

## Columbus Blue Jackets 2019-20 Season Preview



### COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS: TEAM LOOK-AHEAD

The Blue Jackets enter 2019-20 looking for a fourth consecutive season with at least 45 wins, a feat achieved 16 times in NHL history. Columbus is one of three franchises with an active streak of at least three straight 45-win seasons (also WSH: 5 & SJS: 4).

The Blue Jackets have reached the playoffs in each of their last three campaigns, surpassing the total from their first 15 seasons combined (2 from 2000-01—2015-16).

### SEASON-OPENING STATS

\* **Cam Atkinson** has scored a goal in each of Columbus' last five season-opening games, the longest active such run in the NHL. Only two players in League history have scored a goal in their team's first game in more than five consecutive seasons: **Mud Bruneteau** of the Red Wings (6; 1940-41—1945-46) and **Yvon Cournoyer** of the Canadiens (6; 1973-74—1978-79).

### OFFENSIVE OUTLOOK

\* With 41 goals in 2018-19, **Cam Atkinson** matched **Rick Nash** (2003-04) for the highest single-season total in franchise history. Atkinson (186) now needs 14 goals to join Nash (289) as the second player to score 200 goals with the Blue Jackets. Atkinson can become the first Columbus player to score 40 goals in consecutive seasons, with Nash accounting for the only other two campaigns in club history (41 in 2003-04 & 40 in 2008-09).

\* **Seth Jones**, who will celebrate his 25th birthday one day before the Blue Jackets play their season opener, has 39-126—165 in 269 games with Columbus. He needs 21 assists and 21 points to surpass **Fedor Tyutin** (39-146—185 in 553 GP) for the most ever by a Blue Jackets defenseman in each category. **David Savard** (40), Jones (39) and **Zach Werenski** (38) each are within three goals of **Rostislav Klesla** (41) for the most by a blueliner in franchise history.



**STATS AND INFORMATION**

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### THE FUTURE IS NOW

\* **Pierre-Luc Dubois**, who will be 21 for the entire season, has scored at least 20 goals in each of his two NHL seasons (20 in 2017-18 & 27 in 2018-19). With another such performance in 2019-20, Dubois would become the first player in Blue Jackets history to begin his NHL career with three straight 20-goal seasons. Only four players have done so *at any point* with Columbus: **Rick Nash** (8; 2003-04—2011-12), **Cam Atkinson** (6; 2013-14—2018-19), **R.J. Umberger** (4; 2008-09—2011-12) and **David Vyborny** (3; 2002-03—2005-06).

\* **Zach Werenski**, 22, has had 11 or more goals in each of his three NHL seasons, compiling 38-90—128 (237 GP). Werenski needs 12 goals in 2019-20 to become the 15th blueliner in NHL history to score at least 50 goals before age 23, with **Aaron Ekblad** (63-94—157 in 360 GP) and UFA **Dion Phaneuf** (54-105—159 in 243 GP) the only active defensemen to do so.

### BETWEEN THE PIPES

\* The Blue Jackets carry four goaltenders on their active roster, two born in Finland (**Joonas Korpisalo & Veini Vehvilainen**) and two born in Latvia (**Elvis Merzlikins & Matiss Kivlenieks**). Korpisalo, 25, is the only one with NHL experience, posting a 41-31-9 career record in 90 regular-season games played.

\* The 90 combined regular-season games played by Columbus goaltenders entering 2019-20 is the fewest such total among all 31 teams (COL: 140 GP).

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS

A look at how players have fared historically in their debut game/season with the franchise:

First game with the Blue Jackets . . .

#### SKATERS

**Most goals:** 1 – 21 players; most recent: Tyler Motte (Oct. 30, 2017)

**Most assists:** 3 – Artemi Panarin (Oct. 6, 2017)

**Most points:** 3 – Artemi Panarin (Oct. 6, 2017)

#### DEFENSEMEN

**Most goals:** 1 – Craig Rivet (March 4, 2011)

**Most assists:** 2 – Grant Clitsome (March 2, 2010)

**Most points:** 2 – Grant Clitsome (March 2, 2010)

#### GOALTENDERS

**Most saves:** 37 – Curtis McElhinney (Oct. 20, 2013)

**Shutout:** none

First season with the Blue Jackets . . .

#### SKATERS

**Most goals:** 31 – Brandon Saad (2015-16)

**Most assists:** 55 – Artemi Panarin (2017-18)

**Most points:** 82 – Artemi Panarin (2017-18)



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### *DEFENSEMEN*

**Most goals:** 12 – Bryan Berard (2005-06)

**Most assists:** 36 – Zach Werenski (2016-17)

**Most points:** 47 – Zach Werenski (2016-17)

### *GOALTENDERS*

**Most wins:** 33 – Steve Mason (2008-09)

**Most Shutouts:** 10 – Steve Mason (2008-09)



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