

NEW YORK RANGERS

Metropolitan Division

Preseason Power Ranking

2



x4



x2

EASTERN CONF



x4

PRESIDENTS'

3037

FRANCHISE WINS

55-23-4

114 Points

2023-24 SEASON

1st

DIVISION

2023-24: Lost in EC Finals

New York City, NY - Madison Square Garden (18,006)
Head Coach: Peter Laviolette (55-23-4, 2nd Season)

All Eyes on the Cup in New York

Heading into the '23-24 season, expectations for the Rangers were uncertain after a disappointing first-round exit from the 2023 playoffs at the hands of arch-rival New Jersey. Stars that the Rangers had acquired at the trade deadline the previous year like Patrick Kane and Vladimir Tarasenko moved on in free agency. But, a blistering 18-4-1 start to the season put any concerns to rest en route to the most wins in franchise history and the best record in the NHL. However, for the 2nd time in 3 years, New York came up short in the Eastern Conference Finals, losing in six games to the eventual champion Panthers. New York is hoping to finally get over the hump and win the Stanley Cup after deep playoff runs in recent years.

Forwards

The Rangers' second line drove much of the offense during '23-24, with all three members having career-best seasons. Superstar **Artemi Panarin** had a team-leading 49 goals and 71 assists, good for the fourth-most points in the NHL. **Vincent Trocheck** had 77 points while winning the second-most faceoffs in the league. **Alexis Lafreniere** finally realized the potential that made him the #1 overall pick in the 2020 draft, scoring 28 goals. Led by **Chris Kreider** and **Mika Zibanejad**, the Rangers' first line was lethal on the power play, but struggled a bit with their 5-on-5 play. Zibanejad in particular had a disappointing season, with his fewest points per game since the '17-18 season. Kreider, the longest tenured Ranger and a master of scoring goals by deflecting pucks into the net, scored 39 goals. New York cycled through several different players looking for the third member of the top line last season while trying to get the best production from Kreider and Zibanejad. This year, they brought in former Stanley Cup winner **Reilly Smith** and they are hoping that he can bring stability to this line and more production from Kreider and Zibanejad.

New York will be looking for growth from their third line, made up of three young players in **Will Cuyllé**, **Filip Chytil**, and **Kaapo Kakko**. Cuyllé is a very physical player and led the Rangers in hits last season while chipping in 13 goals. Chytil missed much of '23-24 with a severe concussion and some wondered if his career was in jeopardy, but encouragingly, he returned during the playoffs. He looks to get back to the form of his '22-23 season that saw him score 22 goals. Kakko was the 2nd overall pick in the 2019 draft and between a wide variety of injuries and lack of production, has largely been disappointing. He signed a 1-year "prove-it" deal to stay with the Rangers in the offseason and this year is likely his last chance to prove himself in New York. On the fourth line, **Jimmy Vesey** is an excellent penalty killer who can also contribute offensively (13 goals last season). Heavyweight youngster **Matt Rempe** comes in at 6 foot 8 and went viral by fighting many of the toughest players in the league during his first career games last season. He will look to contribute more than just physicality this year after working with a skating coach in the offseason.



Photo via Elite Prospects

Defense/Goaltending

The backbone of the Rangers is goaltender **Igor Shesterkin**, the 2022 Vezina Trophy winner as the best goalie in the league. Shesterkin has had two terrific seasons since then and is coming into a contract year, so he should be motivated to produce at a high level. 3-time Stanley Cup champion **Jonathan Quick** also had a very good year during 2023-24 and is a more than capable backup.

Adam Fox is the leader of the defense and he not only defends at a high level but also creates lots of offense on the power play. **Ryan Lindgren** is a warrior who is more than willing to put his body on the line to block shots and deliver big hits. **K'Andre Miller** (age 24) and **Braden Schneider** (age 22) both took big steps forward last season and both are very capable defenders with potential to get even better this year. Captain **Jacob Trouba** has the capability of changing the tone of a game with a massive hit, but his actual defensive play last season left a lot to be desired. He will be looking for a bounce-back year after being involved in offseason trade rumors.

The Bottom Line

The Rangers did not make any big offseason moves, but they return much of the same roster that went to the Conference Finals last year and should remain a top contender for the Stanley Cup. They have ascending young players like Lafreniere and Schneider, elite veterans like Panarin and Kreider, as well as players like Zibanejad and Trouba who have played at a high level in the past and should improve on down seasons. Shesterkin has an argument as the best goaltender in the world right now and with him in net, the Rangers have a chance to win every game. New York will be top contenders for a division title once again and will hope that their offense can show up when it matters most in the postseason to win their first Stanley Cup since 1994.

