

CHASING MILESTONES: ALEX OVECHKIN AND SIDNEY CROSBY

Two of the most dominant players in League history return for their 15th NHL season



Alex Ovechkin and **Sidney Crosby** return for their 15th NHL season and can continue to develop their burgeoning legacies as two of the most dominant players in League history.

700-GOAL MARK, 1,300-POINT MILESTONE ON HORIZON FOR OVECHKIN, CROSBY

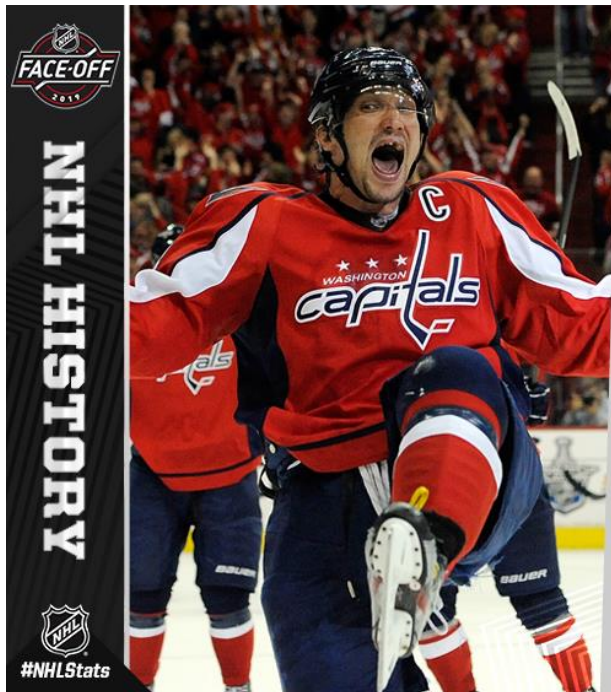
Both Crosby (446-770—1,216 in 943 GP) and Ovechkin (658-553—1,211 in 1,084 GP) enter 2019-20 within striking distance of the 1,300-point milestone, with the former also eyeing 800 career assists and the latter closing in on the 700-goal club.

* Ovechkin needs 42 regular-season goals to become the eighth player in NHL history to join the 700-goal club; **Wayne Gretzky** (894), **Gordie Howe** (801), **Jaromir Jagr** (766), **Brett Hull** (741), **Marcel Dionne** (731), **Phil Esposito** (717) and **Mike Gartner** (708) are its only members. Ovechkin has scored 32 or more goals in each of his 14 NHL seasons – including at least 42 tallies 10 times.

* Already the NHL's highest-scoring Russian, Ovechkin (658) ranks [13th on the League's all-time regular-season goals list](#) and would leapfrog **Luc Robitaille** (668; 12th), **Teemu Selanne** (684; 11th), **Mario Lemieux** (690; 10th), **Steve Yzerman** (692; 9th) and **Mark Messier** (694; 8th) before joining the elite septet. Passing Robitaille also would make Ovechkin the NHL's all-time leader in regular-season goals [among players listed as left wing](#).

* Ovechkin's career goals-per-game of 0.61 is the [highest in League history](#) among players to play in at least 1,000 games, putting him on pace to score goal No. 700 in his 1,153rd contest (which would be March 9, 2020 at BUF, assuming he plays all Washington's games). Only Gretzky (886 GP) and Hull (1,157 GP) required fewer than 1,200 games to reach the milestone.

Ovechkin, 34, can join The Great One as the only players to hit the 700-goal mark before age 35.



INSIDE THE NUMBERS

GOAL 700

PLAYER	DATE	GP	AGE (YEARS, DAYS)
WAYNE GRETZKY	JAN. 3, 1991	886	29, 342
BRETT HULL	FEB. 10, 2003	1,157	38, 185
PHIL ESPOSITO	FEB. 2, 1980	1,214	37, 347
MARCEL DIONNE	OCT. 31, 1987	1,255	36, 89
MIKE GARTNER	DEC. 14, 1997	1,390	38, 46
JAROMIR JAGR	MARCH 1, 2014	1,452	42, 14
GORDIE HOWE	DEC. 4, 1968	1,493	40, 248

*ALEX OVECHKIN, 34, ENTERS 2019-20 WITH 658 GOALS (1,084 GP)

* Ovechkin's 107 game-winning goals and 247 power-play goals in the regular season rank [seventh place](#) and [fourth place \(tied\)](#) in League history, respectively. His 22 regular-season overtime goals are the [most all-time](#), three more than the next-closest player (Jagr: 19).

