



# WILD WEEK

317 WASHINGTON STREET · SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102  
PH: 651.602.6000 · WEB: WILD.COM

December 30, 2024 · A LOOK AT THE WEEK AHEAD FOR THE MINNESOTA WILD

DATE	OPPONENT/EVENT	LOCATION	PRACTICE/GAME TIMES (CT)	INFORMATION
Mon., Dec. 30	Day Off			
Tue., Dec. 31	Nashville Predators	TRIA Rink/Xcel Energy Center	10:30 a.m./7 p.m.	FanDuel Sports Network North / KFAN FM 100.3
Wed., Jan. 1	Travel Day			
Thu., Jan. 2	Washington Capitals	Capital One Arena	10:30 a.m./6 p.m.	FanDuel Sports Network North / KFAN FM 100.3
Fri., Jan. 3	Practice	Lenovo Center	1 p.m.	
Sat., Jan. 4	Carolina Hurricanes	Lenovo Center	10:30 a.m./6 p.m.	FanDuel Sports Network North + / KFAN FM 100.3
Sun., Jan. 5	Day Off			
Mon., Jan. 6	Practice	TRIA Rink	11 a.m.	



## NASHVILLE PREDATORS

All-Time Wild Record: 39-39-12 (24-16-5 at Xcel Energy Center, 15-23-7 at Nashville)

**2024-25:** Minnesota won the series-opening contest, 3-2, in overtime in St. Paul (11/30)...LW **Kirill Kaprizov** (1-1=2) and D **Jared Spurgeon** (1-1=2) lead the Wild with two points each...D **Declan Chisholm** (1-0=1) also scored a goal...G **Filip Gustavsson** stopped 25-of-27 shots faced in the win...D **Roman Josi** (0-2=2) led the Predators with two points (0-2=2) C **Ryan O'Reilly** (1-0=1) and C **Fedor Svechikov** (1-0=1) scored goals for Nashville...G **Juuse Saros** saved 25-of-28 shots faced for the Predators.

**WILD LEADERS:** Spurgeon leads Minnesota with 17 points (4-13=17) in 41 career games vs. Nashville...Kaprizov (6-9=15 in 11 games) and RW **Mats Zuccarello** (1-14=15 in 24 games) each own 15 points against the Predators...LW **Marcus Johansson** owns 14 points (2-12=14) in 23 games.

**WILD GOALIES:** G **Marc-Andre Fleury** is 12-9-2 with a 2.33 GAA, a .915 SV% and three shutouts in 23 career games (22 starts) against the Predators...Gustavsson is 3-2-1 with a 3.15 GAA and a .889 SV% in six starts.

**PREDATORS LEADERS:** Josi leads Nashville with 41 points (16-25=41) in 45 career games against the Wild...O'Reilly has 38 points (19-19=37) in 59 games...LW **Filip Forsberg** owns 32 points (18-14=32) in 35 games...C **Gustav Nyquist** has 20 points (6-14=20) in 23 games.

**PREDATORS GOALIES:** Saros is 8-3-2 with a 2.32 GAA, a .926 SV% and two shutouts in 13 career starts against the Wild...G **Justus Annunen** is 1-0-0 with a 2.00 GAA and a .957 SV% in one career start against Minnesota.

**CONNECTIONS:** Wild Head Coach **John Hynes** went 134-96-18 in parts of four seasons (2020-23) as Nashville's Head Coach...C **Freddy Gaudreau** tallied eight points (3-5=8) in 84 games with Nashville in three seasons (2016-19), while adding four goals (4-0=4) in 12 games during the 2017 Stanley Cup Playoffs...C **Ryan Hartman** recorded 26 points (13-13=26) in 85 games in parts of two seasons with the Predators (2017-19)...LW **Yakov Trenin** was selected by Nashville in the second round (55th overall) of the 2015 NHL Draft and recorded 79 points (46-33=79), 162 PIM and six GWG in 283 games with Nashville in five seasons (2019-24)...Predators Head Coach **Andrew Brunette** recorded 321 points (119-202=321) in 489 games with the Wild (2001-04, 2008-11)...He also spent five seasons in Minnesota's hockey operations department (2014-19) as an Assistant Coach, Hockey Operations Advisor, Assistant General Manager and Director of Player Personnel...Nashville Assistant Coach **Todd Richards** served as Wild Head Coach for two seasons (2009-11)...Nashville Assistant Coach **Darby Hendrickson** collected 60 points (29-31=60) in 182 games with Minnesota (2000-04) and served as an Assistant Coach with Minnesota for 14 seasons (2010-24)...C **Tommy Novak** played four seasons at the University of Minnesota (2015-19) and is from St. Paul...Nyquist recorded five points (1-4=5) in three regular season games and five points (0-5=5) in six Stanley Cup Playoff games with Minnesota in 2023-24...LW **Cole Smith** is a native of Brainerd...D **Brady Skjei** is from Lakeville and played three seasons at the University of Minnesota (2012-15).

