

Los Angeles Kings 2019-20 Season Preview



LOS ANGELES KINGS: TEAM LOOK-AHEAD

With former rival **Todd McLellan** now at the helm as Kings head coach, Los Angeles will look to avoid consecutive years without a playoff berth; the Kings have not missed back-to-back appearances since a six-year lapse from 2002-03 to 2008-09. McLellan, who was with San Jose from 2008-09 to 2014-15, is the second head coach to guide both the Kings and Sharks. **Darryl Sutter**, the only other to do so (SJS: 1997-98—2002-03, LAK: 2011-12—2016-17), led Los Angeles to its Stanley Cup wins in 2012 and 2014.

OFFENSIVE OUTLOOK

* Kings veterans **Anze Kopitar** (22 G) and **Dustin Brown** (22 G) led the team with 22 goals apiece in 2018-19. Los Angeles will look for improvements on offense after posting their fourth-lowest goal total in an 82-game season (202 GF in 2018-19).

* **Mario Kempe**, who was signed as a free agent with the Kings on July 5, 2019, will be joining his brother, Adrian in the Kings' line-up for the 2019-20 season. The Kempe's will be the third set of brothers to play with the franchise, joining **Brayden** and **Luke Schenn** as well as **Jan** and **Roman Vopat**, who both played with the Kings during the 1996-97 and 1997-98 seasons.

* **Drew Doughty** led the Kings with 24 power-play points in 2018-19 (7-17—24), marking the second time he has done so ([also 2015-16](#)). Doughty finished with more points via the power play than at even strength (1-19—20), his first such split since 2009-10 (EVP: 7-21—28, PPP: 9-22—31).

* Doughty, who has logged at least 2,000 minutes in each of the last six years, is on track to eclipse 24,000 minutes played this season - [a milestone reached by only 18 skaters](#) since the statistic was tracked in 1997-98.



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THE FUTURE IS NOW

* **Gabriel Vilardi**, 20, will look to make his NHL debut after playing only four games in 2018-19 because of injury, all with the Ontario Reign of the American Hockey League. Vilardi (No. 11) is one of five players selected among the top 15 in the 2017 NHL Draft who has yet to play a regular-season NHL game – **Cale Makar** (No. 4), **Cody Glass** (No. 6), **Nick Suzuki** (No. 13) and **Callan Foote** (No. 14) are the others, though Makar played 10 playoff games in 2019.

BETWEEN THE PIPES

* The Kings got a preview last season of their potential future goalies, **Jack Campbell** and **Cal Petersen**. Campbell was 10-14-1 with a .928 save percentage, which ranked third among NHL goalies who played at least 25 games. Petersen was 5-4-1 with a .924 save percentage in 11 games and signed a three-year contract July 16.

* No. 1 goalie **Jonathan Quick** will turn 34 on Jan. 21, signaling there could be a shift to Campbell and Petersen sooner rather than later. Should Quick stay healthy, with a lightened workload, he could return to his form from 2017-18 when the Kings won the William M. Jennings Trophy.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

A looks at how players have fared historically in their debut game/season with the franchise:

First game with the Kings. . .

SKATERS

Most goals: 3 (**Jari Kurri** on Oct. 4, 1991 and **Dominic Lavoie** on Oct. 9, 1993)

Most assists: 3 (**Wayne Gretzky** on Oct. 6, 1988 and **Mikko Makela** on Nov. 30, 1989)

Most points: 4 (**Wayne Gretzky** on Oct. 6, 1988)

DEFENSEMEN

Most goals: 3 (**Dominic Lavoie** on Oct. 9, 1993)

Most assists: 2 (8x; last: **Alexei Zhitnik** on Oct. 6, 1992)

Most points: 3 (4x; last: **Dominic Lavoie** on Oct. 9, 1993)

GOALTENDERS

Most saves: 49 (**Manny Legace** on Oct. 21, 1998)

Shutout: 3 (last: **Steve Passmore** on Oct. 13, 2000)

First season with the Kings. . .

SKATERS

Most goals: 54 (**Wayne Gretzky** in 1988-89)

Most assists: 114 (**Wayne Gretzky** in 1988-89)

Most points: 168 (**Wayne Gretzky** in 1988-89)

DEFENSEMEN

Most goals: 16 (**Larry Murphy** in 1980-81 and **Mathieu Schneider** in 2000-01)

Most assists: 60 (**Larry Murphy** in 1980-81)

Most points: 76 (**Larry Murphy** in 1980-81)



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GOALTENDERS

Most wins: 31 (**Mathieu Garon** in 2005-06)

Most Shutouts: 5 (**Roman Cechmanek** in 2003-04 and **Felix Potvin** in 2000-01)



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