



# NEW YORK ISLANDERS

Metropolitan Division

Preseason Power Ranking

20



x4



x6

EASTERN CONF



x0

PRESIDENTS'

1806

FRANCHISE WINS

39-27-16

94 Points

2023-24 SEASON

3rd

DIVISION

2023-24: Lost in First Round

Elmont, NY - UBS Arena (17,255)

Head Coach: Patrick Roy (20-12-5, 2nd Season)

## All Eyes on the Cup in New York

The Islanders teetered on the edge of the playoff picture for much of last season until they changed head coaches at midseason and brought in Hall-of-Fame goaltender Patrick Roy to lead the team. Roy led the Isles to a 20-12-5 record the rest of the way, including an 8-0-1 record in April that surged New York into the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in the Metro Division. That momentum didn't carry over to the playoffs, however, as they quickly fell to Carolina in 5 games in the 1<sup>st</sup> round. While they don't have the high end talent of others in their division, the Islanders should remain in contention for a postseason spot.

### Forwards

The Isles thought they had found a superstar when **Mathew Barzal** broke into the NHL and put up 85 points in his rookie year. But, it's been six years since then and Barzal has never again reached the heights of that season. However, he did come close last year with 80 points and a career high 23 goals. New York will need that version of their best player if they are to contend for the postseason. **Bo Horvat** is coming off the best year of his career, setting career highs in goals (33) and assists. **Anthony Duclair** was a big free agent signing for New York this offseason and will be joining his 9<sup>th</sup> team in 11 NHL seasons. Part of the reason he has bounced around so much is his injury history. But in every year where Duclair has played at least 75% of the season, he has topped the 20-goal mark, including 24 last year. It might be a stretch to play him on the top line, but he will bring some offensive depth that New York didn't have last year. 11-year veteran **Brock Nelson** has averaged 25 goals per season for his career and has scored 34 or more in each of the last three seasons. **Kyle Palmieri** had a 30-goal season last year, his highest total since the '15-16 season. The 33-year-old does have a lethal shot, but another 30-goal season would be a bit unexpected. **Maxim Tsyplov** signed as a European free agent after spending the last 7 years playing in the KHL in Russia, where his 31 goals last year were fourth-most in the league. Don't expect him to start scoring like that in the NHL right away, but he'll be given every opportunity to establish himself as a top-6 forward.



Photo via Forbes

Defensive-minded center **Jean-Gabriel Pageau** is one of the Isles' best penalty killers. Though his goal production has dropped a bit recently, he brings value defensively. **Simon Holmstrom** played well in his second NHL season last year with 15 goals and very good defensive play. **Anders Lee** had been a reliable 45-50 point scorer and even scored 40 goals back in the '17-18 season, but the captain's production dropped to 37 points last year and age may be catching up to the 34-year-old. Like Pageau, **Casey Cizikas** is a crucial penalty killer with the ability to hit opponents and block shots often.

### Defense/Goaltending

The Islanders desperately need a rebound season from starting netminder **Ilya Sorokin**. The Russian is one of the most talented goaltenders in the league and had three elite seasons to start his career, earning himself a massive 8-year extension before last season. But '23-24 was a disaster for Sorokin. His GAA ballooned from 2.34 in '22-23 to 3.01 last year and his save percentage also cratered to a career low. He was benched down the stretch as New York made their playoff push. The talent is there for Sorokin to return to being one of the league's best, but the coaching staff will need to work with him and figure out why last year went so sideways. If Sorokin can't figure it out, **Semyon Varlamov** will get most of the starts, as he did late in the season last year. Varlamov might be one of the best backup plans in the league, as he has had a GAA below 3.00 and a save percentage above .910 in each of the last seven seasons. However, he is beginning to age and there's no guarantee that trend will continue. For the sake of both the present and the future, the Isles need to figure out how to get Sorokin right.

24-year-old **Noah Dobson** emerged as a star defenseman last year with 70 points, which shattered his career high and was the highest total by an Isles D-man in 40 years. Dobson shares the top pair with a fellow 24-year-old, **Alexander Romanov**, who led New York defensemen in hits. **Ryan Pullock** and **Adam Pelech** have played on the same pair for much of their careers and both are superb shutdown defensemen, though both battled injury last year.

### The Bottom Line

Since going to two straight Eastern Conference Finals in 2020 and 2021, the Islanders have been caught in between contention and mediocrity. They did just enough to get into the postseason in the last two years before quickly bowing out in the first round both times. The team has many good players, but lacks that one elite player who can consistently change the game. New York did play well under new coach Roy last year and a full offseason to continue learning his system should help. If it were possible to look to the future and see the 2025 Stanley Cup playoff bracket, it wouldn't be surprising to see the Isles in the field...but it also wouldn't be a surprise to see them left out.

