



ANAHEIM DUCKS

Pacific Division

Preseason Power Ranking **3**



1071
FRANCHISE WINS

27-50-5
59 Points
2023-24 SEASON

7th
DIVISION

Anaheim, CA - Honda Center (17,174)
Head Coach: Greg Cronin (27-50-5, 2nd Season)

2023-24: Missed Playoffs

Will New-Look Ducks Look... New?

Anaheim is trying to put the unpleasant memories of back-to-back sub-60 point seasons behind them. The team is getting a facelift with their uniforms and the official return of one of the greatest logos in sports, will their play on the ice also receive a boost? If they get such a boost, it will likely be because of their young core. Of course, that's the same outlook Anaheim had last year heading into the 2023-24 season and they find themselves in essentially the exact situation. In fairness, injuries to key contributors throughout the year quickly threw off any hope of rhythm for the season but there are still glaring issues, including dreadful special teams play. However, there's no ignoring the fact that Anaheim needs to find a way to escape the worst two-year stretch in franchise history.

Forwards

Trevor Zegras' name popped up in trade rumors last season, but he remains on the team that drafted him ninth overall in 2019. One of the reasons he escaped a trade might be because he played in just 31 games last season due in large part to a broken ankle. He topped 60 points in the two prior seasons and he'll enter the new campaign on a five game points streak. His running mate **Troy Terry** has posted similar numbers over the last few seasons and was signed to a seven-year extension as a result. Beyond Zegras (when healthy) and Terry, the offensive output plummeted for Anaheim and only two teams in the NHL scored fewer goals. **Frank Vatrano** was an exception to this rule after career-best season that included a team-high 37 goals.

The Ducks will likely pair veteran **Alex Killorn** with youngsters **Cutter Gauthier** and **Leo Carlsson**. Both are promising in their own right and being line mates with a two-time Stanley Cup winner with 868 career games to his name should only accelerate their progression. The Ducks actually debuted this trio in the season finale last year on the top line, this year they could become stalwarts of the second line. Killorn admitted there was an adjustment period after over a decade in Tampa Bay. An injury-free second year in Anaheim could bolster a desperate offense. There aren't a lot of additions to the roster, but **Robby Fabbri** is one of them and will likely factor into the offense on the third line.

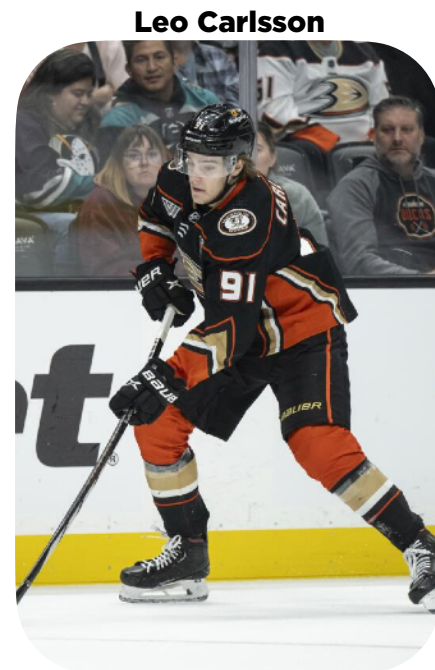


Photo via Los Angeles Times

Defense/Goaltending

Statistically, the Ducks were one of the worst defensive teams in the NHL, but by the very low standards set by a franchise-worst 58 points in the 2022-23 season, Anaheim actually improved. When they weren't in the penalty box, which did happen frequently, the Ducks were a middle-of-the-road team on defense. Anaheim is essentially running the same defensive group back as last year, can they improve enough to at least field an average defense? **Radko Gudas** will work tirelessly to make sure the answer to that question is "yes" after being named the ninth captain in franchise history. Gudas and **Cam Fowler** are the veterans of the group with several young defensemen slotting into the lineup. Fowler will add to his career totals, many of them written on the top of the Ducks record book.

