



# VANCOUVER CANUCKS

Pacific Division

Preseason Power Ranking **7**

**x0**

**x3**  
WESTERN CONF

**x2**  
PRESIDENTS'

**1777**  
FRANCHISE WINS

**50-23-9**  
109 Points  
2023-24 SEASON

**1st**  
DIVISION

Vancouver, British Columbia - Rogers Arena (18,910)  
Head Coach: Rick Tocchet (70-35-13, 3rd Season)

2023-24: Lost in 2nd Round

## Canucks Could Claim First Cup

The Canucks were one of the most surprising teams in the NHL last season when, seemingly out of nowhere, the team won 50 games, finishing first in the Pacific division for the first time ever and the first division title since 2012-13 when Vancouver was in the Northwest Division. In the playoffs, the Canucks overcame multiple goalie injuries but ultimately fell to the runners up and division rivals, the Edmonton Oilers, in seven games. The team is retooled and has understandably high expectations entering this season, especially if they can again navigate injury concerns at goaltender. The Canucks will have a target on their backs, can they rise to the occasion?

### Forwards

Last year's offense was strong, and they could be better this season with the splash signing of former Boston Bruin **Jake DeBrusk**. He tallied 40 points last season and will be a valuable addition on the second line and he's only 27, so his best years could still be in front of him. That's what Vancouver is hoping for, considering they are spending \$38.5 million over seven seasons. **Danton Heinen** also comes over from Boston after bouncing around the league the last few years. He played one of his better seasons with the Bruins, now Vancouver must decide what line he belongs on. There's no question where **J.T. Miller** belongs. He topped 100 points for the first time in his career and his 37 goals were outclassed only by the wicked shot of **Brock Boeser** and his 40 goals. That duo also led the Vancouver power play last season that was better than the league average, but could improve this season considering how strong the Canucks were in 5-on-5 play. **Daniel Sprong** is yet another new signing. The former Red Wing is coming off a strong season that included 43 points and he adds valuable depth to the Canuck offense.

The Canucks were a lottery team just a few years ago, meaning that they have several prospects who are approaching their NHL debuts. **Jonathan Lekkerimaki** could be a player to watch and **Aatu Rätty** is a rookie-eligible player who didn't make an appearance last season but recorded two goals with the Islanders the season prior. In the meantime, Vancouver offered contracts to **Dakota Joshua** and **Kiefer Sherwood**. Sherwood is fresh off his most productive season, mostly because he was able to actually stay on the ice. His 68 games are easily his career best number as too were the 10 goals and 17 assists he registered.

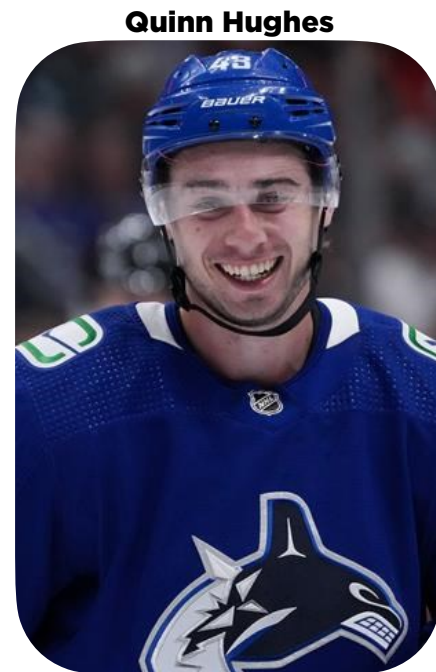


Photo via Athabasca Advocate

### Defense/Goaltending

When it comes to defense, nobody was better than **Quinn Hughes**, who claimed the Norris Trophy at the end of the season. His play was a big reason why the Canucks finish sixth in the NHL in goals allowed and he was also a big reason why the team finish sixth in goals scored, contributing 17 goals of his own but, more importantly, assisting on a whopping 75 goals in the regular season. He was equally as productive in the postseason. The tandem of Hughes and **Filip Hronek** frequently shut down the opposition and the team will rely on them once again, especially early as the Canucks sort out the early season goaltender predicament. He was rewarded with an eight-year deal worth \$58 million this offseason **Vincent DeSharnais** joins the team from rival Edmonton and his 6'7", 226-pound frame will give opposing forwards something to think about.

**Thatcher Demko** will eventually return to his starting goaltender position, but when that will happen is a bit uncertain. A knee injury in the first game of the playoffs knocked him out of the postseason and may delay his start to the 2024-25 campaign. When he was in net, he was superb. The sooner he's back in net, the better. **Arturs Silovs** filled in remarkably well for Demko in the postseason as the third-string goaltender at the time. Silovs played only four games in the regular season last year and only five the season before that. He may reach his career high in games played in the month of October alone. **Kevin Lankinen** will work in a backup role after appearing in 24 games for Nashville last season.

