



OTTAWA SENATORS

Atlantic Division

Preseason Power Ranking

25



1080
FRANCHISE WINS

37-41-4
78 Points
2023-24 SEASON

7th
DIVISION

Ottawa, Ontario - Canadian Tire Centre (18,655)
Head Coach: Travis Green (0-0-0, 1st Season)

2023-24: Missed Playoffs

Sens Seeking Needed Spark

Since a surprising run to the Eastern Conference Finals in 2017, it has been a rough time for the Ottawa Senators with no playoff appearances since then. Progress on a rebuild has been slow, in part due to the team giving away some first round picks in trades in an attempt to accelerate the rebuild that didn't end up working out. But, Ottawa has accumulated some promising young talent and the team came under new ownership last year, providing more hope for the future of the franchise. The Sens will look to improve this year and progress towards bringing winning hockey back to Canada's capital.

Forwards

The Senators have a star to build around in **Brady Tkachuk**. Like his brother, Panthers star Matthew Tkachuk, Brady is an elite offensive player who plays as physical of a game as any player in the league. Brady's 37 goals and 74 points led the team; he's even more tenacious on the defensive end than his brother, finishing third in the NHL in hits with 294. He was the only player that scored more than 50 points to also finish in the top 20 in the league in hits. **Tim Stutzle** was the 3rd overall pick in 2020 and had a huge year in '22-23, with 39 goals and 51 assists. While he still put up 70 points last year, his goal output dropped to just 18 in large part due to his shooting percentage dropping from 17.1% to 9.4%. Expect that stat to return to the mean this year and see the 22-year-old have a season closer to '22-23. **Claude Giroux** has continued to put up solid production, even as he has aged. The 36-year-old put up 64 points last year and has been a valuable veteran leader for the young Sens. **Josh Norris** had a 35-goal season in '21-22, but three separate shoulder injuries have kept him off the ice for the majority of the last two seasons. Ottawa has to hope that he will be healthy, especially after signing him to a big extension after that breakout season. **Drake Batherson** set career highs in goals and points last year and is another key building block for the Senators. **Shane Pinto** missed half of last year with a suspension for gambling, but played well when on the ice with 27 points in 41 games. Assuming he has deleted his FanDuel account, the 23-year-old should continue to progress.



Photo via Yahoo Sports

Veteran **David Perron** has remained consistent late in his career, putting up 47 points at age 35 last season. **Nick Cousins** helped Florida win the Stanley Cup in 2024 and he now brings his grinding style of play to Ottawa. **Michael Amadio** was an effective third liner for Vegas in each of the last three seasons, finishing with 14 goals last year. Perron, Cousins, and Amadio all are former Cup champions. 22-year-old **Ridley Greig** took a step forward last year, playing his first full NHL season and finishing with 26 points and 13 goals.

Defense/Goaltending

Jake Sanderson finished last season with 38 points and established himself as an up-and-coming defenseman. He has been one of Ottawa's most promising players since he was selected 5th overall in 2020. **Thomas Chabot** looked to be on his way to stardom when he made the All-Star team and had 55 points in '18-19, but since then, his production has dropped and he has often been injured. His 30 points last year were his fewest since his rookie year in '17-18. Like Norris, Chabot signed a high-priced extension after his breakout season and the Sens will need him to be healthy. **Artem Zub** was an effective player in Russia in the KHL for several years, and since joining Ottawa, has developed into an effective NHL player. He led Ottawa's D-men in hits and had a positive plus-minus, no small feat considering the Senators allowed the 7th most goals in the league.

One reason Ottawa has struggled so much in recent years is poor goaltending. Since that run to the conference finals in 2017, they have used 17 different goaltenders, with most of the statistics ugly. There is real reason for optimism that they won't have a problem in net this year with the acquisition of **Linus Ullmark**, who won the goaltending triple crown in 2023 when he led the league in wins, GAA, and save percentage while winning the Vezina Trophy. He will be the unquestioned starter after spending the last three years splitting time with Jeremy Swayman in Boston. **Anton Forsberg** is the backup and had a down year last year following a couple of decent seasons.

The Bottom Line

There are some legitimate pieces in place for Ottawa to become a contender in the future. That future is still likely a couple years away though, and this season could be another tough watch for Senators fans. There are still some exciting players to watch like Tkachuk and Stutzle. Ullmark should be able to give Ottawa the best goaltending that they have had in years and keep them in games the majority of the time, which could lead to more wins. The forward depth appears to be weak overall, especially if Norris can't stay healthy or age catches up with Giroux. It's shaping up to be another long year in Ottawa, but the Senators will be watchable with hopes of future improvement.

2024-25 Projection: 36-39-7 (79 points) - 7th in Atlantic



