



DALLAS STARS

Central Division

Preseason Power Ranking **5**



1987
FRANCHISE WINS

52-21-9
113 Points
2023-24 SEASON

1st
DIVISION

Dallas, TX - American Airlines Center (19,719)
Head Coach: Peter DeBoer (99-42-23, 3rd Season)

2023-24: Lost in WC Finals

Reaching for the Stars

In his first two seasons with the Stars, head coach Peter DeBoer has guided Dallas to a deep playoff run, but those runs have ended just short of the Stanley Cup finals. Last year, the Edmonton Oilers bounced the Stars out of the Western Conference Finals in six games and the year before the eventual Stanley Cup champions, the Vegas Golden Knights, did the same. Last year's postseason run nearly ended before it had a chance to get going when that same Vegas team took the first two games of the first round series in Dallas. The Stars stormed back to win the series in seven games, avoiding disaster. As year three in the DeBoer era kicks off, the Stars enter with a "Stanley Cup or bust" mentality, and for good reason. The roster is extremely talented and the Star's star Jason Robertson is only now entering his prime. Dallas has as good a chance as any team in the NHL to raise the prized cup at the end of the year.

Jason Robertson

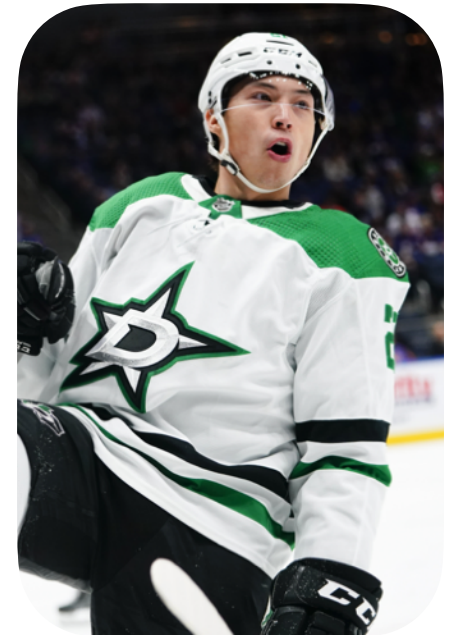


Photo via Dallas Morning News

Forwards

There's no question that **Jason Robertson** is the focal point of the offense. He's still only 25 and he turned in an 80-point season that was actually modest by the standards set from the past two years. He scored 29 goals last season including 9 on the power play, but he's capable of much more. The Stars will place **Roopie Hintz** and **Logan Stankoven** on the top line with Robertson. Dallas clearly has a lot of faith in Stankoven, a former second-round pick in 2021, who made his NHL debut last season. Stankoven registered 14 points in 24 regular season games and he made an impact in the postseason too, averaging 16:01 of ice time and scoring three goals with a positive plus-minus. **Wyatt Johnson** was highly productive last season and could also play on the top line in case Stankoven needs time to get his feet underneath him for a full 82-game marathon. There are a number of reasons why the Stars will miss Joe Pavelski. The veteran of 18 years retired after last season despite still registering 67 points, the second-most on the team. The team will miss his leadership and the experience that comes with tallying 476 career goals and 592 career assists. More specifically, they'll miss his expertise and pinpoint accuracy on the power play, where he netted a team high 11 goals on the man advantage. Look for Hintz to step into that role.

Matt Duchene enters his 18th season in the NHL and like Pavelski, he has thus far defeated father time and remains a highly effective forward. He played 80 games last season for the first time in nearly a decade and contributed 25 goals and 40 assists to the cause. **Jamie Benn** played all 82 games and was one of six Dallas Stars with 60+ points. He too provides more than a decade of experience in the league. While many of the forwards like Duchene and Benn have long been established in the NHL, the Stars also have a few prospects who will try to push their way into playing time. **Mavrik Bourque** is a player that fits that category.

Defense/Goaltending

Miro Heiskanen was a big reason why the Stars' power play was so effective and he's a talented defender in his own right. He only scored two power play goals, but he constantly teed up opportunities for teammates and had 19 power play assists. He led the team in ice time by a very wide margin. **Thomas Harley** was extremely productive on offense in his rookie season and if his defense continues to develop, he'll be a future All-Star. **Nils Lundkvist's** game is similar.

Not only do the Stars have a 25-year-old phenom on offense, they may have one between the pipes, too. Just how good is **Jake Oettinger**? His 2.72 GAA and .905% save percentage were the worst numbers of his four seasons. However, when the playoffs rolled around, Oettinger was as good as ever, finishing with a 2.24 GAA and a save percentage of .915%. They'll need Oettinger to be a big-game performer again with the team's high expectations of a Stanley Cup. The Stars may have upgraded at the backup position, Scott Wedgewood was serviceable as a backup, but there was a distinct drop off when he was in the net compared to Oettinger, and the record bared that discrepancy out. **Casey DeSmith** has floundered a bit in the past two seasons and last year with Vancouver was the worst of his six NHL seasons, but he had moments of brilliance while playing backup for the Penguins.

