johnny Gaudreau funeral in Pennsylvania

**By Adam Conn- September 6, 2024**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (WCMH) – Funeral arrangements have been announced for Columbus Blue Jackets forward Johnny Gaudreau and his brother after the pair were killed in an alleged drunk driving incident last Thursday in New Jersey.

Blue Jackets General Manager Don Waddell announced Wednesday during a candlelight vigil that the entire team and staff will attend the funeral for the Gaudreau brothers, who were reportedly run over while riding bicycles on County Road 551 in Oldmans Township, near Salem, New Jersey on Aug. 29.

The funeral will take place in Pennsylvania at noon on Monday. At the Gaudreau family's request, the funeral is specified as just for friends and family, as is the viewing service the day before. In the event of overflow in attendance, the service will also be shown via live broadcast at a nearby school gym, where attendees will be directed once the church is full.

According to a news release, given the outpouring of love for the Gaudreau brothers, a livestream of the funeral service will be available on the Blue Jackets' website. Otherwise, no cameras or recording devices of any kind will be permitted in the church during the service.

Memorial tributes for Johnny, 31, and Matthew, 29, continue to grow daily outside of Nationwide Arena, where flowers, hockey sticks, jerseys and much more have been placed on the open patio in their honor. The Blue Jackets hosted the vigil Wednesday, when hundreds of fans gathered for a 13 minute, 21 second moment of silence to represent jersey numbers Johnny wore with Columbus, the Calgary Flames and Boston College and Matthew wore at Boston College.

General Manager Dan Waddell along with team captain Boone Jenner and alternate captains Erik Gudbranson, Zach Werenski, and Sean Kuraly addressed the media and crowd to reflect on the Gaudreau brothers' lives.

"Where there is a huge hole in our lineup, there is an even larger one in our hearts," said Waddell. "Our immediate focus is on supporting the Gaudreau family and supporting each other."

Waddell said the entire team is planning to attend the funeral in New Jersey, which will take place Monday at the D'Anjolell Memoiral Home of Broomall, in Broomall, PA, west of Philadelphia.

The team said it plans to live stream the event on its website.

The man accused of killing the Gaudreau brothers, Sean Higgins, of Woodstown, N.J., appeared in court Thursday for a detention hearing, but it was postponed until Friday, Sept. 13. He is charged with two counts of vehicular homicide, which could result in a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison in New Jersey if convicted.

Higgins, 43, reportedly tried to pass two vehicles ahead of him on County Road 551 near Salem, N.J. Police said an SUV in front of Higgins moved toward the middle of the roadway, splitting the north and south lanes, to safely pass the Gaudreau brothers as they rode their bikes on the right side of the road.

Police said Higgins then tried to pass the SUV on the right side of the road and struck the brothers, who were pronounced dead at the scene.

New Jersey State Police reported in a criminal complaint that Higgins, who remained at the scene, said he consumed approximately five or six beers before the crash. He then failed a series of standardized field sobriety tests.

Higgins was suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, arrested and taken to the Salem County Correctional Facility. He will now remain in custody until at least Friday, Sept. 13, when the detention hearing will continue.

Judge Michael Silvanio with the New Jersey Superior Court said that a conference took place with attorneys from both sides, who wished to postpone the detention hearing so as to supply the court with additional documentation in preparation for said hearing.

It was confirmed by NBC4 that Higgins worked at Gaudenzia, a nonprofit drug and alcohol treatment and recovery center, based out of Norristown, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia.

## The Hockey Writers / NHL should rename Lady Byng Trophy after Johnny Gaudreau

By Mark Scheig- September 6, 2024

Both the Columbus Blue Jackets and Calgary Flames held vigils on Wednesday night to remember Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau. Thousands of fans showed up at each vigil paying their respects to not only two hockey players, but two great people.

One thought prevailed in Columbus as the night went on. Thousands of fans came to pay their respects to a player in Johnny who left an indelible mark on them. He played two seasons for the Blue Jackets. Although they didn't know him personally, he was like a member of their family.

All of the stories that have come out about Johnny and Matthew have pointed to one major theme. If you saw one brother, you likely saw the other not far away. To those that knew the brothers personally, they got to see their bond in action. It was unbreakable.

Johnny made some important decisions in his life based on wanting to be with his brother Matthew. That's true love in its purest form. It's one of the greatest things anyone can do.

