

## 2022-23 Season Review – Washington Capitals

### Standings

Washington Capitals							League	
Season	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Rank	PlyOff
2021-22	44	26	12	100	270	242	13	Yes
2022-23	35	37	10	80	253	261	24	No
<b>Change</b>	<b>-9</b>	<b>+11</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>-20</b>	<b>-17</b>	<b>-19</b>	<b>-11</b>	

### Team Record by Game Type

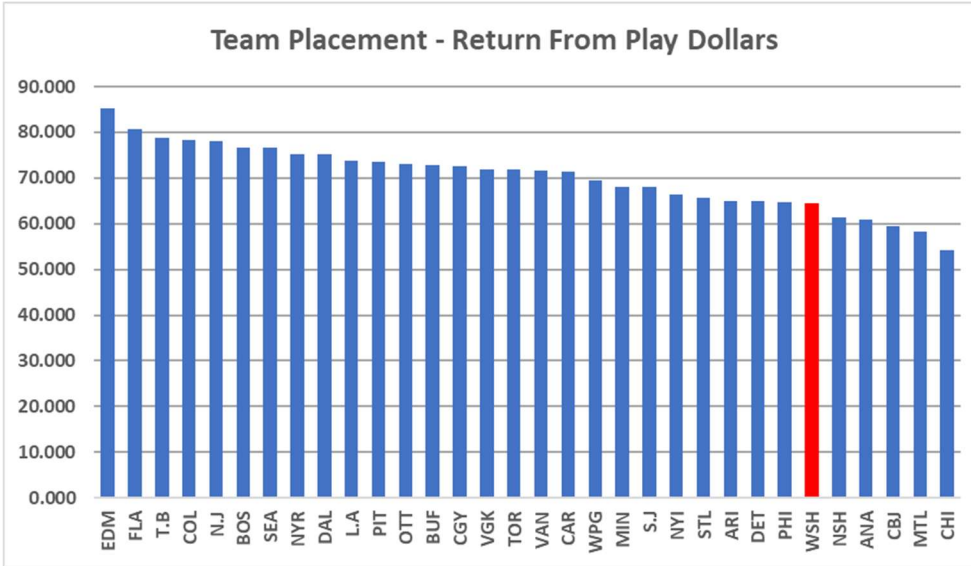
Game Type	GP	Record	Point %
Blowouts (More than 4-goal margin)	3	3 - 0 - 0	1.000
Best 10-Game Streak	10	9 - 1 - 0	0.900
OT/SO	18	8 - 0 - 10	0.722
Fire-wagon Hockey (More than 8 goals in a game)	15	8 - 3 - 4	0.667
Defensive Battles (fewer than 4 goals in a game)	7	4 - 2 - 1	0.643
Scoring Exactly 3 Goals	15	8 - 6 - 1	0.567
Vs. Non-Playoff Team	39	20 - 15 - 4	0.564
Home Games	41	18 - 16 - 7	0.524
Conceding Exactly 3 Goals	20	8 - 8 - 4	0.500
<b>All Games</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>35 - 37 - 10</b>	<b>0.488</b>
Away Games	41	17 - 21 - 3	0.451
Vs. Playoff Team	43	15 - 22 - 6	0.419
1-Goal Margin (Excluding overtime games)	12	5 - 7 - 0	0.417
Worst 10-Game Streak	10	1 - 7 - 2	0.200
2-Goal Margin	13	2 - 11 - 0	0.154

