

MONTREAL CANADIENS @ CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS

Friday, Oct 23, 2026 · 8:00 PM EDT · United Center, Chicago, IL · TV: NHL Net, CHSN
NHL REGULAR SEASON · LINEUPS PROJECTED



GAME PREVIEW Montreal (4-3-2, 1-1-1 on the road) visits Chicago (3-6-0, 3-2-0 at home) in the first meeting between the teams this season, with Montreal listed at -170 on DraftKings and a total of 6.5. The Canadiens are 3-2 in their last five, most recently a 4-3 overtime loss to San Jose, and Nick Suzuki, their points leader with 12, is out with an upper-body injury. The Blackhawks are 2-3 in their last five after a 4-1 loss at the New York Islanders, and Bowen Byram is day-to-day with an upper-body injury. ESPN lists Jacob Fowler and Spencer Knight as the confirmed probable starters, though a prediction site names Jakub Dobes for Montreal.	PLAYERS TO WATCH MTL Cole Caufield Leads Montreal with 6 goals and 32 shots in 9 games. MTL Jacob Fowler Probable starter; 3-1-0 with a .900 save percentage and 2.16 GAA in 4 games. CHI Frank Nazar Leads Chicago with 3 goals and 14 shots. CHI Spencer Knight Probable starter; 3-4-0 with a .888 save percentage and 3.59 GAA in 7 games. CHI Anton Frondell Leads Chicago with 6 points (5 assists) in 9 games.
STORYLINES - Suzuki, Montreal's points leader with 12, is out with an upper-body injury and is listed to return Nov 18. - Chicago has lost its last two games, 4-1 at the New York Islanders and 5-2 to Carolina. - Montreal's Jacob Fowler is 3-1-0 this season with a .900 save percentage. - Montreal's Cole Caufield leads the team with six goals on 32 shots through nine games.	

MONTREAL CANADIENS (4-3-2 · 7th in Atlantic Division)											
FORWARDS											
LINE	#	PLAYER	POS	CTRY	AGE	GP	G	A	P	+	-
L1	91	Oliver Kapanen	C	SWE	23	2	0	0	0	0	
	13	Cole Caufield	RW	USA	25	9	6	2	8	+4	
	20	Juraj Slafkovsky	LW	SVK	22	9	2	5	7	+1	
L2	22	Chris Kreider	LW	USA	35	9	1	3	4	-2	
	15	Alex Newhook	C	CAN	25	9	1	3	4	-5	
	17	Josh Anderson	RW	CAN	32	9	4	2	6	0	
L3	76	Zack Bolduc	LW	CAN	23	9	4	2	6	+2	
	24	Phillip Danault	C	CAN	33	9	0	2	2	+3	
	85	Alexandre Texier	LW	FRA	27	9	1	2	3	-2	
L4	62	Owen Beck	RW	CAN	22	2	0	0	0	-2	
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Projected lines per NHL.com, Oct 23; L4 only partly published (Beck recalled Oct 22).

DEFENCE											
PAIR	#	PLAYER	POS	CTRY	AGE	GP	G	A	P	+	-
D1	21	Kaiden Guhle	D	CAN	24	5	0	1	1	-1	
	53	Noah Dobson	D	CAN	26	9	0	2	2	-4	
D2	48	Lane Hutson	D	USA	22	9	2	7	9	+2	
	45	Alexandre Carrier	D	CAN	30	9	1	3	4	+4	
D3	8	Mike Matheson	D	CAN	32	5	0	1	1	-3	
	72	Arber Xhekaj	D	CAN	25	9	0	0	0	-2	
Alt	42	Adam Engstrom	D	SWE	22	5	0	0	0	+2	

Pairings not published; listed in roster order per ESPN.

GOALIES						
#	GOALIE	CTRY	AGE	GP	W-L-OT	GAA SV%
32	Jacob Fowler*	USA	21	4	3-1-0	2.16 .900
75	Jakub Dobes	CZE	25	5	1-2-2	4.47 .847

* Probable starter per ESPN; not confirmed by the lineup research.

LAST FIVE					
RESULT	W	W	L	W	L
SCORE	1-0 SO	4-3 SO	5-4	4-3 OT	4-3 OT
OPPONENT	vs DET	vs BUF	@ WSH	vs BUF	vs SJ

Most recent first, per ESPN.