2024-25 Projection: 40-34-8 (88 points) - 5th in Metro



# Islanders

## Alexander Romanov



Photo via Elite Prospects

## ISLANDERS 5-YEAR POINT TREND

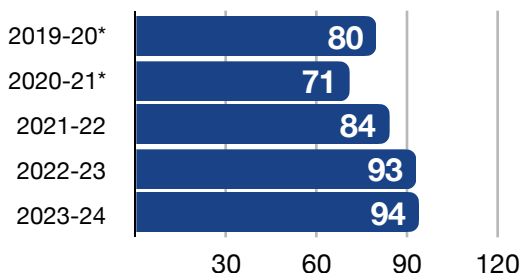


Photo via amNewYork

## Projected NYI Lineup

### Forwards

	Left Wing	Center	Right Wing
Line 1	11 Anthony Duclair	14 Bo Horvat	13 Mathew Barzal
Line 2	7 Maxim Tsyplakov	29 Brock Nelson	21 Kyle Palmieri
Line 3	10 Simon Holmstrom	44 Jean-Gabriel Pageau	26 Oliver Wahlstrom
Line 4	27 Anders Lee	32 Kyle MacLean	53 Casey Cizikas

### Defense

Line 1	28 Alexander Romanov	8 Noah Dobson
Line 2	3 Adam Pelech	6 Ryan Pulock
Line 3	2 Mike Reilly	24 Scott Mayfield

### Goaltenders

Starter	30 Ilya Sorokin
Backup	40 Semyon Varlamov

## 2023-24 NHL Ranks

POINTS - 94 (15th)  
GF - 245 (22nd)  
GA - 258 (19th)  
PP% - 20.35 (19th)  
PK% - 71.49 (32nd)  
SV% - .904 (8th)

## 71.50 < Number to Know

The Islanders had the worst penalty kill in the NHL last season, allowing opponents to score on nearly 30% of power play opportunities. This will obviously need to improve in order for New York to contend.

## 2024-25 Schedule

October 2024									
				UTA 10				DAL 12	
				7:30				8:00	
	COL 14			STL 17				MTL 19	
	9:00			8:00				7:00	
		DET 22				NJ 25		FLA 26	
		7:45				7:00		7:30	
		ANA 29	CBJ 30						
		7:00	7:00						

November 2024									
						BUF 1			
						7:00			
NYR 3		PIT 5		OTT 7				NJ 9	
1:00		7:30		7:00				7:30	
		EDM 12		VAN 14				SEA 16	
		9:00		10:00				4:00	
		19		21				23	
		CGY 9:00		DET 7:00				STL 7:30	
	DET 25		BOS 27			WSH 29		BUF 30	
	7:30		7:30			3:00		7:30	

December 2024									
		MTL 3		SEA 5				CAR 7	
		7:00		7:30				5:00	
OTT 8		LA 10		CHI 12					
5:00		7:30		7:30					
CHI 15		CAR 17						TOR 21	
3:00		7:30						7:00	
	BUF 23							PIT 28	
	7:30							7:30	
PIT 29		TOR 31							
5:30		1:00							

January 2025									
				TOR 2					
				7:30					
BOS 5				VGK 9				UTA 11	
6:00				10:00				9:00	
		OTT 14		PHI 16				SJ 18	
		7:30		7:30				7:30	
	CBJ 20					PHI 24		CAR 25	
	7:30					7:30		7:30	
		COL 28		PHI 30					
		7:30		7:30					

February 2025									
								TB 1	
								7:00	
FLA 2		VGK 4				WPG 7		MIN 8	
6:00		7:30				8:00		8:00	
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off									
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off									
DAL 23		NYR 25		BOS 27					
7:30		7:30		7:00					

March 2025									
								NSH 1	
								12:30	
	NYR 3	WPG 4						SJ 8	
	7:00	7:30						10:00	
ANA 9		LA 11				EDM 14			
9:00		10:30				7:30			
FLA 16		PIT 18		MTL 20				CGY 22	
7:30		7:00		7:30				4:00	
	CBJ 24			VAN 26				TB 29	
	7:30			7:30				2:00	

March/April 2025									
CAR 5:00		TB 1				MIN 4			
		7:30				7:30			
WSH 6		NSH 8		NYR 10				PHI 12	
12:30		8:00		7:30				12:30	
NJ 13		WSH 15		CBJ 17					
1:00		8:00		7:00					

HOME

AWAY

## PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### NOAH DOBSON - D



### 2023-24 Statistics

GP 79 G 10 A 60 PTS 70 +/- +12

Dobson's offensive game has really taken off in the last three years as he has scored 49+ points each season. '23-24 was his best season yet, with 70 points and 60 assists. The only other defenseman in Islanders history to put up numbers like that is Hall-of-Famer Denis Potvin. His defensive play has also gotten better, with an improved plus/minus in each of the last two years. He played more minutes than any other Isles player last year and he'll continue to be a crucial part of the team.