* Crosby, who has five more points than Ovechkin in 141 fewer games, needs 84 regular-season points to become the 35th player in NHL history to record 1,300. Averaging 1.29 points-per-game in his career, Crosby is on pace to reach the milestone in his 1,009th game (which would be March 5, 2020 at BUF, assuming he plays all Pittsburgh's games). That achievement would come nine contests after Crosby becomes the first player to skate in 1,000 career games with the Penguins.

* Of the 34 members of the 1,300-point club, only five joined in fewer games than Crosby is on pace to. Crosby, 32, also can become the eighth player to record his 1,300th career regular-season point before age 33.



FEWEST GAMES TO 1,300 POINTS

PLAYER	DATE	GP	AGE (YEARS, DAYS)
WAYNE GRETZKY	MARCH 5, 1986	539	25, 38
MARIO LEMIEUX	JAN. 5, 1996	633	30, 92
MARCEL DIONNE	OCT. 25, 1983	946	32, 83
PHIL ESPOSITO	JAN. 9, 1977	966	34, 324
STEVE YZERMAN	JAN. 5, 1997	982	31, 241
JAROMIR JAGR	MARCH 5, 2004	1,014	32, 19
BRYAN TROTTIER	NOV. 27, 1988	1,014	32, 133
DALE HAWERCHUK	JAN. 22, 1995	1,034	31, 293
JARI KURRI	OCT. 20, 1995	1,034	35, 155

*SIDNEY CROSBY, 32, ENTERS 2019-20 WITH 446-770-1,216 (943 GP)

NHL HISTORY

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100-POINT, 50-GOAL SEASONS PLACE BOTH AMONG GROUP OF NHL LEGENDS

Crosby has recorded at least 100 points in a season six times in his NHL career, while Ovechkin has scored at least 50 goals in a campaign eight times – with both players reaching the respective milestone in 2018-19.

* A seventh career 100-point season for Crosby would move him into a tie with **Mike Bossy** and **Peter Stastny** for the [fourth-most in NHL history](#); only Gretzky (15), Lemieux (10) and Dionne (8) have more than seven.

* A ninth career 50-goal season for Ovechkin would move him into a tie with Gretzky and Bossy for the [most in NHL history](#). An 11th career *40-goal* campaign would propel Ovechkin ahead of Lemieux and Dionne and into sole possession of the [second-highest such total in League history](#) – a list topped by Gretzky (12).

OVECHKIN, CROSBY AMONG LEAGUE'S CREAM OF THE CROP IN 2010s

Since debuting in 2005-06, Ovechkin and Crosby have battled on a collision course toward becoming undeniable members of the NHL's all-decade team when the 2010s come to a close.

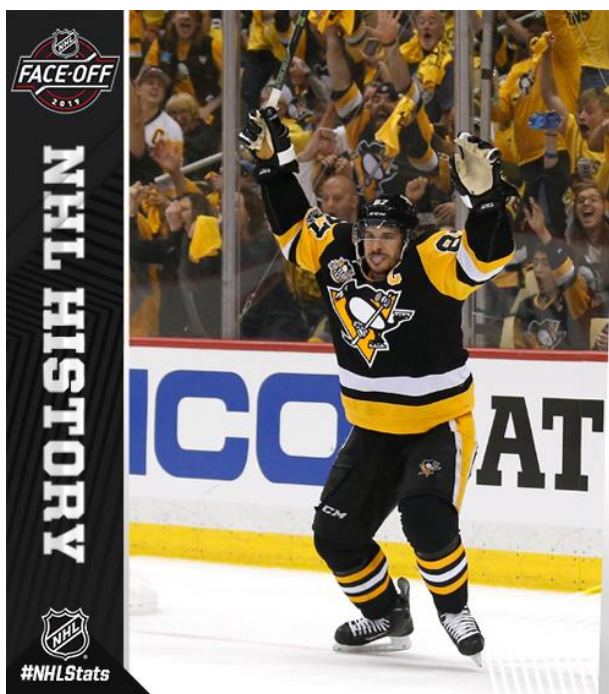
* Ovechkin has scored 413 regular-season goals since Jan. 1, 2010 (413-328—741 in 728 GP), 64 more than the next-closest player [in that span](#) (**Steven Stamkos**: 349). His 413 goals in the 2010s are the ninth-most *in a decade* in NHL history, placing Ovechkin on another elite list that he is set to ascend through the final three months of 2019.