**FAST FACTS:** Minnesota is 8-4-1 in its last 13 games played against the Predators at Xcel Energy Center dating back to 2/18/17.



## WASHINGTON CAPITALS

All-Time Wild Record: 15-13-3 (10-5-1 at Xcel Energy Center, 5-8-2 at Washington)

**2023-24:** Minnesota went 1-0-1 in the season series...Washington won the series-opening matchup, 3-2, in a shootout at Capital One Arena (10/27)...Minnesota claimed a 5-3 win in the second meeting at Xcel Energy Center (1/23)...LW **Marcus Foligno** (1-2=3) and LW **Marcus Johansson** (2-1=3) led the Wild with three points each...C **Joel Eriksson Ek** (1-1=2), C **Ryan Hartman** (1-1=2) and C **Marco Rossi** (1-1=2) tallied two points each...G **Filip Gustavsson** made 30 saves in the second meeting...G **Marc-Andre Fleury** made 31 saves in the first contest...C **Evgeny Kuznetsov** (0-2=2) and RW **Anthony Mantha** (2-0=2) led the Capitals with two points each...RW **T.J. Oshie**, C **Dylan Strome** and RW **Tom Wilson** each scored a goal...G **Darcy Kuemper** went 1-1-0 with a 3.39 GAA and a .901 SV% in two starts.

**WILD LEADERS:** Foligno (4-8=12 in 25 games) and RW **Mats Zuccarello** (3-9=12 in 30 games) lead Minnesota in scoring against Washington with 12 points each...D **Zach Bogosian** (3-8=11 in 35 games) and Johansson (4-7=11 in 12 contests) own 11 points each.

**WILD GOALIES:** Fleury is 27-14-3 with a 2.64 GAA, a .912 SV% and four shutouts in 46 career games (45 starts) against Washington...Gustavsson is 2-1-0 with a 2.98 GAA and a .905 SV% in three career games (two starts).

**CAPITALS LEADERS:** LW **Alex Ovechkin** leads Washington with 37 points (19-18=37) in 23 career games against Minnesota...Oshie has 24 points (12-12=24) in 35 contests...D **Jakob Chychrun** owns 14 points (10-4=14) in 25 games...Strome has 12 points (4-8=12) in 13 games.

**CAPITALS GOALIES:** G **Charlie Lindgren** is 0-3-0 with a 3.49 GAA and a .895 SV% in three career starts vs. Minnesota...G **Logan Thompson** is 3-1-0 with a 1.57 GAA and a .950 SV% in five games (four starts) vs. the Wild.

**CONNECTIONS:** Wild LW **Marcus Johansson** was selected by Washington in the first round (24th overall) in the 2009 NHL Draft and collected 324 points (118-206=324) in 579 games in parts of nine seasons with the Capitals (2010-17, 2021-23)...C **Nic Dowd** played four seasons at St. Cloud State University (2010-14)...LW **Brandon Duhaime** was selected by Minnesota in the fourth round (106th overall) of the 2016 NHL Draft and recorded 40 points (20-20=40) in 211 games with the Wild (2021-24)...Oshie played high school hockey in Warroad...Lindgren is from Lakeville and played three seasons at St. Cloud State University (2013-16).

**FAST FACTS:** Minnesota is 5-0-1 in the last six meetings...Minnesota's series sweep in 2022-23 marked the third time in franchise history the Wild has won two games against Washington in the same season (2002-03, 2021-22)...Eight of Minnesota's 15 games played at Washington have been decided by one goal (3-3-2)...Ovechkin netted three PPG on March 28, 2017, the most ever by a Wild opponent.



