

2022-23 Season Review – New Jersey Devils

Standings

New Jersey Devils							League	
Season	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Rank	PlyOff
2021-22	27	46	9	63	245	302	28	No
2022-23	52	22	8	112	289	222	3	Yes
Change	+25	-24	-1	+49	+44	+80	+25	

Team Record by Game Type

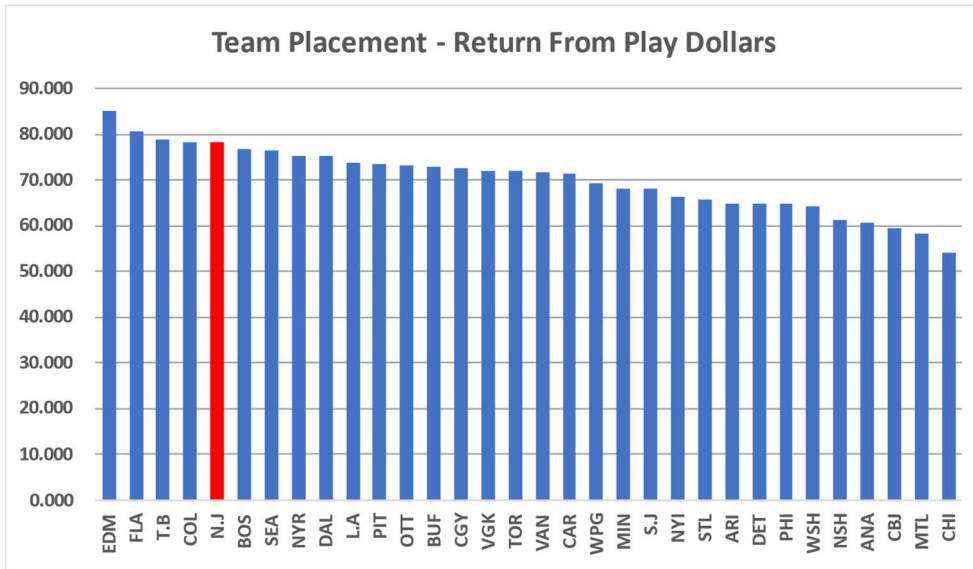
Game Type	GP	Record	Point %
Best 10-Game Streak	10	10 - 0 - 0	1.000
Conceding Exactly 3 Goals	12	10 - 1 - 1	0.875
OT/SO	21	13 - 0 - 8	0.810
Vs. Non-Playoff Team	43	33 - 9 - 1	0.779
Blowouts (More than 4-goal margin)	4	3 - 1 - 0	0.750
Away Games	41	28 - 9 - 4	0.732
Scoring Exactly 3 Goals	21	12 - 4 - 5	0.690
All Games	82	52 - 22 - 8	0.683
Defensive Battles (fewer than 4 goals in a game)	10	6 - 3 - 1	0.650
Home Games	41	24 - 13 - 4	0.634
2-Goal Margin	19	12 - 7 - 0	0.632
Fire-wagon Hockey (More than 8 goals in a game)	11	6 - 4 - 1	0.591
Vs. Playoff Team	39	19 - 13 - 7	0.577
1-Goal Margin (Excluding overtime games)	13	7 - 6 - 0	0.538
Worst 10-Game Streak	10	2 - 7 - 1	0.250