2024-25 Projection: 51-25-6 (108 points) - 1st in Metro



NEW YORK RANGERS

Igor Shesterkin



Photo via Bleacher Report

RANGERS 5-YEAR POINT TREND

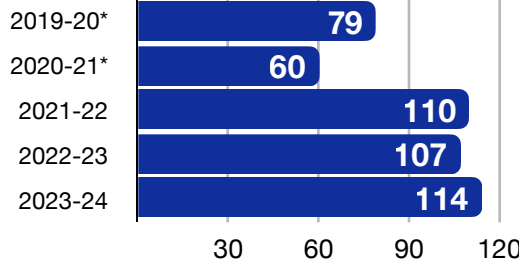


Photo via 600 ESPN El Paso

2024-25 Schedule

October 2024

		PIT 9 7:30		UTA 12 7:00
	DET 14 7:00		DET 17 7:30	TOR 19 7:00
		MTL 22 7:15	FLA 24 7:00	ANA 26 7:00
		WSH 29 7:30		

November 2024

				OTT 1 7:00
NYI 3 1:00			BUF 7 7:00	DET 9 7:00
	WPG 12 7:00		SJ 14 7:00	
SEA 17 9:00	VAN 19 10:00		CGY 21 9:00	EDM 23 10:00
	STL 25 7:00	CAR 27 7:00		PHI 29 1:00

December 2024

	NJ 2 7:00			PIT 6 7:30
SEA 8 1:00	CHI 9 7:00		BUF 11 7:30	LA 14 1:00
STL 15 6:00		NSH 17 8:00		DAL 20 8:00
CAR 22 12:30	NJ 23 1:00			TB 28 7:00
	FLA 30 7:00			

January 2025

			BOS 2 7:00	WSH 4 12:00
CHI 5 3:00		DAL 7 7:00	NJ 9 7:00	VGK 11 10:00
		COL 14 9:00	UTA 16 9:00	CBJ 18 7:00
MTL 19 7:00		OTT 21 7:00	PHI 23 7:00	
COL 26 1:00		CAR 28 7:00		

February 2025

				BOS 1 3:30
VGK 2 6:00			BOS 5 7:00	PIT 7 7:00
				CBJ 8 7:00
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off				
				BUF 22 5:30
PIT 23 3:30		NYI 25 7:30		TOR 28 7:00

March 2025

NSH 2 7:00	NYI 3 7:00		WSH 5 7:30	OTT 8 12:30
CBJ 9 6:00		WPG 11 8:00	MIN 13 8:00	CBJ 15 7:00
EDM 16 7:00		CGY 18 7:00	TOR 20 7:00	VAN 22 1:00
		LA 25 10:30		ANA 28 10:00
				SJ 29 10:30

April 2025

			MIN 2 7:00	
				NJ 5 12:30
	TB 7 7:00		PHI 9 7:30	NYI 10 7:30
	FLA 14 7:00			TB 17 7:00
				CAR 12 3:00

Projected NYR Lineup

Forwards

	Left Wing	Center	Right Wing
Line 1	10 Artemi Panarin	16 Vincent Trocheck	13 Alexis Lafreniere
Line 2	20 Chris Kreider	93 Mika Zibanejad	91 Reilly Smith
Line 3	50 Will Cuyllle	72 Filip Chytil	24 Kaapo Kakko
Line 4	26 Jimmy Vesey	39 Sam Carrick	73 Matt Rempe

Defense

Line 1	23 Adam Fox	55 Ryan Lindgren
Line 2	79 K'Andre Miller	4 Braden Schneider
Line 3	6 Zac Jones	8 Jacob Trouba

Goaltenders

Starter	31 Igor Shesterkin
Backup	32 Jonathan Quick

2023-24 NHL Ranks

POINTS - 114 (1st)
 GF - 278 (7th)
 GA - 226 (7th)
 PP% - 26.42 (3rd)
 PK% - 84.48 (3rd)
 SV% - .907 (5th)

34 < Number to Know

The Rangers are rarely out of a game. Last season, the Rangers had 34 come-from-behind wins, the most in the NHL and the fourth-most in league history.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

ALEXIS LAFRENIERE - LW



2023-24 Statistics

GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
82	28	29	57	+2

Lafreniere was drafted #1 overall in the 2020 draft, but in his first couple of seasons he didn't have the kind of production typically expected from the first overall pick. He got a chance to play on the second line last year and took advantage of the opportunity with a career high 57 points. He was even better in the playoffs with 14 points in 16 games and some highlight reel goals. He should continue to improve and could very well take the next step to becoming a star this year.

HOME

AWAY