



# NEW JERSEY DEVILS

Metropolitan Division

Preseason Power Ranking **6**

**x3**

**x5**  
EASTERN CONF

**x0**  
PRESIDENTS'

**1651**  
FRANCHISE WINS

**38-39-5**  
81 Points  
2023-24 SEASON

**7th**  
DIVISION

Newark, NJ - Prudential Center (16,514)  
Head Coach: Sheldon Keefe (1st Season)

**2023-24: Missed Playoffs**

## Big Moves Makes Devils Real Threat

In the '22-23 season, the New Jersey Devils looked like an ascending team when they came out of nowhere to post 52 wins and make a run to the second round of the playoffs. So, it was a surprise when the team came crashing back to earth last year, finishing seventh in the Metro Division, well out of playoff position. Poor defense and goaltending were major issues and, as a result, New Jersey made some big moves in the offseason, including bringing in former Maple Leafs coach Sheldon Keefe, in hopes of returning to the playoffs.

### Forwards

Injuries were a factor in the Devils' poor season last year, as three of their top four scorers all missed time. **Jack Hughes** established himself as a superstar with 99 points in '22-23, but missed 20 games last year. When on the ice, he had more than a point per game with 74 in 62 games. Assuming health, Hughes will be the Devils' best player and an offensive force. Captain **Nico Hischier** has battled several injuries throughout his career, but he has had a better track record of health in recent years and is capable of an 80 point year. **Timo Meier** hasn't been quite what New Jersey hoped for when they acquired him in a big deal with San Jose two years ago. His point production has still been solid and he should be a 25-30 goal scorer, but it remains to be seen if he will again reach the heights of his 76-point season from three years ago. **Jesper Bratt** has eclipsed 70 points in each of the last three seasons, including a career-high 83 last year. **Ondrej Palat** made a habit of scoring big goals for the Lightning over the last decade. While the past two years with New Jersey have seen his production drop, he's still a threat to score. After a successful '22-23 season, the young **Dawson Mercer** had a big drop in production last year, but still scored 20 goals and could very well rebound.



Jack Hughes

Photo via NJ.com

**Stefan Noesen** returns to the Devils for a second stint after two great years with Carolina. He scored a career-high 37 points last year while playing some minutes on the Hurricanes' power play. **Erik Haula** is highly skilled at winning faceoffs and can be counted on for 30-40 points. **Tomas Tatar** had 48 points with New Jersey in '22-23, but he took a big step back last year while playing for Colorado and Seattle. The Devils hope a return to the team will bring back his scoring form. **Paul Cotter** has been a decent depth piece for Vegas for the last two seasons and will now play on the fourth line in New Jersey.

### Defense/Goaltending

There was no bigger culprit for the Devils' struggles last year than their goaltending. Every Devils goaltender finished the season with a save percentage below .900 and a GAA higher than 3.00, a stat only matched by league-worst San Jose and fellow non-playoff team Ottawa. The Devils set out to address that problem and swung a trade with Calgary for **Jacob Markstrom**, who is coming off a solid season (2.78 GAA and .905 save percentage) and was arguably the best netminder available on the trade market. As recently as the '21-22 season, Markstrom finished second for the Vezina Trophy. New Jersey is banking on him fixing their issues in net and he should be a big upgrade. **Jake Allen** will back him up, but may not see much playing time after two poor seasons.

The Devils also sought big upgrades on defense, signing former Hurricane **Brett Pesce** and former Jet **Brenden Dillon** in free agency. Though neither will provide much offensively, Pesce is a high-end second pair defenseman who is a superb penalty killer and Dillon finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the league in hits last season. **Dougie Hamilton** is capable of being one of the best D-men at creating offense in the NHL as he scored the second-most goals by a defenseman in '22-23. But, that year is the only season since '18-19 where he hasn't missed significant time with injury and he played just 20 games last year. The Devils will need Hamilton healthy, especially because **Luke Hughes** will miss the first two months of the season with injury. Hughes (Jack's brother) finished third in Rookie of the Year voting last year. Though he struggled defensively, only 1<sup>st</sup> overall pick Connor Bedard had more points than him among rookies and the defense should improve with more experience. **Jonas Siegenthaler** has had a roller coaster of a career, at times playing like a top defender in the league, but also going through some very poor stretches. New Jersey hopes to get the former level of play more often this year.

### The Bottom Line

Though the Devils didn't live up to the lofty expectations many had placed upon them last year, there were clear reasons for it. The team was ravaged by injuries, including superstar Jack Hughes missing 20 games. The team had some of the worst defense and goaltending in the league but made some major moves to address that. It's likely that we'll see the Devils end the season a lot closer to their '22-23 selves. The team is full of offensive talent and they addressed the gaping hole that they had in net by bringing in Markstrom. Questions about the defense remain, but it is improved over last year. The Devils will return to the playoffs and could battle their Hudson River rivals, the Rangers, for the Metro Division crown all season long.

