



BUFFALO SABRES

2-2-0

Last Game: 3-1 L at PIT
Next Game: Oct. 4 at Columbus

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS

1-1-1

Last Game: 3-2 L at STL
Next Game: Oct. 2 vs. St. Louis



September 30, 2023
KeyBank Center
Buffalo, New York

COACHING STAFF

Head Coach: Don Granato
Assistant Coach: Mike Bales
Assistant Coach: Jason Christie
Assistant Coach: Matt Ellis
Assistant Coach: Marty Wilford

PRONUNCIATIONS

Biro, Brandon: (BIGH-roh)
Cecconi, Joseph: (seh-KOH-nee)
Cozens, Dylan: (KUH-zihnz)
Jokiharju, Henri:
(yoh-kee-HAHR-yoo, HEHN-ree)
Kulich, Jiri: (KOO-lihk, YIH-ree)
Luukkonen, Ukko-Pekka:
(LOO-koh-nehn, OO-koh-PEH-ka)
Okposo, Kyle: (oh-POH-soh)
Rosen, Isak: (ROH-say-in, IH-sak)
Rousek, Lukas:
(ROO-sihk, LOO-kahsh)
Tuch, Alex: (TUHK)

PRESEASON LEADING SCORERS

Brandon Biro:

3 GP, 1 G, 2 A, 3 PTS

Zach Benson:

3 GP, 1 G, 1 A, 2 PTS

Tage Thompson:

2 GP, 1 G, 1 A, 2 PTS

2022-23 LEADING SCORERS

Tage Thompson:

78 GP, 47 G, 47 A, 94 PTS

Jeff Skinner:

79 GP, 35 G, 47 A, 82 PTS

Alex Tuch:

74 GP, 36 G, 43 A, 79 PTS

FORWARDS

53 JEFF SKINNER

5'11", 197 lbs. • Toronto, ON
2022-23 (NHL):
79 GP, 35 G, 47 A, 82 PTS, 39 PIM
Career (NHL):
932 GP, 333 G, 291 A, 624 PTS, 417 PIM

72 TAGE THOMPSON

6'6", 220 lbs. • Phoenix, AZ
2022-23 (NHL):
78 GP, 47 G, 47 A, 94 PTS, 39 PIM
Career (NHL):
301 GP, 103 G, 94 A, 197 PTS, 125 PIM

9 ZACH BENSON

5'10", 170 lbs. • Chilliwack, BC
2022-23 (WHL):
60 GP, 36 G, 62 A, 98 PTS, 49 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

15 BRANDON BIRO

5'11", 170 lbs. • Sherwood Park, AB
2022-23 (AHL):
49 GP, 16 G, 35 A, 51 PTS, 12 PIM
Career (NHL):
1 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

24 DYLAN COZENS

6'3", 201 lbs. • Whitehorse, YT
2022-23 (NHL):
81 GP, 31 G, 37 A, 68 PTS, 41 PIM
Career (NHL):
201 GP, 48 G, 71 A, 119 PTS, 112 PIM

89 ALEX TUCH

6'4", 215 lbs. • Syracuse, NY
2022-23 (NHL):
74 GP, 36 G, 43 A, 79 PTS, 20 PIM
Career (NHL):
379 GP, 109 G, 147 A, 256 PTS, 105 PIM

13 LUKAS ROUSEK

5'11", 200 lbs. • Ostrov nad Ohří, CZE
2022-23 (NHL):
2 GP, 1 G, 1 A, 2 PTS, 0 PIM
Career (NHL):
2 GP, 1 G, 1 A, 2 PTS, 0 PIM

19 PEYTON KREBS

6'0", 186 lbs. • Calgary, AB
2022-23 (NHL):
74 GP, 9 G, 17 A, 26 PTS, 50 PIM
Career (NHL):
135 GP, 16 G, 33 A, 49 PTS, 72 PIM

71 VICTOR OLOFSSON

5'11", 182 lbs. • Ornskoldsvik, SWE
2022-23 (NHL):
75 GP, 28 G, 12 A, 40 PTS, 4 PIM
Career (NHL):
263 GP, 83 G, 84 A, 167 PTS, 24 PIM

63 ISAK ROSEN

6'0", 173 lbs. • Solna, SWE
2022-23 (AHL):
66 GP, 14 G, 23 A, 37 PTS, 14 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

20 JIRI KULICH

6'1", 186 lbs. • Kadan, CZE
2022-23 (AHL):
62 GP, 24 G, 22 A, 46 PTS, 18 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