Look for a youth movement in the net this season, partially because last year's primary starter **John Gibson** will miss some time following an appendectomy. Gibson has been a victim of the poor play around him the past few seasons and it's possible the Ducks would have moved on from Gibson at some point this season anyways. The door is open 24-year-old **Lukas Dostal** to fully take the role of starter, and he was close to that last season, playing in 44 games. Nothing he did was earth-shattering, but his .902% save percentage was a good clip above the team average. While Gibson recovers, look out for rookie **Calle Clang** to fill in as the backup. At just 22, it's hard to say if Clang will actually see meaningful playing time, but if the Ducks continue to give up goals aplenty, why not give Clang a shot?

The Bottom Line

Those who are optimistic about the team's 2024-25 outlook site the developing youth core as a reason for hope. Four players saw enough experience last season to shed their rookie titles. Cutter Gauthier is a potential Rookie of the Year candidate based on his prolific scoring in college, although that's assuming his disagreements in Philadelphia were part of a unique situation and not a sign of things to come. Meanwhile, those who have become understandably jaded by the Ducks' recent play will point to the lack of offseason activity and concerns that Trevor Zegras won't pan out. In that worst-case, Zegras will likely be traded which could result in a fire sale around the deadline. So, where does reality lie? Most likely, somewhere in the middle. There should be some improvement across the board with the experienced gained by several young players and it would be almost impossible for Anaheim to spend as much time in the sin bin as they did last year. Expectations of a playoff berth are probably a little far fetched, but Anaheim should be a lot more competitive in the Pacific this year.

2024-25 Projection: 33-41-8 (74 points) - X in Pacific



DUCKS

Cam Fowler

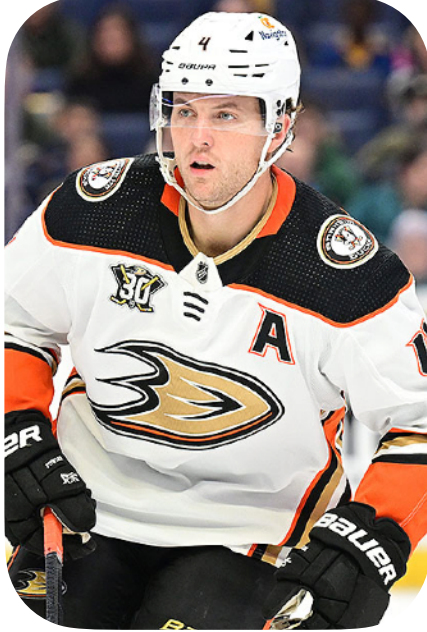


Photo via Elite Prospects

DUCKS 5-YEAR POINT TREND

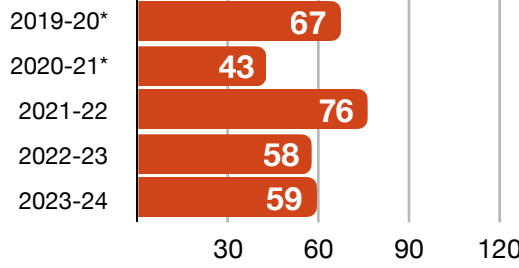


Photo via Visit Anaheim

2024-25 Schedule

October 2024

					SJ ¹² 10:00
VGK ¹³ 10:00		UTA ¹⁶ 10:00		COL ¹⁸ 9:00	
LA ²⁰ 8:00		SJ ²² 10:15			NYR ²⁶ 7:00
NJ ²⁷ 7:00		NYR ²⁹ 7:00		PIT ³¹ 7:00	

November 2024

CHI ³ 8:00		VAN ⁵ 10:00		MIN ⁸ 10:00	
CBJ ¹⁰ 8:00			VGK ¹³ 10:00	DET ¹⁵ 10:00	
	DAL ¹⁸ 8:00	CHI ¹⁹ 8:30		BUF ²² 10:00	
	SEA ²⁵ 10:00		SEA ²⁷ 10:00	LA ²⁹ 3:30	

