

PATRICK MARLEAU: THE ROAD TO 1,768 GAMES



MARLEAU HAS PASSED “MR. HOCKEY” FOR MOST GAMES PLAYED IN NHL HISTORY

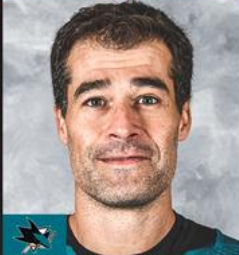
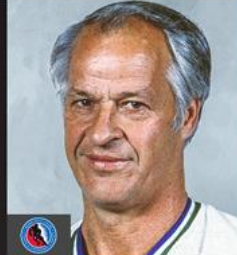

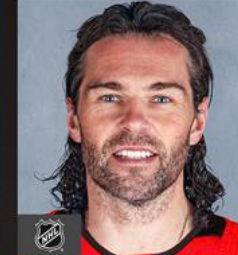

Sharks forward **Patrick Marleau** surpassed **Gordie Howe** for the [most games played in NHL history](#) when he skated in the 1,768th regular-season game of his career on Monday in Las Vegas. Howe had held the distinction since Nov. 26, 1961 when he overtook **Ted Lindsay** (999 GP) and became the first player to appear in at least 1,000 career NHL regular-season games.

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THE NHL'S NEW ALL-TIME LEADER IN GAMES PLAYED

APRIL 19, 2021

1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH
				
PATRICK MARLEAU	GORDIE HOWE	MARK MESSIER	JAROMIR JAGR	RON FRANCIS
1,768	1,767	1,756	1,733	1,731

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* Marleau is the first player from the NHL, NBA, NFL or MLB to dethrone an all-time regular-season games played leader in more than 16 years – kicker **Morten Andersen** was the last to do so, taking the NFL's crown from **George Blanda** on Sept. 26, 2004.



ALL-TIME GAMES PLAYED LEADERS

► FOUR MAJOR NORTH AMERICAN PRO SPORTS LEAGUES

NHL		NBA	
PATRICK MARLEAU	1,768	ROBERT PARISH	1,611
GORDIE HOWE	1,767	KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR	1,560
MARK MESSIER	1,756	VINCE CARTER	1,541
JAROMIR JAGR	1,733	DIRK NOWITZKI	1,522
RON FRANCIS	1,731	JOHN STOCKTON	1,504
MLB		NFL	
PETE ROSE	3,562	MORTEN ANDERSEN	382
CARL YASTRZEMSKI	3,308	ADAM VINATIERI	365
HANK AARON	3,298	GARY ANDERSON	353
RICKEY HENDERSON	3,081	JEFF FEAGLES	352
TY COBB	3,034	GEORGE BLANDA	340

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INSIDE THE NUMBERS: MARLEAU'S JOURNEY TO PASSING HOWE

A total of 8,105 different players have skated in at least one NHL game over the League's nearly 104-year history,



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and two Saskatchewan-born players hold the top two spots – **Patrick Marleau** (Aneroid, Sask.) and **Gordie Howe** (Floral, Sask.).

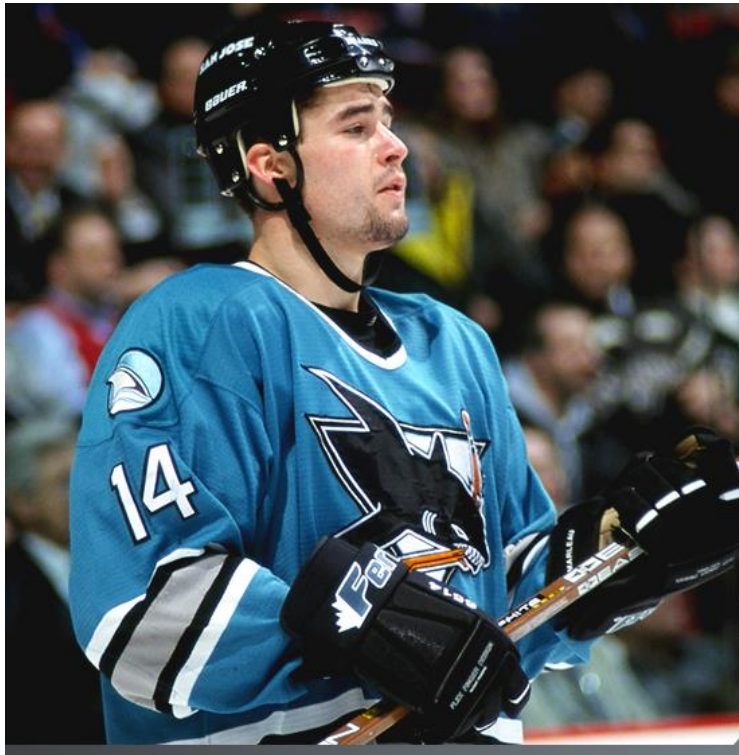
PATRICK MARLEAU TO GORDIE HOWE
Linking the careers of Gordie Howe and Patrick Marleau through just four sets of teammates

