

## 2022-23 Season Review – Minnesota Wild

### Standings

Minnesota Wild							League	
Season	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Rank	PlyOff
2021-22	53	22	7	113	305	249	5	Yes
2022-23	46	25	11	103	239	219	11	Yes
<b>Change</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>+3</b>	<b>+4</b>	<b>-10</b>	<b>-66</b>	<b>+30</b>	<b>-6</b>	

### Team Record by Game Type

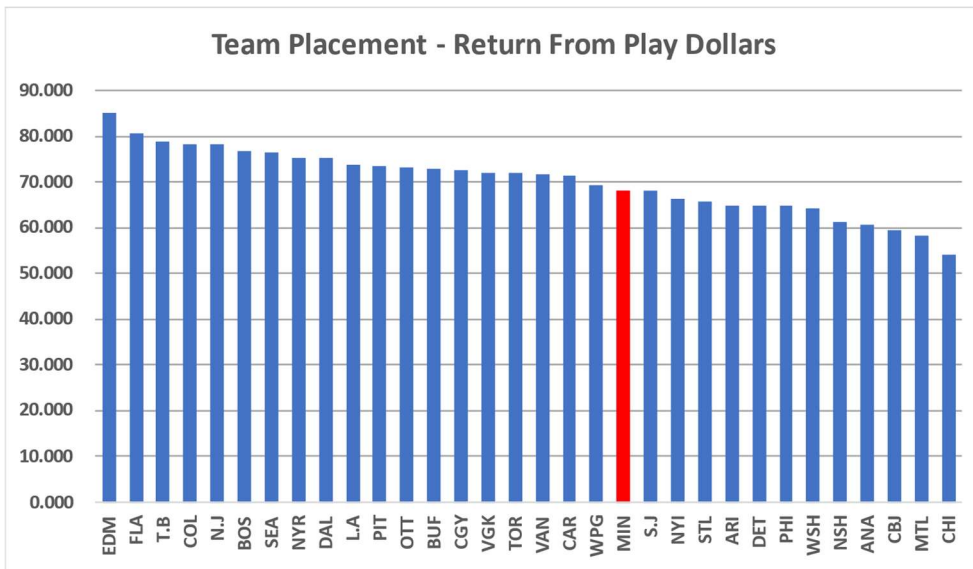
Game Type	GP	Record	Point %
Blowouts (More than 4-goal margin)	1	1 - 0 - 0	1.000
Best 10-Game Streak	10	8 - 0 - 2	0.900
OT/SO	23	12 - 0 - 11	0.761
Vs. Non-Playoff Team	43	29 - 8 - 6	0.744
2-Goal Margin	18	13 - 5 - 0	0.722
Defensive Battles (fewer than 4 goals in a game)	19	12 - 4 - 3	0.711
Home Games	41	25 - 12 - 4	0.659
<b>All Games</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>46 - 25 - 11</b>	<b>0.628</b>
Conceding Exactly 3 Goals	12	7 - 4 - 1	0.625
Scoring Exactly 3 Goals	18	9 - 5 - 4	0.611
Away Games	41	21 - 13 - 7	0.598
Vs. Playoff Team	39	17 - 17 - 5	0.500
1-Goal Margin (Excluding overtime games)	14	7 - 7 - 0	0.500
Fire-wagon Hockey (More than 8 goals in a game)	10	3 - 4 - 3	0.450
Worst 10-Game Streak	10	3 - 6 - 1	0.350

### Talent Distribution

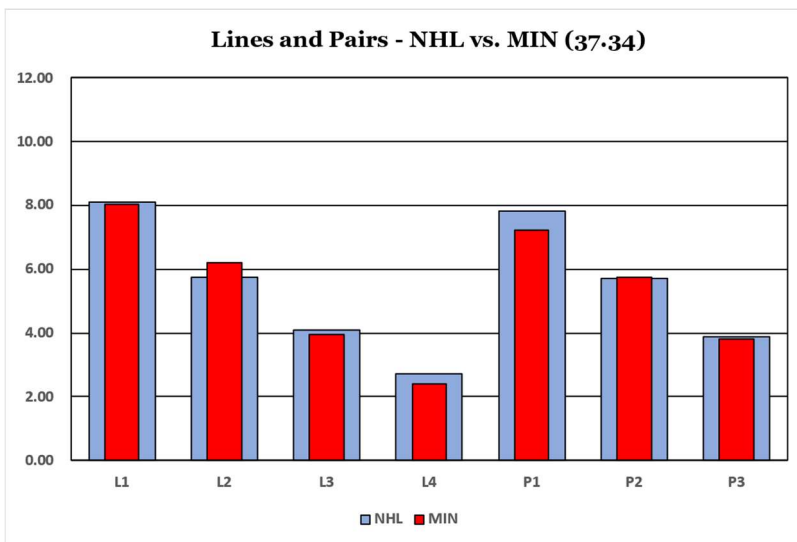
Count by Category			PR% by Age Group			PR% by Draft Status		
PR Category	Fwd	Def	Age Group	NHL PR%	Team PR%	Draft Status	NHL PR%	Team PR%
PR-Elite	0	0	18 to 23	18%	17%	Drafted by Current Team	48%	44%
PR-Star	2	1	24 to 28	45%	43%	Drafted by Other Team	41%	43%
PR-First5	3	0	29 to 33	29%	29%	Undrafted	10%	13%
PR-Regular	2	3	34+	8%	11%			
PR-Fringe	4	3						
PR-CallUp	14	3						

