



# TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS

Atlantic Division


Preseason Power Ranking 4



**x13**



**x0**  
EASTERN CONF



**x0**  
PRESIDENTS'

**3150**  
FRANCHISE WINS

**46-26-10**  
102 Points  
2023-24 SEASON

**3rd**  
DIVISION

Toronto, Ontario - Scotiabank Arena (18,800)  
Head Coach: Craig Berube (0-0-0, 1st Season)

2023-24: Lost in First Round

## The End of the Playoff Drought?

In life, one can be assured of three things: Death, taxes, and the Toronto Maple Leafs making an early exit from the playoffs. At least, that's the way it's been since 2002, when the Leafs last made it to a conference final. In their 10 playoff appearances since then, they have won just two series with 7 first round exits in the last 8 years. 2023 saw the team change general managers and head coach Sheldon Keefe was fired after the team's latest failure in 2024. Former Stanley Cup winner Craig Berube takes over behind the bench, overseeing a team that is truly entering a make-or-break year as they look to break a 58-year title drought.

### Forwards

A lot has gone wrong for Toronto in the last few years, but one thing that has gone very right is their selection of **Auston Matthews** with the 1<sup>st</sup> pick in the 2016 draft. Matthews has scored the most goals in hockey since joining the league and is coming off an incredible season. Matthews' 69 goals in '23-24 was the highest total in the league since 1996 and he has led the NHL in goals in 3 of the past 4 seasons. He was promoted to captain this season and the Leafs will be looking for him to continue his high level of production and be their best player once again. Matthews isn't the only prolific goal scorer on the team; **William Nylander** scored 40 last year and also added a career best 58 assists. **Mitch Marner** is an excellent passer and led the team in assists last year, but perhaps no Toronto player has been more of a disappointment in the postseason than him, with his production continually drying up at the worst times. As he enters the last year of his contract, he likely will need to change that narrative in order to stick around next year. **John Tavares** is in a similar situation. The Leafs saw Tavares as one of the final pieces to a Cup-winning team when they signed him to a massive free agent contract in 2018, but he too has repeatedly failed to produce in the postseason despite very good regular season numbers.



Photo via NHLPA

**Matthew Knies** had a very productive rookie season and finished 7<sup>th</sup> among first year players in both goals and assists. **Bobby McMann** had his first shot at extended NHL playing time last year after several seasons in the minor leagues. He took advantage of it with 15 goals in 56 games and will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> line option this year. **Max Domi** has long had a reputation as a physical player with a mean streak. He did lead Toronto in penalty minutes last year, but he also had his second straight season with more than 45 points, so there is plenty of offensive upside there too. **Calle Jarnkrok** is an excellent penalty killer who should contribute 10-15 goals. **Easton Cowan** and **Fraser Minten** were each high draft picks in recent years and both will have a shot at earning a roster spot after very good minor league seasons during '23-24.

### Defense/Goaltending

While Toronto's star offensive players have often failed in the playoffs, their defense and goaltending is not without blame. Toronto focused many of their offseason moves on improving this area. They brought in veteran **Chris Tanev**, who won't give much offensively (with a career high in points of 28), but he is very good on the defensive end with a plus-minus of +22 last year. **Oliver Ekman-Larsson** also joins the Leafs fresh off his Stanley Cup win with Florida. His days of being a top offensive D-man in hockey are over, but he still can be productive. **Morgan Rielly** led Toronto's defensemen in points last year with 58 and he should remain productive and a key part of the power play. **Simon Benoit** had just 5 points last year, but finished 8<sup>th</sup> in the entire league in hits. Partner **Jake McCabe** wasn't far behind and adds a little more offense (28 points last year).

The Leafs moved on from starting goalie Ilya Samsonov after a poor season and now **Joseph Woll** will begin the year as the starter. He had a very good postseason performance last year that was cut short by injury. He will see competition from **Anthony Stolarz**, another free agent signing from Florida who played extremely well in 24 games as the Panthers' backup last season with a 2.03 GAA and .925 save percentage. He could certainly take over as the starter if he continues that level of play.

### The Bottom Line

With all of the playoff failure since 2016, Toronto has resisted making significant changes to their core of players, instead choosing to believe in the players they have and cycle through general managers and head coaches. It is hard to imagine the team not making major changes should they come up short again. They may be forced to regardless, as Marner and Tavares will both be free agents and Toronto may not be able to afford to keep them after already giving big deals to Matthews, Nylander, and Rielly. The Leafs hired Craig Berube as head coach and they hope that his blend of being well liked by players while not being afraid to keep everyone accountable will make the difference, as it did when he led St. Louis to the Cup in 2019. Toronto's talented roster will get them to the playoffs. Once they get there, their stars will need to play up to their capabilities and change the narrative surrounding the team if Toronto is to avoid another early exit.

