



# LOS ANGELES KINGS

Pacific Division

Preseason Power Ranking **3**



**1889**  
FRANCHISE WINS

**44-27-11**  
99 Points  
2023-24 SEASON

**3rd**  
DIVISION

Los Angeles, CA - Crypto.com Arena (18,230)  
Head Coach: Jim Hiller (21-12-1, 2nd Season)

**2023-24: Lost in First Round**

## Kings Searching for Magic of the '10s

It was far from a given that the Kings would make their third straight appearance in the Playoffs, especially in early February when the team decided to part ways with head coach Todd McLellan shortly after an untimely eight-game losing streak. Jim Hiller filled in as the interim and guided the Kings to 43 points in only 34 games and LA claimed a playoff spot. However, the Kings were met with an all-too-familiar issue in the postseason: losing in the first round. Since hoisting the Stanley Cup in 2014, LA has failed to win a playoff series in the five attempts they've had to do so. This team clearly has the talent to make four straight postseason appearances for the first time since the string of dominance in the early 2010s. Can that roster take the next step when it matters most?

### Forwards

Last year, the Kings leaned on their top notch defense on their way to a 99 point season, but there's room for improvement on offense. Los Angeles finished middle of the road (almost exactly) in terms of goals scored, in part due to offseason moves that never panned out. Pierre-Luc Dubois was a major disappointment and reportedly butted heads with teammates. Fans are worried that some of the moves made this offseason could net similar results including seeing a player like Viktor Arvidsson depart. PLD opens up opportunities on the top lines for a player like **Quinton Byfield**, who signed an extension following an impressive season that included 20 goals and 35 assists. Last year marked his first time playing a full season after being selected second overall in 2020 and there's still room for growth considering the 6'5" forward is only 22. He will likely run the second line at center, his natural position, while the familiar faces of **Alex Laferriere**, **Anze Kopitar**, and **Adrian Kempe** guide the Kings' offense on a nightly basis from the top line.

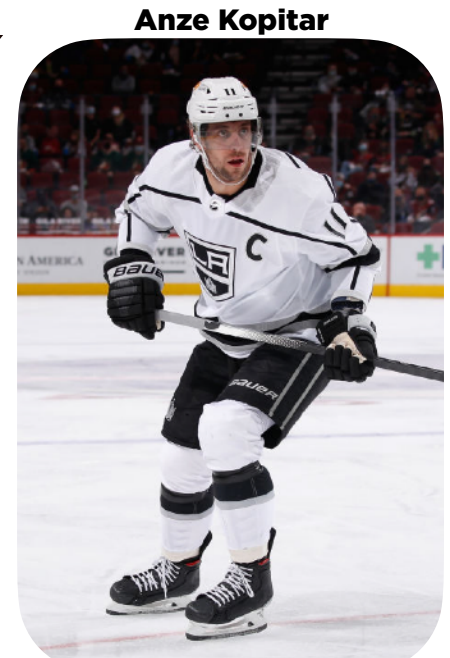


Photo via LA Kings Insider

Like Byfield, **Trevor Moore** turned in a career performance with 32 goals and, despite that great offense, Los Angeles may keep him on the third line to utilize his physicality. the center of that line, **Phillip Danault**, is happy to unseat opponents, finishing last year with 80 hits. Look for the Kings to mix and match a bit on the fourth line as they try to get recent draft picks legitimate NHL experience. That includes a player like **Akil Thomas** who is still rookie-eligible following a seven-game sample size that included three goals and his speed is needed on what has become an older team.

### Defense/Goaltending

The Kings' defense was phenomenal in the regular season. The team allowed only 210 goals on the year and they were especially stingy on the penalty kill. Unfortunately, that regular season success didn't translate to the playoffs and the high-powered offense of the Oilers steamrolled the Kings, sending Los Angeles home in yet another first round disappointment. Most of that core returns this season. **Drew Doughty** is the focal point on the blue line who, despite turning 35 this season, remains an offensive weapon. He may miss time at the beginning of the season but expect to see plenty of #8 on the ice when he's healthy. Young **Brandt Clarke** showed flashes of offense too in a very brief NHL stint last season that featured just 13:39 of ice time per game. Expect that number to jump up a bit this year, especially while Doughty is out. Hiller's 1-3-1 defensive scheme seemed to click almost immediately when he stepped in as the interim coach, and now that he's the full-time head coach and has had a full offseason to work with the team in training camp, could the defense match last year's impressive numbers?

Not only did the Kings manage to trade away Pierre-Luc Dubois, but they actually got a decent return for someone with such a large contract in goaltender **Darcy Kuemper**. Kuemper made a brief stint with the Kings back in 2017-18 and was most notably the goalie for the Stanley Cup-winning Colorado Avalanche only a couple of years ago. He wasn't nearly as effective in Washington, but he didn't have the kind of defense in front of him that Los Angeles should be able to provide. **David Rittich** returns to the Kings as well and will play backup. He's talented enough to still start a good chunk of games for the

### The Bottom Line

The Kings responded immediately when Jim Hiller took over and, though the postseason did not go according to plan, the hope is that Hiller is the right person to get Los Angeles past the mental block that is the first round of the playoffs. The team looks a bit different this season with several new faces, but expect Los Angeles to again rely on their strong defense and what will hopefully be very effective goaltending by Kuemper and Rittich. Fans understandably feel as though their team has wasted what has been a strong roster the past few seasons and the calls for GM Rob Blake's job will become louder if the Kings fail to meet expectations in the regular season or... you know, lose to Edmonton again in the playoffs. The season starts with a seven-game road trip, so a quick start will be important in a stingy Pacific division.