## CAROLINA HURRICANES

All-Time Wild Record: 16-11-7 (11-4-4 at Xcel Energy Center, 5-7-3 at Carolina)

**2023-24:** Minnesota went 1-1-0 against Carolina...Minnesota won the series-opening game, 5-2, in Raleigh (1/21) and dropped the second game, 3-2, at Xcel Energy Center (2/27)...LW **Kirill Kaprizov** (3-0=3) and C **Joel Eriksson Ek** (1-2=3) led the Wild with three points each...D

**Brock Faber** (0-2=2) also recorded a multi-point effort...G **Filip Gustavsson** went 1-1-0 with a 2.53 GAA and a .929 SV% in two starts...RW **Stefan Noesen** (1-1=2), C **Jordan Staal** (1-1=2) and C **Seth Jarvis** (0-2=2) all had two points...G **Antti Ranta** stopped 14-of-17 shots faced for Carolina in the first meeting...G **Pyotr Kochetkov** stopped 28-of-30 shots faced to earn a win in the second meeting.

**WILD LEADERS:** RW **Mats Zuccarello** leads the Wild with 34 points (9-25=34) in 39 career games against the Hurricanes...D **Zach Bogosian** has 20 points (3-17=20) in 45 games...LW **Marcus Johansson** owns 18 points (7-11=18) in 42 games...D **Jared Spurgeon** has 14 points (1-13=14) in 17 contests.

**WILD GOALIES:** G **Marc-Andre Fleury** is 19-11-6 with a 2.53 GAA, a .914 SV% and three shutouts in 37 games (35 starts) against the Hurricanes...Gustavsson is 2-1-0 with a 2.00 GAA and a .934 SV% in three starts against Carolina.

**HURRICANES LEADERS:** D **Brent Burns** leads Carolina with 29 points (9-20=29) in 43 career contests against Minnesota...C **Sebastian Aho** has 16 points (6-10=16) in 14 games...D **Shayne Gostisbehere** has 15 points (2-13=15) in 16 games.

**HURRICANES GOALIES:** G **Frederik Andersen** is 7-5-0 with a 2.44 GAA and a .915 SV% in 12 career starts against Minnesota...Kochetkov is 1-0-1 with a 1.98 GAA and a .922 SV% in his two starts against Minnesota.

**CONNECTIONS:** Burns was drafted by Minnesota in the first round (20th overall) of the 2003 NHL Draft and tallied 183 points (55-128=183) and 325 PIM in 453 games (2003-11) with the Wild...C **Tyson Jost** tallied nine points (2-7=9) and 15 PIM in 33 games over a span of two seasons with Minnesota (2021-23)...Wild Assistant Coach **Patrick Dwyer** recorded 93 points (42-51=93) in 416 games (2008-15) with Carolina...Wild Player Development Coach **Derek Stepan** tallied 30 points (14-16=30) in 131 games for the Hurricanes (2021-23).

**FAST FACTS:** Minnesota is 12-5-3 in its last 20 games against Carolina...The Wild has earned a point in nine of its last 10 home games against the Hurricanes (7-1-2) and is 10-3-2 in its last 15 home games, scoring three-plus goals in 13 of those contests.

## WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Four Minnesota Wild prospects are competing at the 2025 IIHF World Junior Championship in Ottawa, Ontario, until Jan. 5.

Defenseman **Zeev Buium** is serving as an alternate captain for the United States Junior National Team. The 6-foot, 186-pound native of San Diego, Calif, was a member of the gold-medal winning team at the 2024 IIHF World Junior Championship in Sweden and was selected by Minnesota in the first round (No. 12 overall) of the 2024 NHL Draft.

Defenseman **Aron Kiviharju** is captaining Finland's Junior National Team. The 5-foot-10, 185-pound native of Turku, Finland, was selected by the Wild in the fourth round (No. 122 overall) of the 2024 NHL Draft.

Center **Rasmus Kumpulainen** is serving as an alternate captain for Finland's Junior National Team. The 6-foot-4, 205-pound native of Lahti, Finland, was selected by Minnesota in the second round (No. 53 overall) of the 2023 NHL Draft.

Defenseman **Sebastian Soini** was also named to Finland's Junior National Team. The 6-foot-2, 187-pound native of Tampere, Finland, was selected by Minnesota in the fifth round (No. 140 overall) of the 2024 NHL Draft.