### Talent Distribution

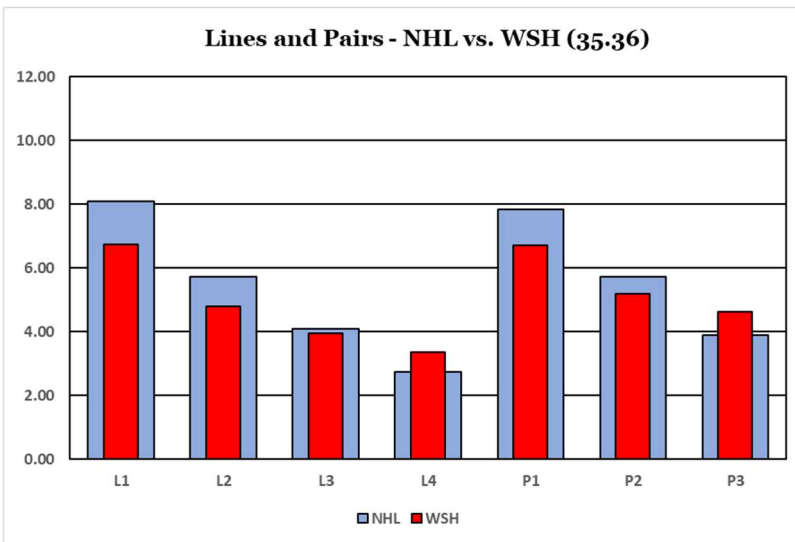
Count by Category			PR% by Age Group			PR% by Draft Status		
PR Category	Fwd	Def	Age Group	NHL PR%	Team PR%	Draft Status	NHL PR%	Team PR%
PR-Elite	0	0	18 to 23	18%	11%	Drafted by Current Team	48%	40%
PR-Star	0	0	24 to 28	45%	22%	Drafted by Other Team	41%	43%
PR-First5	3	2	29 to 33	29%	52%	Undrafted	10%	17%
PR-Regular	4	4	34+	8%	16%			
PR-Fringe	8	1						
PR-CallUp	6	6						

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### Return From Play



### Lines and Pairs



<b>L1</b>	Alex Ovechkin	Dylan Strome	Evgeny Kuznetsov
<b>L2</b>	Nic Dowd	Conor Sheary	T.J. Oshie
<b>L3</b>	Marcus Johansson	Anthony Mantha	Lars Eller
<b>L4</b>	Sonny Milano	Garnet Hathaway	Tom Wilson
<b>P1</b>	Nick Jensen		Trevor van Riemsdyk
<b>P2</b>	Erik Gustafsson		Martin Fehervary
<b>P3</b>	John Carlson		Dmitry Orlov

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### Team Leaders – Stapled To The Bench Categories

Category	Name	Rating
Most Productive	Alex Ovechkin	PR-First5
Most Valuable	John Carlson	VR-Star
Best Center	Dylan Strome	#2-Center
Most Disruptive	Trevor van Riemsdyk	DX-A
Best Power Player	Alex Ovechkin	PX-A
Best Penalty Killer	Martin Fehervary	KX-A

### Team Leaders – On-Ice Situations

WSH - Team Leaders in Various On-Ice Situations		
Most Time 5v5	Most Time Power Play	Most Time Penalty Kill
Nick Jensen	Alex Ovechkin	Trevor van Riemsdyk
Martin Fehervary	Dylan Strome	Nick Jensen
Trevor van Riemsdyk	Evgeny Kuznetsov	Nic Dowd
Evgeny Kuznetsov	T.J. Oshie	Conor Sheary
Alex Ovechkin	Marcus Johansson	Lars Eller
Most Time 3v3	Most Used Off. Zone FO	Most Used Def. Zone FO
Alex Ovechkin	Alex Ovechkin	Nick Jensen
Evgeny Kuznetsov	Erik Gustafsson	Martin Fehervary
Dylan Strome	Dylan Strome	Anthony Mantha
Erik Gustafsson	Evgeny Kuznetsov	Trevor van Riemsdyk
John Carlson	Conor Sheary	Conor Sheary

### Team Essay – Strong Start, Weak Finish

In their first 41 games, the Capitals were 22-13-6 and had a good shot of making the playoffs. After the games of January 5, 2023, Washington was tied for seventh in the league in terms of standing points.

Things did not go quite as well in their second half. After January 5<sup>th</sup> their record was 13-24-4, the second worst record in league. What in holy hockey sticks happened? Let's start out with the view from 40,000 feet.



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	2022-23 Washington - Games 1 to 41						2022-23 Washington - Games 42 to 82					
	GF60	GA60	xGF60	xGA60	G Dif	xG Dif	GF60	GA60	xGF60	xGA60	G Dif	xG Dif
5v5	2.67	2.25	2.66	2.49	0.42	0.17	2.53	3.22	2.69	2.93	-0.69	-0.24
PP	8.13	0.81	7.74	1.04	7.32	6.70	7.32	1.66	7.23	0.88	5.66	6.35
PK	0.90	6.63	0.80	8.30	-5.73	-7.50	0.00	6.37	1.09	8.38	-6.37	-7.29
5V5 - FIVE SKATERS VS. FIVE SKATERS; PP - POWERPLAY; PK - PENALTY KILL												
GF60 AND GA60 - GOALS FOR AND AGAINST PER 60 MINUTES												
XGF60 AND XGA60 - EXPECTED GOALS FOR AND AGAINST PER 60 MINUTES												
GDIF AND XGDIF - DIFFERENCE BETWEEN FOR AND AGAINST												

This table tells us quite a lot about the two halves of Washington's season.