21 KYLE OKPOSO

6'0", 216 lbs. • St. Paul, MN
2022-23 (NHL):
75 GP, 11 G, 17 A, 28 PTS, 34 PIM
Career (NHL):
984 GP, 230 G, 362 A, 592 PTS, 520 PIM

DEFENSEMEN

78 JACOB BRYSON

5'9", 174 lbs. • London, ON
2022-23 (NHL):
59 GP, 1 G, 8 A, 9 PTS, 8 PIM
Career (NHL):
170 GP, 3 G, 25 A, 28 PTS, 32 PIM

33 RYAN JOHNSON

6'1", 195 lbs. • Newport Beach, CA
2022-23 (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

27 DEVON LEVI

6'0", 192 lbs. • Dollard-des-Ormeaux, QC
2022-23 (NHL):
7 GP, 5-2-0, .905 SV%, 2.94 GAA
Career (NHL):
7 GP, 5-2-0, .905 SV%, 2.94 GAA
vs. CBJ:
1 GP, 1-0-0, .935 SV%, 2.00 GAA

GOALTENDERS

4 JEREMY DAVIES

5'11", 185 lbs. • Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, QC
2022-23 (NHL):
1 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 2 PIM
Career (NHL):
16 GP, 0 G, 1 A, 1 PTS, 8 PIM

10 HENRI JOKIHARJU

6'0", 200 lbs. • Oulu, FIN
2022-23 (NHL):
60 GP, 3 G, 10 A, 13 PTS, 30 PIM
Career (NHL):
273 GP, 13 G, 54 A, 67 PTS, 102 PIM

61 RILEY STILLMAN

6'2", 203 lbs. • Peterborough, ON
2022-23 (NHL):
50 GP, 1 G, 7 A, 8 PTS, 36 PIM
Career (NHL):
458 GP, 4 G, 22 A, 26 PTS, 104 PIM

3 JOSEPH CECCONI

6'3", 216 lbs. • Youngstown, NY
2022-23 (AHL):
53 GP, 3 G, 7 A, 10 PTS, 30 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

SCRATCHES



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Assistant Coach: Steve McCarthy
Assistant Coach: Mark Recchi
Assistant Coach: Niklas Backstrom

PRONUNCIATIONS

Bemstrom, Emil:
(BEHM-struhm, eh-MIHL)
Boqvist, Adam: (BOH-kvihst)
Dumais, Jordan: (DOO-may)
Gudbranson, Erik: (guh-d-BRAN-suhn)
Jiricek, David: (YIHR-ih-chehk)
Laine, Patrik: (LIGH-nay)
Malatesta, James: (mal-a-TEHST-a)
Marchenko, Kirill:
(mahr-CHEHN-koh, kih-RIHL)
Mateychuk, Denton:
(ma-TAY-chuhk, DEHN-tuhn)
Matteau, Stefan: (muh-TOW, STEHPH-on)
Merzlikins, Elvis:
(muhrz-LIH-kihnhz, EHL-vihs)
Provorov, Ivan:
(PROH-voh-rawv, IGH-vuhn)
Roslovic, Jack: (RAWS-loh-vihk)
Voronkov, Dmitri:
(vohr-AHN-kahv, dih-MEE-tree)
Werenski, Zach: (wuh-REHN-skee)

PRESEASON LEADING SCORERS

Emil Bemstrom:
2 GP, 2 G, 1 A, 3 PTS
Alexandre Texier:
2 GP, 1 G, 2 A, 3 PTS
Carson Meyer:
2 GP, 2 G, 0 A, 2 PTS

2022-23 LEADING SCORERS

Johnny Gaudreau:
80 GP, 21 G, 53 A, 74 PTS
Patrik Laine:
55 GP, 22 G, 30 A, 52 PTS
Boone Jenner:
68 GP, 26 G, 19 A, 45 PTS

FORWARDS

86 KIRILL MARCHENKO

6'3", 195 lbs. • Barnaul, RUS
2022-23 (NHL):
59 GP, 21 G, 4 A, 25 PTS, 16 PIM
Career (NHL):
59 GP, 21 G, 4 A, 25 PTS, 16 PIM

29 PATRIK LAINE

6'5", 215 lbs. • Tampere, FIN
2022-23 (NHL):
55 GP, 22 G, 30 A, 52 PTS, 16 PIM
Career (NHL):
462 GP, 198 G, 181 A, 379 PTS, 179 PIM

52 EMIL BEMSTROM

6'0", 195 lbs. • Nykoping, SWE
2022-23 (NHL):
55 GP, 7 G, 15 A, 22 PTS, 6 PIM
Career (NHL):
172 GP, 26 G, 32 A, 58 PTS, 18 PIM