**2024-25 Projection: 49-27-6 (104 points) - 3rd in Atlantic**



## Mitch Marner



Photo via The Leafs Nation

### MAPLE LEAFS 5-YEAR POINT TREND

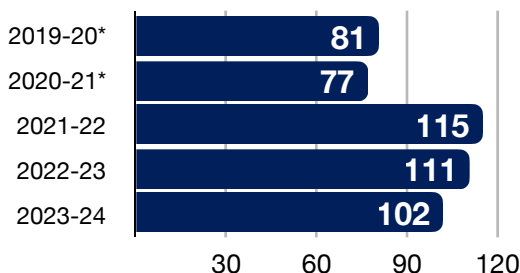


Photo via Gametime

### 2024-25 Schedule

#### October 2024

			MTL 7:00	NJ 10 7:00	PIT 12 7:00
			LA 16 7:30		NYR 19 7:00
	TB 21 7:30	CBJ 22 7:30		STL 24 7:00	BOS 26 7:00
	WPG 28 7:30			SEA 31 7:00	

#### November 2024

					STL 2 7:00
MIN 3 6:00		BOS 5 7:00		DET 8 7:00	MTL 9 7:00
		OTT 12 7:00	WSH 13 7:30		EDM 16 7:00
			VGK 20 7:30		
UTA 24 7:00			FLA 27 7:30		TB 30 7:00

#### December 2024

	CHI 2 7:30		NSH 4 7:30		WSH 6 7:00	PIT 7 7:00
		NJ 10 7:00		ANA 12 7:00		DET 14 7:00
BUF 15 5:00			DAL 18 7:30		BUF 20 7:00	NYI 21 7:00
		WPG 23 2:00			DET 27 7:00	WSH 28 7:00
			NYI 31 1:00			

#### January 2025

				NYI 2 7:30	BOS 4 7:00
PHI 5 7:00		PHI 7 7:30		CAR 9 7:30	VAN 11 7:00
		DAL 14 7:00		NJ 16 7:00	MTL 18 7:00
	TB 20 7:30		CBJ 22 7:30		OTT 25 7:00
			MIN 29 7:00		

#### February 2025

					EDM 1 7:00
		CGY 4 9:00		SEA 6 10:00	VAN 8 7:00
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off					
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off					CAR 22 7:00
CHI 23 7:00		BOS 25 7:00		NYR 28 7:00	

#### March 2025

PIT 1:00	2	SJ 3 7:30		VGK 5 10:00		COL 8 7:00
		UTA 10 10:00		FLA 13 10:00		OTT 15 7:00
		CGY 17 7:30		COL 19 7:00	NYR 20 7:00	NSH 22 7:00
			PHI 25 7:00		SJ 27 10:30	LA 29 7:00

#### March/April 2025

ANA 8:00	30			FLA 2 7:30		CBJ 5 7:00
				FLA 8 7:00	TB 9 7:00	MTL 12 7:00
CAR 5:00	13		BUF 15 7:00		DET 17 7:00	

### Projected TOR Lineup

#### Forwards

	Left Wing	Center	Right Wing
Line 1	23 Matthew Knies	34 Auston Matthews	16 Mitch Marner
Line 2	74 Bobby McMann	91 John Tavares	88 William Nylander
Line 3	29 Pontus Holmberg	11 Max Domi	19 Calle Jarnkrok
Line 4	24 Connor Dewar	64 David Kampf	75 Ryan Reaves

#### Defense

Line 1	44 Morgan Rielly	8 Chris Tanev
Line 2	91 Oliver Ekman-Larsson	37 Timothy Liljegren
Line 3	2 Simon Benoit	22 Jake McCabe

#### Goaltenders

Starter	60 Joseph Woll
Backup	41 Anthony Stolarz

#### 2023-24 NHL Ranks

POINTS - 102 (10th)  
 GF - 298 (2nd)  
 GA - 261 (21st)  
 PP% - 23.95 (7th)  
 PK% - 76.89 (23rd)  
 SV% - .893 (23rd)

### PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## WILLIAM NYLANDER - RW



#### 2023-24 Statistics

GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
82	40	58	98	+1

Nylander has established himself as an elite offensive player in the NHL. The '23-24 season saw him post his 2<sup>nd</sup> straight 40-goal season while setting a career high with 58 assists. He has grown his point total in each of the past three years and has been the rare Toronto player who has played well consistently in the postseason, with 28 points in 29 playoff games the last four years. He made his first career All-Star team last year and is set for another terrific season.

### 1967 < Number to Know

1967 - Toronto hasn't won the Stanley Cup since 1967, the longest drought in the history of the NHL. Will this finally be their year? (Spoiler alert: unlikely).

HOME

AWAY