Johnny carried over that spirit to the way he played the game of hockey. He brought fans out of their seats. He may have been small in size but you couldn't measure the size of his heart. He played the game in a way that had highlight reels constantly rolling while also respecting the game and playing it the right way.

With that said, a question pondered on Wednesday night as the vigil took place was how can the NHL ensure that Johnny's legacy is honored and never forgotten? Here's my proposal. Given the way he played the game at the highest level of skill and respect, the NHL should rename the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy to the Johnny Gaudreau Memorial Trophy.

### **The Ultimate Honor**

Johnny gave everything to the sport he love growing up. That's all he wanted to do. He wanted to play as much hockey as he could.

Although the odds may have been stacked against him at the outset, Johnny overcame every obstacle thrown his way. He was able to adapt his game to the NHL and did it in such a way where he was consistently one of the most gentlemanly players. Sportsmanship topped the list of attributes that made him a superstar.

The Lady Byng Trophy has been a fixture in the NHL going back to the 1924-25 season when it was first awarded. The trophy was donated by [Marie Evelyn Moreton](#) (known as Lady Byng). She asked the first winner Frank Nighbor of the Ottawa Senators if she thought the NHL would accept it as an award for the most gentlemanly player. When he said yes, she awarded him the trophy.

New York Rangers' Frank Boucher won the trophy seven of eight years to which Lady Byng eventually allowed him to keep the original trophy. This led to a second trophy being donated during the 1935-36 season. Upon her passing in 1949, the NHL presented another trophy and officially changed the name to the "Lady Byng Memorial Trophy." That has been in place since.

Occasionally, new awards are introduced for a variety of reasons. Given how Gaudreau played the game, both with high skill and high sportsmanship, there is a strong argument for his name to carry on the legacy of what it means to play hockey with good sportsmanship.

## **Making Argument to Update Name**

While there is a lot of history around Lady Byng and how the trophy came to be, most fans today are not able to relate to something that took place before they were born. A name change here would allow fans to be able to relate to the magnitude of a move like this.

Johnny and Matthew Gaudreau tragically passed away on the night of Aug 29 due to being hit while riding bikes by a suspected drunk driver. Given the overwhelming outpouring of support throughout the hockey world especially in Columbus and Calgary, a name change would allow fans to remember Johnny's legacy and the impact he had on the game of hockey.

In parts of 11 seasons between the Flames and Blue Jackets, Johnny scored 243 goals along with 500 assists for 743 points in 763 games. He is considered one of the greatest U.S. born players of all-time.

Johnny accomplished all of that while never taking more than 26 penalty minutes in a season. He won the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy in 2016-17 when he took just four penalty minutes in 72 games.

In all, Johnny finished with a total of 176 penalty minutes in his 11 NHL seasons. Not counting 2013-14 when he made his NHL debut, that's an average of 17.6 penalty minutes per season or under 10 minor penalties taken. That is the very definition of gentlemanly play. He averaged almost 19:00 per game he played in as well.

## **Final Thoughts**

If there was one thing that was clear being at the Columbus vigil and watching the Calgary vigil, it's that the Gaudreau's were universally loved in the hockey world. Not one bad thing was said about them in the midst of all the outpouring of love and support.

The Gaudreau's were gentlemen on the ice. They were more so off the ice. Johnny played his NHL career and lived his personal life in the most gentlemanly way possible.

That's why the NHL should consider changing the name of the Lady Byng Memorial Trophy to the Johnny Gaudreau Memorial Trophy. His life and legacy along with Matthew deserve to be remembered in the highest regard. Renaming this major award would accomplish that while giving current-day fans a way to continue to celebrate who they were on and off the ice.

Let's hope the NHL agrees with this eventually and gives the Gaudreau's the ultimate honor of being the namesake on one of the game's greatest trophies.

## The Hockey News / Gaudreau brothers remembered in candlelight vigils

**By Stephen Kerr- September 6, 2024**

It's been one week since former ECHL player Matthew Gaudreau and his brother Johnny were struck and killed by a car while bike riding near their Salem County, New Jersey Home. But the hockey world is still stunned and in mourning by their sudden, tragic deaths.

Johnny, 31, played for the Calgary Flames and Columbus Blue Jackets. While he never reached the NHL, Matthew, 29, played in the ECHL from 2017-22, appearing in 127 games split between the Reading Royals and Worcester Railers. The two were also teammates at Boston College.