### The Bottom Line

The element of surprise won't be there for Vancouver this season, but Edmonton will continue to draw lots of attention and Vegas is only a couple years removed from their Stanley Cup, so perhaps the Canucks can still fly under the radar somewhat. Either way, Tocchet is preparing his team for another run to the playoffs with the expectation of a deep run, once there. There have been deep postseason runs in the past that haven't resulted in the ultimate prize. Anything less than the Stanley Cup will result in disappointment among both fans and players alike. The Oilers will again be their main competition and their regular season matchups will be must-see television. The Canucks may give up a few more goals than they did last year, but they could also score more. If healthy at the right time, this team is a legitimate Stanley Cup threat.

**2024-25 Projection: 47-26-9 (103 points) - 1st in Pacific**



# VANCOUVER CANUCKS

## J.T. Miller



Photo via NHLPA

### CANUCKS 5-YEAR POINT TREND

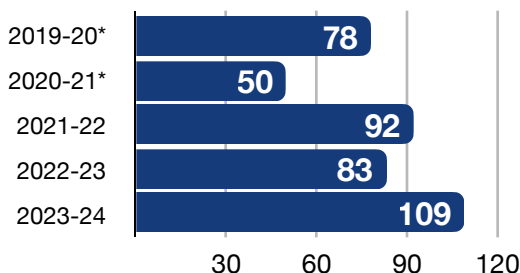


Photo via Postcards & Places

### 2024-25 Schedule

#### October 2024

		CGY 9 10:00		PHI 11 10:00
	TB 15 7:00		FLA 17 7:00	PHI 19 7:00
		CHI 22 8:15		PIT 26 7:00
	CAR 28 10:00		NJ 30 10:30	

#### November 2024

				SJ 2 10:00
	ANA 5 10:00		LA 7 10:30	EDM 9 10:00
	CGY 12 10:00		NYI 14 10:00	CHI 16 10:00
NSH 17 10:00		NYR 19 10:00		OTT 23 7:00
	BOS 26 7:00	PIT 27 7:30		BUF 29 3:00

#### December 2024

DET 1 12:30		MIN 3 8:00		CBJ 6 10:00
TB 8 4:00		STL 10 10:00		FLA 12 10:00
	COL 16 10:30		UTA 18 10:00	VGK 19 10:00
	SJ 23 9:00			SEA 28 4:00
		CGY 31 9:00		

#### January 2025

			SEA 2 10:00	NSH 3 9:00
	MTL 6 7:30		WSH 8 7:30	CAR 10 7:00
		WPG 14 8:00		LA 16 10:00
		BUF 21 10:00		EDM 23 9:00
	STL 27 7:30		NSH 29 9:00	DAL 31 8:00

#### February 2025

DET 2 8:00		COL 4 10:00		SJ 6 10:30
				TOR 8 7:00
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off				
				VGK 22 10:00
UTA 23 8:00			LA 26 10:00	ANA 27 10:00

#### March 2025

				SEA 1 10:00
			ANA 5 10:30	MIN 7 10:00
DAL 9 9:00		MTL 11 10:00	CGY 12 9:00	CHI 15 10:00
UTA 16 8:00		WPG 18 10:00		STL 20 7:30
			NYI 26 7:30	CBJ 28 7:00

#### March/April 2025

WPG 30 3:00			SEA 2 10:30	
				ANA 5 4:00
VGK 6 10:00		DAL 8 8:00		COL 10 9:00
				MIN 12 10:00
		SJ 14 10:00		VGK 16 10:00

### Projected VAN Lineup

#### Forwards

	Left Wing	Center	Right Wing
Line 1	20 Danton Heinen	9 J.T. Miller	6 Brock Boeser
Line 2	74 Jake DeBrusk	40 Elias Pettersson	91 Daniel Sprong
Line 3	21 Nils Hoglander	53 Teddy Blueger	8 Conor Garland
Line 4	81 Dakota Joshua	24 Pius Suter	44 Kiefer Sherwood

#### Defense

Line 1	43 Quinn Hughes	17 Filip Hronek
Line 2	7 Carson Soucy	57 Tyler Myers
Line 3	27 Derek Forbort	73 Vincent DeSharnais

#### Goaltenders

Starter	35 Thatcher Demko
Backup	31 Arturs Silovs

#### 2023-24 NHL Ranks

POINTS - 109 (7th)  
 GF - 279 (6th)  
 GA - 221 (6th)  
 PP% - 22.57 (12th)  
 PK% - 79.13 (17th)  
 SV% - .906 (6th)

### 1 < Number to Know

Since trading talented Elias Lindholm in January, the Canucks have made just one trade. However, they've signed plenty of free agent talent in an effort for an all-in push for the Cup.

#### PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### ELIAS PETTERSSON - C



#### 2023-24 Statistics

GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
82	34	55	89	+20

The Canucks have the luxury of placing a highly effective center like Pettersson on their second line. The Canucks' fifth overall pick in 2017 has blossomed into a star the past two seasons with 102 points in 2022-23 and 89 in 2023-24. His assist numbers have risen significantly in those seasons and with DeBrusk and Sprong flanking him this season, that shouldn't change. He did lose some steam down the stretch of the season and he registered only six points in 13 postseason games.

HOME

AWAY