SJS	SJS/LAK	LAK/DET	DET	DET
PATRICK MARLEAU	BERNIE NICHOLLS	MARCEL DIONNE	ALEX DELVECCHIO	GORDIE HOWE

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* After racking up 199 points in 143 games over two seasons with the Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League, Marleau was selected second overall by the San Jose Sharks – behind **Joe Thornton** (Boston Bruins) – in the 1997 NHL Draft in Pittsburgh. The 17-year-old had no way of knowing at the time, but the connections to both Thornton and Pittsburgh would come full circle during his NHL career.

* Marleau made his League debut just 16 days after his 18th birthday, against the Edmonton Oilers on Oct. 1, 1997 at San Jose Arena. He remains the youngest player in the last 76 years to make his NHL debut (18 years, 16 days).



YOUNGEST PLAYERS AT TIME OF LEAGUE DEBUT

► NHL'S MODERN ERA (SINCE 1943-44)

PLAYER	DATE	AGE (Y, D)
OTTO SCHMIDT	NOV. 27, 1943	17, 22
HARRY LUMLEY	DEC. 19, 1943	17, 38
ERIC PRENTICE	OCT. 30, 1943	17, 69
LEN WHARTON	MARCH 4, 1945	17, 81
DON RALEIGH	OCT. 30, 1943	17, 125
ROSS JOHNSTONE	OCT. 30, 1943	17, 206
GORD BUTTREY	OCT. 31, 1943	17, 228
HY BULLER	DEC. 7, 1943	17, 267
PATRICK MARLEAU	OCT. 1, 1997	18, 16

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* Marleau recorded his first NHL point 10 days later (4 GP) with the primary assist on a **Viktor Kozlov** goal – against Thornton and the Bruins, no less – and tallied his first goal in his seventh game, Oct. 19, 1997 as a visitor against **Nikolai Khabibulin** and the Phoenix Coyotes.

* He skated each of his first 19 NHL seasons with the Sharks (1,493 GP; 1997-98–2016-17) before signing as a free agent with the Toronto Maple Leafs on July 2, 2017, with whom he played two seasons (164 GP; 2017-18–2018-19). On June 22, 2019, Marleau was traded to the Carolina Hurricanes who soon bought out the final season of his contract (0 GP). Marleau signed with San Jose seven days into the 2019-20 season and played 58 games with the Sharks before being traded to the Pittsburgh Penguins (8 GP) in the pandemic-shortened season.

* His third stint with the Sharks came in the form of a one-year contract for the 2020-21 season, in which he has played 44 games to date – extending his run of [consecutive regular-season games played](#) to 898.

* Marleau's journey has seen him appear in 70.5% of all regular-season games in Sharks history (1,595 of 2,262), the highest such percentage by a player with an NHL franchise (min. 1,000 GP contested by club). That figure increases to 98.1% when considering Sharks games when Marleau was part of their roster (1,595 of 1,626).



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MOST GAMES PLAYED WITH ONE FRANCHISE

▶ NHL HISTORY (REGULAR SEASON)

PLAYER	FRANCHISE	GP
GORDIE HOWE	DETROIT RED WINGS	1,687
PATRICK MARLEAU	SAN JOSE SHARKS	1,595
NICKLAS LIDSTROM	DETROIT RED WINGS	1,564
ALEX DELVECCHIO	DETROIT RED WINGS	1,550
SHANE DOAN	ARIZONA COYOTES	1,540
RAY BOURQUE	BOSTON BRUINS	1,518
STEVE YZERMAN	DETROIT RED WINGS	1,514

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* Marleau played 196 games in the 1990s, 716 games in the 2000s, 782 games in the 2010s and 73 games to date in the 2020s. Only two other active NHL players skated in the League during the 1990s: **Joe Thornton** (173 GP) and **Zdeno Chara** (119 GP). The only player in NHL history to [skate in more decades](#) than Marleau is **Gordie Howe** (5).