On Wednesday night, thousands of fans in Columbus and Calgary gathered to remember the brothers in separate candlelight vigils.

At Nationwide Arena, home of the Blue Jackets, the pair were honored by 13 minutes and 21 seconds of silence. Those numbers represented their jersey numbers: the 13 worn by Johnny and 21 worn by Matthew.

In Nationwide Arena's east plaza, a shrine to the Gaudreaus was erected the day after the accident. Before the ceremony, which lasted 35 minutes, fans left flowers, cards and other mementos.

Numerous Blue Jackets players along with general manager Don Waddell, spoke while a video board above a parking garage showed Johnny, Matthew and their families. Clocks mounted on the entrance marquees began counting off toward 13:21. The vigil concluded at sunset.

In Calgary, fans gathered at the west stairs of the Scotiabank Saddledome, with Johnny's No. 13 projected on the building's façade. Flames president and CEO Robert Hayes, general manager Craig Conroy, franchise icon Lanny McDonald and other current players took turns addressing the crowd. A 13-minute period of silence was punctuated with fans raising flashlights shining from cell phones.

During his ECHL career, Matthew posted 100 points (35-65-100). He also skated in the AHL in Bridgeport and Stockton, scoring five points (1-4-5) in 22 games.

"The ECHL and its member teams mourn the loss and express their condolences to the family and friends of former Worcester Railers and Reading Royals forward Matthew Gaudreau, who passed away on Thursday at the age of 29," the league said in a statement released last Friday.

The Blue Jackets will hold a memorial service for both brothers September 9 at 12 Pm ET via live stream. Contributions in both their memories can be made to the John & Matthew Gaudreau Foundation c/o Lewis Gross Sports Management, 560 Sylvan, Suite 3070, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632.

A GoFundMe page has also been set up for Matthew's wife, Madeline, and baby boy. All donations will go toward covering funeral costs and the baby.

## The Athletic / Ranking the NHL's top 20 Calder Trophy candidates for the 2024-25 season

By Scott Wheeler and Harman Dayal- September 6, 2024

Welcome, for a seventh consecutive year, to The Athletic's annual look at the NHL's incoming rookie class — a class which, for the upcoming season, once again looks exciting.

This season, Scott Wheeler and Harman Dayal will continue to team up for a quarterly Calder Trophy ranking beginning with this preseason look at the top rookies for 2024-25.

Here, Dayal and Wheeler have put together a ranking of the top 20 first-year players eligible for the trophy, plus some honorable mentions.

This list differs from Wheeler's twice-a-year drafted prospects rankings in that it focuses not on projecting the long-term upside of these players but entirely on predicting their rookie year results and possibilities. While their talent remains an obvious factor, external considerations are also uniquely relevant in handicapping the Calder Trophy race. We must carefully consider all of their coach, their potential linemates, depth charts and a player's likely role and minutes to gauge their immediate potential production — which, rightly or wrongly, drives awards voting — and impact.

This ranking is also designed as a bit of a tutor for fantasy hockey managers, helping to fill in the gaps that Dom Luszczyszyn's fantasy projections find difficult to model for new players.

Additionally, the criteria for inclusion here also differs from Wheeler's personal work, which doesn't use the league's Calder Trophy's definition of a rookie. The NHL's eligibility for rookie status says that “a player cannot have played more than 25 games in any single preceding season nor in six or more games in each of any two preceding seasons” and “must not have attained his 26th birthday by Sept. 15 of the season in which he is eligible.”

### **1. Matvei Michkov, RW, 19 (Philadelphia Flyers — No. 7 in 2023)**

There are a lot of rookies in the NHL each season who are capable of playing their way into down-ballot consideration for the Calder (forwards who can put up 40 points, D who can put up 20-something, goalies who can backup) but there are only ever a small handful who can actually win the thing. To win it, you need two things: opportunity high in your NHL team's lineup (top-six and PP1 as a forward, top-four minutes as a D, or a vulnerable veteran goalie in front of you) and the high-end talent to match.

