

WEDNESDAY'S NHL ROUNDUP

# Canadiens secure playoff spot

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Kaiden Guhle scored twice for the Montreal Canadiens, who clinched the final berth in the Stanley Cup playoffs with a 4-2 win against the visiting Carolina Hurricanes on Wednesday.

Nick Suzuki had a goal and an assist and Sam Montembeault made 27 saves for the Canadiens (40-31-11, 91 points), who claimed the second Eastern Conference wild card and will face the Washington Capitals in the first round of the postseason.

Jake Evans capped the victory with an empty-net goal.

Taylor Hall and Tyson Jost scored for the Hurricanes (47-29-5, 99 points), who rested several mainstays for the game and are 1-5-1 in their past seven entering their regular-season finale at Ottawa on Thursday. Pyotr Kochetkov made 17 saves.

Suzuki and Guhle connected less than three minutes apart late in the second period to put Montreal ahead by two.

Suzuki made it 2-1 at 16:22. Alexandre Carrier spotted the Canadiens captain alone in the left circle, where he wired a shot inside the near post.

### Jets 2, Ducks 1 (OT)

Mark Scheifele scored at 1:11 of overtime to give Winnipeg a win against visiting Anaheim in the regular-season finale for both teams.

Winnipeg defenseman Josh Morrissey broke up a two-on-one by the Ducks, and the Jets scored on the other end when Scheifele hit the net with a one-timer from the right circle.

Neal Pionk also scored and Connor Hellebuyck made 30 saves for the Jets (56-22-4, 116 points), who had already clinched the Presidents' Trophy for the best record in the NHL this season.

Hellebuyck increased his league-leading win total to 48. He began the night second in the league in goals-against average (2.02) and save percentage (.924).

Winnipeg will open the Stanley Cup playoffs against the St. Louis Blues.

### Red Wings 5, Devils 2

Jonatan Berggren, J.T. Compher, Dylan Larkin, Alex DeBrincat and Marco Kasper all scored a goal apiece for Detroit, which held off a third-period comeback attempt by New Jersey in Newark, N.J.

Alex Lyon made 28 saves for the Red Wings (39-35-7, 85 points), who will miss the playoffs for a franchise-record ninth straight season but have won three straight games, all against teams bound for the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Detroit is slated to close its regular season Thursday against the Atlantic Division-champion Toronto Maple Leafs.

Erik Haula and Dawson Mercer scored within a three-minute span beyond the midway point of the third pe-



Jets forward Mark Scheifele (55) is congratulated on his overtime goal against the Anaheim Ducks on April 16 in Vancouver. TERRENCE LEE/IMAGN IMAGES

riod for the Devils (42-33-7, 91 points), who ended their regular season by losing four of their final five games. They begin postseason play this weekend.

New Jersey finished third in the Metropolitan Division and will face the second-place Carolina Hurricanes in an Eastern Conference quarterfinal series.

Goalie Nico Daws recorded 22 saves.

### Golden Knights 4, Canucks 1

Pavel Dorofeyev scored the go-ahead goal midway through the third period and Victor Olofsson had a goal and an assist to lead visiting Vegas over Vancouver in the regular-season finale for both teams.

Jack Eichel and Cole Schwindt also scored goals and Ben Hutton and Shea Theodore each added two assists for Pacific Division champion Vegas (50-22-10, 110 points).

The Golden Knights, the second seed in the Western Conference behind the Presidents' Trophy-winning Winnipeg Jets (116 points), will face the No. 1 wild card, the Minnesota Wild (45-30-7, 97 points), in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs starting this weekend.

Akira Schmid made 16 saves for the Golden Knights, who completed a four-game season sweep of the Canucks. Vegas, which improved to 18-4-3 all-time against the Canucks, including 10-1-2 in Vancouver, ended the campaign on a 5-0-2 roll.

Pius Suter scored for Vancouver (38-30-14, 90 points). The Canucks, who won the Pacific Division in 2024, finished in fifth place and missed the playoffs.

### Oilers 3, Sharks 0

Ty Emberson scored and added an assist, leading Edmonton to a victory over host San Jose.

The Oilers (48-29-5, 101 points), the third seed in the Pacific Division, will face their division rival Los Angeles Kings in the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Max Jones and Corey Perry had the other goals for Edmonton, which wrapped up the regular season 7-3-0 over its last 10 and reached the 100-point mark for the fourth consecutive season.