**2024-25 Projection: 49-27-6 (104 points) - 2nd in Metro**



# NEW JERSEY DEVILS

## Dougie Hamilton



Photo via NHLPA

### DEVILS 5-YEAR POINT TREND

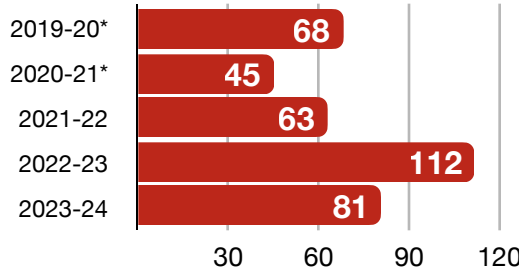


Photo via NHL

### Projected NJ Lineup

#### Forwards

|        | Left Wing       | Center           | Right Wing        |
|--------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Line 1 | 18 Ondrej Palat | 13 Nico Hischier | 63 Jesper Bratt   |
| Line 2 | 28 Timo Meier   | 86 Jack Hughes   | 91 Dawson Mercer  |
| Line 3 | 90 Tomas Tatar  | 56 Erik Haula    | 11 Stefan Noesen  |
| Line 4 | 47 Paul Cotter  | 42 Curtis Lazar  | 14 Nathan Bastian |

#### Defense

|        |                       |                   |
|--------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Line 1 | 71 Jonas Siegenthaler | 7 Dougie Hamilton |
| Line 2 | 43 Luke Hughes        | 22 Brett Pesce    |
| Line 3 | 5 Brenden Dillon      | 17 Simon Nemec    |

#### Goaltenders

|         |                    |
|---------|--------------------|
| Starter | 25 Jacob Markstrom |
| Backup  | 34 Jake Allen      |

#### 2023-24 NHL Ranks

POINTS - 81 (25th)  
 GF - 264 (12th)  
 GA - 281 (28th)  
 PP% - 22.45 (13th)  
 PK% - 80.66 (10th)  
 SV% - .886 (30th)

### 3.43 < Number to Know

The Devils allowed 3.43 goals per game to their opponents last year, tied for fifth worst mark in the NHL.

### PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

## JESPER BRATT - RW



#### 2023-24 Statistics

| GP | G  | A  | PTS | +/- |
|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 82 | 27 | 56 | 83  | -6  |

Bratt has grown from an unheralded 6th round pick to being a key part of the Devils' top line. He made it to the NHL just one season after being drafted, a rare occurrence for someone picked late in the draft. He proved he belonged in the big leagues with a 35-point rookie year, but his game has really taken off in the last 3 years. He broke out with a 73 point season in '21-22, then scored another 73 points in '22-23. Last year was his best yet with a career high 83 points and 56 assists.

### 2024-25 Schedule

#### October 2024

| 2024 NHL Global Series (Prague) vs. BUF |        |        |        | TOR    | WSH    |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Oct 4 - 1 PM & Oct 5 - 10 AM            |        |        |        | 7:00   | 7:00   |
|   | UTA 14 | CAR 15 | OTT 17 |        | WSH 19 |
|   |        | TB 22  | DET 24 | NYI 25 |        |
| ANA 27                                  |        |        | VAN 30 |        |        |

#### November 2024

|       |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|       |        |        |        | CGY 1  |        |
|       | EDM 4  |        | MTL 7  |        | NYI 9  |
| SJ 10 |        | FLA 12 | FLA 14 |        | TB 16  |
|       |        |        | CAR 21 |        | WSH 23 |
|       | NSH 25 |        | STL 27 | DET 29 | WSH 30 |

#### December 2024

|       |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|       | NYR 2  |        |        | SEA 6  |        |
| COL 8 |        | TOR 10 | LA 12  |        | CHI 14 |
|       |        | STL 17 | CBJ 19 |        | PIT 21 |
|       | NYR 23 |        |        | CAR 27 | CAR 28 |
|       |        | ANA 31 |        |        |        |

#### January 2025

|        |        |        |        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|        |        |        | LA 1   |        | SJ 4   |
|        | SEA 6  |        |        | NYR 9  | TB 11  |
|        |        | FLA 14 |        | TOR 16 | PHI 18 |
| OTT 19 |        |        | BOS 22 |        | MTL 25 |
|        | PHI 27 |        | PHI 29 |        |        |

#### February 2025

|                             |  |       |        |       |        |
|-----------------------------|--|-------|--------|-------|--------|
| BUF 2                       |  | PIT 4 |        | VGK 6 | MTL 8  |
|                             |  |       |        |       |        |
| 2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off |  |       |        |       |        |
|                             |  |       |        |       | DAL 22 |
| NSH 23                      |  |       | COL 26 |       |        |

#### March 2025

|       |        |        |        |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|       |        |        |        |        | UTA 1  |
| VGK 2 |        | DAL 4  |        |        | WPG 7  |
| PHI 9 |        | CBJ 11 |        | EDM 13 | PIT 15 |
|       |        |        |        | CGY 20 | OTT 22 |
|       | CBJ 17 |        |        |        |        |
|       | VAN 24 |        | CHI 26 |        | WPG 28 |
|       |        |        |        |        | MIN 29 |

#### March/April 2025

|        |  |        |        |  |        |
|--------|--|--------|--------|--|--------|
|        |  | MIN 31 |        |  | NYR 5  |
|        |  |        |        |  |        |
|        |  | BOS 8  |        |  | PIT 11 |
| NYI 13 |  |        |        |  |        |
|        |  | BOS 15 | DET 16 |  |        |

HOME

AWAY