Michkov has both of those things in front of him in Philadelphia this season. Not only is he arguably the most purely skilled rookie in the class, but the Flyers need that type of player (with all due respect to Travis Konecny, Owen Tippett, Joel Farabee and company) to juice their top six and elevate last year's last-ranked power play. If John Tortorella plays him in line with his skill level — and there is an if there for a rookie whose play away from the puck can lack — and with linemates reflective of his talent, I think he's got a chance to lead the Flyers in scoring. — Scott Wheeler

### **2. Macklin Celebrini, C, 18 (San Jose Sharks — No. 1 in 2024)**

Celebrini isn't a Connor Bedard-level prospect, but he's still above average compared to past No. 1 picks. Celebrini scored 64 points in 38 NCAA games last year, becoming the youngest player ever to win the Hobey Baker Award. He's a precociously advanced two-way player and physically mature, which means transitioning to the NHL at 18 shouldn't be as jarring as it was for Jack Hughes, for example. He'll be

handed the keys to a top-six center role, the first unit power play and will have at least one high-end linemate in Tyler Toffoli.

Celebrini's draft-year NCAA production was very similar to Jack Eichel and Adam Fantilli. Eichel scored 56 points as a rookie, whereas Fantilli was pacing for 45 points last season before he got injured. Celebrini will likely have more opportunity out of the gate than Fantilli had (Fantilli averaged under 16 minutes per game), so eclipsing 50-plus points seems like a realistic possibility. Scoring 50-plus points as an 18-year-old rookie would be enormously impressive, but it may not be enough to guarantee a Calder Trophy victory. — Harman Dayal

### **3. Logan Stankoven, C/W, 21 (Dallas Stars — No. 47 in 2021)**

Stankoven was one of the best players in the AHL as a rookie last season and looked like a good NHL player on a top team from his first shift with the Stars. He still narrowly qualifies (by just one game) for Calder eligibility this year and projects to play a top-nine role in a deep Stars forward group. He should factor in on one of the Stars' two power-play units, too. With the linemates he's likely to get and his blend of skill and effort, there's no reason he can't contribute 40-50 points in his first full season. That's a season that gets you on ballots. His path to winning it would probably require an injury up front that lifts him higher in the lineup and onto PP1 to get regular minutes with the Stars' stars (namely Jason Robertson, Roope Hintz and Wyatt Johnston). He's going to have a very good rookie season though regardless, I'd wager. — Scott Wheeler

### **4. Cutter Gauthier, C/LW, 20 (Anaheim Ducks — No. 5 in 2022)**

Gauthier's decorated scoring profile at every level to this point — he led the world juniors in points (tied with Jiri Kulich), scored seven goals in 10 games for the United States at the 2023 IIHF World Championship and tallied 38 goals in 41 games for Boston College last season — gives us confidence that he'll jump into the NHL and make an impact. Initially drafted No. 5 by the Flyers in 2022, Gauthier is a talented pure scorer who marries a dangerous shot with a pro-sized frame and inside, high-traffic area competitiveness.

The fit and opportunity for him in Anaheim is strong, too: He has an excellent opportunity to slide into a top-six role immediately and his shot-first stylistic profile should mesh well with the creative, high-IQ playmaking of Leo Carlsson or Trevor Zegras. He isn't as dynamic or purely skilled as Michkov or Celebrini, nor is he NHL-proven like Stankoven, which explains why we've ranked him below those players. — Harman Dayal

### **5. Lane Hutson, LHD, 20 (Montreal Canadiens — No. 62 in 2022)**

We thought about slotting Hutson a spot or two higher here, but 20-year-old defensemen rarely play full seasons in the NHL and the presence of Logan Mailloux and David Reinbacher does make it feel like each of their top young defensemen may get both NHL and AHL stints at some point. I've never been one to bet against him and his unique talent, though. And if Hutson plays all 82, though, he's going to run one of the power plays (I'd argue it should be PP1 but Mike Matheson may get the benefit of the doubt there to start after his 62-point season last year) and play in offensive zone situations that favor his skill set. The points will follow, as they always do for Hutson. There's a high ceiling for him from a production standpoint (which matters in Calder voting, rightly or wrongly) if things really click for him and he can earn Martin St. Louis' and Kent Hughes' trust early on in the year. Other considerations: If the points are there, will his defensive play also be up to snuff? And if he deals with some growing pains (no pun intended), will the points be emphatic enough to win out with voters (I think voters have often struggled with evaluating defensive play)? — Scott Wheeler

### **6. Dustin Wolf, G, 23 (Calgary Flames — No. 214 in 2019)**

After dominating the AHL for three years, and with the Jacob Markstrom trade clearing the top of the goaltending depth chart, Wolf will have every opportunity to seize a major role in Calgary. Wolf is undersized at 6 feet but has every other trait you look for in a top goaltender — he's quick, athletic, positionally sound and reads the play in front of him really well. He's averaged a .926 save percentage in the AHL over the last three seasons, a scintillating statistical profile that no other goalie on this list can match.