Stuart Skinner made 18 saves for his third shutout of the season. Three of his seven career shutouts have come in San Jose.

Edmonton swept the four-game season series.

### Predators 5, Stars 1

Ryan O'Reilly had a goal and two assists as Nashville closed its disappointing season with a rout over visiting Dallas, which limps into the playoffs on a seven-game losing streak.

Jordan Oesterle and Jonathan Marchessault each recorded a goal and an assist, while Juuse Saros made 29 saves for the Predators (30-44-8, 68 points).

Back after missing 58 games due to a hip injury, Dallas' Tyler Seguin assisted on Mason Marchment's goal less than 20 seconds into the game. The Stars (50-26-6, 106 points), who went 0-for-6 on the power play Wednesday, finished second in the Central Division and will host Colorado in the first round of the playoffs. They have allowed 34 goals during their 0-5-2 slide.

While Dallas got Seguin back, Jason Robertson, second on the team with 80 points and among the NHL's top players, exited in the second period with a lower-body injury.

Just 16 seconds into the contest, Matt Duchene fluttered a pass near the front of the net to Marchment, who sent it by Saros. But it was all Predators from there.

## WEDNESDAY'S NHL SUMMARIES

**Nashville 5, Dallas 1**  
Dallas 1 0 0 - 1  
Nashville 3 2 0 - 5  
**First Period**—1. Dallas, Marchment 22 (Duchene, Seguin), 0:16. 1. Nashville, Oesterle 4 (O'Reilly), 13:02. 1. Nashville, Vrana 9 (Oesterle, Svechkov), 13:51. 1. Nashville, Barron 6 (Evangelista, O'Reilly), 19:45. Penalties—L'Heureux, NSH (High-sticking), 1:46. Vrana, NSH (Interference), 9:37. Hintz, DAL (Interference), 10:18.  
**Second Period**—1. Nashville, Marchessault 21 (Stankos, Forsberg), 6:31. 1. Nashville, O'Reilly 21 (Forsberg, Marchessault), 9:49. Penalties—Vrana, NSH (Tripping), 3:43. Smith, DAL (Interference), 9:29. Skjei, NSH (Slashing), 18:44.  
**Third Period**—None. Penalties—Ceci, DAL (Hooking), 1:30. Marchessault, NSH (Holding), 2:59. Seguin, DAL (Hooking), 12:13.  
**Shots on Goal**—Dallas 11-12-7-30. Nashville 12-10-12-34.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Dallas 0 of 6; Nashville 1 of 4.  
**Goalies**—Dallas, DeSmith (12 shots-12 saves), Oettinger 36-18-4 (22-17). Nashville, Saros 20-31-6 (30-29). A—17,330 (17,113).

**Detroit 5, New Jersey 2**  
Detroit 1 1 3 - 5  
New Jersey 0 0 2 - 2  
**First Period**—1. Detroit, Berggren 12 (Edvinsson, Raymond), 17:07. Penalties—Dillon, NJD (Tripping), 6:33.  
**Second Period**—1. Detroit, Compher 11 (Rasmussen, Petry), 5:20. Penalties—Larkin, DET (Tripping), 7:06. Hamilton, NJD (Tripping), 16:30. New Jersey bench, served by Sprong (Too many men), 19:02.  
**Third Period**—1. Detroit, Larkin 30 (Edvinsson, Seider), 2:55. 1. New Jersey, Haula 11 (Sprong, Casey), 11:32. 1. New Jersey, Mercer 19 (Haula, Hardman), 14:21. 1. Detroit, DeBrincat 38 (Larkin, Seider), 17:09. 1. Detroit, Kasper 19 (Raymond, Berggren), 19:50. Penalties—Edvinsson, DET (Goaltender interference), 0:14. Niemec, NJD (Tripping), 0:50. Chiarot, DET (Tripping), 10:25. Compher, DET (Holding), 16:15. Glass, NJD (Roughing), 16:15.  
**Shots on Goal**—Detroit 10-7-10-27. New Jersey 10-7-13-30.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Detroit 0 of 4; New Jersey 1 of 2.  
**Goalies**—Detroit, Lyon 14-9-1 (30 shots-28 saves). New Jersey, Daws 3-1-0 (26-22). A—16,514 (17,625).