STANDINGS · ATLANTIC DIVISION						
POS	TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
1	Bruins	11	8	2	1	17
2	Lightning	9	7	2	0	14
3	Senators	11	7	4	0	14
4	Maple Leafs	12	6	4	2	14
5	Panthers	11	5	4	2	12
6	Red Wings	10	4	3	3	11
7	Canadiens *	9	4	3	2	10
8	Sabres	10	4	4	2	10

Per ESPN; * tonight's teams.

STANDINGS · CENTRAL DIVISION						
POS	TEAM	GP	W	L	OTL	PTS
1	Mammoth	11	7	4	0	14
2	Wild	11	6	3	2	14
3	Stars	10	6	3	1	13
4	Avalanche	10	5	4	1	11
5	Blues	10	5	4	1	11
6	Jets	10	4	3	3	11
7	Predators	9	3	3	3	9
8	Blackhawks *	9	3	6	0	6

Per ESPN; * tonight's teams.

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS (3-6-0 · 8th in Central Division)											
FORWARDS											
#	PLAYER	POS	CTRY	AGE	GP	G	A	P	+	-	
98	Connor Bedard	C	CAN	21	3	1	2	3	0		
16	Anton Frondell	C	SWE	19	9	1	5	6	-3		
91	Frank Nazar	C	USA	22	7	3	1	4	-5		
86	Teuvo Teravainen	C	FIN	32	7	2	3	5	+2		
8	Ryan Donato	C	USA	30	9	2	1	3	-6		
20	Ryan Greene	C	CAN	23	9	0	2	2	+2		
11	Oliver Moore	C	USA	21	9	2	1	3	-2		
59	Tyler Bertuzzi	LW	CAN	31	9	2	3	5	-1		
12	Jordan Greenway	LW	USA	29	9	1	0	1	+1		
88	Patrick Kane	RW	USA	37	9	1	4	5	-11		
80	Roman Kantserov	RW	RUS	22	9	3	0	3	-6		
22	Cole Smith	RW	USA	30	9	1	1	2	+1		

Roster per ESPN; no lineup published.

DEFENCE											
PAIR	#	PLAYER	POS	CTRY	AGE	GP	G	A	P	+	-
D1	55	Artyom Levshunov	D	BLR	20	9	1	2	3	-3	
	44	Wyatt Kaiser	D	USA	24	9	0	3	3	-5	
D2	72	Alex Vlasic	D	USA	25	9	0	2	2	0	
	6	Sam Rinzel	D	USA	22	8	1	1	2	-3	
D3	28	Ian Cole	D	USA	37	9	0	0	0	+2	
	38	Ethan Del Mastro	D	CAN	23	3	0	0	0	-3	

Pairings not published; roster per ESPN. Byram listed day-to-day, not in this table.

GOALIES						
#	GOALIE	CTRY	AGE	GP	W-L-OT	GAA SV%
30	Spencer Knight*	USA	25	7	3-4-0	3.59 .888
40	Arvid Soderblom	SWE	27	2	0-2-0	4.58 .820

* Probable starter per ESPN; not confirmed by the lineup research.

LAST FIVE					
RESULT	L	L	W	W	L
SCORE	4-1	5-2	5-3	4-3 OT	4-0
OPPONENT	@ NYI	vs CAR	vs PIT	vs WPG	vs DAL

Most recent first, per ESPN.

OUT			
TEAM	PLAYER	STATUS	DETAIL
CHI	Bowen Byram (D)	Day-To-Day	Upper body, return Oct 23
MTL	Nick Suzuki (C)	Out	Upper body, return Nov 18
	Florian Xhekaj (LW)	Injured Reserve	Lower body, return Oct 31
	Sam Montembeault (G)	Injured Reserve	Lower body, return Oct 25
	Ivan Demidov (RW)	Injured Reserve	Lower body, return Oct 31
	Bryce Pickford (D)	Injured Reserve	Undisclosed, return Oct 31

Injury report per ESPN.

TEAM STATS								
	GAA	SA/G	PPGA	SHGA	GF/G	SF/G	PPG	SHG
MTL	3.78	26.3	8	0	3.11	29.7	4	0
CHI	4.00	30.6	7	0	2.33	21.4	3	1

Season to date per ESPN.

TEAM LEADERS			
TEAM	GOALS	ASSISTS	POINTS
MTL	Cole Caufield 6	Nick Suzuki 7	Nick Suzuki 12
CHI	Frank Nazar 3	Anton Frondell 5	Anton Frondell 6

Season to date per ESPN.

ODDS	
LINE	
MTL -170, O/U 6.5 (DraftKings)	

Per ESPN.