WAYBACK PLAYBACK: THE WORLD ON OCT. 1, 1997

On Oct. 1, 1997 in San Jose, California, just-turned 18-year-old **Patrick Marleau** was held off the score sheet through 12:15 of ice time during his NHL debut. He won two of six faceoffs and logged three shots against Oilers goaltender **Curtis Joseph**, while **Darryl Sutter** ran a bench – which included his brother **Ron Sutter** – in his first game as Sharks head coach.

In the 23+ years since, the game and world have changed in many ways. So, without further ado, a step back in time to 1997 courtesy of #NHLStats:

* Current leading goal-scorer **Auston Matthews** was two weeks old when his future teammate made his NHL debut. The League's 2020-21 points leader **Connor McDavid** was barely eight months old.

* **Hayley Wickenheiser** and **Cammi Granato** were trailblazing their way to the Hockey Hall of Fame, competing in various events during the fall of 1997 ahead of the Nagano Olympics – the first to include women's hockey.

* **Michael Jordan** was about to begin what would be his final season with the Chicago Bulls – four short months after his “Flu Game” performance during the NBA Finals helped him capture his fifth of six titles.

* **Cynthia Cooper** had just led the Houston Comets to a championship in the inaugural WNBA season. It was the first of four straight titles for the Comets, with Cooper claiming Finals MVP honors each year en route to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

* **Tom Brady** was in his second season with the University of Michigan, serving as backup to quarterback **Brian Griese** who led the Wolverines to an undefeated season and a national championship.

* **Ken Griffey, Jr.** and **Larry Walker** were named American and National League MVP, respectively, for the 1997 MLB season. The campaign concluded on Oct. 26, 1997 when Florida edged Cleveland in extra innings during

Game 7 of the World Series.

* **Tiger Woods** was coming off his first major championship, a record-setting 12-stroke victory at the Masters on April 13, 1997 – his first of five Masters titles and 14 major wins to date.

* **Martina Hingis** was named Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year after winning the Australian Open, Wimbledon and US Open singles title at just 16 years of age.

* The infamous **Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield** moment occurred on June 28, 1997, one week after Marleau was selected No. 2 by San Jose at the NHL Draft in Pittsburgh.

* Canadian **Elvis Stojko** landed his quad-triple combination in the free skate at the World Championships in March 1997, earning two perfect scores of 6.0 and another world title.

* **Bill Clinton** was almost one year into his second term as U.S. president, while **Jean Chrétien** had recently begun his second term as Canadian prime minister after being re-elected on June 2, 1997 (two days after Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final).

* On May 11, 1997, software company IBM pitted its supercomputer **Deep Blue** against chess legend **Garry Kasparov** in a highly-publicized rematch from a year prior. This time, the supercomputer defeated the world champion, an indication of the technology revolution that was nearing.

* The **J.K. Rowling** novel *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* had just been published – it hit shelves in the U.K. on June 26, 1997 and didn't make its way to North American shelves until 1998.

* **Boyz II Men** (*4 Seasons of Loneliness*) overtook **Mariah Carey** (*Honey*) for the No. 1 song on the *Billboard Hot 100* list during the week of Marleau's NHL debut.

* **Metallica** was putting the finishing touches on its seventh studio album *Reload*, which was released on Nov. 18, 1997. Frontman and diehard Sharks fan **James Hetfield** wrote all of the lyrics for the album, which was recorded in Sausalito just 60 miles from San Jose Arena.

* **George Clooney** and **Nicole Kidman** were sitting atop the U.S. box office leaderboard on Oct. 1, 1997 with their action thriller *The Peacemaker*. One month later, *Titanic* premiered at the Tokyo International Film Festival – it finished 1997 as the highest-grossing movie of the year worldwide despite a mid-December global release.

* **Peter Forsberg** was on the cover of *NHL 98*, which was released on Aug. 31, 1997. Meanwhile, the Nintendo 64 was celebrating its one-year anniversary in North America (released Sept. 29, 1996).



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 **Patrick Marleau**

**1 OF 3 ACTIVE NHL PLAYERS
TO APPEAR ON THE N64**
(ALSO ZDENO CHARA & JOE THORNTON)




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WHAT'S NEXT FOR NUMBER 12?