**Montreal 4, Carolina 2**  
Carolina 1 0 1 - 2  
Montreal 1 2 1 - 4  
**First Period**—1. Montreal, Guhle 5 (Slafkovsky, Suzuki), 3:50. 1. Carolina, Hall 18 (Walker, Kotkaniemi), 9:56. Penalties—Brind'Amour, CAR (Hooking), 10:19.  
**Second Period**—1. Montreal, Suzuki 30 (Carrier), 16:22. 2. Montreal, Guhle 6 (Caufield, Hutson), 18:48. Penalties—Kochetkov, CAR (Delay of Game), 5:16. Slafkovsky, MTL (Tripping), 9:10.  
**Third Period**—1. Carolina, Jost 3 (Nadeau, Orlov), 14:10. 1. Montreal, Evans 13, 18:05. Penalties—Orlov, CAR (Delay of Game), 1:04.  
**Shots on Goal**—Carolina 4-14-11-29. Montreal 9-5-7-21.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Carolina 0 of 1; Montreal 0 of 3.  
**Goalies**—Carolina, Kochetkov 27-16-3 (20 shots-17 saves). Montreal, Montembeault 31-24-7 (29-27). A—21,105 (21,273).

**Winnipeg 2, Anaheim 1 (OT)**  
Anaheim 0 0 1 0 - 1  
Winnipeg 0 1 0 1 - 2  
**First Period**—None. Penalties—Vatrano, ANA (Holding), 9:57. Gudas, ANA (Delay of Game), 10:59.  
**Second Period**—1. Winnipeg, Pionk 10 (Perfetti, Namestnikov), 13:49. Penalties—Anderson-Dolan, WPG (Hooking), 6:32. Gauthier, ANA (Holding), 19:08.  
**Third Period**—1. Anaheim, Terry 21 (Vatrano, Moore), 5:45. Penalties—Vatrano, ANA (Tripping), 14:31.  
**Overtime**—1. Winnipeg, Scheifele 39 (Morrissey, Connor), 1:11. Penalties—None.  
**Shots on Goal**—Anaheim 9-13-9-0-31. Winnipeg 19-15-9-1-44.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Anaheim 0 of 1; Winnipeg 0 of 4.  
**Goalies**—Anaheim, Husso (44 shots-42 saves). Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 47-12-3 (31-30). A—15,225 (15,294).

**Edmonton 3, San Jose 0**  
Edmonton 1 1 1 - 3  
San Jose 0 0 0 - 0  
**First Period**—1. Edmonton, Emberson 2 (McDavid, Skinner), 8:20. Penalties—Dellandrea, SJS (Hooking), 11:21.  
**Second Period**—1. Edmonton, Jones 1 (Henrique, Emberson), 10:17. Penalties—Arvidsson, EDM (High-sticking), 4:56.  
**Third Period**—1. Edmonton, Perry 19 (Kapanen), 17:23. Penalties—Dellandrea, SJS (Slashing), 6:05. Hutson, EDM (Hooking), 19:56.  
**Shots on Goal**—Edmonton 8-9-11-28. San Jose 6-6-6-18.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Edmonton 0 of 2; San Jose 0 of 2.  
**Goalies**—Edmonton, Skinner 26-18-4 (18 shots-18 saves). San Jose, Georgiev 15-26-4 (27-25). A—17,435 (17,562).

**Vegas 4, Vancouver 1**  
Vegas 0 1 3 - 4  
Vancouver 1 0 0 - 1  
**First Period**—1. Vancouver, Suter 25 (Garland, Hoglander), 8:23. Penalties—Suter, VAN (Hooking), 1:40.  
**Second Period**—1. Vegas, Olofsson 15 (Karlszon, Theodore), 18:33. Penalties—Garland, VAN (Tripping), 4:34.  
**Third Period**—1. Vegas, Dorofeyev 35 (Olofsson, Hutton), 7:59. 1. Vegas, Eichel 28 (Hutton, Howden), 10:45. 1. Vegas, Schwindt 1 (Theodore), 18:28. Penalties—Howden, VGK (Hooking), 8:22. Pettersson, VAN (Hooking), 11:30.  
**Shots on Goal**—Vegas 8-12-9-29. Vancouver 8-5-4-17.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Vegas 0 of 3; Vancouver 0 of 1.  
**Goalies**—Vegas, Schmid 2-0-1 (17 shots-16 saves). Vancouver, Lankinen (20-19), Tolopilo 1-1-0 (8-6). A—18,942 (18,910).