In the first half of the season, Washington's results were slightly better than their play merited: they scored more goals than expected in all three manpower situations and gave up fewer goals than expected. They were playing at a 106-point pace for the season, based on the Pythagorean point-estimation formula.

The second half was a disaster. At 5v5 play, they went from outscoring their opponents by 0.41 goals per game to being outscored by 0.69 goals per game: that is a difference of 1.10 goals per game, which is a massive difference. Instead of playing at a 106-point pace, they played at a 69-point pace. They went from playing like a playoff team to playing like a team that is going to get a very good draft pick.

The second half's downfall was largely on the defensive side. Expected goals against per 60 minutes went from 2.49 to 2.93 and actual goals against per 60 minutes went from 2.25 to 3.22. The Capitals were 0.24 goals against better than expectation in the first half, 0.29 goals against worse in the second half. I see this as worse play from their defensemen and from their goalies: the defensemen gave up more scoring chances, and the goalies gave up even more goals.

Let's go up a level in detail and take a look at players, starting with defensemen.

Washington Defensemen	Games 1 to 41			Games 42 to 82		
	TOI Gm	G Dif	xG Dif	TOI Gm	G Dif	xG Dif
#1 in total time on ice	17.8	0.42	0.11	17.5	-1.32	-0.28
#2	16.7	0.54	0.53	17.4	-0.93	-0.14
#3 in total time on ice	14.6	0.60	0.36	16.8	0.10	0.21
#4	17.8	0.47	-0.41	15.7	-0.30	-0.30
#5 in total time on ice	16.0	-0.13	0.39	17.0	1.28	0.25
#6	18.1	0.80	0.26	19.3	-1.31	-0.10
GF = GOALS FOR; GA=GOALS AGAINST; X=EXPECTED						
G Dif = DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GF AND GA PER 60 MINUTES						
XG Dif = DIFFERENCE BETWEEN XGF AND XGA PER 60 MINUTES						

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To simplify the display, I'm showing time on ice per game played, goal difference and expected goal difference for the six defensemen with the most time on ice in each half. A player can have data on two different lines: Nick Jensen is the #1 D in the first 41 games, but the #2 D in the second 41 games. As you will notice, player names are not displayed, as I wanted the chart to fit on a printed page when in portrait orientation. Time-on-ice per game goes up and down because players played different numbers of games.

The goal difference shows us what the players did while the expected goal difference shows us how effectively they played.

In the first half, the defensemen largely did well (GDif greater than zero) and played well (xGDif greater than zero). Also noticeable is a bit of fortunate play (GDif greater than xGDif).

The second half is, as we already know, a different story. They did not play well (xGDif below zero), they did not do well (GDif below zero), and they were unfortunate (xGDif less than GDif).

Two defensemen played much less in the second half: Erik Gustaffsson and John Carlson. Their minutes were taken up by Alexander Alexeyev and Rasmus Sandin (both of whom played better than Carlson did in the 10 games he played in the second half).

The nine most-used forwards in each half of the season have the same pattern. In the first half, eight had positive GDif values, eight had positive xGDif, and five had higher GDif than xGDif. In the second half, seven had negative GDif, six had negative xGDif and seven had their GDif value below their xGDif value.

There was a big turnover in the forwards who played the most minutes in each half, with only four players being in the top nine both times (Strome, Kuznetsov, Sheary, Ovechkin).

Washington used only two goalies all year, which I found astounding given I follow the Senators and am used to seeing a team use half a dozen goalies a year, if not more. Kuemper and Lindgren both played well in the first half, with Kuemper playing 58% of the time. Both had a goal against average that was lower than their expected goals against average, meaning they made a few good saves.

In the second half, Lindgren did not play nearly as well. Lindgren's goals against average went from 2.57 to 3.80 (his expected goals against average splits were 2.78 and 3.02). This did not go unnoticed, as Kuemper got 73% of the ice time in the second half.

So, the second-half Capitals played worse than the first-half Capitals, and they weren't as fortunate either. That's a bad combination.

Perhaps a better question for the Capitals is what happened at the end of the first half of the season? They had a fifteen game streak where they went 12-1-2; the rest of the season they were 23-36-8. Aside from that fifteen game streak, they played at the same level as the Montreal Canadiens.