The Flames have lost a lot of pieces compared to last year and will likely defend poorly which will make it difficult for Wolf to accumulate the surface-level counting stats (namely save percentage and wins) necessary to win the Calder. Markstrom, for example, posted outstanding numbers relative to the Flames' porous defensive environment last season but only picked up 23 wins and a modest .905 save percentage. Wolf unquestionably has the talent to break out and cement himself as a core piece of Calgary's future, but the path to garner Calder buzz likely involves him dragging the Flames into the playoffs, which is a tall order. — Harman Dayal

#### **7. Will Smith, C, 19 (San Jose Sharks — No. 4 in 2023)**

Smith's going to be a fascinating case study this year. On one hand, he's one of the most talented prospects in the sport and he's coming off a 71-point freshman year at BC. On the other, he had a tough go at men's worlds, the Sharks are going to conceivably try two teenagers as their 1-2 centers, it's always hard to get Calder love when you've got a front-runner on your team, the Sharks are going to be bad (again) and he might have a tough time with the physicality/defensive responsibilities of playing the middle in the NHL. There are some who believe he's going to take some lumps in the NHL and spend some time in the AHL this season. I think there's a real chance the Sharks send him to the world juniors as well. His start to the season will be critical, because he's going to get every opportunity to succeed. If he can find some chemistry early and get his first point and goal out of the way, he's the kind of talent who could put up points and will play PP1, which not a lot of the names below him can say. — Scott Wheeler

#### **8. Yaroslav Askarov, G, 22 (San Jose Sharks — No. 11 in 2020)**

Askarov is in a similar situation as Wolf. The 22-year-old Russian's raw tools and potential are tantalizing but it's going to be very challenging for him to register the type of save percentage and wins that will attract Calder attention. The Sharks have improved considerably this offseason and should be more competitive, but they still aren't going to defend tightly and are most likely destined for another bottom-five finish.

Askarov is one of the top three goaltending prospects in the world because of his power and explosiveness and he's coming off an AHL All-Star appearance. Playing in San Jose will give him more opportunity than he'd have elsewhere, but it will likely come at the expense of his surface-level statistics. — Harman Dayal

#### **9. Rutger McGroarty, LW, 20 (Pittsburgh Penguins — No. 14 in 2022)**

McGroarty wasn't going to be on this list before the trade to Pittsburgh. He was on campus in Michigan preparing for his junior year with the Wolverines if the Jets couldn't make a move happen. Now, though, suddenly he looks interesting. The expectation is that he might get a look in the Penguins' top six. They're thin on the wing and even if you pencil in Rickard Rakell, Bryan Rust and Michael Bunting for three of the four spots in the top six alongside Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, there's a job to be won there and McGroarty has likely been assured an opportunity to at least compete for it in camp. A strong camp opens the door for him to play with a Hall of Fame center and have a strong year. Because the Penguins' bottom six also lacks skill, he's probably also assured PP2 minutes to start. I think he's up to



the task of a top-nine role within their group, even if he doesn't win a top-six one. There are some who wonder about the pace of play, but I think that's overstated. So far, he has made it work with his well-rounded skill, work ethic and know-how. — Scott Wheeler

#### **10. Mavrik Bourque, C, 22 (Dallas Stars — No. 30 in 2020)**

The Stars have knocked it out of the park with their drafting since 2017 and Bourque is shaping up like another win. Bourque led the AHL with 77 points in 71 games last season while also claiming MVP honors. With Joe Pavelski's retirement, Wyatt Johnston will likely shift to the wing to play on the top line with Roope Hintz and Jason Robertson. If you assume the Stars keep their second line of Matt Duchene, Tyler Seguin and Mason Marchment intact, there's an opening at third-line center for Bourque. This would present a legitimate opportunity to produce because he'd be likely flanked by Jamie Benn and Stankoven.