## NFL NOTEBOOK

# GM: Hunter can play both ways if he falls to Giants

FIELD LEVEL MEDIA

Travis Hunter has emphasized his desire to play both wide receiver and cornerback in the NFL, and it appears the New York Giants are willing to make that wish a reality if the Heisman Trophy winner falls to them at No. 3 in next week's NFL draft.

Speaking during his annual pre-draft news conference Wednesday, New York general manager Joe Schoen said that the Giants "would not be afraid" to line up Hunter on both sides of the ball.

Schoen said that "I wouldn't doubt the kid. He's that type of athlete. He's had that type of production, the number of snaps he plays in a game, doesn't sit down, goes over, gets a drink of water and gets back out on the field."

"So, he's got that type of athleticism, he's got the right mindset, he's a great kid. So, I wouldn't doubt him."

While NFL executives have said that Hunter could develop into a Pro Bowl player at either position, Hunter made headlines earlier in the week when he said he would never play football again if a team told him he could not play both wide receiver and cornerback.

"Because I've been doing it my whole life," Hunter told CBS Sports, "and I love being on the football field. I feel like I could dominate on each side of the ball, so I really enjoy doing it."

Of course, much of the concern regarding Hunter playing both ways stems from the higher workload. With



Two-way star Travis Hunter runs drills at Colorado's NFL Showcase on April 4 in Boulder, Colorado. MICHAEL CIAGLO/IMAGN IMAGES

the Colorado Buffaloes last year, Hunter played in over 84 percent of the team's snaps. For perspective, according to ESPN, cornerback Dane Jackson played 48% of the Carolina Panthers' total snaps last season that stood as the most in the NFL.

### Ward panders to Titans' fanbase while playing Fortnite

Former Miami quarterback Cam Ward is the presumptive top overall pick of the 2025 NFL Draft next week.

Now, the Tennessee Titans hold that pick, and Ward appeared to be pandering

to the team's fanbase with several tongue-in-cheek responses while participating in a Fortnite session Tuesday night.

On one clip from the YouTube live-stream, Ward was asked for his thoughts on some of the top players in the league by position.

"My top four running backs in the league right now? I would say Tony Polard (and Tyjae) Spears," Ward said of the Titans running backs.

Apparently Philadelphia Eagles star Saquon Barkley, ye of 2,005 rushing yards last season, couldn't crack Ward's list.

### Lawyers for draft prospect Bond file lawsuit against woman

Less than a week after turning himself into authorities on a sexual assault warrant, NFL draft prospect Isaiah Bond has filed a lawsuit against the woman who made the initial claims.

Lawyers for Bond filed the suit in United States District Court in Northern Texas on Tuesday, saying the woman made false statements to police in Frisco, Texas.

Bond, a standout wide receiver for the Texas Longhorns last season, turned himself into police on April 10, although he denied the allegations on Instagram after posting a \$25,000 bond.

"Regarding the accusation made against me, I would appreciate the time and opportunity to defend myself and

prove the claims made, patently false," Bond wrote. "I am in full cooperation with the authorities and will remain a willing and active participant in the investigation. Unfortunately, claims like these prove to be harmful to all involved, absent full review. I kindly request that all reserve judgment until the authorities provide a complete report based on truth and evidence."

Bond's lawyers say that the wideout did engage in a sexual encounter with the unnamed woman, calling the affair consensual. The lawsuit, which includes a defamation claim, asks for economic damages and a civil trial.

### Raiders' Miller skips voluntary workouts in search of new deal

Las Vegas Raiders left tackle Kolton Miller has opted not to participate in the team's voluntary workouts in hopes of landing a better contract, according to reports on Wednesday.

Miller, 29, has served as the Raiders' starting left tackle since he was selected 15th overall in the 2018 NFL Draft out of UCLA. The 6-foot-8, 325-pound lineman has started 107 of 109 games over the last seven seasons and, per Pro Football Focus, ranked as the league's 14th-best tackle in the 2024 season.

Under new coach Pete Carroll, the Raiders began voluntary workouts April 8. Per NFL rules, veterans are not required to participate in such offseason work.