**2024-25 Projection: 44-30-8 (96 points) - X in Pacific**



# KINGS

## Drew Doughty



Photo via NHLPA

## KINGS 5-YEAR POINT TREND

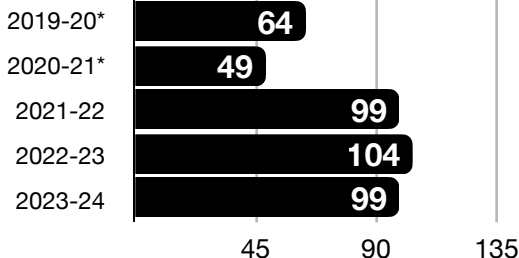


Photo via Itinerant Fan

## 2024-25 Schedule

### October 2024

				BUF 10		BOS 12
				7:00		1:00
	OTT 14		TOR 16	MTL 17		
	1:00		7:30	7:00		
ANA 20		VGK 22		SJ 24		UTA 26
8:00		11:00		10:30		4:00
		SJ 29	VGK 30			
		10:00	10:00			

### November 2024

						CHI 2
						4:00
	NSH 4	MIN 5		VAN 7		CBJ 9
	8:00	8:00		10:30		9:00
	CGY 11		COL 13			DET 16
	8:30		10:00			8:00
			20			SEA 23
			BUF 10:30			4:00
	SJ 25		WPG 27		ANA 29	OTT 30
	10:30		10:00		3:30	7:00

### December 2024

			DAL 4			MIN 7
			10:00			8:00
		NYI 10		NJ 12		14
		7:30		7:00		1:00
		PIT 17		PHI 19		21
		7:00		7:30		1:30
WSH 22						EDM 28
5:00						4:00
PHI 29						
9:00						

### January 2025

			NJ 1			TB 4
			6:00			9:00
			CGY 8		WPG 10	CGY 11
			10:30		8:00	10:00
	EDM 13			VAN 16		SEA 18
	9:30			10:00		10:00
	PIT 20		FLA 22			CBJ 25
	10:30		10:00			7:00
	DET 27		FLA 29	TB 30		
	7:00		7:00	7:00		

### February 2025

						CAR 1
						7:00
			MTL 5		DAL 7	ANA 8
			10:30		10:30	10:30
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off						
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off						UTA 22
						9:00
		VGK 24		VAN 26		DAL 28
		10:30		10:00		8:00

### March 2025

						STL 1
						8:00
		CHI 3		STL 5		8
		8:30		10:30		8:00
	VGK 9		NYI 11		WSH 13	NSH 15
	8:00		10:30		10:30	8:00
		MIN 17			CHI 20	CAR 22
		8:00			8:30	4:00
BOS 23			NYR 25		COL 27	TOR 29
9:00			10:30		10:00	7:00

### March/April 2025

						STL 1
						8:00
			WPG 1		UTA 3	EDM 5
			10:30		9:00	4:00
		SEA 7			ANA 10	COL 12
		10:30			10:00	4:00
		EDM 14		SEA 15		
		10:00		10:30		

## Projected LA Lineup

### Forwards

	Left Wing	Center	Right Wing
Line 1	14 Alex Laferrriere	11 Anze Kopitar	9 Adrian Kempe
Line 2	22 Kevin Fiala	55 Quinton Byfield	37 Warren Foegele
Line 3	10 Tanner Jeannot	24 Phillip Danault	12 Trevor Moore
Line 4	34 Arthur Kaliyev	15 Alex Turcotte	26 Akil Thomas

### Defense

Line 1	44 Mikey Anderson	21 Jordan Spence
Line 2	84 Vladislav Gavrikov	7 Kyle Burroughs
Line 3	6 Joel Edmundson	92 Brandt Clarke

### Goaltenders

Starter	35 Darcy Kuemper
Backup	31 David Rittich

## 2023-24 NHL Ranks

POINTS - 109 (11th)  
 GF - 254 (16th)  
 GA - 210 (3rd)  
 PP% - 22.58 (11th)  
 PK% - 84.58 (2nd)  
 SV% - .909 (4th)

## PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

### ADRIAN KEMPE - RW



#### 2023-24 Statistics

GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
77	28	47	75	+13

Kempe was voted the team's MVP after leading the Kings in points at nearly a point-per-game clip. While his team didn't play all that well in the series against the Oilers, Kempe did, with five goals. That performance continues a trend of solid postseason play and now the Swede just needs his team to follow suit. Kempe has been a King ever since making his NHL debut during the 2016-17 season and his two best seasons have been the two-most recent seasons. Can he continue that trend in '24?

## 2616 < Number to Know

The Kings registered 2616 shots on goal throughout the regular season, ranking them 9th in the NHL. However, they connected on only 254 of those shots, which ranked 16th.

HOME

AWAY