However, Bourque's path to power-play minutes isn't guaranteed because of the Stars' forward depth which hinders his odds of putting up big point totals. He's undersized at 5-foot-10 and isn't a blazing-fast skater either, so it may take time for his offensive skill set to translate too. — Harman Dayal

#### **11. Nikolai Kovalenko, LW/RW, 24 (Colorado Avalanche — No. 171 in 2018)**

Kovalenko doesn't have the name cachet of most on this list but he does have 304 games of KHL experience and registered 100 points in his last 113 regular season and playoff games across the past two seasons in Russia. With Valeri Nichushkin's suspension and ongoing uncertainty about when Gabriel Landeskog will be back and what he'll look like when he does return, opportunity also beckons in Colorado, where there looks like there might be an opening for Kovalenko alongside Casey Mittelstadt and Artturi Lehkonen on the Avalanche's second line on opening night. He's got the game to be a secondary offensive player for them. — Scott Wheeler

#### **12. Arturs Silovs, G, 23 (Vancouver Canucks — No. 156 in 2019)**

Silovs was unexpectedly thrown into the pressure cooker of playoff hockey last season when Thatcher Demko and Casey DeSmith got hurt early in the first round against Nashville. The affable 23-year-old Latvian exceeded all expectations for an inexperienced third-string goaltender: He outdueled Juuse Saros in Round 1 and kept the Canucks close against a terrifying Oilers offense in Round 2. And now, with Demko expected to miss training camp and preseason with no timetable for return because of injury, Silovs could wind up as the Canucks' No. 1 goaltender for the start of the regular season.

Silovs is exceptionally rangy and athletic, particularly from side to side. He has struggled with tracking long-distance shots through traffic at the NHL level and his AHL results while promising (.907 save percentage last season), aren't dominant. He can make some early noise though given the potential opportunity from Demko's injury and the insulation he'll presumably get from the Canucks' defensive environment, which was elite last year under Rick Tocchet. Silovs is reportedly dealing with a minor injury of his own, but it isn't expected to affect his availability for training camp — Harman Dayal

#### **13. Maxim Tsyplakov, LW/RW, 25 (New York Islanders — undrafted)**

The only undrafted player on our list, Tsyplakov was one of the top European free agents last year and was recruited by several NHL teams before signing with the Islanders. He's a big, strong, athletic player who can hold pucks, skate, shoot it (he likes the curl-and-drag and shoots a lot), and play a direct, straight-line, attacking style that is engaged physically. He's not a cerebral playmaker or problem-solver type but he's expected to get a look in the Isles' top nine, his game should work on North American ice/in the North American style, and his 31 goals were fourth-most in the KHL last season. He probably

doesn't get the counting stats to get onto ballots but he could score 15-20 in a best-case scenario and play on their second power-play unit. — Scott Wheeler

**14. Justus Annunen, G, 24 (Colorado Avalanche — No. 64 in 2018)**

Annunen is ready for full-time NHL duties after playing to a dazzling .928 save percentage in a 14-game cameo last season. The 6-foot-4 Finnish netminder had a slow start in North America but evolved into one of the better young goaltenders in the AHL during the last two seasons.

Alexandar Georgiev's performance looms as a big wild card for Annunen's usage. Georgiev struggled to the tune of an .897 save percentage last season — if he has another tough campaign, it will open the door for Annunen to handle more starts than a typical backup. But if Georgiev bounces back and plays like he did in 2022-23, Annunen may be looking at 20 or fewer starts this season. — Harman Dayal

**15. Bradly Nadeau, LW/RW, 19 (Carolina Hurricanes — No. 30 in 2023)**

There are some parallels between Nadeau and Smith. On one hand, Nadeau is also a highly skilled 19-year-old who had a very productive freshman year in college last season. If he makes the Canes out of camp, his skill set is such that it'll be with talented top-nine players and a PP2 role. On the other, he's also eligible to play at the world juniors (for Canada, not the USA) and there are some around hockey who felt he turned pro a year too early, may have a tough go in any NHL opportunity and could end up in the AHL. Still, he's probably the most skilled rookie at this point in the list and his talent and skating give him a slightly higher ceiling this year than the names below him, even if the likelihood of his best-case scenario may be a little lower. — Scott Wheeler

**16. Joshua Roy, LW/RW/C, 21 (Montreal Canadiens — No. 150 in 2021)**

Roy has been on a steep uphill trajectory since being drafted in the fifth round in 2021. He led the QMJHL in scoring in his draft-plus-one campaign, followed it up with another prolific junior season in 2022-23 and scored 32 points in 41 games as a 20-year-old first-year pro in the AHL last year. He earned an NHL call-up in the second half and chipped in with a respectable nine points in 23 games. He isn't the flashiest, most dynamic skater but owns a versatile set of offensive tools that allow him to make plays in high-traffic areas and around the net. The Canadiens have plenty of forward options this season, so Roy isn't guaranteed an opportunity, but there's a path for him to carve out a third-line role with a strong camp and preseason. — Harman Dayal