Talent Distribution

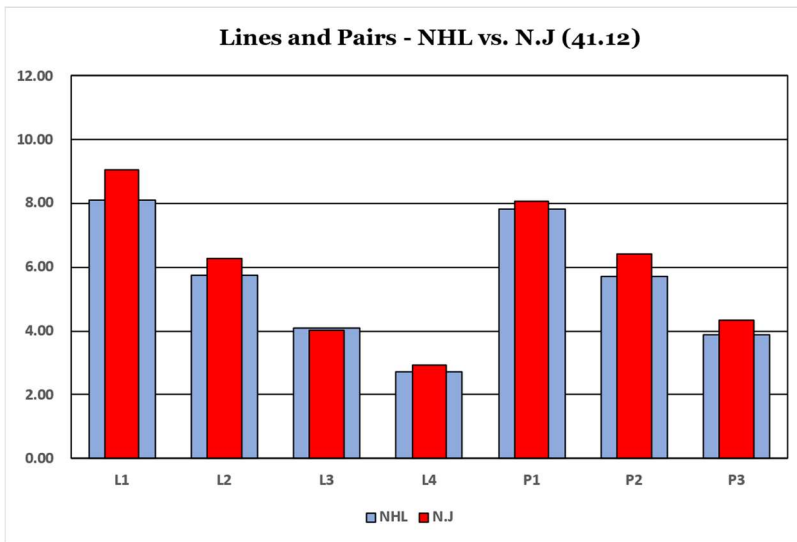
Count by Category			PR% by Age Group			PR% by Draft Status		
PR Category	Fwd	Def	Age Group	NHL PR%	Team PR%	Draft Status	NHL PR%	Team PR%
PR-Elite	0	0	18 to 23	18%	29%	Drafted by Current Team	48%	55%
PR-Star	2	1	24 to 28	45%	46%	Drafted by Other Team	41%	43%
PR-First5	3	3	29 to 33	29%	24%	Undrafted	10%	2%
PR-Regular	3	1	34+	8%	0%			
PR-Fringe	5	2						
PR-CallUp	6	2						

2022-23 Season Review – New Jersey Devils

Return From Play



Lines and Pairs



L1	Nico Hischier	Jack Hughes	Jesper Bratt
L2	Erik Haula	Dawson Mercer	Tomas Tatar
L3	Yegor Sharangovich	Michael McLeod	Miles Wood
L4	Ondrej Palat	Jesper Boqvist	Nathan Bastian
P1		Dougie Hamilton	Damon Severson
P2		Jonas Siegenthaler	Ryan Graves
P3		John Marino	Brendan Smith

2022-23 Season Review – New Jersey Devils

Team Leaders – Stapled To The Bench Categories

Category	Name	Rating
Most Productive	Nico Hischier	PR-Star
Most Valuable	Dougie Hamilton	VR-Star
Best Center	Nico Hischier	# 1-Center
Most Disruptive	Ryan Graves	DX-A
Best Power Player	Jack Hughes	PX-A
Best Penalty Killer	Ryan Graves	KX-A

Team Leaders – On-Ice Situations

N.J - Team Leaders in Various On-Ice Situations		
Most Time 5v5	Most Time Power Play	Most Time Penalty Kill
Dougie Hamilton	Dougie Hamilton	John Marino
Jonas Siegenthaler	Jack Hughes	Ryan Graves
Damon Severson	Nico Hischier	Jonas Siegenthaler
Ryan Graves	Jesper Bratt	Nico Hischier
Jack Hughes	Tomas Tatar	Erik Haula
Most Time 3v3	Most Used Off. Zone FO	Most Used Def. Zone FO
Jack Hughes	Jack Hughes	Michael McLeod
Dougie Hamilton	Jesper Bratt	Ryan Graves
Jesper Bratt	Dougie Hamilton	John Marino
Nico Hischier	Yegor Sharangovich	Erik Haula
Damon Severson	Erik Haula	Brendan Smith

Team Essay – Big Ups

The Devils made a huge step forward from the previous season, improving by 49 points in the standings. They increased scoring by 44 goals and decreased goals against by 80. Those are large and very large improvements, and the impact was obvious: an increase of 49 standing points. In non-technical terms, that is a massive improvement.

On the defensive side of things, the decrease in goals against is almost completely attributable to a massive improvement in the play of their goalies. A team-level defensive improvement can be seen in the three-shot drop in shots against per game from the season before. In nets, their goalie play was “slightly above average” in 2022-23, while it was “woefully below average” in 2021-22.

The following table shows typical goalie data for the previous two seasons. 2021-22 data is in red, 2022-23 data is in black. In both sets of data, goalies are sorted by time-on-ice. The last two rows are season totals.