December 2024

OTT ¹ 8:00			VGK ⁴ 10:00	MIN ⁶ 10:00	
	MTL ⁹ 7:30		OTT ¹¹ 7:30	TOR ¹² 7:00	CBJ ¹⁴ 7:00
			WPG ¹⁸ 10:00	COL ²⁰ 10:00	
UTA ²² 5:00	VGK ²³ 10:00				PHI ²⁸ 4:00
EDM ²⁹ 4:00		NJ ³¹ 8:00			

January 2025

			WPG ² 8:00	EDM ³ 9:00	
TB ⁵ 8:00		CGY ⁷ 10:00	STL ⁹ 8:00		PHI ¹¹ 7:00
CAR ¹² 5:00		WSH ¹⁴ 7:00	TB ¹⁶ 7:00		FLA ¹⁸ 6:00
		FLA ²¹ 10:00	PIT ²³ 10:00		NSH ²⁵ 10:00
		SEA ²⁸ 10:00	CGY ³⁰ 9:00		

February 2025

MTL ² 4:00		DAL ⁴ 10:30			LA ⁸ 10:30
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off					
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off					BOS ²² 7:00
DET ²³ 6:00		BUF ²⁵ 7:00		VAN ²⁷ 10:00	

March 2025

					CHI ¹ 10:00
		EDM ⁴ 9:00	VAN ⁵ 10:30	STL ⁷ 10:00	
NYI ⁹ 9:00		WSH ¹¹ 10:00	UTA ¹² 10:00	NSH ¹⁴ 10:00	
STL ¹⁶ 6:00		DAL ¹⁸ 8:00		NSH ²⁰ 8:00	
CAR ²³ 8:00			BOS ²⁶ 10:00	NYR ²⁸ 10:00	

March/April 2025

TOR ³⁰ 8:00		SJ ¹ 10:00		CGY ³ 9:30	VAN ⁵ 4:00
	EDM ⁷ 10:30		CGY ⁹ 10:00	LA ¹⁰ 10:00	
COL ¹³ 10:00		MIN ¹⁵ 8:00	WPG ¹⁶ 7:00		

HOME

AWAY

Projected ANA Lineup

Forwards

	Left Wing	Center	Right Wing
Line 1	11 Trevor Zegras	23 Mason McTavish	19 Troy Terry
Line 2	61 Cutter Gauthier	91 Leo Carlsson	17 Alex Killorn
Line 3	13 Robby Fabbri	16 Ryan Strome	77 Frank Vatrano
Line 4	44 Ross Johnston	21 Isac Lundestrom	26 Brock McGinn

Defense

Line 1	4 Cam Fowler	7 Radko Gudas
Line 2	60 Jackson LaCombe	51 Olen Zellweger
Line 3	6 Brian Dumoulin	34 Pavel Mintyukov

Goaltenders

Starter	1 Lukas Dostal
Backup	31 Calle Clang

2023-24 NHL Ranks

POINTS - 59 (30th)
 GF - 203 (30th)
 GA - 293 (30th)
 PP% - 18.30 (23rd)
 PK% - 72.42 (31st)
 SV% - .890 (28th)

1108 < Number to Know

Not only was Anaheim's penalty kill unit one of the worst in the NHL, but they found themselves on the ice constantly due to a league high 1108 penalty minutes.

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

FRANK VATRANO - RW

2023-24 Statistics

GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
82	37	23	60	-20



Offense was hard to come by in Anaheim last season but it wasn't because of Vatrano. He was a rare bright spot offensively and he led the team in several categories in what was a career year. He's a spark plug at 5'11" and is more than willing to mix it up with an opponent, finishing second on the team in hits with plenty of penalty minutes mixed in. Due to that physicality, you'll probably see him on the third line during normal run of play, but he'll have plenty of opportunity on the power play, too.