**17. Josh Doan, RW, 22 (Utah HC — No. 37 in 2021)**

Doan had a really successful first full pro season last year, leading the Tucson Roadrunners in scoring with 26 goals and 46 points in 62 games and registering nine points in his first 11 NHL games. That NHL production isn't going to last (he shot almost 22 percent and had a PDO of 1.049 at five-on-five) but he looks pegged for a third-line and possible PP2 role in Utah and should be a solid contributor for them. Doan plays an honest, hardworking game which will allow him to play up and down a lineup throughout his career. — Scott Wheeler

**18. Mackie Samoskevich, RW, 21 (Florida Panthers — No. 24 in 2021)**

Florida's top-six forward group is practically set in stone, but there's been a lot of turnover further down the lineup. The fourth line will have a different look and there's a third line right wing vacancy next to Anton Lundell and Eetu Luostarinen because of Vladimir Tarasenko's departure. Samoskevich isn't guaranteed anything, but he'll be one of the competitors for that third-line spot. Samoskevich is a quick skater, boasts slick hands and has the finishing ability to potentially stick in a top-nine role. He's undersized and his defensive game is a work in progress, though, which he'll have to work around. He

had a successful first pro campaign with 54 points in 62 AHL games last season, although there are plenty of other forwards on this list who produced at a similar if not superior rate. — Harman Dayal

**19. Fabian Lysell, RW, 21 (Boston Bruins — No. 21 in 2021)**

Lysell is going to make his NHL debut and play some games this year. That you can count on. Can the speedy winger win a job out of camp and play the full season for the Bruins? After Boston lost wingers Jake DeBrusk, Jesper Boqvist, Danton Heinen and James van Riemsdyk this summer, that door appears open as well. Despite his status as a first-round pick, and even after two productive seasons in the AHL, he's not promised anything though, especially after the emergence of Justin Brazeau, the addition of Elias Lindholm and the signings of depth forwards like Mark Kastelic and Max Jones. I would argue that if Lysell has a positive camp, those latter two shouldn't stand in his way of a top-12 roster spot, but his game is also such that he's not going to be a fourth-liner if he makes the team. He's worth following closely in camp because there's a top-nine job or two to be won there and that forward group could use his skating. — Scott Wheeler

**20. Jesper Wallstedt, G, 21 (Minnesota Wild — No. 20 in 2021)**

If we were ranking the rookie goaltenders on this list based on talent and long-term potential, Wallstedt would obviously be much higher, if not No. 1. He's in the same tier as Askarov as one of the sport's best goaltending prospects. Wallstedt's .910 save percentage in the AHL might not jump off the page, but it's an impressive mark considering how awful the Iowa Wild were defensively last season. He's very proficient technically, relying on his positioning, big frame and calm demeanor to make difficult saves look easy.

Opportunity is the big hurdle for Wallstedt's Calder chances this year. He's currently stuck behind Marc-Andre Fleury and Filip Gustavsson, which means he'll likely spend more time marinating in the AHL unless there's an injury. — Harman Dayal

## [Sportsnet.ca / Which NHL teams have made the most of early draft picks?](#)

**By Josh Beneteau- September 6, 2024**

There are certain expectations that come with being a high draft pick in the NHL. These players represent an immediate injection of youth and excitement; someone you could build a whole team around.

In many cases, players taken in this range become all-stars, leading scorers and award contenders. But teams that have a string of misses can take years to recover.

In Part 2 of this series on draft success, we'll explore trends from draft picks made in the first and second rounds. The sample covers 10 drafts from 2010 to 2019 and focuses on skaters who have reached the 200-game mark. Once again, Vegas and Seattle are not included since they have not been around long enough for a draft record to form.

League-wide, there were 567 skaters selected in the first or second round during that span. Of that group, 49.38 per cent of the players have, so far, appeared in 200 games.

The Oilers being at the top of the list should come as no surprise as they also led the league with four No. 1 overall picks during this decade and landed Leon Drasaitl, Darnell Nurse and Evan Bouchard with other picks in the top 10, too.