MOST REGULAR-SEASON GOALS IN A DECADE

GOALS	PLAYER	DECADE
637	WAYNE GRETZKY	1980s
519	PHIL ESPOSITO	1970s
494	BRETT HULL	1990s
460	JARI KURRI	1980s
441	MICHEL GOULET	1980s
431	MIKE BOSSY	1980s
429	BOBBY HULL	1960s
416	MIKE GARTNER	1980s
413	ALEX OVECHKIN	2010s

* Crosby leads all players with 771 regular-season points since Jan. 1, 2010 (291-480—771 in 613 GP), ahead of **Patrick Kane** (293-458—751 in 701 GP), Ovechkin and **Claude Giroux** (219-490—709 in 737 GP). He is on pace to solidify his place in history as the NHL's regular-season points leader for the 2010s.



DECADE LEADERS

REGULAR-SEASON POINTS

DECADE	PLAYER	G-A-PTS
2010s	SIDNEY CROSBY	291-480-771
2000s	JOE THORNTON	248-569-817
1990s	WAYNE GRETZKY	238-702-940
1980s	WAYNE GRETZKY	637-1,227-1,864
1970s	PHIL ESPOSITO	519-581-1,100
1960s	STAN MIKITA	295-489-784
1950s	GORDIE HOWE	385-422-807
1940s	DOUG BENTLEY	189-278-467
1930s	MARTY BARRY	185-191-376
1920s	CY DENNENY	193-71-264
1910s	CY DENNENY	54-18-72



STATS AND INFORMATION



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THE GREAT EIGHT VS. SID THE KID

Ovechkin and Crosby have gone head-to-head a total of 74 times in their careers (49 GP in regular season, 25 GP in playoffs) – with more than half of those games coming since 2013-14 when the Capitals and Penguins realigned into the Metropolitan Division (57%; 42 GP). Pittsburgh owns a 30-17-2 edge in regular-season games featuring both players (WSH: 19-23-7) and a 13-12 advantage in playoff contests (WSH: 12-13).

* In their 49 regular-season matchups, Crosby has 1.43 points-per-game (24-46—70) while Ovechkin holds the goal-scoring edge with a total of 30 tallies (30-21—51), including 14 power-play goals. Each player has averaged more than a point per game in their 25 head-to-head playoff games, with Ovechkin (1.32; 15-18—33) leading Crosby (1.20; 13-17—30) in each scoring category.

* Their most noteworthy showdown occurred in Game 2 of the 2009 Eastern Conference Semifinals, when Ovechkin (3-0—3) and Crosby (3-0—3) each scored a hat trick. It marked the fifth game in Stanley Cup Playoffs history to feature dueling hat tricks – an occurrence which has happened only twice since.

* Crosby surpassed Ovechkin in career points on March 2, 2019 when he finished the day with 1,199 career points. It marked the first time in more than eight years that Crosby finished a day with more career points than his longtime rival – the prior such instance was Jan. 5, 2011 when Crosby had 572 points compared to 571 for Ovechkin – the latter regained the lead three days later with two points on Jan. 8, 2011.

* The Capitals will host the Penguins at Capital One Arena on Feb. 2 and Feb. 23, while Pittsburgh welcomes Washington to PPG Paints Arena on March 7 and March 22.

A promotional graphic for an NHL game between the Pittsburgh Penguins and the Washington Capitals. The graphic features the Pittsburgh Penguins logo on the left and the Washington Capitals logo on the right. In the center, it says "CROSBY VS OVECHKIN" at the top, followed by "PITTSBURGH" and "WASHINGTON". Below that, it says "12:30 PM ET SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2" in large, bold letters. The NBC logo is centered below the date. At the bottom, there is a "#NHLStats" hashtag and the NHL logo. The background is white with yellow and black accents.