91 KENT JOHNSON

6'0", 178 lbs. • Port Moody, BC
2022-23 (NHL):
79 GP, 16 G, 24 A, 40 PTS, 14 PIM
Career (NHL):
88 GP, 16 G, 27 A, 43 PTS, 16 PIM

11 ADAM FANTILLI

6'2", 194 lbs. • Nubleton, ON
2022-23 (NCAA):
36 GP, 30 G, 35 A, 65 PTS, 67 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

17 JUSTIN DANFORTH

5'8", 188 lbs. • Oshawa, ON
2022-23 (NHL):
6 GP, 2 G, 1 A, 3 PTS, 4 PIM
Career (NHL):
51 GP, 12 G, 5 A, 17 PTS, 14 PIM

10 DMITRI VORONKOV

6'5", 240 lbs. • Angarsk, RUS
2022-23 (KHL):
54 GP, 18 G, 13 A, 31 PTS, 51 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

96 JACK ROSLOVIC

6'1", 198 lbs. • Columbus, OH
2022-23 (NHL):
77 GP, 11 G, 33 A, 44 PTS, 10 PIM
Career (NHL):
386 GP, 71 G, 119 A, 190 PTS, 54 PIM

69 JORDAN DUMAIS

5'8", 175 lbs. • Montreal, QC
2022-23 (QMJHL):
64 GP, 54 G, 86 A, 140 PTS, 6 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

67 JAMES MALATESTA

5'9", 198 lbs. • Montreal, QC
2022-23 (QMJHL):
55 GP, 37 G, 29 A, 66 PTS, 64 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

21 JOSH DUNNE

6'4", 212 lbs. • O'Fallon, MO
2022-23 (NHL):
8 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 6 PIM
Career (NHL):
14 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 10 PIM

25 STEFAN MATTEAU

6'2", 210 lbs. • Chicago, IL
2022-23 (DEL):
19 GP, 10 G, 10 A, 20 PTS, 9 PIM
Career (NHL):
92 GP, 6 G, 5 A, 11 PTS, 41 PIM

DEFENSEMEN

8 ZACH WERENSKI

6'2", 219 lbs. • Grosse Pointe, MI
2022-23 (NHL):
13 GP, 3 G, 5 A, 8 PTS, 0 PIM
Career (NHL):
416 GP, 79 G, 166 A, 245 PTS, 93 PIM

55 DAVID JIRICEK

6'4", 207 lbs. • Klatovy, CZE
2022-23 (NHL):
4 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 2 PIM
Career (NHL):
4 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 2 PIM

9 IVAN PROVOROV

6'1", 220 lbs. • Yaroslavl, RUS
2022-23 (NHL):
82 GP, 6 G, 21 A, 27 PTS, 24 PIM
Career (NHL):
532 GP, 65 G, 152 A, 217 PTS, 196 PIM

27 ADAM BOQVIST

6'0", 189 lbs. • Falun, SWE
2022-23 (NHL):
46 GP, 5 G, 19 A, 24 PTS, 8 PIM
Career (NHL):
174 GP, 22 G, 53 A, 75 PTS, 40 PIM

5 DENTON MATEYCHUK

5'11", 192 lbs. • Winnipeg, MB
2022-23 (WHL):
63 GP, 8 G, 57 A, 65 PTS, 28 PIM
Career (NHL):
0 GP, 0 G, 0 A, 0 PTS, 0 PIM

44 ERIK GUDBRANSON

6'5", 222 lbs. • Ottawa, ON
2022-23 (NHL):
70 GP, 1 G, 12 A, 13 PTS, 57 PIM
Career (NHL):
711 GP, 28 G, 79 A, 107 PTS, 765 PIM

GOALTENDERS

90 ELVIS MERZLIKINS

6'3", 184 lbs. • Riga, LVA
2022-23 (NHL):
30 GP, 7-18-2, .876 SV%, 4.23 GAA
Career (NHL):
150 GP, 55-62-22, .906 SV%, 3.13 GAA
vs. BUF:
3 GP, 2-1-0, .865 SV%, 4.71 GAA

35 AARON DELL

6'0", 211 lbs. • Airdrie, AB
2022-23 (NHL):
4 GP, 0-3-0, .913 SV%, 2.71 GAA
Career (NHL):
130 GP, 50-50-13, .905 SV%, 2.92 GAA
vs. BUF:
3 GP, 2-1-0, .897 SV%, 3.36 GAA

SCRATCHES

Projected lines are unofficial and subject to change.