The Devils were the only other team to make multiple first-overall picks during this decade, landing Nico Hischier and Jack Hughes. Adam Larsson, Pavel Zacha and Damon Severson might not have the same star power, but all three have become reliable middle-of-the-lineup players in the league. The Devils missed on all of their high selections from 2012-14 but a trip to the Stanley Cup Final covered that up.

The highest pick the Flames made was No. 4 Sam Bennett in 2014 but Calgary also grabbed Sean Monahan (2013) and Matthew Tkachuk (2016) each at sixth overall. In 2015, the Flames didn't have a first-round pick but managed to grab both Rasmus Andersson and Oliver Kyllington in the second.

The Ducks did not pick higher than No. 6 when they selected Hampus Lindholm in 2012, but found success picking late in the first round, grabbing Rickard Rakell with No. 30 in 2011 and Sam Steel in the same slot in 2016.

The Wild slotting it at No. 5 might surprise some, but they were consistent during the decade by landing players such as Mikael Granlund, Jonas Brodin, Matt Dumba, Alex Tuch and Joel Eriksson Ek in the first round. These might not be household names but they have all carved out long careers in middle-six roles. More recently, in 2019, the Wild selected Matt Boldy with pick No. 12 and with 171 points he trails only Jack Hughes in scoring for his draft class.

The Sabres tied for the most skaters selected in the first two rounds during this period and hit on some big stars with Sam Reinhart, Jack Eichel, Rasmus Dahlin and Dylan Cozens.

The Capitals, Penguins, Bruins and Blues all won the Stanley Cup during the decade and did so while keeping the pipeline flowing with the limited high picks they made. No team selected fewer skaters in the first two rounds than the Penguins did (they only picked in Round 1 six times), and the Capitals were one ahead of them. Those teams are just now beginning to feel the stress of going all-in for as long as they did.

Finally, Columbus was the top-ranked team in Part 1's look at overall draft success, but dropped to No. 16 here. They did land some good players in the early rounds such as Ryan Johansen, Boone Jenner,

Zach Werenski and Pierre-Luc Dubois and enjoyed their longest run of success, reaching the playoffs four years in a row (2017-2020).

The Coyotes, Blackhawks, Red Wings and Panthers were among the leaders in most skaters drafted early, but that didn't put them ahead of the pack when it came to finding full-time NHLers. Of that group, only Florida has escaped its rebuild and become a regular Cup contender.

Winnipeg, Toronto and Vancouver had some lean years on the ice early in the decade and that pain was rewarded with early picks and cornerstone players who have contributed to multiple playoff runs. Mark Scheifele, Auston Matthews and Elias Pettersson are elite centres, while Nikolaj Ehlers, Mitch Marner and Brock Boeser are talented producers and Josh Morrissey, Morgan Rielly and Quinn Hughes are true No. 1 defencemen. All of those players, with the exception of Boeser, were picked in the top half of Round 1.

The Lightning and Avalanche have combined for three Stanley Cups in the past five seasons while the Rangers are the reigning Presidents' Trophy winners. For Tampa, Nikita Kucherov (second round, 2011) is by far the best skater they've produced in the early rounds. As for the Avalanche, Nathan MacKinnon, Cale Makar and Mikko Rantanen in the top 10 account for half of their early-round draft success in the decade. That's a trio most teams would love to have.

The Rangers were all-in for most of the decade and did not make a first-round selection for four straight years from 2013-16. They did rebound from that dry spell to select Filip Chytil, K'Andre Miller and Kaapo Kakko in back-to-back-to-back drafts to close out the decade (Alexis Lafreniere missed our cutoff by one season). All three have played over 200 games, but the book is far from fully written on their careers.

The Senators are the outlier here as the only team in the group that has not fully emerged from their rebuild yet. The Senators used the No. 6 pick in 2011 on Mika Zibanejad but traded him before he reached his prime. More recently, Thomas Chabot and Brady Tkachuk are two first-round picks who have become cornerstone players.

The Kings are alone at the bottom after a decade that saw them celebrate two Stanley Cup wins but with mostly players drafted before the year 2010. Tyler Toffoli and Tanner Pearson, two draft picks during this window, did contribute to the second Cup. Derek Forbort, taken in 2010 like Toffoli, is still active and approaching 500 games. But since that second championship in 2014, only Adrian Kempe (29th, 2014) and Erik Cernak (43rd, 2015) have cracked the 200-game mark.