The Bottom Line

The Stars won the Central Division last year, and barring a rash of injuries this year, it's hard to see how they won't repeat. The front office made the necessary moves to replace Pavelski and Tanev and the ceiling remains very high. Even if Dallas gets edged out by a team like Colorado, a playoff berth seems almost a given. The Stars could realistically score the most goals of any team in the NHL and their defense could even take a small step forward if Oettinger gets back to an elite status as a goaltender. There's a very good chance the Stars are dancing at the end of the season.

2024-25 Projection: 49-25-8 (104 points) - 1st in Central



Miro Heiskanen



Photo via Defending Big D

STARS 5-YEAR POINT TREND

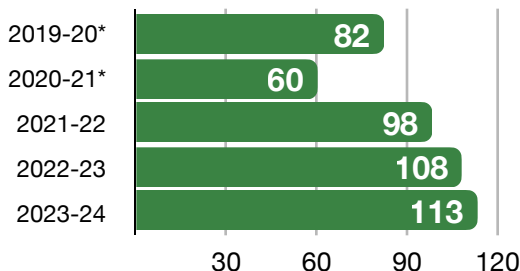


Photo via Dallas Morning News

2024-25 Schedule

October 2024					
				NSH 10:00	NYI 8:00
SEA 8:00		SJ 8:00		WSH 7:00	EDM 4:00
		BUF 7:00		BOS 7:00	CHI 8:00

November 2024					
2024 NHL Global Series Tampere, Finland - Nov 1-2				FLA 1:00	FLA 11 AM
				CHI 8:00	WPG 7:00
	PIT 7:00			BOS 8:00	MIN 8:00
	ANA 8:00		SJ 8:00		TB 7:00
	CAR 7:00		CHI 8:30		COL 9:00

December 2024					
WPG 4:30	UTA 9:00		LA 10:00		VGK 10:00
CGY 8:00				NSH 8:00	STL 8:00
	WSH 8:00		TOR 7:30		NYR 8:00
	UTA 9:00				MIN 8:00
CHI 8:30			BUF 8:00		

January 2025					
				OTT 8:00	UTA 8:00
				PHI 7:00	MTL 7:00
OTT 5:00		TOR 7:00		MTL 8:00	COL 4:00
DET 8:00		CAR 8:00			VGK 7:30
		VGK 10:00			VAN 8:00

February 2025					
CBJ 6:00		ANA 10:30		LA 10:30	SJ 10:00
2025 NHL 4 Nations Face-Off					
					NJ 6:00
NYI 7:30		CBJ 7:00		LA 8:00	

March 2025					
STL 6:00		NJ 8:00		CGY 8:00	EDM 10:00
VAN 9:00					WPG 8:00
COL 3:30		ANA 8:00		TB 8:00	PHI 2:00
	MIN 8:00		EDM 10:00	CGY 9:00	SEA 10:30

March/April 2025					
	SEA 10:00			NSH 8:00	PIT 3:00
MIN 3:00		VAN 8:00		WPG 8:00	UTA 8:00
	DET 7:00			NSH 8:00	

Projected DAL Lineup

Forwards

	Left Wing	Center	Right Wing
Line 1	21 Jason Robertson	24 Roope Hintz	11 Logan Stankoven
Line 2	27 Mason Marchment	95 Matt Duchene	91 Tyler Seguin
Line 3	14 Jamie Benn	53 Wyatt Johnston	63 Evgenii Dadonov
Line 4	18 Sam Steel	10 Oskar Back	15 Colin Blackwell

Defense

Line 1	4 Miro Heiskanen	3 Matt Dumba
Line 2	55 Thomas Harley	46 Ilya Lyubushkin
Line 3	23 Esa Lindell	5 Nils Lundkvist

Goaltenders

Starter	29 Jake Oettinger
Backup	1 Casey DeSmith

2023-24 NHL Ranks

POINTS - 113 (2nd)
 GF - 294 (3rd)
 GA - 232 (9th)
 PP% - 24.17 (6th)
 PK% - 82.01 (8th)
 SV% - .901 (11th)

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

WYATT JOHNSTON - C

2023-24 Statistics



GP	G	A	PTS	+/-
82	32	33	65	+14

Despite tallying 65 points last season, Johnston flew under the radar a bit from a national perspective since teammates Jason Robertson and Joe Pavelski received most of the attention. However, as Johnston continues to perform, that narrative will quickly change, especially if he ends up playing on the first line alongside Robertson and Hintz. That's where he was in the playoffs, and he thrived. Oh, did I mention Johnston is only 21? The Stars' 2021 first round pick may only be getting started.

113 < Number to Know

The Stars' 113 points in the regular season was the second most in franchise history, just a point shy of a 114-point season that eventually resulted in the 1999 Stanley Cup.

HOME

AWAY