

Montreal Canadiens 2019-20 Season Preview



MONTREAL CANADIENS: TEAM LOOK-AHEAD

The Canadiens enter the 2019-20 season looking to clinch a berth in the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the first time since 2017. Montreal owns the most [Stanley Cup wins](#) (23), [Stanley Cup Final appearances](#) (32) and [Stanley Cup Playoffs appearances](#) (83) in NHL history.

SEASON-OPENING STATS

* **Carey Price** owns a record of 4-4-2 in 10 career season openers (2.36 GAA, .926 SV%) and has helped the Canadiens record several lengthy season-opening streaks within the last five years.

* After backstopping Team Canada to its World Cup of Hockey 2016 championship (5-0-0; 1.40 GAA, .957 SV%), Price's success on the international stage translated to open the 2016-17 season as Montreal went 10-0-0 in its first 10 games at Bell Centre – tied for the [second-longest home win streak from the start of a season in League history](#). Price went 10-0-0 through his first 10 appearances overall (1.40 GAA, .957 SV%, 2 SO) and established an NHL record for longest season-opening streak by a goaltender; **Ray Emery** is the only other netminder in League history to win each of his first 10 *decisions* in a season, going 12-0-0 through his first 15 appearances in 2012-13.

* The Canadiens posted a 9-0-0 record to open the 2015-16 season, outscoring opponents 35-12 in those contests before suffering their first loss on Oct. 27, 2015 (5-1 L at VAN); Price manned the crease for seven of the nine games, registering a 7-0-0 record with a 1.29 goals-against average, .961 save percentage and two shutouts. Montreal's season-opening win streak in 2015-16 stands as the [third-longest such run in NHL history](#).



STATS AND INFORMATION

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* Montreal went 7-1-0 through its first eight games of the 2014-15 season, including a 4-0-0 record at home. Price appeared in seven of those contests, going 6-1-0 overall (2.67 GAA, .913 SV%) and 4-0-0 at Bell Centre (1.99 GAA, .937 SV%).

OFFENSIVE OUTLOOK

* **Max Domi** can become the first Canadiens player in over 20 years to reach the 70-point mark in consecutive seasons, a feat last achieved by **Mark Recchi** who did so in three straight campaigns from 1995-96 to 1997-98. Another 70-point season would also make Domi the fourth player in franchise history to record at least 140 combined regular-season points through his first two seasons with the Canadiens; the others are **Vincent Damphousse** from 1992-93 to 1993-94 (79-109—188 in 168 GP), **Kirk Muller** from 1991-92 to 1992-93 (73-98—171 in 158 GP) and **Brian Bellows** from 1992-93 to 1993-94 (73-86—159 in 159 GP).

* **Brendan Gallagher** can become the 10th different player in franchise history to reach the 30-goal mark in three or more consecutive seasons and first since **Max Pacioretty** in four straight from 2013-14 to 2016-17.

* **Shea Weber** (203-331—534 in 925 GP), the NHL's active leader in regular-season goals among defensemen, enters his second season as Canadiens captain. He is five regular-season goals shy of tying longtime Canadiens blueliner **Larry Robinson** (208) for 19th place on the [League's all-time list among defensemen](#).

* **Tomas Tatar** (144-142—286 in 507 GP), who can record his sixth consecutive 20-goal season in 2019-20, owns the third-most career regular-season goals and points among active Slovakia-born players behind only **Marian Gaborik** (407-408—815 in 1,035 GP) and **Zdeno Chara** (200-442—642 in 1,485 GP).

THE FUTURE IS NOW

* **Jesperi Kotkaniemi** (11-23—34 in 79 GP), who is set to celebrate his 20th birthday on July 6, 2020, needs 32 regular-season points to tie **Mario Tremblay** (32-34—66 in 134 GP) for the most by a Canadiens teenager. His 34 career points are also the fifth-most by a Finnish-born teenager in NHL history, behind **Patrik Laine** (80-54—134 in 155 GP), **Aleksander Barkov** (24-36—60 in 125 GP), **Sebastian Aho** (24-25—49 in 82 GP) and **Hannu Virta** (12-24—36 in 72 GP).

* Twenty-year-old **Ryan Poehling**, one of [three players in franchise history](#) to record three or more goals in his NHL debut (3-0—3 on April 6 vs. TOR), can become the second player to score *multiple* regular-season hat tricks with the Canadiens before celebrating his 21st birthday. He would join **Guy Lafleur**, who recorded a trio of three-goal performances prior to turning 21 (3-0—3 on Dec. 11, 1971 vs. MNS, 3-0—3 on Dec. 17, 1971 at VAN, 3-1—4 on Feb. 10, 1972 vs. CHI).



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BETWEEN THE PIPES

* **Carey Price**, the franchise's all-time leader in regular-season wins (321) and games played (624) among goaltenders, enters his 13th NHL season. His five career 30-win seasons in a Canadiens uniform trail only **Jacques Plante** and **Ken Dryden** (both w/ 7) for the most in franchise history.

* His 321 career regular-season victories are the fifth-most among active goaltenders and another 30-win campaign would propel Price past several notable names on the [NHL's all-time list](#).

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

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

First game with the Canadiens. . .

SKATERS

Most goals: 5 – Joe Malone (Dec. 19, 1917)

Most assists: 3 – Pierre Larouche (Nov. 29, 1977)

Most points: 5 – Joe Malone (Dec. 19, 1917)

DEFENSEMEN

Most goals: 1 – 4 players; most recent: Scott Lachance (March 11, 1999)

Most assists: 2 – 8 players; most recent: Tomas Kaberle (Dec. 10, 2011)

Most points: 2 – 8 players; most recent: Tomas Kaberle (Dec. 10, 2011)

GOALTENDERS

Most saves: 41 – 2 goaltenders; most recent: Rogie Vachon (Feb. 18, 1967)

Shutout: 4 – most recent: Yann Danis (Oct. 12, 2005)

First season with the Canadiens. . .

SKATERS

Most goals: 44 – Joe Malone (1917-18)

Most assists: 58 – Vincent Damphousse (1992-93)

Most points: 97 – Vincent Damphousse (1992-93)

DEFENSEMEN

Most goals: 17 – 2 players; most recent: Shea Weber (2016-17)

Most assists: 35 – Tom Kurvers (1984-85)

Most points: 45 – Tom Kurvers (1984-85)

GOALTENDERS

Most wins: 38 – Bill Durnan (1943-44)

Most shutouts: 14 – George Hainsworth (1926-27)



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