2022-23 Season Review – New Jersey Devils

Season	Player	GP	TOI	SA	GA	SV%	GA60
2021-22	Mackenzie Blackwood	25	1399	731	79	89.2%	3.39
2021-22	Nico Daws	25	1273	617	66	89.3%	3.11
2021-22	Jon Gillies	19	941	511	59	88.5%	3.76
2021-22	Jonathan Bernier	10	510	264	26	90.2%	3.06
2021-22	Andrew Hammond	7	386	214	30	86.0%	4.66
2021-22	Akira Schmid	6	236	114	19	83.3%	4.83
2021-22	Scott Wedgewood	3	169	75	9	88.0%	3.19
2022-23	Vitek Vanecek	52	2916	1333	119	91.1%	2.45
2022-23	Mackenzie Blackwood	22	1126	563	60	89.3%	3.20
2022-23	Akira Schmid	18	901	408	32	92.2%	2.13
2021-22	Devil Goalies	82	4915	2526	288	88.6%	3.52
2022-23	Devil Goalies	82	4942	2304	211	90.8%	2.56

In 2022-23, Devil Goalies faced 3 fewer shots per game (team-level improvement) and saved 2% more of the shots they faced (possibly team-influenced improvement). Their goals against average, the final column (GA60), shows the improved of 0.96 goals per game.

I prefer non-traditional statistics for evaluating goalies.

Season	Player	GP	TOI	GA	xGA	xGA-GA	GX60
2021-22	Mackenzie Blackwood	25	1399	79	61.65	-17.35	-0.74
2021-22	Nico Daws	25	1273	66	55.89	-10.11	-0.48
2021-22	Jon Gillies	19	941	59	43.56	-15.44	-0.98
2021-22	Jonathan Bernier	10	510	26	22.81	-3.19	-0.38
2021-22	Andrew Hammond	7	386	30	18.77	-11.23	-1.74
2021-22	Akira Schmid	6	236	19	8.88	-10.12	-2.57
2021-22	Scott Wedgewood	3	169	9	7.37	-1.63	-0.58
2022-23	Vitek Vanecek	52	2916	119	128.21	9.21	0.19
2022-23	Mackenzie Blackwood	22	1126	60	57.28	-2.72	-0.14
2022-23	Akira Schmid	18	901	32	39.02	7.02	0.47
2021-22	Devil Goalies	82	4915	288	219	-69.07	-0.84
2022-23	Devil Goalies	82	4942	211	225	13.51	0.16

The non-traditional statistics are expected goals against (xGA), expected goals against minus goals against (xGA-GA), and what I call Goalie Index (GX60), which is how many goals against a goalie saves per 60 minutes of play, compared to an average goalie.

Earlier, I said the Devils defensive improvement was ‘almost completely attributable to a massive improvement in the play of their goalies.’ On looking at the data in the table above, it is possible that the word ‘almost’ should be removed. The team in front of the Devil goalies reduced shots against by more than 200, but the expected goals from all shots increased a little (225-219=6). It’s gotta be the goalies who take the credit.

2022-23 Season Review – New Jersey Devils

As to the forwards and defensemen, several players were much more productive this season. Nico Hischier went from a PR-First5 rating to PR-Star, while both Dougie Hamilton and Jack Hughes improved from PR-Regular to PR-Star.

Timo Meier seemed like a nice mid-season acquisition, but the Devils as a team had better results before his arrival than after. To me, the results don't reflect the play: the Devils played better as a team with Meier, they just didn't get the results they should have.

Devils	GP	GF	GA	xGF	xGA
Pre-Timo	61	3.56	2.67	3.64	2.92
Post-Timo	21	3.43	2.81	3.76	2.64
Change		-0.13	-0.14	0.12	0.28

In terms of goals scored and allowed, the Devils were a little worse in both categories after acquiring Timo, by a total of 0.27 goals per game. In terms of their play, they were a little better with Timo, by a total of 0.40 goals per game. That is a great example of small-sample (only 21 games) puck luck for you.

You don't improve by 49 points in the standings without getting better results offensively and defensively. New Jersey went from the 19th best offensive team and the 29th best defensive team to 4th best and 8th best.

Their defensive improvement was massive, it was brought about by the goalies, but it wasn't caused by stellar goalie play. The goalies played well, but it was a huge improvement because the season before they had played terribly.

Their offensive improvement was solid, and it was largely a team-level improvement. In both 2021-22 and 2022-23, the Devils scored about as many goals as expected, based on the number and quality of their shots. No one player was responsible for the improvement in their offensive expectations.

The Devils have a good amount of young talent. They'll be an interesting team to watch in the coming seasons.