A look at what lies ahead for **Patrick Marleau**:

- * He trails only **Mark Messier** (1,992 GP) for the most NHL games played, [regular-season and playoffs combined](#).
- * He is one of three players who could skate his 24th NHL season in 2021-22; only [six players have skated as many campaigns](#).
- * He needs one goal to pass **Mark Recchi** for 22nd place in NHL history for [regular-season and playoffs combined](#).
- * He needs one point to pass **Bernie Nicholls** – his teammate in his NHL debut – for 47th place in NHL history, [including playoffs](#).
- * He needs one game-winning goal to surpass **Brendan Shanahan** – the President of the Maple Leafs during his time with the club – and tie **Brett Hull** and **Teemu Selanne** for [fifth place in NHL history](#) (regular season).

BY THE NUMBERS – Entering games of April 19, 2021

- 31,519** – Minutes that **Patrick Marleau** has logged in regular-season games over the course of his NHL career.
- 8,601** – Days from Marleau's NHL debut to April 19, 2021 when he is scheduled to become the all-time leader in regular-season games played.
- 8,105** – Players to skate in at least one NHL game over the League's nearly 104-year history.
- 3,009** – Players that Marleau has appeared in at least one NHL game with *as an opponent* (2,760 skaters & 249 goaltenders), equating to over one-third of all players in League history (37.2% of 8,100).
- 1,595** – Games that Marleau has appeared in with the Sharks – he is one of seven players in NHL history to play in 1,500 or more contests with one franchise.
- 957** – Regular-season games that **Joe Thornton** and Marleau skated in as teammates (from [Dec. 2, 2005](#)–[Feb. 23, 2020](#)), the most such contests by players selected first and second overall in the same NHL Draft.
- 898** – Consecutive regular-season games in which Marleau has played since April 9, 2009, which stands as the fourth-longest "Ironman" streak [in NHL history](#) and second-longest active run behind **Keith Yandle** (909).
- 335** – Players that have *dressed* in at least one game as Marleau's *teammate* during the regular season (297 skaters & 38 goaltenders).
- 230** – Approximate distance, in miles, between the birthplaces of Marleau (Aneroid, Sask.) and **Gordie Howe** (Floral, Sask.) in their home province of Saskatchewan.
- 171** – Current NHL players who were not yet born when Marleau made his NHL debut on Oct. 1, 1997 (min. 1 GP in 2020-21).
- 72** – Wins that Marleau has earned against Los Angeles during the regular season, the most versus one opponent among players to debut in the NHL's expansion era (since 1967-68).
- 69** – Career [multi-goal games](#) during the regular-season to date for Marleau. His first ([Nov. 18, 1997](#)) and most recent ([Jan. 27, 2020](#)) such performances came against the Anaheim Ducks.
- 59** – Years that Howe has held the title of the League's all-time games played leader (Nov. 26, 1961–Present).
- 16** – Years since an all-time games leader was dethroned in either the MLB, NBA or NFL – on Sept. 26, 2004, **Morten Andersen** appeared in his 341st game and passed **George Blanda** (340) for the most in NFL history.
- 14** – Players in NHL history who have skated at least [one game in four or more different decades](#), with Marleau among them. Howe is the only member of that group to do so in five.
- 7** – Players in NHL history that have appeared in at least 50% of the all-time games contested by a franchise (min. 1,000 GP contested by club): Marleau (w/ SJS), **Mikko Koivu** (w/ MIN), **David Legwand** (w/ NSH), **Chris Phillips** (w/ OTT), **Daniel Alfredsson** (w/ OTT), **Ryan Getzlaf** (w/ ANA) and **Bryan Little** (w/ WPG).
- 4** – Most goals scored in a single game to date by Marleau, achieved [Jan. 23, 2017](#) (his 1,459th NHL game) when he matched the [NHL record for goals in a single period](#).
- 3** – Goals on Oct. 11, 1997 by **Wayne Gretzky**, who scored the last of his 50-career regular-season hat tricks on the same date that Marleau recorded his first NHL point.
- 1** – Number of NHL Draft classes to have each of the top-five selections go on to play at least 1,000 regular-season games, achieved by the class of 1997 (**Joe Thornton, Patrick Marleau, Olli Jokinen, Roberto Luongo & Eric Brewer**).