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### Return From Play



### Lines and Pairs



<b>L1</b>	Joel Eriksson Ek	Kirill Kaprizov	Mats Zuccarello
<b>L2</b>	Matt Boldy	Frederick Gaudreau	Ryan Hartman
<b>L3</b>	Sam Steel	Marcus Foligno	Connor Dewar
<b>L4</b>	Mason Shaw	Brandon Duhaime	Ryan Reaves
<b>P1</b>	Jared Spurgeon		Jonas Brodin
<b>P2</b>	Matt Dumba		Jake Middleton
<b>P3</b>	Calen Addison		Jon Merrill

## 2022-23 Season Review – Minnesota Wild

### Team Leaders – Stapled To The Bench Categories

Category	Name	Rating
Most Productive	Jared Spurgeon	PR-Star
Most Valuable	Kirill Kaprizov	VR-Star
Best Center	Joel Eriksson Ek	# 1-Center
Most Disruptive	Jon Merrill	DX-A
Best Power Player	Kirill Kaprizov	PX-A+
Best Penalty Killer	Jonas Brodin	KX-A

### Team Leaders – On-Ice Situations

MIN - Team Leaders in Various On-Ice Situations		
Most Time 5v5	Most Time Power Play	Most Time Penalty Kill
Matt Dumba	Matt Boldy	Jared Spurgeon
Jacob Middleton	Mats Zuccarello	Jonas Brodin
Jared Spurgeon	Joel Eriksson Ek	Frederick Gaudreau
Mats Zuccarello	Kirill Kaprizov	Jacob Middleton
Matt Boldy	Calen Addison	Joel Eriksson Ek
Most Time 3v3	Most Used Off. Zone FO	Most Used Def. Zone FO
Kirill Kaprizov	Kirill Kaprizov	Jacob Middleton
Matt Boldy	Mats Zuccarello	Joel Eriksson Ek
Joel Eriksson Ek	Sam Steel	Jared Spurgeon
Jared Spurgeon	Frederick Gaudreau	Matt Boldy
Mats Zuccarello	Jonas Brodin	Matt Dumba

### Team Essay #1 – More Than Their Fair Share

Whenever I see a playoff team with a below-midpoint Return From Play (see chart above), or a non-playoff team with an above-midpoint RFP, I think of their goalies. RFP is a measure of the Productivity Rating of its players: if it is below average and the team made the playoffs, the obvious place to look for what brought the team to the playoffs is in the crease.

In this case, one goalie was a good part of Minnesota’s 2022-23 success, and it might not be the goalie you thought it would be. While Filip Gustavsson played less than Marc-Andre Fleury, he was better: Filip gave up 23 fewer goals than expected while Marc-Andre broke even.

Another portion of their 2022-23 success is puck luck. Based on their goals for and goals against for the season, Minnesota should have had 98 points instead of 103. By the way, statisticians would prefer to use a word like “randomness” instead of the phrase “puck luck”, but they both mean the same thing.

Minnesota got more than their fair share of success this season, thanks to Gustavsson’s good play and puck luck, I mean, randomness.

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### Team Essay #2 – Defensive Battles vs. Fire-Wagon Hockey

Defensive battles are games with final scores of 3-0, 2-1, 2-0 or 1-0. Minnesota had nineteen such games and their record was damn good: 12-4-3.

Fire-wagon hockey is a game in nine or more goals were scored, such as 5-4, 7-6 or 8-5. Minnesota had ten such games and were mediocre in them: 3-4-3.

Minnesota preferred a defensive brand of hockey, and played better when they kept the score down. And they played more defensive battles than fire-wagon games, which is what they should have done.

### Team Essay #3 – You Have to Play Defense to Win

There are a lot of dinosaurs who will tell you that a team can't win if they don't play great defense. The truth is that teams that win are good at offense and defense, not just at defense.

Minnesota's 2022-23 regular season is a good example of why offense matters. Minnesota gave up 30 fewer goals than they did in 2021-22, and they lost 10 points in the standings. Let that sink in: they went from 53-22-7 to 46-25-11 while reducing their goals against by 30.

The reason their record dropped is that they didn't just reduce their opponents' scoring, they reduced their own scoring as well: they scored 66 fewer goals. It says here that if you have to give up two goals to prevent the other team from scoring one, that is a very bad trade-off.

Had the Wild reduced their goals for by only 30, keeping level with the reduction in goals against, their record would have been around 53-20-9, a very marginal improvement.

I remember reading something in a Bill James Baseball Abstract that applies to Minnesota's season, but I cannot find the direct quote now. The idea is that general managers construct their teams based on how they want to lose games. The Minnesota GM appears to want to lose games 2-1, while Edmonton's GM wants to lose games 5-4. Both have brought in players that will produce those results.

And yes, obviously, both GMs would rather their teams win games 8-0.